

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 25th January, 2017 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor C.Middle – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	A.S.Fox	S.Rees
P.Baccara	M.Griffiths	S.Rees-Owen
D.R.Bevan	P.Griffiths	G.Smith
H.Boggis	(Mrs.)E.Hanagan	R.W.Smith
J.Bonetto	G.Holmes	G.Stacey
S.A.Bradwick	J.S.James	B.Stephens
J.Bunnage	P.Jarman	G.P.Thomas
A.Calvert	(Mrs.)S.J.Jones	L.G.Walker
S.Carter	W.L.Langford	(Mrs.)J.S.Ward
(Mrs.)A.Crimmings	(Mrs.)C.Leyshon	P.Wasley
W.J.David	A.Morgan	M.J.Watts
(Mrs.)A.Davies	B.Morgan	M.Weaver
C.Davies	K.Morgan	(Mrs.)M.Webber
G.R.Davies	M.A.Norris	E.Webster
(Mrs.)M.E.Davies	I.Pearce	D.H.Williams
J.Elliott	(Mrs.)S.Pickering	C.J.Willis
S.Evans	M.J.Powell	R.Yeo
M.Forey	K.A.Privett	

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Chief Executive
Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services
Mr.C.B.Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.C.Hanagan – Director, Cabinet & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)T.Bates, (Mrs.)J.Cass, A.L.Davies, MBE, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, S.M.Evans-Fear, P.Howe, S.Lloyd, S.Powderhill, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, R.K.Turner, W.D.Weeks and T.Williams.

103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the following Members declared personal interests in respect of Agenda Item 2 – The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal:-

- County Borough Councillor P.Jarman - "I have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2017/18 budget process".
- County Borough Councillor A.Morgan – "I am Chair of the Shadow Board of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal".

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

104 THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL

In his report, the Chief Executive sought the approval of Council for the following:-

- To formally establish the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Joint Cabinet (the `Regional Cabinet`), as a Joint Committee to oversee the Region's economic growth and to deliver the commitments set out in the CCR City Deal.
- Of the CCR City Deal Joint Working Agreement (JWA), the CCR City Deal Assurance Framework and Implementation Plan which are required to establish the Regional Cabinet and the City Deal Investment Fund.

The Chief Executive contextualised the action and expectations of the ten constituent Council Leaders in South East Wales together with the First Minister, the Welsh Government Minister for Finance & Government Business, the Secretary of State for Wales and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in signing the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal Head of Terms of Agreement on the 15th March, 2016. Work has been ongoing by the aforementioned to establish the governance arrangements required to release the £1.2bn of investment which comprise two distinct elements - £734m – METRO scheme and £495m – Regional Cabinet fund and the Chief Executive gave his observations thereon.

The Chief Executive reported on the next steps to be taken to formally establish the Regional Cabinet out of the "Shadow" arrangements, which was detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

Following the responses by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to many questions when assurances were given that joint scrutiny arrangements would be put in place to scrutinise the Regional Cabinet and a Risk Assessment Committee is also to be established, it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:-**

1. To approve the Joint Working Agreement (the `JWA`) as the legal document that formally establishes the Cardiff Capital Region (`CCR`) Joint Committee (the `Regional Cabinet`) as a Joint Committee, with delegated functions, with a Commencement Date of the 1st March, 2017. The elected Member representative to the Regional Cabinet shall be the Leader of the Council, or his/her nominated Deputy;
2. To approve the financial contributions from each constituent Council towards the collective £120m total, (together with such associated costs e.g. carry costs), as detailed in the body of the report;
3. To approve the carry forward of any remaining revenue funds from 2016/17, contributed by each constituent Council into 2017/18 in order that the support structure for the Regional Cabinet continues;
4. To approve the collective revenue contributions of up to £1m (inclusive of 3 above, on a proportional basis as set out in the JWA to the 2017/2018 budget in order that the support structure for the Regional Cabinet continues;
5. To approve that the City of Cardiff Council acts as the Accountable Body with the responsibilities as set out in the JWA;
6. To approve the Assurance Framework as the open and transparent robust decision making process for considering all proposals requiring support from the CCR City Deal Wider Investment Fund;
7. To approve the Implementation Plan in the form attached to the JWA, subject to each constituent Council approving the JWA Business Plan;
8. To approve that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Director of Legal & Democratic Services and s151 Officer be granted delegated authority to agree such amendments as are necessary to the JWA, Assurance Framework and Implementation Plan (as are appropriate) from the date of acceptance of these decisions to the Commencement Date of the 1st March, 2017;
9. To approve that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Director of Legal & Democratic Services and s151 Officer be granted delegated authority to agree whether the Council should continue to explore the opportunity to continue to participate in the CCR City Deal in the event that one or more of the ten constituent Councils fail to agree any of the decisions 1 – 7 above; and
10. To approve that the Leader of the Council or his nominated Deputy be granted delegated authority to sign the JWA on behalf of the Council.

