



CYD-BWYLLGOR CORFFOREDIG DE-ORLLEWIN CYMRU

3.00 PM DYDD MERCHER, 7 RHAGFYR 2022

O BELL TRWY TEAMS

**RHAID GOSOD POB FFÔN SYMUDOL AR Y MODD DISTAW AR
GYFER PARHAD Y CYFARFOD**

Gweddarlledu/Cyfarfodydd Hybrid:

Gellir ffilmio'r cyfarfod hwn i'w ddarlledu'n fyw neu'n ddiweddarach drwy wefan y cyngor. Drwy gymryd rhan, rydych yn cytuno i gael eich ffilmio ac i'r delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gael eu defnyddio at ddibenion gweddarlledu a/neu hyfforddiant o bosib.

1. Croeso a Chyhoeddiadau'r Cadeirydd
2. Datganiadau o fuddiannau
3. Cofnodion y Cyfarfod Blaenorol (*Tudalennau 3 - 18*)
4. Blaenraglen Waith (*Tudalennau 19 - 22*)
5. Cymeradwyo datganiad cyfrifon 2021/22 (*Tudalennau 23 - 30*)
6. Ystyried opsiynau mewn perthynas â chyllideb 2023/2024 (*Tudalennau 31 - 48*)
7. Cyflwyniad ar y Cynllun Datblygu Strategol (*Tudalennau 49 - 58*)
8. Cynllun Corfforaethol Drafft 2023-2028 (*Tudalennau 59 - 180*)
9. Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016 - Adran 6 - Y Ddyletswydd Bioamrywiaeth a Chydnerthedd Ecosystemau (*Tudalennau 181 - 196*)

10. Awdurdodau Parciau Cenedlaethol fel aelodau Cyfetholedig i Gydbwyllgor Corfforaethol De Orllewin Cymru (*Tudalennau 197 - 200*)

11. Eitemau brys

K.Jones
Prif Weithredwr

Canolfan Ddinesig
Port Talbot

Dydd Iau, 1 Rhagfyr 2022

Aelodaeth y Pwyllgor:

Cadeirydd: Y Cyngorydd R.Stewart

Is-gadeirydd: Y Cyngorydd D.Price

Cynghorwyr: D.Simpson a/ac S.K.Hunt

Parc

Cenedlaethol

Cynrychiolwyr: A.Edwards a/ac T.Jones

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

(Via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

11 October 2022

Chairperson: Councillor R.Stewart

Councillors: D.Price, D.Simpson and S.K.Hunt

**National Park
Representatives:** A.Edwards and T.Jones

**Officers In
Attendance:** M.Nicholls, W.Walters, W.Bramble, G.Jones,
D.Clements, K.Jones, C.Griffiths, S.Curran,
O.Enoch, C.Moore, S.Jones, M.Ronan,
R.Arnold, G.Jones and S.Curran

**Hywel Dda University
Health Board
Representatives:** L.Davies and M.Battle

1. **Welcome and Chairs Announcements**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

There were no Declarations of Interests received.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 25 January 2022, 15 March 2022 and 26 July 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

4. **Forward Work Programme**

It was noted that the date of the December meeting had changed from 1 December 2022 to a later rescheduled date, and that this would be reflected in the Forward Work Programme.

A brief discussion took place in relation to the funding of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee's current and proposed work activity. In this regard, the Chairperson confirmed that he had written to the Minister for Finance and Local Government in relation to the Regional Transport Plan (RTP). A response had been received from the Deputy Minister for Climate Change in which it was stated that the Welsh Government will give consideration to providing support as part of the development of guidance, and that it was planned to make technical support available through Transport for Wales. Members opined that whilst funding had been received for the establishment of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, it will be important to continue to lobby Welsh Government for additional funding to support work activities.

Members were advised that the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) will be included on the agenda of the December meeting of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee; it was intended that this will outline the scope and potential resource implications associated with the preparation of the SDP. It was added that such information could be deemed beneficial and allow for further correspondence with the Welsh Government in regards to requesting financial support.

It was confirmed that further dialogue would be needed with Transport for Wales in regards to their contribution towards the development of the RTP. It was stated that this work would be undertaken over the coming weeks, which will provide further clarity on what the impact and implications will be for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee. It was mentioned that Officers may need to further contact the Deputy Minister for Climate Change depending on the outcome of those discussions.

A request was made to include an agenda item at the December 2022 meeting on the role and remit of the Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks (the NPAs) in regards to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee. Reference was made to previous correspondence and clarification issues on this matter, however it was agreed in principle that the matter be listed for discussion in December 2022 if deemed appropriate and if required.

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

5. **Presentation on Investment in Health Estate - Hywel Dda University Health Board**

The Committee received a presentation from Hywel Dda University Health Board which focused on proposed investment in their Estate.

The Executive Director of Strategic Development and Operational Planning at Hywel Dda University Health Board explained that Hywel Dda served a population of around 385,000 across three Counties of West Wales, covering a very large geographical area; the population was noted to not be dissimilar to other Health Boards in terms of size, however it was spread out across an extensive rural area. Due to this, it was noted that there were transport and travel challenges that needed to be addressed. Members were informed that South West Wales did not have a central large town or city to build these services around; this was a key point in terms of the legacy of the configuration of health services that had been inherited, coming into the formation of the Health Board.

Following on from the above, it was stated that the Health Board had a configuration of services that dated back to the 1950s/1960s; a lot of problems and challenges had emerged over the past 20 years as a result of that, including financial challenges and service sustainability and fragility. It was explained that this meant that some services have had to cease or centralise into one location, and some of the other service areas that were continued were on the brink of this. The Committee was informed that this was the background to the development of the 'Healthier Mid and West Wales Strategy', which was intended to set a longer term direction for sustainable health services for Mid and West Wales.

It was highlighted that one of the significant challenges going forwarded was the need for investment into the various estates; in particular Glangwili General Hospital and Withybush General Hospital, however investment was needed across all hospitals. It was noted that 40% of Hywel Dda's estate was over 50 years old; this emphasised the need for investment in these estates and their facilities

Another significant challenge noted was around workforce and the sustainability of the model that was currently being delivered. The Health Board confirmed that they had progressively witnessed an aging population and increase in demand; the older model of care was no longer fit for the modern demands and pressures. It was mentioned that the Strategy set out a shift towards keeping people well, prevention and self-care, with much lower proportions of ill health being managed in acute settings.

In order to support the Strategy and its infrastructure implications, Members were informed that the Health Board had identified there was a need to make some improvements to the facilities that were currently in place. It was noted that over the past few years work had started to develop a network of community facilities; new integrated facilities had been developed in Ceredigion, Aberaeron, and there were plans to develop similar facilities across all key towns and population areas within the Health Board's region.

In addition to the above, it was highlighted that there needed to be a change in the way in which Glangwili General Hospital and Withybush General Hospital function, and the need to establish a range of community hospital services to meet needs; there will also need to be relatively minor changes to Prince Philip General Hospital and Bronglais Hospital in terms of service configuration, which would be required to make them sustainable for the long term.

The presentation detailed the short, medium and long term community infrastructure development plans which the Health Board were in the process of developing, some of which had been previously mentioned and others that were in the pipeline; over the next five to seven years, Officers within the organisation will be developing these facilities in the highlighted areas, and work with Local Authorities to ensure that a suitable service model was developed and in place for those towns and localities. Also detailed within the presentation was a draft example of what the integrated community network could look like; each integrated community network will differ, as they will need to be designed to fit the local population needs.

The current opportunity for South West Wales, in bringing investment into the area, was highlighted by the Health Board; West Wales, from a health perspective, had been under invested in over the past 30-40 years, and this opportunity could assist in rectifying this issue. It was explained that there was significant capital investment associated with the plans set out in the presentation; if this capital could be secured from Welsh Government, it will bring opportunities to local communities in many areas such as education, supply chains, town centre development and training and employment. Members were informed that one of the objectives through this work was to leave a lasting legacy for the local populations, and to ensure that the investment will be put back into the hands of the local businesses and communities.

The Committee was informed of the current position of the new urgent and planned care hospital; the following points were raised:

- The hospital will have around 500 beds - this was much larger than the current facilities in place, however compares to a medium sized hospital of UK standards.
- Alongside the physical health hospital, there will also be a mental health facility, a range of diagnostics and other support services.
- The development will use principles of a biophilic design which looks at opportunities to use nature, and interaction with nature, to support rehabilitation and treatment as part of the health care offering – this will equally support staff and the local population with a building that is much more focused on using good design, to bring the environment and hospital as one.
- The timelines were demanding for what was intended to be achieved, as currently the aim was to implement the changes, including the development of the new hospital, by 2029 – there may be changes and alterations to the timeline going forward.
- The Heath Board had submitted the programme business case to Welsh Government and it had gone through their usual processes – feedback had been received, which included that Welsh Government would like to work with the Health Board further on a clinical piece of work on the model, and support the development of a strategic outline case, which will be the next step of this process.
- The land selection for the new hospital was underway – the public process of identifying land had been completed, with 11 sites considered and then shortlisted down to five (one in Narberth, two in Whitland and two in St Clears). It was added that over the last six months, four work streams were undertaken to evaluate the sites, including public representation on the technical site appraisal; the detail of which was taken to a Board meeting in August, which resulted in narrowing the sites down to three (two in Whitland and 1 in St Clears). It was agreed at this point to go to public consultation on the three sites before any further decisions were made.

The importance of transport was highlighted; in all discussions with the public, one of the key questions that came up repeatedly was in regards to the plan for transport for South West Wales, and how it was going to impact the delivery of services. It was noted that the public were naturally concerned about travelling long distances to receive the services, especially given some of the issues around public transport; there will be opportunity for the Health Board to work with South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, and Transport for Wales, to look at what that transport offering could be and what could be done over the next 10 years to support that.

A discussion took place in relation to the next steps, highlighting the current position of the programme business case, and that the Health Board were currently in discussions with Welsh Government on how to progress it forward; as well as the continuing plan to develop the community facilities which forms part of the Strategy and the programme business case.

The Executive Director of Strategic Development and Operational Planning concluded that the work that was undertaken between 2017 and 2018, which was a long term, fundamental review of health care and the way in which health care services were delivered, resulted in the 'Healthier Mid and West Wales' Strategy being formed. Alongside the health benefits of this, it was stated there were other opportunities for West Wales in a much wider sense; long-term benefits for jobs, the economy, education and training, and transport. Members were informed that the Health Board were eager to work the Corporate Joint Committee as this develops further.

