

MATTER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED IS URGENT BY REASON OF THE NEED FOR CABINET TO CONSIDER THE COMMENTS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE BEING SUBMITTED TO WELSH GOVERNMENT BY 4TH OCTOBER, 2021

Agenda Item No. 17(i)

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2021

“ DRAFT RESPONSE TO WELSH GOVERNMENT' CONSULTATION ON THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES: DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE (L) – **(Urgent by reason of the need that the Council's response to the consultation needed to be with Welsh Government by 4th October, 2021 as opposed to 28th September, 2021)**

The matter had been placed on the agenda as an urgent item for consideration by the Committee by the Chair and the Monitoring Officer advised that the deadline for the response to the consultation to Welsh Government was 4th October, 2021 as opposed to 28th September, 2021. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) and provided for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations.

Welsh Government had been consulting on the introduction of regulations and guidance to accompany the introduction of CJCs over the last year and the report sought endorsement from Cabinet of the Council's response (at Appendix A to the report) to the latest consultation regarding the guidance which supported the setting up of the four CJCs which are separate bodies. The document also highlighted the key principles underpinning the development of the guidance. Consultation on further legislation for the operation of the CJCs and its functions was planned for the Autumn of 2021 and a further consultation in the Spring of 2022 would cover any remaining provisions which a CJC might need but which were unlikely to be needed at the point at which they began to deliver their functions. Further reports to Cabinet would follow in due course.

The Chair commented that one of his concerns was around the democratic process and the need to ensure adequate representation on the Committees as they were not directly elected bodies and would be dealing with major issues. The Chair asked the Leader if he had any further detail he could share on the proposals and how they would work in terms of the Scrutiny function. In response the Leader advised that in terms of Scrutiny this would need to be addressed as there would need to be a mechanism for reporting back to the respective Local Authorities and that the detail for the CJCs would fully operate was not yet fully known. The Monitoring Officer's

view was that it was important that the role of Scrutiny was raised, that it had been referred to in the draft response set out in Appendix A, and that officers would also prefer that the role was embedded in the legislation.

Councillor Thomas considered that although there were a number of questions in respect of the detail of how they would work, CJs had now been enshrined in legislation. Councillor King, in echoing the Leader's comments, stated that he was also of the view that CJs would be in a better position to deliver the services required.

In noting that further updates would be provided on the matter in due course and there being no dissent to the response, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T Cabinet be requested to consider in the response the views of the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the role of the Scrutiny of Corporate Joint Committees being adequately provided for.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and the response at Appendix A.”