Note: County Borough Councillor P.Jarman wished to have recorded the fact that she made the following comments and asked the questions as shown below which were duly responded to by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to the satisfaction of Councillor Jarman :-

“The proposed Joint Committee model lacks direct accountability, excludes minority political voices and lacks transparency. Is there a real danger that this will become officer led with minimal scrutiny?

The Regional Cabinet has expressed intentions to become involved in areas beyond the administration of the City Deal programme e.g. special planning and housing. This probably intensifies the importance of accountability. Will there be a strategic development plan for the whole of the region? What are the implications for other regional fora e.g. the Education Consortia?

The City Region model is largely based on the idea of the cities as the engines of economic growth and this is reflected in the prominent role given to the Metro as a means of funnelling commuters from the valleys to jobs in Cardiff. Is there a risk that post Brexit this city based model will leave hinterland areas bereft of economic opportunity?

To whom is the City Deal Investment fund responsible?

What will the relationship be between the Fund, the Council and the Welsh Government?

How will the Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet, the fund and the Capital Region Transport Authority relate to each other and the political institutions?

How much of investment will be by way of debt as opposed to grant?

Who will be responsible for servicing the investment costs?

What happens if the Council is responsible for cost over-runs and cannot raise the additional funds in compliance with the Treasury’s prudential borrowing rules?

Could this mean a massive spike in Council Tax or withdrawal of other services?

What provision has been made for the running of the Metro? Will this be a matter for the Welsh Government Transport budget or will local authorities be expected to pick up part of any increased expenses?

Delivery of the Metro as a project is one issue, but what are the outcomes planned for, in respect of number of passengers, costs of running the system etc. Will the local authorities be responsible for any additional running costs?

Will the Wales Bill once enacted, affect the influence Westminster can exercise on the decision making process?

Will there be a coherent strategy as to the other types of development to be promoted and how will they be assessed given that this has to be agreed by UK Government in advance? Will Finance Wales play any role that you are aware of in consideration of investment, if in the future, more funding is deemed necessary?

Birmingham is on its fifth city deal. Is this deal first of many or a one off?

Why is the Cardiff City Deal still unclear about actual projects when the Swansea bid specifies eleven project areas with detailed financial commitments and outcomes? Are we signing a blank cheque?

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CABINET & PUBLIC RELATIONS

105 POTENTIAL NOMINATION FOR FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

In his report, the Director, Cabinet & Public Relations provided Members with the recommendations of the Freedom of the Borough Working Group following its meeting held on the 19th January, 2017, and it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To support the recommendations of the Freedom of the Borough Working Group in awarding the accolade of Freedom of the County Borough to Mr.David Roberts CBE and the Cory Band;
2. To support the Working Group's recommendation of bestowing recognition to all Paralympic athletes who have proudly represented Team GB;
3. To utilise the `Rhondda Cynon Taf Citizen Award` ceremony to bestow the accolade of Freedom of the Borough to Mr.David Roberts CBE and Cory Band, with a separate award to honour all Paralympians, at a date to be agreed.

**C.MIDDLE
DEPUTY MAYOR**