Reference was made to the timescales, and when further progress would be reported back to those affected by this work; it was important to involve all members in that discussion. It was noted that the strategy was originally developed in 2018, and the programme business case was submitted in February of this year; the response from Welsh Government was only just received in September, which has caused slight shift in the timeline. It was added that the Health Board were also required to develop a Statement of Case (SOC) which might also have an impact; the timeline will be received as a result of these factors.

Further to the above, it was noted that Welsh Government were committed to the clinical model review and would be supporting the Health Board with the funding of the strategic outline case; these were the first proactive and positive steps that had been received from

Welsh Government in respect of the plan. Whilst the Health Board were not quite where they intended to be in terms of having a PBC endorsed, it was stated that they were encouraged by the fact that Welsh Government were recognising the case for change and working with them on the next steps. The exact timings for each of these elements could not be provided just yet, however it was noted that the Health Board were looking to carry out the clinical review in the spring of 2023; and complete the SOC, subject to how much detail Welsh Government would require, in time for summer 2023. It was added that this would then align with the conclusion of the consultation, which could enable the Health Board to compile this work together, including additional work on the land selection for the new hospital; and hopefully, next summer be able to clearly set out the next steps and timelines.

In regards to engaging with those affected and involved in the work being carried out, it was explained that the Health Board were currently engaging with as many people as possible including liaising with multiple Town Councils; it was important to engage with the public early on, especially as they will form part of the consultation process. Members were informed of the intentions of the Health board which included making this work a live, ongoing discussion, with all stakeholders and anyone who had an interest in it; conversations were being had with many people, such as construction industries which formed to be very useful and positive.

Members raised their concerns in regards to staffing and transportation for the new hospital development. It was expressed that these factors were challenges for the Health Board to overcome; Officers from the Health Board had spent the last few months meeting with all Community Councils, Pembrokeshire County Borough Council, attending Scrutiny Committees and meeting with those involved in the Save Withybush Campaign in order to discuss these matters.

It was explained that the Health Board were carrying out various actions in regards to staffing matters; Hywel Dda had the biggest apprenticeships program in the UK in relation to nurses, had brought 100 overseas nurses in this year, and were doing everything possible to advertise for jobs.

The Committee were reassured that the Health Board did not intend to lessen the services in the other two hospitals in advance of the new hospital being built; however, some of these services were

currently very fragile, and it was only by the dedication and good will of the employees that these were being maintained. It was added that the only way out of the current difficulties was to provide the new hospital development; aside from the health benefits, it will be a great opportunity for many other areas such as the construction industry and the foundational economy.

In relation to the two hospitals that were left in the area, it was confirmed that they will still be running; however, they will be focusing on rehabilitation, convalescence, and enabling patients to leave the hospital in order for them to be cared for close to home and their relatives, which will allow employees to deliver the more specialist care. Members were informed that 70% of people who go to Accident and Emergency (A&E) were minor injuries; this will remain the same in Wthybush hospital with a 24/7 General Practitioners (GP) led unit, which was noted to be really successful and embraced by the population. The importance of the integrated health and care centres in the local areas across West Wales was highlighted, particularly so people don't have to travel further than needed.

The Committee expressed the need for services to stay at these hospitals until the new hospital is built. The Health Board assured Members that this was the intention, and that there were no plans to reduce the services in the current hospitals in advance; some elements were out of the Health Board's control, however they were doing everything possible to maintain the hospitals and the services that they delivered.

Members reflected on the current issues surrounding GP surgeries, and the need to keep the local hubs satisfactory manned in order for the new concept to work effectively. It was also queried if the Health Board had completed any survey work to identify any other issues aside from transport, and if the staff could be obtained in order to run the required services. The Health Board confirmed that there were other issues to resolve aside from transportation; this included housing, particularly in Pembrokeshire. As previously mentioned, Hywel Dda had brought in 100 overseas nurse this year, however were finding it difficult to provide housing for them in Pembrokeshire; many were being housed in Carmarthenshire. Reference was made to the importance of working together with other sectors, and look into building affordable housing or providing nurses accommodation closer to the hospital; the Health Board were in discussions with Carmarthenshire regarding certain sites, and the future of Glangwili

General Hospital, as there may be some excess land that could be utilised for housing purposes.

In regards to GP surgeries, it was highlighted that due to the Health Board covering such a large geographical area, there was a very mixed picture in terms of their current positions. It was noted that a number of people had visited the integrated health and care hubs, and recognised that the impact on the morale, working conditions and the multi-disciplinary work was really attractive to staff. The Health Board were continuing their work in regards to GP recruitment; however, highlighted that workforce was a challenge for all public sector organisations, and all job types within the service. It was acknowledged that the new strategy and plan will not solve all of the current issues, however would be helpful in trying to deal with them. The Committee were informed of the importance of the need to provide better facilities to attract people into the service, and enhance the range of services that could be provided locally.

A further discussion took place in regards to the biophilic design concept of the new hospital; there was a scheme currently being undertaken in Swansea, which was providing a lot of learning and research in terms of the health benefits of the biophilic concept. It was added that there were no end to the opportunities and areas to explore within this concept.

6. **Appointment of Advisers**

Members were informed that there was opportunity to involve private sector advisors so as to inform the work of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee. It was highlighted that the proposals included in the circulated report set out the adoption of a model, similar to Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee, in which an advisory board be created as part of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee; this board would consist of advisors from the private sector, who would be able to advise on the various duties that the Committee will be undertaking.

Officers stated that the circulated report set out the terms of reference of the advisory group, which were included in Appendix One. It was clarified that Officers were seeking approval to co-opt members in a non-voting capacity on the advisory board, which would also be the same for the Chairperson of the board; they were also seeking for Members to grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in collaboration and consultation with the Leaders, to undertake a recruitment exercise to appoint additional advisors going forward, in

order to look at the specific work programs of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) Members agree the appointment of private sector representatives to an Advisory Board of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee subject to completion of an advisor agreement
- (b) Members agree the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Board enclosed at Appendix 1 of the report
- (c) Members grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to undertake a recruitment exercise to appoint additional members of the Advisory Board in respect of the statutory functions of the CJC
- (d) Members approve the granting of co-opted status to the chair of the advisory board on a non-voting basis subject to receipt of a signed co-option agreement

7. **Terms of Reference for Sub-Committees**

The Committee received the Terms of Reference for the Sub Committees of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

The Chairperson advised that there was an amendment to the published report, which was noted to be as follows:

- Councillor Darren Price will be the Political Lead on the Regional Transport Planning Sub Committee
- Councillor Steve Hunt will be the Political Lead on the Strategic Development Planning Sub Committee

It was stated that in a previous meeting, the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee established four separate Sub Committees to look at specific areas of the work programme; one correspondent Sub Committee was set up for each of the four areas of work.

Officers added that the report set out the terms of reference for the Sub Committees which covered elements such as who will be present at the meetings, what the role of the Sub Committee will be, and the remit in which they will function.

It was mentioned that the list of attendees on the Strategic Development Planning Sub Committee contained within the circulated report, detailed that the Regional Directors of Constituent

Councils with responsibility for Corporate Joint Committee areas shall be entitled to attend any Sub-Committee Meeting. It was stated that it should be clear that Regional Directors of National Park Authorities would also be included in this. The Chairperson confirmed that this can be clarified going forward, and it was intended that they be able to make representation at the Sub Committee meetings.

RESOLVED:

That members approve the terms of reference for the CJC Sub-Committees incorporated at Appendix 1.

8. **Information Governance / Data Protection Policies**

A report detailing the adoption of data protection and information security policies was provided to the Committee.

It was explained that the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee has responsibilities in respect of compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018, and other processes in relation to information governance.

Officers stated that the proposal within the report set out to adopt a suite of documents which would help demonstrate the Committee's compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018. In addition to this, Members were informed that an additional obligation was the need to delegate a Data Protection Officer; this will be the person who would have responsibility for ensuring compliance with the data protection legislation. It was mentioned that the proposal was to nominate Craig Griffiths, Monitoring Officer, as the Data Protection Officer.

RESOLVED:

- (a) Members designate the Monitoring Officer as the Statutory Data Protection Officer pursuant to the Data Protection Act 2018;
- (b) Members adopt the Privacy Statement included at Appendix 1
- (c) Members adopt the following policies for usage by the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee included at Appendix 2:
 - Data Protection Policy
 - Acceptable Use Policy
 - Incident Reporting Policy
 - Information Security Policy
 - Information Security Breach Policy
 - IT Security Policy
 - Mobile Device Security Policy

- Removable Media Policy

9. **Welsh Language Standards - Interim Policy Position**

Members received a report regarding an interim policy position in respect of Welsh Language Standards.

It was noted that there were a number of public sector duties that were applied to Corporate Joint Committees; one of those duties related to the Welsh language. The Committee were informed that the Chief Executive of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee had already attended a meeting with the Welsh Language Commissioner's representatives; however, the finalisation of the process for applying specific standards to the Corporate Joint Committee appeared to be some time away. It was confirmed that the Chief Executive would report back to the Committee on the outcome of this process; however as an interim measure, it was considered appropriate to take a proactive approach to this matter in the absence of the imposition of standards upon the Corporate Joint Committee by the Welsh language Commissioner.

The proposals set out in the report recommended that Members adopt the standards that have been applied to Carmarthenshire County Council.

RESOLVED:

- (a) Members note that CJsCs are encouraged to proactively embrace the Welsh Government's policy objectives regarding the Welsh language.
- (b) Members agree to adopt the Welsh language standards that have been applied by the Welsh Language Commissioner to Carmarthenshire County Council's standards as an interim policy position.

10. **Formulation of South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Corporate Plan**

Members were briefed on the proposal to formulate a Corporate Plan; this process would incorporate a number of the public sector duties that were imposed upon the Corporate Joint Committees.

The Chief Executive of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee explained that there were a number of public sector duties that applied to all Corporate Joint Committees. It was noted that rather than preparing a series of separate plans and policies, Officers

were proposing to incorporate them into one single document which would set out the Corporate Joint Committees objectives and ensure that the public sector duties were suitably embraced in this regard.

It was considered that the formulation of the Corporate Plan would result in an integrated and proportionate approach to meeting the public sector duties, including the setting out of well-being objectives. Officers confirmed they could deliver the draft Corporate Plan to the Committee at the December 2022 meeting.

RESOLVED:

(a) Members endorse the principle of taking a proportionate and integrated approach to meeting the CJC's public sector duties through a Corporate Plan.

(b) That a draft Corporate Plan be reported to Members in December with a view to securing Members approval for undertaking a public consultation thereon in early 2023;

(c) Further to (b) above, any consultation responses received will be reported back to Members with a view to informing a final version of the Plan before its formal adoption

11. **Endorsement of South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit**

Reference was made to the proposal to adopt an Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit to support the work of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

Officers explained that at the point of decision making, it was important to take into account those pertinent legislative and policy related considerations; building such considerations into the decision making process will reduce the risk of legal challenge.

