

# CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION JOINT CABINET

## REGIONAL CABINET MEETING

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### REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH PARTNERSHIP

#### Report of Cllr Huw Thomas

#### AGENDA ITEM: 4

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##### Reason for this Report

1. To approve the composition of the Regional Economic Growth Partnership.
2. To delegate authority to officers to establish the Regional Economic Growth Partnership and to undertake the recruitment process.
3. To agree funding for the Regional Economic Growth Partnership.

##### Background

4. A report was tabled to the Shadow Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> October outlining a proposed approach for the development of the Regional Economic Growth Partnership (REGP). The report recommended that the Cardiff Capital Region Shadow Joint Cabinet approve that officers are instructed to develop detailed proposals for the REGP.
5. Subsequently a further discussion was held at the Shadow Cabinet meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> February where a proposal was outlined to appoint external support as an interim body to further establish and approve principles for the REGP based on consultation with key stakeholders in the city-region.
6. Following this approval was provided on 30<sup>th</sup> March by Chief Executives for Centre for Cities to be appointed to lead this process.

##### Issues

7. Following appointment, the Centre for Cities began a consultation process that included representatives of local government, Welsh Government, business, higher education, third sector groups and employee groups.
8. A proposal for the establishment of the REGP was produced and has been attached as Appendix 1.
9. The document proposes that "The Partnership will directly advise the Joint Cabinet, who should be formally obliged to consider this advice. Whether the Cabinet chooses to act or not to act in accordance with the

REGP’s guidance they should clearly and publicly state why they have chosen to do so.”

10. In summary the proposal suggests that the REGP should adopt the following roles:

- Reviewing and commenting on the Regional Economic Strategy
- Providing review and challenge to investment decisions
- Providing an advocacy role
- Promoting the uptake of external funding sources
- Providing advice on proposed interventions
- Acting as a named consultee for the Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet

11. The Board will consist of a Chair and between 6 and 12 members. Collectively, the Board’s membership should cover the following areas:

#### Proposed Board Composition

| Stakeholder group              |  | Suggested number of reps on board |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Private sector business</b> | <i>Representing businesses of all sectors and sizes</i>                                      | 5                                 |
| <b>Employee bodies</b>         | <i>Representing employees in all sectors and types of company</i>                            | 1                                 |
| <b>Local government</b>        | <i>Representatives from the Joint Cabinet</i>  | 2                                 |
| <b>Education and skills</b>    | <i>Representing higher and further education, skills and training</i>                        | 2                                 |
| <b>Third sector</b>            | <i>Representing social enterprise, community development, charities and voluntary sector</i> | 1                                 |

12. The final number will be dependent upon the appointment process, as it is suggested that the final composition will need to ensure the collective skill-set and experience of the Board covers a collective selection criteria. The REGP’s business representatives may also be members of the Regional Business Organisation, but this is not required.

13. It is proposed that Chair should be appointed on a two year fixed term basis with the maximum number of terms limited to two. The time commitment is assumed to be an average of one day per week, but this will be linked with specific requirements of the REGP and may be flexible. The proposed annual cost for supporting the Chair, and other associated REGP costs, is £30,000. This is based on a review of UK

LEPs, Growth Partnerships and TFL. The remuneration of the Chair will be negotiated but will be limited by the resource allocated to the REGP.

14. The Chair will be responsible for:
  - Leading the Partnership, ensuring it fulfils its responsibilities
  - Chairing meetings of the REGP Board, collating views expressed by each stakeholder group and where necessary arriving at a consensus
  - Communicating and representing the recommendations of the Partnership to the Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet
  - Being a figurehead and champion of the city region both nationally and internationally, on behalf of the Partnership and the Joint Committee
15. The Chair will be appointed on Nolan principles, including an open advert. The process will be overseen by the Regional Cabinet and the final decision on who to appoint should be theirs. A draft Job Advert is included in Appendix 1.
16. The appointment process of the board will follow a similar process, will be conducted by officers (see recommendation B) and the REGP Chair (one appointed) and recommendation made to the Regional Cabinet, for approval, of the most suitable candidates to appoint.
17. Additional support for the REGP would also be provided by the City Deal Programme Office.
18. Further details can be seen in Appendix 1 attached.

