

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

26th July 2024

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - MRS K JONES

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

Establishment of a Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Celtic Freeport Joint Committee with Pembrokeshire County Council

Purpose of the Report

1. To confirm the establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Celtic Freeport Joint Committee

Background

2. At its meeting of the 29th May 2024, Cabinet approved the creation of a Joint Committee with Pembrokeshire County Council in respect of Celtic Freeport.
3. Clause 14 of the Joint Committee Agreement (enclosed at Appendix 1) for the establishment of the Celtic Freeport Joint Committee provides that the parties to this Joint Working Agreement will establish a Joint Scrutiny Committee to ensure greater public accountability over decisions made by the Joint Committee and any of its sub-committees and related entities. Schedule 2 of the Joint Committee Agreement contains the terms of reference.
4. The membership of the Joint Scrutiny Committee shall consist of eight (8) members. Each Council shall each nominate four (4) members for appointment to the Joint Scrutiny Committee on the basis of a political balance in line with standard scrutiny arrangements. The members nominated by each Council shall be elected members of that Council but shall not be a member of that Council's executive.
5. The role of the Joint Scrutiny Committee is to provide advice, challenge and support to the Public Funds Committee. To the extent the Joint Scrutiny Committee can influence the Joint Committee's decision making, the Joint Scrutiny Committee shall be required to (a) review and scrutinise the Joint Committee's financial affairs and (b) review and assess the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which resources have been used. They shall be entitled to make reports and recommendations to the Joint Committee in relation to the points in **Error! Reference source not found.** and 5.

6. If this Council is in receipt of public funding to implement a project the Joint Scrutiny Committee shall audit the finances and the discharge of functions relating to that project.
7. It has been determined that Pembrokeshire County Council will be the host authority for the Joint Scrutiny Arrangements given that the service of the Joint Committee and the Accountable Body for Celtic Freeport is Neath Port Talbot Council. This is similar to the model adopted for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Swansea Bay City Deal.
8. The quorum for meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Committee shall be no less than 4 members, which must include at least 2 members from each Council.
9. It is proposed that the following members be appointed to the Joint Committee on the basis of a political balance of the total number of elected members in Neath Port Talbot:

Cllr Sean Pursey

Cllr Laura Williams

Cllr Andrew Dacey

Cllr Tim Bowen

Financial Impact

10. There are no financial impacts associated with this Report.

Integrated Impact Assessment

11. There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment for this report.

Workforce Impacts

12. There are no workforce impacts associated with this Report

Legal Impacts

13. In exercise of powers under sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, sections 19 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2000 and all other enabling powers Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council may create a Joint Scrutiny Committee with any other local authorities. The Joint Scrutiny Committee shall provide a scrutiny function to ensure greater public accountability over decisions made by the Joint Committee and any of its sub-committees and related entities.

Consultation

14. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that:

- (a) Members approve the establishment of a Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Celtic Freeport Joint Committee on the terms identified in the Joint Committee Establishment Agreement enclosed at Appendix 1;
- (b) That the Members identified at paragraph 9 be appointed as the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Celtic Freeport Joint Committee

Reason for Proposed Decision

16. To ensure that suitable arrangements are in place to ensure that the Council can meet the obligations set out in the Celtic Freeport Joint Committee Agreement

Appendices

17. Appendix 1 – Joint Committee Agreement

List of Background Papers

18. None

Officer Contact

Mrs Karen Jones
Chief Executive

Mr Craig Griffiths
Head of Legal and Democratic Services