Rather than having a bespoke Integrated Impact Assessment approach for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, it was proposed that the toolkit used by Neath Port Talbot Council be adopted, with typographical and/or non substantive editorial amendments made as appropriate by Officers to reflect its use by the Corporate Joint Committee.

Members highlighted the importance of being mindful of the drivers, particularly in the racial equality plan from Welsh Government, which would require the Committee to go above and beyond compliance. Officers stated that the Corporate Plan would set out some of that

more proactive work that the Committee would intend to carry out; this would be demonstrated in elements such as wellbeing objectives and actions that will be set. It was noted that this report focused more on the considerations prior to the point of individual decisions, in order to make sure that all various duties had been covered, which would then help protect the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee from the risk of legal challenge.

RESOLVED:

(a) Members note the need for the CJC to embrace the public sector duties applied to it.

(b) Members agree to adopt the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council 2 stage Integrated Impact Assessment Tool to aid the CJC in discharging the public sector duties.

12. Publication of Freeports Prospectus for Wales

The circulated report detailed information relating to the publication of the Freeports Prospectus for Wales.

It was explained that there was opportunity to bid for Freeport status within Wales; this was a joint prospectus which had been developed between the Welsh Government and UK Government. Members were informed that a consortium had been formed between Pembrokeshire Council, Neath Port Talbot Council, and the two ports of Milford Haven and Port Talbot; the intent being that the bid will develop a Freeport submission, based on opportunities that were believed to be available in those two port areas around the offshore wind farm turbine opportunity in the Celtic Sea, and the wider renewables agenda.

The proposal contained with the circulated report was to seek Members support in principle, for this submission to be received by Welsh Government; Officers were determined to take the opportunity to deliver wider benefits across the entire region. It was mentioned that the Leaders had asked for further assurances once the bid was further developed, to ensure any risks around the displacement of any economic activity were highlighted and addressed, as part of the bid development submission; Officers confirmed that they would provide these assurances.

RESOLVED:

(a) Members note the content of the report

(b) Indicate the support of the CJC to the bid being prepared by Pembrokeshire CC, Neath Port Talbot CBC in partnership with the ports of Milford Haven and Port Talbot

13. **Audit Wales - Approach to Auditing Corporate Joint Committees and Understanding their Evolving Arrangements**

The Committee was provided with an update on the approach that will be undertaken by Audit Wales in regards the undertaking of an early landscape review to understand the evolving arrangements of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, and in the auditing of the Committee from an accounting perspective for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years.

The letter contained in Appendix 1 of the circulated report set out Audit Wales position in terms of the governance, and the monitoring of that governance; the letter also identified the work they will be carrying out on reviewing the governance this year, and gaining a better understanding of the evolution of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

Another statutory responsibility of Audit Wales was in relation to accounts; the circulated report clarified their position in terms of the 2021-22 accounts, which had previously been reported on; there weren't any transactions processed for 2021-22, therefore Audit Wales confirmed that they will not be carrying out an audit or review of that particular year.

Reference was made to the proposals set for next year; Audit Wales had reviewed the Committee's budget and identified that due to the budget being below £2.5million, which was the threshold for small organisations, they will accept an annual return as a full statement of accounts. This was noted to be positive in respect that there would be less administration required around this.

It was explained that the development of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee in the future, will be dependent upon elements such as what happens with some of the work streams and what funding would be received going forward.

Officers mentioned that the fees for Audit Wales were also contained with the circulated report; there will be a fee of £2,000 chargeable for the work that will be carried out this year around the governance, and

that will develop further next year as a consequence of the small audit work that will have to be done on the accounts.

RESOLVED:

a)Members note the content of this report.

(b)That the CJC Executive Officers respond as appropriate to the requirements as outlined by Audit Wales

14. **Urgent Items**

There were no Urgent Items received.

CHAIRPERSON

**SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT
COMMITTEE**

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

2022 - 2023

Meeting Date 2023	Agenda Item	Type	Contact Officer
24 January 2023	Budget 2023-24		Chris Moore

Tudalen
20

Meeting Date 2023	Agenda Item	Type	Contact Officer
7 March 2023	Corporate Plan – final version for approval		Owain Enoch

Meeting Date 2023	Agenda Item	Type	Contact Officer
6 June 2023 Tudalen21			

Meeting Date 2023	Agenda Item	Type	Contact Officer
5 September 2023			

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

Report Title: Approval of statement of accounts 2021/22

Purpose of Report	To provide the Joint Committee with the Statement of Accounts for year ended 2021/22.
Recommendation	That the Joint Committee receive and approve the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.
Report Author	Chris Moore
Finance Officer	Chris Moore
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Background:

- 1.1 The SWWCJC was formally constituted on 13th January 2022. Carmarthenshire County Council is acting as the Accountable Body responsible for discharging the councils' obligations in relation to the South-West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC).
- 1.2 On 13th January 2022 the SWWCJC agreed that for 2021/22 a zero budget be set with no levy raised, as budget costs were minimal due to some costs being picked up by a Welsh Government revenue grant (£250k) and also some costs being absorbed by the constituent authorities.

Statement of Accounts 2021/22:

- 2.1 Following advice from Audit Wales, as no transactions were received during the financial year 2021/22 for the SCWWCJC due to limited activity there was no requirement to prepare any return or financial statements for this period.

- 2.2 The statement attached confirms no transactions were incurred by SWWCJC in 2021/22 and is signed by the Portfolio Section 151 Officer.
- 2.3 The SWWCJC did receive a revenue grant awarded by Welsh Government which was receipted by The City and County of Swansea Council to the value of £250k. This grant award was to support the formation and development of the SWWCJC and was administered by City and County of Swansea.
- 2.4 No Annual Governance Statement has been produced for 2021/22 and these arrangements have been developed and implemented within 2022/23

Financial Impacts:

The financial statements attached have been prepared in accordance with proper accounting practice. Financial costs were minimal due to limited activity and were either absorbed by constituent authorities or funded through Welsh Government grant.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

The CJC is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

Workforce Impacts:

There are no workforce impacts for this report

Legal Impacts:

The SWWCJC is responsible to prepare Statement of Accounts in accordance with legislation and failure to do so would render the SWWCJC in breach of its obligations.

Risk Management Impacts:

The SWWCJC is responsible for putting appropriate Governance arrangements in place for the management of risk and portfolio delivery. Failure to prepare Statement of Accounts would result in a breach of legal obligation.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for formal consultation however, constituent authorities have been consulted.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To receive and approve the financial statements for the SWWCJC for financial year 2021/22.

Implementation of Decision:

With immediate effect.

Appendices: None

List of Background Papers: Attached - Statement of Accounts for 2021/22

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwriadol wag

Statement of Accounts 2021/22

Introduction

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the LGE Act”) created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). The LGE Act provides for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations (CJC Establishment Regulations).

The South West Wales CJC will comprise Carmarthenshire County Council, the City and County of Swansea Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Constituent Councils”). In respect of some functions, both Pembrokeshire National Park and Brecon Beacons National Park will also be members (Strategic Development Planning).

The CJC has prescribed functions related to the preparation of the Regional Transport Plan, Strategic Development Plan and the exercise of Economic Wellbeing powers. These are set out specifically as follows: (a) Economic well-being (section 76 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021) (b) Transport policies (section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000) (c) Strategic development plan (Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004)

It should be noted that the underlying policy intent in the development of the legislation which underpins the CJC is that a CJC should be treated as a member of the ‘local government family’ and, where appropriate, should largely be subject to the same powers and duties as local authorities in the way that they operate. CJCs, as public bodies undertaking public functions, are subject to the necessary public body duties that already exist in legislation.

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee was formally constituted on 13th January 2022.

The Committee operated in limited form and incurred no costs within the financial year.

Financial Statements

No transactions were incurred during the financial year 2021/22, due to its limited activity. As such, no returns or financial statements were produced/completed.

The Director of Corporate Services Responsibilities

The Portfolio Section 151 Officer (Director of Corporate Services) is responsible for the preparation of the Joint Committee's Statement of Accounts, in accordance with proper accounting practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) 2021/22.

Certification of Accounts

I certify that no transactions were incurred within the financial year 2021/22 in respect of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

Signed:



Dated:

06/09/22

Chris Moore FCCA

Director of Corporate Services

Swansea Bay City Region Deal Section 151 Officer

Carmarthenshire County Council



Audit Report

To be provided

Annual Governance Statement

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards. It must also ensure that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively and to secure continuous improvement and delivery in this regard.

The Joint Committee is responsible for putting in place appropriate arrangements for the Governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions including having appropriate arrangements for the management of risk and portfolio delivery.

No Annual Governance Statement has been produced for financial year 2021/22. This will be reviewed in financial year 2022/23.

Governance arrangements are being developed and will be implemented within financial year 2022/23.

Contact Details:

Accountable Body

County Hall

Castle Hill

Carmarthen

Carmarthenshire

SA31 1JP

✉ riarnold@Carmarthenshire.gov.uk

☎ 01267 242463

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer

Report Title: Consider options in respect of 2023/24 budget

Purpose of Report	To agree and set the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee budget for financial year 2023/24, including agreeing the levy charge to constituent authorities.
Recommendation	That the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee: (a) Consider the budget options as set out in Appendix A-C. (b) Agree and approve the preferred budget option for 2023/24
Report Author	Karen Jones / Chris Moore / Craig Griffiths
Finance Officer	Chris Moore
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Introduction

This report details the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) annual budget for the financial year 2023/24 with funding options. Detailed information is set out in Appendix A.

Background

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the LGE Act”) created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs).

The CJC will exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning. They will also be able to do things to promote the economic well-being of their areas.

The CJC approved a Regional Energy Strategy and a Regional Economic Development Plan earlier this year and ongoing implementation and monitoring of the same is now taking place by officers in respective authorities.

Officers have worked collaboratively to identify steps that can be taken in the next financial year to move the plans into delivery.

The CJC is also expected to make progress in developing the Regional Transport Plan. We have been advised by Welsh Government that Transport for Wales will be able to assist in some of the activities, however, it is currently estimated that additional costs will fall to the CJC next year.

Work to progress the development of the Strategic Development Plan has also been scheduled.

The financial outlook for 2023-24 and beyond is hugely challenging. The Chief Executive and s151 Officer have consulted with the three chief executives of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Swansea councils. The shared professional view is that the additional costs highlighted above are not affordable in the current climate.