### **Next Steps**

19. The next steps would involve advertising the role for Chair. This process would be:
  - Regional Cabinet to approve proposed recruitment process as based on the process outlined in Appendix 1 and as further specified in the body of this report.
  - Finalise advertisement.
  - Advertise position for 2 weeks
  - Appointment Panel to meet to undertake shortlisting assessment
  - Appointment Panel to meet to undertake interviews of shortlisted candidates and to agree a preferred candidate
  - Report submitted to Regional Cabinet to approve the appointment of the preferred candidate as Chair of the REGP and to confirm the start date of 2-year fixed term of office
20. The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Regional Cabinet and the political lead for the Regional Economic Growth Partnership will agree an appointment panel (referred to in the above

paragraph) comprising of up to five Leaders within the city-region, and appropriate officials.

21. It is anticipated that this process will take approximately 6 weeks to undertake following approval.
22. A similar process will then be undertaken for the appointment of the REGP board with a report being submitted to the Regional Cabinet to approve the appointment of the proposed Board Members, identified through the appointment process. .

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

23. To enable the establishment of the Regional Economic Growth Partnership based on the principles outlined.
24. To enable the recruitment process to begin.
25. To approve funding for the Regional Economic Growth Partnership

### **Financial Implications**

26. The Regional Cabinet approved budget for 2017/18 includes £331,297 to fund expenditure associated with a range of Regional Bodies set-up to support the work of Joint Cabinet. Within that sum, a budget has been allocated in respect of the Economic Growth Partnership which can accommodate the up to £30,000 funding request outlined in this report. As the post is to be advertised for a fixed period of 2 years, a similar sum will need to be committed against the 2018/19 budget.

### **Legal Implications**

27. The Joint Working Agreement dated 1st March 2017 ('JWA'), served to establish the Regional Cabinet and set out its terms of reference. The JWA provides (clause 10.19) that the Regional Cabinet shall establish, as soon as is reasonably practicable, the Regional Economic Growth Partnership ('REGP'). The JWA further provides that it is a matter for the Regional Cabinet to establish the membership, rules of procedure or terms of reference for any group it establishes and to clarify the group's respective role and scope of delegation (if any). In this case it is understood that the Regional Cabinet will not be delegating any of its functions to the REGP. The REGP will act as a consultative and advisory body to the Regional Cabinet. It is important to note that the decision to create the REGP, as a consultative and advisory body, will give rise to the legitimate expectation that the Regional Cabinet will take into consideration the views of the REGP when making decisions.
28. The Regional cabinet will need to be satisfied that it can meet all the costs of the REGP from its Annual Budget
29. Legal advice should be sort on the proposed terms and conditions of those appointed to the REGP Board.
30. In considering this matter regard should be had, amongst other matters, to:

(i) The Councils' duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and;

(ii) Public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are: a. Age; b. Gender reassignment; c. Sex; d. Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality; e. Disability; f. Pregnancy and maternity; g. Marriage and civil partnership; h. Sexual orientation; i. Religion or belief – including lack of belief.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Cabinet:

- a) Approves the proposal attached as Appendix 1 outlining the principles and composition of the Regional Economic Growth Partnership ('REGP').
- b) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive of Cardiff Council, in consultation with the City Deal Programme Director and the Accountable Body (i) to undertake the recruitment exercise for the appointment of the Chair and the Board members of the REGP and (ii) to report back to Cabinet with recommendations as to the most suitable candidates to appoint, for Cabinet's approval.
- c) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive of Cardiff Council, in consultation with the Chair of the Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet and the lead member for the Regional Economic Growth Partnership, to select the appointment panel referred to in this report
- d) For this and the next financial year, allocate funding of up to £30,000 per annum to support the establishment of the Regional Economic Growth Partnership, with on going financial support for the REGP being considered by the Regional Cabinet when setting its Annual Budget.
- e) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive to determine the remuneration package for the Chair in consultation with the Chair of the Regional Cabinet and the lead member for the Regional Economic Growth Partnership.

*The following Appendix is attached:*

Appendix 1 – REGP proposal