



Date: 20 September 2023

Councillor Thomas
Leader,
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Thomas,

CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CCRD JOSOC): PROPOSALS IN RELATION TO SCRUTINY OF THE SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

The Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee considered the proposal in relation to the scrutiny of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) and the draft Terms of Reference for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Owen Jones, Chair of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee and the Council's deputy on the CCRCJ JOSOC was in attendance for this item, to share his experience of the current position.

The comments, observations and recommendations below were captured during the Committee's discussion at the Way Forward.

The Committee received information from colleagues in RCT that they are making the following recommendation to their Council this week and others indicating they will do the same:

It is proposed that the CJC JOSOC review the terms of reference at its first proper meeting, and that any proposed amendments be reported to the constituent local authorities.

This recommendation was supported by the committee as robust Terms of Reference are needed to ensure transparent and accountable scrutiny is undertaken and concerns were noted about the following:

- Confidential papers are not currently shared with members, therefore robust scrutiny of issues is not possible.
- There is not a clear communication/accountability pathway with the constituent authorities.
- Frequency of meetings, currently only 4 meetings a year, and given the size/scale/cost of some of the projects is this sufficient?
- Attendance at meetings has been poor, despite them being 'hybrid' and a recent meeting was cancelled as it was not quorate. Is non-attendance reported back to constituent authorities? Are there sanctions? Is this linked to terms of office?
- The outputs from the meeting do not appear to be easily accessible or visible and the question was asked should agendas and minutes from the meeting be routinely shared with all councillors, to improve awareness and communication of issues.

A question was asked about the diversity of the councillors that sit on the scrutiny committee and whether this was reflective of the area covered, and proposed a question should 'quotas' be introduced?

The committee asked what level of risk are they putting the Council at, both financially and reputationally, by not being able to vigorously scrutinise projects that have a far reaching impact?

Members also asked how the Terms of Reference compare to those for other core city/cross authority joint scrutiny arrangements and make a **recommendation** that this be explored in order to inform the review at the first meeting of the CJC JOSE.



Therefore, the three recommendations to Council are:

It is proposed that the CJC JOSC review the terms of reference at its first proper meeting, and that any proposed amendments be reported to the constituent local authorities.

Terms of Reference for core city/cross authority Joint Scrutiny are compared with the draft to inform the review at the first proper meeting.

Access to confidential papers for members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee should form part of the Terms of Reference.

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR PETER WONG CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 	COUNCILLOR OWEN JONES CHAIR, ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 
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cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Group Leaders - Cllr Lancaster, Cllr Berman, Cllr Gibson
Debbie Said
Claire Deguara
Chris Pyke