Accordingly, three options are presented for consideration:

Option 1 - Agree to prioritise the CJC and Levy the individual constituent authorities and National Parks.

This will require the constituent authorities to accommodate the CJC costs and prioritise the funding over other priorities within the County/Council Borough Council. This will mean cost reductions in other services or increase in Council Tax.

Option 2 - Do minimum in 2023-24

Consideration could be given to the statutory minimum that CJC must undertake.

Budgetary

The CJC is required by the LGE Act to set a budget to agree its aims

The amounts that the CJC must calculate are (a)the amount which the CJC estimates it will spend in respect of the financial year in the exercise of its functions (including spending on administration and other overheads); (b)the amount which the CJC considers appropriate to raise for contingencies arising in respect of the financial year; (c)the amount which the CJC considers appropriate to be held as a reserve to meet expenditure it considers will be incurred in respect of future financial years; (d) any amount which the CJC considers is necessary to meet liabilities outstanding in respect of any earlier financial year.

Consideration of course must be given to potential officer commitments that have been given as part of funding i.e. some staff have been recruited to undertake CJC related work.

Statutory Minimum Requirements

The LGE Act stipulates that it is a requirement of the partners to:

- Take steps to promote or improve the economic wellbeing of its area
- Prepare a strategic development plan
- Preparation of a regional transport plan

As a legal basis, provided steps are in place to monitor compliance with the Regional Economic Wellbeing Plan (and Energy Plan) then it would be contended that the CJC is fulfilling its statutory duty – it has established a plan and is now actively implementing it within individual authorities.

At this stage, Welsh Government has not yet set statutory guidance governing the development of the Strategic Development Plan and Regional Transport Plan. There are also no additional funds identified to CJsCs to support these two significant planning requirements. Officers continue to work regionally to prepare for the planning exercises, however, given the costs of undertaking these exercises is substantial, it is considered that the timetables for completion of the work would be better delayed until the funding position improves and that the CJC formally writes to Welsh Government in this respect.

Meetings

From a governance perspective, as a statutory minimum, the CJC is required to hold the following meetings annually:

- An Annual General Meeting to constitute the CJC.
- One meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee to review the financial affairs of the CJC, review any financial statements and sign off any accounts and other matters which they are legally obliged to undertake.
- One meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- One meeting of the Standards Committee to agree the annual report.

There will be a requirement in the Annual General Meeting to constitute the CJC. There will clearly be a need for two meetings to develop and take decisions concerning the CJC Budget. Otherwise, it is possible to pause all other meetings.

Policy Work

As CJC's are part of the local government family, there is a statutory obligation that they comply with responsibilities under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Equality Act 2010, Welsh Language Standards and other corporate arrangements. There is a requirement for an overarching policy to be put in place. This work is nearing completion and will be presented to the CJC for decision this financial year, therefore, once the Corporate Plan is in place which satisfies these elements, the CJC will only be required to monitor compliance or update as and when required.

Option 3 - Suspend all CJC activities in 2023-24

The LGE Act created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local governments, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs).

The LGE Act provides for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations (CJC Establishment Regulations).

Therefore, from a legislative perspective it is not open to the parties who comprise the CJC to suspend all activities.

Failure to comply with the legislative requirements, renders the CJC open to following legal consequences:

- Judicial review of the CJC and its constituent councils over failure to implement legal requirements
- Reputational Damage as failure to meet legal obligations
- Possible complaint and investigations by Audit Wales, Public Service Ombudsman for Wales and/or Welsh Government
- Breach of statutory duty by the statutory officers. The LGE Act places a statutory duty on the Chief Executive to oversee the running of the CJC. These powers cannot be declined or not implemented – they are a statutory duty. The Monitoring Officer has a similar duty pursuant to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to ensure no maladministration within the CJC. An automatic stop on all duties renders both the Monitoring Officer and Chief Executive in breach of these legal obligations. Failure to comply cannot expose an officer to personal liability, but it has the potential to open the door to disciplinary processes for failure to meet statutory duties or indeed reputational damage to those officers. Potentially if the authorities were to adopt this strategy, the statutory officers would be placed in a position where they may have no choice but to surrender their statutory duties.

In summary, legally it is not possible for the CJC to suspend its activities and the statutory officers of the CJC cannot recommend this course of action. The LGE Act stipulates that we are obliged by law to have a CJC therefore there is a statutory duty to comply.

It is however feasible for WG to prepare new legislation to suspend all requirements related to CJC activities and members of the CJC could write to Welsh Government to request consideration is given to this in light of the current financial climate.

Proposals

Carmarthenshire County Council as the Accountable Body for the CJC is required to provide an annual costs budget for approval for the financial year 2023/24.

The CJC had previously agreed and set a one-year limited service operational budget for financial year 2022/23 (budget profile £575,411).

The 2023/2024 CJC operational budgets including the strategic planning functions, must be compiled and agreed no later than 31st January 2023. Whilst the emphasis is on developing an understanding of the position in regards 2023/24, efforts are also being made to provide a long-term outlook forecast – notably in terms of those areas of work with a longer term focus – eg Strategic Development Plan.

The challenges being faced by the Constituent Councils in respect of the financial climate at the present time are acknowledged. However, in noting the requirement to set a lawful budget, the emphasis is on seeking to identify a sound platform for the coming years.

Annual Costs Budget

The proposed annual operational budgets and funding options are presented below. 2 options are to be considered, a full cost operational budget (Option 3 identified above) and a minimal cost budget (similar to 2022/23) (Option 2 above), though this will be subject to further consideration in order to reduce the overall sums.

Under the current legislation the National Park Authorities are only financially obligated to support the strategic planning aspects of the CJC. In 2022/23 as the estimated costs for the strategic planning function were minimal, it was agreed that no levy would be applied to the National Park Authorities, as the apportionment would be seen as de minimis. This decision was only in respect of the first year of the CJC 2022/23 and would be reviewed in future years. Depending on which budget option is agreed and taken forwards, and considering the estimated costs associated with the strategic planning function, a decision will need to be taken as to whether a levy is applied to the National Park Authorities.

Option 1 - Full Cost Operational Budget 2023/24

The draft budget for 2023/24 is demonstrating estimated expenditure of **£1,507,851**. A detailed breakdown is presented in Appendix A. Details of budget requirements are highlighted below:

Joint Committee and Accountable Body

- The current budget for the Joint Committee and Accountable Body is estimated at £263,602. Assumptions used are demonstrated below:
- Local authority services – increased by 10% as agreed at the S151 meeting on the 26th September 2022.
- Audit Wales – increased by 10% as aligned to the increase applied to the Local authority services.
- Financial Services – aligned to CCC salary inflation rates

CJC Sub Committees

- A key facet of the work of the CJC from a delivery perspective is the allocation of budget to the 4 sub committees. It should be noted that the CJC endorsed the Terms of Reference for the 4 Sub Committees at its meeting of 11 October 2022.
- In noting the above, in order for the CJC to meet its statutory duties and strategic priorities, sufficient budget will need to be allocated to each of the 4 sub committees and as such liaison has been ongoing between the CJC / Section 151 function and the Regeneration Directors from the Constituent Councils.

Economic Development Sub-Committee - Executive Lead – Carmarthenshire.

- The CJC has already endorsed the REDP as its strategic economic well-being framework. A dedicated staff resource will be required to deliver the REDP. The indicative cost is estimated at £406K for 2023/24 to include a Project Manager, Programme Officers (4 Officers), and a Project Management Assistant. Support costs include Democratic services (£15k) and consultancy services (£100k).
- A five-year operational budget has been estimated at £2.1M, using the below applied annual assumptions. Further information is set out in Appendix B.

Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/2027	2027/2028
Salary	4.00%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%
Training	3.00%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Premises	3.00%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Transport	3.00%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Supplies and Serv	3.00%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%
Support Serv	5.00%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%

Strategic planning Sub-Committee – Executive Lead – Pembrokeshire

- There is a statutory duty upon the CJC to prepare the SDP. The CJC will receive a presentation on the SDP in December 2022 – and a Draft Strategic Development Plans Manual has been published which outlines the process for preparing and SDP. Indications are that the process is largely similar to that of Local Development Plans (i.e. a long term process). A paper, formulated by the Regional Planning Leads, has been provided to the CJC / Section 151 function detailing a series of options for delivery of the SDP. The ‘Gold option’ included therein is outlined below (**year 1**), with further information set out in Appendix B.

<u>Plan Preparation Team / Resource</u>	<u>Total Year 1 Budget Requirements (6 month pro-rata for salary costs – inc. on costs)</u>
Manager (Grade 12)	£35,000
Senior/Principal Planning Officers X 2 (Grade 10)	£56,000
Planning Officers X 2 (Grades 8 or 9)	£50,000
Technical Officer (Grade 7)	£20,000
Consultancy / Evidence Base	£75,000
Total Year One Costs for Gold Standard	£236,000

- A five-year operational budget has been estimated at £2.6M, however it is estimated at £3m over its full 7-year delivery term. Annual estimates are detailed in Appendix B.

Transport Sub-Committee – Executive Lead – City and County of Swansea

- There is a statutory duty upon the CJC to prepare the RTP. A presentation was provided to the CJC in July 2022, with the figures provided set out below. Unfortunately, Welsh Government guidance on preparing RTP’s is still

awaited, however it is understood that the RTP process is around 18 months, with a delivery / implementation following. Clarity is awaited on the role of Transport for Wales. Year 1 cost is estimated at £368K, as detailed below. Further information is set out in Appendix B.

Resource	Annual Budget 2023/24
Regional Transport Plan Development and Programme Lead Officer	£77,927
Graduate Trainee	£35,905
RTP Specialist and Commissions	£254,400
Total	£368,232

- A five-year operational budget has been estimated at £1.8M. An annual inflationary increase of 10% has been applied to estimates with consultancy costs reducing to £80k in the latter two years. Annual estimates are detailed in Appendix B.

Energy Sub-Committee – Executive Lead – Neath Port Talbot

- The CJC has already endorsed the RES. The regional Energy Core Group has been working with WG to submit a bid for additional resources. It is understood that WG will fund a regional energy coordinator post and two energy officers shared across Pembrokeshire/Carmarthenshire and Swansea/NPT – therefore there is limited ‘call’ on the CJC budget for the immediate future. The posts will help support the roll-out of Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) which are currently being procured and provide some capacity to both deliver the engagement and comms plan to support the Regional Energy Strategy and the challenge of turning the Action Plan into delivery. Further information is set out in Appendix B.
- A nominal budget of £20k has been included in the 2023/24 budget.
- A five-year budget has been included, estimated at £142k. An annual increase of 10% has been applied to estimates.

Regional Management Office

- Salary Costs - aligned to CCC salary inflation rates.
- Consultancy and Specialist Support Fees – Increased to align to support requirements expected of Management Office.

- Work has commenced to streamline support for the CJC and City Deal arrangements. It is considered that there is scope to bring the support arrangements and further advice will be provided to Members once the work is further progressed.

Income

- It is intended that this is provisionally split between 4 authorities based on population size (mid-year 2020 – Statswales.gov.uk).
- It should be noted that further consideration will be required as to any contribution from the National Park Authorities.

Option 2 - Minimal Operational Budget 2023/24

The draft budget for 2023/24 is demonstrating estimated expenditure of **£617,753**. A detailed breakdown is presented in Appendix C. It is considered possible to reduce this budget even further if the view is that the CJC should operate at the statutory minimum only in 2023-24. Further work will be undertaken between this meeting and the budget meeting in January 2023 should Members wish to pursue a statutory minimum option. Details of budget requirements are highlighted below:

Joint Committee and Accountable Body

- As in Option 1, the current budget for the Joint Committee and Accountable Body is estimated at £263,602. Assumptions used are demonstrated below
- Local authority services – increased by 10% as agreed at the S151 meeting on the 26th September 2022.
- Audit Wales – increased by 10% as aligned to the increase applied to the Local authority services.
- Financial Services – aligned to CCC salary inflation rates

Economic Development Sub-Committee - Executive Lead – Carmarthenshire

- Dedicated staff resources to deliver REDP. Indicative cost calculated at circa £50K per annum to include project manager and £50k consultancy budget.

Strategic planning Sub-Committee – Executive Lead – Pembrokeshire

- The SDP Manual is scheduled to be published by WG in 2023. The Manual is currently subject to informal consultation. It will set out practical guidance on how to prepare, monitor and revise an SDP. A 'do minimum/de minimus budget option' would potentially conflict with the Manual, and therefore the CJC's statutory duties, unless an arrangement can be agreed with WG on either additional WG ring-fenced resources or an extended timeframe and profile for preparation via the Delivery Agreement. The latter option would impact on the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee's functions insofar as the coordination of work stream activity and recommendations to CJC Joint Committee to determine plan content are concerned. The main impact would be lengthening the timescale for each stage in the SDP development process. Budget £20,000

Transport Sub-Committee – Executive Lead – City and County of Swansea

- Whilst £80,000 would not be sufficient to develop the full RTP, it is considered that this level of resource would enable an officer to be recruited who could coordinate responses and make representations on behalf of the region with a view to attaining Welsh Government backing to progressing this key policy area in partnership.

Energy Sub-Committee – Executive Lead – Neath Port Talbot

- A nominal budget of £20,000 has been included as per 4.3.7 above.

Regional Management Office

- The budget for the Regional Management Office has been reduced by £80,000 (Consultancy and Specialist Support Fees) to £134,151. Assumptions used are demonstrated below
- Salary Costs - aligned to CCC salary inflation rates
- Consultancy and Specialist Support Fees – to support requirements expected of Management Office.
- Reference may be made to the ongoing work being undertaken in respect of seeking to develop an understanding of the respective roles of the City Deal PMO function and that of the SWWCJC.

Income

- As with Option 1, It is intended that this is provisionally split between 4 authorities based on population size (mid-year 2020 – Statswales.gov.uk).

7 Financial Impacts

The report presents 2 options for the operational budget for 2023/24. The first option of a total cost budget is **£1,507,851**, and the second option, a more minimal budget is costed at **£617,753**. As highlighted above, a further iteration could be developed to meet statutory minimum requirements only to reduce the budget requirement further.

It is recommended to ensure fairness and equality across the region that funding will be provided by local authority contributions through the form of a levy, based on population size.

Surpluses that accrue in any year will be contained and ring-fenced within the CJC reserve account and will be utilised for future expenditure.

The budget will be reviewed later in the financial year and revised as appropriate for the subsequent financial year and future years.

8 Integrated Impact Assessment

The CJC is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of

improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment for this report as the setting up of the CJC is underpinned by legislation and this report is to establish financial arrangements in accordance with legislation.

- Workforce Impacts
- Depending on the option selected, there will be some workforce impacts that would arise.
- Legal Impacts

The legal implications are as set out in this report

- Risk Management Impacts

Failure to set a balanced budget would render the CJC in breach of its obligations exposing itself to legal challenge. In addition, suitable arrangements must be put in place to ensure that the constituent authorities and national park authorities are able to fulfil their legal obligations in establishing the SWWCJC.

Operating at the statutory minimum only would mean that there will be an inevitable delay in beginning the detailed work to create a Strategic Development Plan and Regional Transport Plan. To mitigate any reputational or regulatory impacts, it is recommended that the CJC writes formally to the Welsh Ministers seeking full funding for the exercises or otherwise agreement to delay the requirement for this work to be undertaken.

- Consultation

There is no requirement for formal consultation however, constituent authorities have been consulted.

- Reasons for Proposed Decision

To agree and approve the preferred budget option so that the financial budget is set for the CJC in line with relevant legislative requirements applicable to CJC's.

- Implementation of Decision

This decision is proposed for immediate implementation.

- Appendices

Appendix A – Option 1 South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Draft Budget 2023/24

Appendix B – Option 1 South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Estimated 5 -Year Operational Budget

Appendix C – Option 2 South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Draft Budget 2023/24

List of Background Papers

None

Option 1 – Full Cost Budget

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Draft Annual Budget Financial Year 2023/24			
Budget 2022/23 (£)	Description	Budget 2023/24 (£)	Notes
	Expenditure		
	Joint Committee		
	Democratic Services		
67,000	Democratic, Scrutiny and Legal Support Costs	73,700	Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
67,000	Democratic Services Total	73,700	
	Legal and Governance		
17,000	Monitoring Officer and Service Support	18,700	Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
17,000	Legal and Governance Total	18,700	
	Accountable Body		
20,000	Wales Audit Office Financial Audit	22,000	Based on audit costs of SBCD (independent audit of financial statements) Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
18,812	Section 151 Officer Recharge	20,693	Provided by CCC Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
38,812	Accountable Body Total	42,693	
	Governance & Internal Audit		
20,000	Internal Audit	22,000	Provided by Pembs (increased by 10% on prior year)
15,000	Sub-Committee Support Costs & Expenses	16,500	Provided by Pembs (increased by 10% on prior year)
35,000	Governance & Internal Audit Total	38,500	
	Support Services		
20,000	ICT & Data Protection Services	22,000	Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
54,374	Financial Services	57,009	Included a Senior Accountant (CCC Grade J) (included inflationary adjustment)
-	Standards Services	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
10,000	HR Services	11,000	Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
84,374	Support Services Total	90,009	
242,185	Joint Committee Total	263,602	
	Joint Scrutiny Committee		
-	Room Hire	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
-	Subsistence & Meeting Expenses	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
-	Travel	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
-	Democratic, Scrutiny and Legal Support Costs	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
-	Joint Scrutiny Committee Total	-	
	SWWCJC - Sub Committees		
20,000	Economic Development SC	405,867	Provided by CCC
20,000	Planning SC	236,000	Provided by NPT
20,000	Transport SC	368,232	Provided by CCC
20,000	Energy SC	20,000	Provided by Pembs
-	Governance & Audit SC	-	Included in Governance and Audit
80,000	SWWCJC - Sub Committees Total	1,030,099	
	SWWCJC - Regional Management Office		
59,915	Salary (Inc. On-costs)	60,135	Business Manager (CCC Grade K) (included inflationary adjustment).
-	Recharges - Employee Costs (direct)	-	
1,000	Training of Staff	1,000	Estimated budget
250	Public Transport - Staff	250	Estimated budget
810	Staff Travelling Expenses	810	Estimated budget
1,000	Admin, Office & Operational Consumables	1,000	Estimated budget
100,000	Consultancy and Specialist Support Fees	131,206	Estimated budget
1,250	ICTs & Computer Hardware	1,250	Estimated budget
500	Subsistence & Meetings Expenses	1,000	Estimated budget
-	Conferences, Marketing & Advertising	-	
-	Projects & Activities Expenditure	-	
10,000	Translation/Interpret Services	15,000	Estimated budget
2,500	Printing & Copying	2,500	Estimated budget
177,225	Regional Management Office Total	214,151	
	Contingency/Reserves		
76,000	Provision for Contingency/Reserves	-	RA removed as reserve b/f from previous year
76,000	Contingency/Reserves Total	-	
575,411	Total SWWCJC Expenditure	1,507,851	
	Funding Contributions		
	Partner & Other Contribution		
-	Brecon Beacons NPA	-	
-	Pembrokeshire Coast NPA	-	
-	Co-Opt Partners	-	
-	Welsh Government Revenue Grant	-	
-	ERF Grant	-	
-		-	
	Local Authority Levi		
200,453	City and County of Swansea Council (Levi)	525,282	Based on Population Size
154,527	Carmarthenshire County Council (Levi)	404,935	Based on Population Size
117,384	Neath Port Talbot CBC (Levi)	307,602	Based on Population Size
103,047	Pembrokeshire County Council (Levi)	270,032	Based on Population Size
575,411	Total SWWCJC Income	1,507,851	
575,411	Total SWWCJC Income	1,507,851	
0	Provision of Service - Surplus / (Deficit)	0	
	Movement to Reserves (Contingency)		
	Description		
0	Balance Brought Forward from previous year	283,439	Estimated - Q2
0	Net Provision of Service - Surplus / (Deficit)	0	
-	Balance Carry Forward	283,439	

Option 1 – 5 year Budget

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Draft Five Year Operational Budget <i>Estimated</i>						
Description	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
Expenditure						
Joint Committee						
Democratic Services						
Democratic, Scrutiny and Legal Support Costs	73,700	75,543	77,431	79,367	81,351	387,391
Democratic Services Total	73,700	75,543	77,431	79,367	81,351	387,391
Legal and Governance						
Monitoring Officer and Service Support	18,700	19,168	19,647	20,138	20,641	98,293
Legal and Governance Total	18,700	19,168	19,647	20,138	20,641	98,293
Accountable Body						
Wales Audit Office Financial Audit	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	110,000
Section 151 Officer Recharge	20,693	21,262	21,847	22,448	23,065	109,314
Accountable Body Total	42,693	43,262	43,847	44,448	45,065	219,314
Governance & Internal Audit						
Internal Audit	22,000	22,550	23,114	23,692	24,284	115,639
Sub-Committee Support Costs & Expenses	16,500	16,913	17,335	17,769	18,213	86,729
Governance & Internal Audit Total	38,500	39,463	40,449	41,460	42,497	202,369
Support Services						
ICT & Data Protection Services	22,000	22,550	23,114	23,692	24,284	115,639
Financial Services	57,009	58,629	60,293	62,003	63,760	301,694
Standards Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
HR Services	11,000	11,275	11,557	11,846	12,142	57,820
Support Services Total	90,009	92,454	94,964	97,540	100,186	475,152
Joint Committee Total	263,602	269,888	276,337	282,953	289,740	1,382,520
Joint Scrutiny Committee						
Room Hire	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subsistence & Meeting Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Democratic, Scrutiny and Legal Support Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joint Scrutiny Committee Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
SWWCJC - Sub Committees						
Economic Development SC	405,867	415,075	423,973	433,113	442,503	2,120,530
Planning SC	236,000	550,000	550,000	650,000	600,000	2,586,000
Transport SC	368,232	405,055	445,561	258,561	284,417	1,761,825
Energy SC	20,000	22,000	24,200	26,620	29,282	122,102
Governance & Audit SC	-	-	-	-	-	-
SWWCJC - Sub Committees Total	1,030,099	1,392,130	1,443,733	1,368,294	1,356,201	6,590,458
SWWCJC - Regional Management Office						
Salary (Inc. On-costs)	60,135	64,390	66,213	68,085	70,010	328,832
Recharges - Employee Costs (direct)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training of Staff	1,000	1,025	1,051	1,077	1,104	5,256
Public Transport - Staff	250	256	263	269	276	1,314
Staff Travelling Expenses	810	830	851	872	894	4,258
Admin, Office & Operational Consumables	1,000	1,025	1,051	1,077	1,104	5,256
Consultancy and Specialist Support Fees	131,206	137,036	139,534	142,100	144,737	694,613
ICTs & Computer Hardware	1,250	1,281	1,313	1,346	1,380	6,570
Subsistence & Meetings Expenses	1,000	1,025	1,051	1,077	1,104	5,256
Conferences, Marketing & Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-
Projects & Activities Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Translation/Interpret Services	15,000	15,375	15,759	16,153	16,557	78,845
Printing & Copying	2,500	2,563	2,627	2,692	2,760	13,141
Regional Management Office Total	214,151	224,806	229,711	234,749	239,925	1,143,342
Contingency/Reserves						
Provision for Contingency/Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contingency/Reserves Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total SWWCJC Expenditure	1,507,851	1,886,825	1,949,782	1,885,996	1,885,866	9,116,320
Funding Contributions						
Partner & Other Contribution						
Brecon Beacons NPA	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pembrokeshire Coast NPA	-	-	-	-	-	-
Co-Opt Partners	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welsh Government Revenue Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
ERF Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Levi						
City and County of Swansea Council (Levi)	525,282	657,303	679,235	657,014	656,969	3,175,802
Cardiff Council (Levi)	404,935	506,708	523,615	506,486	506,451	2,448,195
Neath Port Talbot CBC (Levi)	307,602	384,913	397,756	384,744	384,717	1,859,733
Pembrokeshire County Council (Levi)	270,032	337,901	349,175	337,752	337,729	1,632,589
	1,507,851	1,886,825	1,949,782	1,885,996	1,885,866	9,116,320
Total SWWCJC Income	1,507,851	1,886,825	1,949,782	1,885,996	1,885,866	9,116,320
Provision of Service - Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Option 2 – Minimal Budget

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Draft Annual Budget Financial Year 2023/24			
Budget 2022/23 (£)	Description	Budget 2023/24 (£)	Notes
Expenditure			
Joint Committee			
Democratic Services			
67,000	Democratic, Scrutiny and Legal Support Costs	73,700	Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
67,000	Democratic Services Total	73,700	
Legal and Governance			
17,000	Monitoring Officer and Service Support	18,700	Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
17,000	Legal and Governance Total	18,700	
Accountable Body			
20,000	Wales Audit Office Financial Audit	22,000	Based on audit costs of SBCD (independent audit of financial statements) Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
18,812	Section 151 Officer Recharge	20,693	Provided by CCC Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
38,812	Accountable Body Total	42,693	
Governance & Internal Audit			
20,000	Internal Audit	22,000	Provided by Pembs (increased by 10% on prior year)
15,000	Sub-Committee Support Costs & Expenses	16,500	Provided by Pembs (increased by 10% on prior year)
35,000	Governance & Internal Audit Total	38,500	
Support Services			
20,000	ICT & Data Protection Services	22,000	Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
54,374	Financial Services	57,009	Included a Senior Accountant (CCC Grade J) (included inflationary adjustment)
-	Standards Services	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
10,000	HR Services	11,000	Provided by NPT (increased by 10% on prior year)
84,374	Support Services Total	90,009	
242,185	Joint Committee Total	263,602	
Joint Scrutiny Committee			
-	Room Hire	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
-	Subsistence & Meeting Expenses	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
-	Travel	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
-	Democratic, Scrutiny and Legal Support Costs	-	Included within Democratic Service costs.
-	Joint Scrutiny Committee Total	-	
SWWCJC - Sub Committees			
20,000	Economic Development SC	100,000	Chief Executive Lead CCC
20,000	Planning SC	20,000	Chief Executive Lead PCC
20,000	Transport SC	80,000	Chief Executive Lead Swansea
20,000	Energy SC	20,000	Chief Executive Lead NPT
-	Governance & Audit SC	-	Included in Governance and Audit
80,000	SWWCJC - Sub Committees Total	220,000	
SWWCJC - Regional Management Office			
59,915	Salary (Inc. On-costs)	60,135	Business Manager (CCC Grade K) (included inflationary adjustment).
-	Recharges - Employee Costs (direct)	-	
1,000	Training of Staff	1,000	Estimated budget
250	Public Transport - Staff	250	Estimated budget
810	Staff Travelling Expenses	810	Estimated budget
1,000	Admin, Office & Operational Consumables	1,000	Estimated budget
100,000	Consultancy and Specialist Support Fees	51,206	Estimated budget
1,250	ICTs & Computer Hardware	1,250	Estimated budget
500	Subsistence & Meetings Expenses	1,000	Estimated budget
-	Conferences, Marketing & Advertising	-	
-	Projects & Activities Expenditure	-	
10,000	Translation/Interpret Services	15,000	Estimated budget
2,500	Printing & Copying	2,500	Estimated budget
177,225	Regional Management Office Total	134,151	
Contingency/Reserves			
76,000	Provision for Contingency/Reserves	-	RA removed as reserve b/f from previous year
76,000	Contingency/Reserves Total	-	
575,411	Total SWWCJC Expenditure	617,753	
Funding Contributions			
Partner & Other Contribution			
-	Brecon Beacons NPA	-	
-	Pembrokeshire Coast NPA	-	
-	Co-Opt Partners	-	
-	Welsh Government Revenue Grant	-	
-	ERF Grant	-	
-		-	
Local Authority Levy			
200,453	City and County of Swansea Council (Levy)	215,203	Based on Population Size
154,527	Carmarthenshire County Council (Levy)	165,898	Based on Population Size
117,384	Neath Port Talbot CBC (Levy)	126,022	Based on Population Size
103,047	Pembrokeshire County Council (Levy)	110,630	Based on Population Size
575,411		617,753	
575,411	Total SWWCJC Income	617,753	
0	Provision of Service - Surplus / (Deficit)	0	
Movement to Reserves (Contingency)			
Description			
0	Balance Brought Forward from previous year	283,439	Estimated - Q2
0	Net Provision of Service - Surplus / (Deficit)	0	
-	Balance Carry Forward	283,439	

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwriadol wag

South West Wales CJC

7 December 2022

Strategic Planning Update

Tudalen 49



Cyngor **Abertawe**
Swansea Council

Eitem yr Agendaf 7

Overview

- ❑ **Strategic Development Plan (SDP)** a statutory requirement - stated in legislation as the primary planning output of CJC
- ❑ SDP will provide the development blueprint for the SW Wales Region – **full development plan status**
- ❑ Future **LDPs must be consistent** with SDP framework
- ❑ SDP focusses on significant issues/topics of **wider than local significance**: scale/numbers of housing growth; strategic scale allocations for new development; strategic areas for protection (e.g. Green Belts); infrastructure commitments; etc.

Progress so far

- ❑ Only **minimal budget agreed for 22/23** = no substantive SDP work has been or will be undertaken this year
- ❑ **Options put forward** regarding potential timescales, budgets, resourcing and management for 23/24
- ❑ **Cross boundary collaboration** on projects is advancing to inform LDPs within the region
- ❑ **WG Manual on SDPs** has been issued for informal comments by end Dec22 [full consultation Summer 23]

What does CJC need to agree?

Engagement and comms with WG – officials and political

Timescales – commencement date and period of production

Budget

Staff Resources and Management

Issues and Risks

- No identified budget to deliver SDP
- No existing resources within LPAs
- Use of existing resources [e.g. secondments] = delay to delivery of LDPs
- Council's risk going over LDP end dates
- Staff recruitment problems
- Lack of budget and existing resource = No SDP work

Tudalen 33

Recommendations

❑ Engagement with WG

- Formally request clarification from WG any funding options
- CJC to agree, in principle, SWW planning region response to WG SDP Manual consultation [specifically highlight objection to proposed 5 year plan preparation time]

❑ Timescale for SWW SDP

Unless WG funding forthcoming, delay commencement of substantive SDP work until year 24/25 at earliest

- Estimated SDP adoption date end of 2031 [6.5 years]

❑ Budget Implications

- **23/24** – nominal budget only
- **24/25** – if future agreement to commence SDP, funding is required for recruitment and associated [estimated £200k initial year budget]
- **25/26 onwards** – funding required to advance subsequent SDP key stages, which will require additional recruitment and associated costs [estimated £500k annual budget]

Strategic Development Plans Manual – Informal Consultation Summary for CJC – December 2022

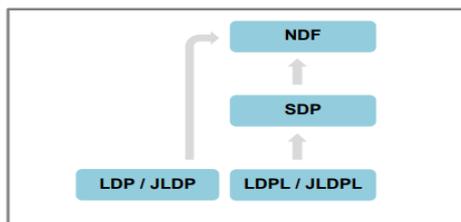
Background

- Welsh Government (WG) have prepared a draft of the Strategic Development Plans (SDP) Manual for an informal stakeholder consultation running until 31st December 2022.
- Formal consultation will take place on the document for 12 weeks in Summer/Autumn 2023.
- Aim of the manual is to provide a practical resource for CJCs and others involved in the SDP process – it sets out practical guidance on how to prepare, monitor and revise an SDP.
- The manual follows the same format as the current Local Development Plan (LDP) manual.

Legislative/Regulatory Background flagged in manual

- Notes primacy of National Development Framework (NDF) - Future Wales – all SDPs and LDPs prepared in Wales have to be in general conformity
- LDPs must be in conformity with both SDP and NDF

Diagram 2.5: Hierarchy of General Conformity



- Legislative and regulatory background (Local Government Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales Regulations 2021
- SDP must specify plan period – guidance suggests SDP plan period should be 25 year minimum, with an operational plan period of at least 20 years when submitted for public examination.
- SDP ceases to be a plan on expiry of plan period.
- SDP must be accompanied by Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment), Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Health Impact Assessment currently voluntary but WG advice is should be undertaken – suggest Integrated Sustainability Appraisal to combine.
- SDP should contain a suite of diagrams and maps that comprise the Proposals Map, including both diagrammatic, schematic and/or detailed Ordnance Survey (OS) based maps. Specific allocations above set thresholds can be expressed explicitly, ie via a red line site boundary, or as ‘Areas of Search’.
- Once SDP adopted LDP ‘Lites’ can commence (not until then) although evidence could be gathered once SDP at Deposit stage.
- Tests of soundness are included in the Manual. (1. Does the plan fit? 2. Is the Plan appropriate? 3. Will the Plan deliver?)
- Inspector’s Report is binding for CJC – CJC must accept changes required.
- CJC must undertake monitoring and review SDP no longer than 6 years from date of adoption.

Key Stages of Plan production (reflects LDP approach)

- Delivery Agreement (including Community Involvement Scheme) must be approved by resolution of CJC before submission to WG – Must be publicised and copies available for inspection at Principal Office(S) of the CJC. No formal consultation requirement but advised to consult for 6 weeks. SDP manual proposes that SDP should be capable of being prepared and adopted in approximately 5 years (see example timetable in Table 4.6)
- Call for strategic locations and sites – CJC to determine threshold and include in call eg stating that allocations will be above X in size – will need different thresholds for retail, housing and employment and to consider what type of sites are requested. Call should be accompanied by constraints map.

Table 4.6: The Timetable

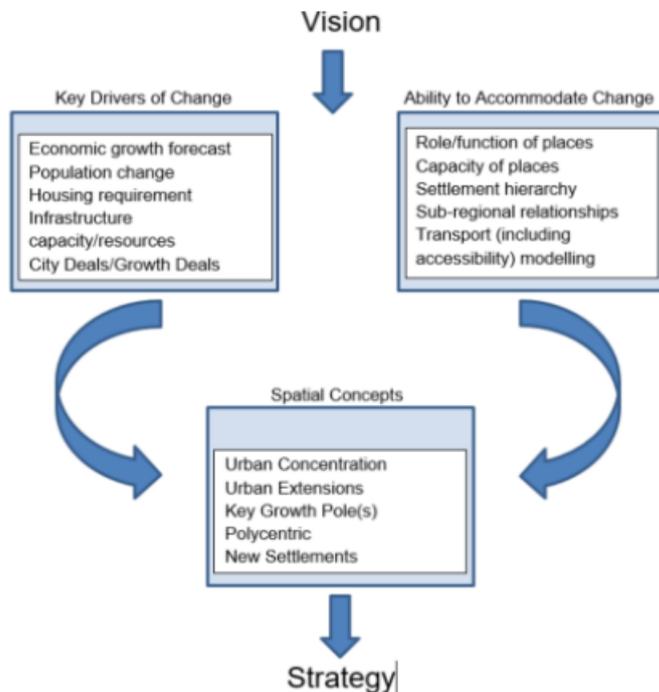
Key Stage		Timescales
Definitive		
Stage 1	Delivery Agreement Preparation and submission	Up to 4 weeks for WG approval (Usually shorter)
Stage 2	Pre-Deposit Preparation and involvement	Approximately 3 years
Stage 3	Preferred Strategy Public consultation	
Stage 4	Deposit plan Public consultation	
Stage 5	Submission	Approximately 1 year
Indicative		
		Approximately 12 months in accordance with Planning Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) Procedural Guidance
Stage 6	Examination	
Stage 7	Inspector's Report	
Stage 8	Adoption	
		Total plan preparation time <u>5 YEARS</u>

Note: Focussed Changes can be added in in exceptional circumstances post Deposit (see paragraph 7.3)

Note: For Inspector to determine whether Matters Arising Changes consultation (MACs) is required post Examination (see page 218)

Content of SDPs

Diagram 3.1: Key Aspects Shaping an SDP



- Overall vision and strategy for Plan area – these should deliver on the issues facing each region.
- Clear **settlement hierarchy** and **strategic locations** for future growth and change
- Policies should be expressed as Regional, Sub-Regional or LPA basis (to allow development of LDP Lites)
- Fundamental components of LDP Lites such as placemaking, strategy, **scale of homes/jobs**, **identification of key settlements** and **core issues** must be set out in the SDP (paragraph 3.2)
- A housing requirement is required for the region as a whole – **as well as for each constituent LPA within the region (paragraph 3.16) more details page 44**
- Placemaking and design policies
- Regional retail hierarchy
- Strategic green wedges
- Rural policy if required
- Strategic sites and masterplans
- Gypsy and Travellers – establish numerical need for SDP and disaggregate for each LPA
- Clarify Green belt if applicable
- Standardised region wide development management policies where appropriate

Adapted from Table 4.2 – Content and Structure of SDP

Title
Plan Period
Sub-title
Summary and Contents
Introduction
Regional Strategy
Sub-regional strategy and policies
LDPL ‘Framework policies’
Regional Development Management policies
Reasoned justification of policies
Areas of search / strategic sites
Monitoring Framework
Housing Trajectory (Appendix)
Implementation and Delivery (Appendix)
Appendices
Glossary
Proposals map
Other diagrams

Evidence required

- Manual states that CJsCs should prepare audit of evidence used for LDP preparation and generate standard methodologies for evidence formulation/collation.
- Data captured and recorded should be on single IT system.
- Evidence gathered should be relevant, proportionate and focussed.
- Evidence gathering should be front loaded to inform Preferred Strategy if possible.

Specific reference made to following documents:

- Constraints Map to inform Call for Sites (showing flood risk, BMV, Minerals Safeguarding zones and environmental designations)
- SA assessment criteria to be issued alongside Call for Sites
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment (note paragraph 6.22 should consider collective growth levels for homes **and** jobs).
- Strategic Viability Assessment
- Employment Land Review for Region
- Regional Economic Framework
- Infrastructure Plan (including education, health, green infrastructure, sewerage, water supply, energy and hard infrastructure). CJC to determine what is considered strategic infrastructure in SDP.
- Regional Transport Plan
- Settlement Hierarchy Role and Function
- Settlement Assessment
- Strategic Urban Capacity Study
- Regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- Demographic Analysis
- Strategic Green Wedge Definition
- Consideration of Spatial Growth Concepts (eg Urban concentration/Urban Extension/Key Growth Poles/Polycentric Growth/New Settlements)
- Analysis of existing LDP commitments/allocations (where above threshold determined by CJC should be included in Proposals map to provide certainty

Suggestion is that Standardised Core SPG can also be prepared on areas such as Affordable housing viability and S106 calculation as well as Biodiversity, Renewable Energy, Retail frontages and criteria for G and T sites.

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Chief Executive

Report Title: Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028

Purpose of Report	To provide for the consideration of the South Wales Corporate Joint Committee's Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028 with a view to attaining Members approval to undertake a public consultation thereon in early 2023.
Recommendation	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Members receive and note the content of the Draft Corporate Plan (together with associated appendices) and approve its publication for a six-week public consultation exercise in January/February 2023; (b) Further to (a) above, any consultation responses received will be reported back to Members with a view to informing a final version of the Plan ahead of its formal adoption (scheduled for March 2023); and (c) That delegated authority be provided to the Chief Executive to make any typographical, factual and / or editorial amendments to the Draft Corporate Plan ahead of its publication.
Report Author	Karen Jones
Finance Officer	Chris Moore
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Background:

1. [Statutory guidance](#) has been produced by the Welsh Government in respect of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). Members will note that there are a range of matters listed therein that require the CJC to respond to, notably in respect of public sector duties. Such matters include: The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (and setting of Well-being objectives), The Welsh language, Equality, Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems, Freedom of Information and Child Poverty.
2. [At its October 2022 meeting](#), the South West Wales CJC resolved that the most appropriate method of meeting its public sector duties in a proportionate and integrated manner would be via the formulation of its first ever Corporate Plan. It is considered that the formulation of a Corporate Plan provides an opportunity to capture the CJC's progress to date as well as set out future ambitions – including a Vision for *South West Wales 2035* and the identification of well-being objectives. With specific reference to Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems, it should be noted that the CJC is embedding its first ever Section 6 Duty Plan into its Corporate Plan. Members will note that the Draft Corporate Plan is set out in Appendix 1.

Timescale:

3. Pending Members approval, a six week public consultation on the Draft Corporate Plan will take place – scheduled for January / February 2023. Any consultation responses will be reported back to the CJC ahead of its adoption – this is scheduled for March 2023.

Financial Impacts:

4. The formulation of (and consultation upon) the Draft Corporate Plan will be undertaken within approved budgets. It is not considered that there will be any new financial implications in this regard.
5. Members will note that in preparing the Draft Corporate Plan, input has been received from the region's regeneration directors, most notably in respect of the steps, timescales and impact measures which underpin the delivery of the identified well-being objectives. This is proving to be an iterative process undertaken against the backdrop of those wider discussions and considerations in respect of budgeting matters and options. Members will note that Appendix 2 set out the action/steps,

timescale and impact measures based around 2 budget options. Further information will be provided to Members as part of the finalisation of the budget at the CJC meeting in January 2023. The final version of Appendix 2 (i.e. the version based upon the approved budget) will then be included within the composite version of the Draft Corporate Plan which is intended to be published for consultation, pending Members approval. Members will note that further information on the implications of budget option 3 will be placed before them at the January 2023 CJC meeting.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

- 6 The CJC is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
7. An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) will accompany the public consultation on the Draft Corporate Plan. Members are provided with a copy of the IIA at Appendix 3. Members will note that the Draft Corporate Plan contains an equality objective. It is considered a full (stage 2) IIA is required as the Corporate Plan is a Strategic Document. Members will note that the formulation of the IIA is an iterative process and that the IIA can be updated as appropriate – e.g. as a result of any responses received to the public consultation.
8. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in

accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'. The formulation of the Draft Corporate Plan has allowed for the identification of well-being objectives for the CJC.

Workforce Impacts:

9. There are no new workforce impacts for the CJC to be concerned with in relation to this report.

Legal Impacts:

10. There are range of public sector duties imposed on CJCs. The production of a Corporate Plan sets out a proportionate and pragmatic way of discharging many of the duties at this early stage of the CJC's evolution.

Risk Management Impacts:

11. Failure to comply with the public sector duties could result in a negative report from Audit Wales and the issue of statutory recommendations which would reflect negatively on the reputation of the CJC.

Consultation:

12. The Draft Corporate Plan will be subject to a six week public consultation exercise – this is scheduled for January/February 2023.
13. It is intended that the consultation be hosted by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council; however the constituent Councils and the National Parks will be asked to provide links across to the survey from their consultation platforms. All other constituent Councils and the National Parks will be asked to raise awareness of the consultation via their established networks and contacts.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

14. To ensure the CJC complies with the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government in respect of CJC's – notably in terms of the requirement to set well-being objectives and to comply with wider public sector duties.

Implementation of Decision:

15. Following the three day call in period.

Appendices:

16. Appendix 1- Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028.
17. Appendix 2 - Action/steps, timescale and impact measures for embedding into the Composite (Consultation version) of the Draft Corporate Plan.
18. Appendix 3 - Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

19. [Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on CJs](#)

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwriadol wag

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Corporate Plan

2023-2028

DRAFT – FOR CONSULTATION

December 2022

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Foreword

As Chairman of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), I am pleased to introduce our Corporate Plan for 2023-2028.

Over the next 5 years; this CJC will build upon the strong partnership arrangements already in place - making progress (where resource allows) in further developing arrangements for strategic planning for transport, whilst beginning to deliver our agreed regional aspirations for energy and economic development - as well as paving the way for the region to produce its first Strategic Development Plan.

Whilst the outlook for public spending is very challenging, we also see significant opportunities to grow the regional economy and are committed to working together to realise those opportunities.

*Cllr Rob Stewart, Chairman of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee
2022-2023 and the Leader of the City and County of Swansea*

1.0. Introduction

What are Corporate Joint Committees and what are their functions?

1.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (the LGE Act) created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government authorities, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). The LGE Act provides for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations (CJC Establishment Regulations).

1.2 CJC's will exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning. They will also be able to do things to promote the economic well-being of their areas. In contrast to other joint committee arrangements, CJCs are separate corporate bodies that can employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and undertake functions.

1.3 The South West Wales CJC (SWWCJC) comprises Carmarthenshire County Council, the City and County of Swansea Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council ("the Constituent Councils"). In respect of some development planning functions, both Pembrokeshire National Park and Brecon Beacons National Park are also members.

1.4 The members of the SWWCJC are: the executive leaders of Carmarthenshire County Council, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, The City and County of Swansea along with a member of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, and a member of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

1.5 Our members are entitled to vote in relation to any matter, except that the Brecon Beacons National Park and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (together the “NPAs”) members may only vote where the matter to be decided is about strategic planning functions.

1.6 [Reference should also be made to the information already set out online, including detailed information on our constitution and governance arrangements.](#)

Purpose of this Plan

1.7 This Plan will capture our progress to date as well as set out our future ambitions in the form of a vision and well-being objectives. It will also allow us to chart the progress we are making in respect of our public sector duties.

2.0 Introducing South West Wales

High level Overview and Spatial Context

2.1 [Future Wales - The National Plan 2040](#) (published February 2021) outlines that South West Wales has a population of over 700,000 and that *“this large and diverse region includes extensive rural areas and urbanised, industrialised built-up areas around Wales’ second city, Swansea”* (p142).

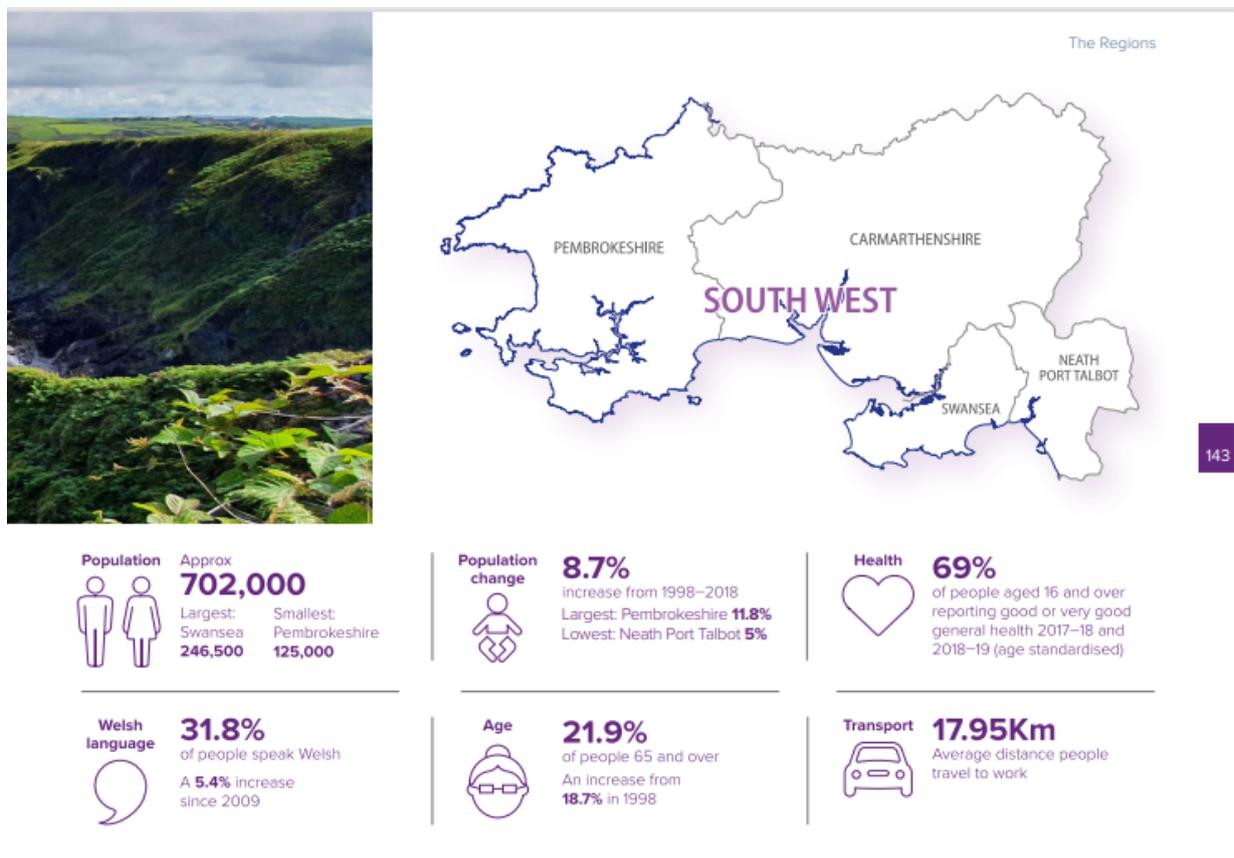


FIGURE 1 - HIGH LEVEL OVERVIEW – EXTRACT FROM FUTURE WALES

2.2 The [South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan](#) – REDP-(dated September 2021) states at paragraph 1.2 that *“Economically, our industrial heritage combines with some of the UK’s most significant marine energy potential, driving*

major opportunities for decarbonisation and the growth of the UK's Green Economy. Environmentally, the coastline and countryside – including the Pembrokeshire Coast and Brecon Beacons National Parks and the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – contribute to a superb visitor offer and quality of life. Culturally, the region encompasses the dynamic, growing university city of Swansea, a diverse and distinctive network of rural towns and an increasingly vibrant Welsh language”.

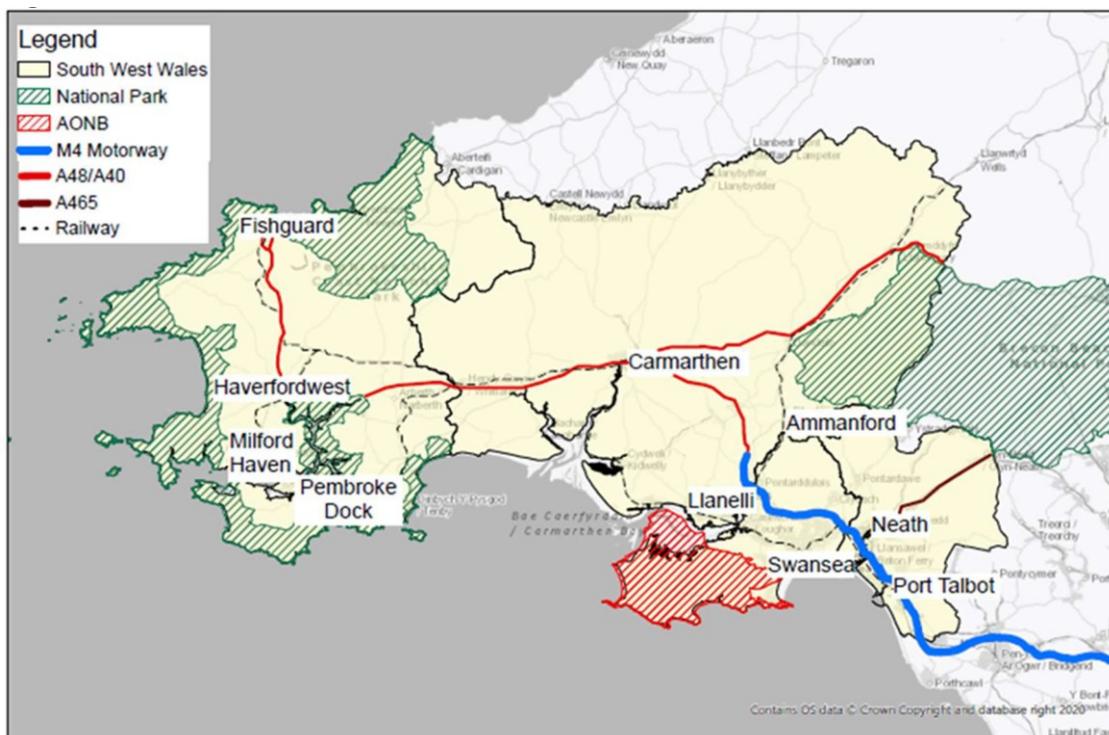


FIGURE 2 – SPATIAL CONTEXT – EXTRACT FROM THE SOUTH WEST WALES REDP

Source: Produced by SQW 2021. Licence 100030994. Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right] (2020)

High level issues identification and policy review

2.3 The REDP was endorsed as the regional strategy for the economic wellbeing strand of our work programme [at our meeting of March 15 2022](#). Furthermore at the same meeting, we endorsed the [South West Wales Regional Energy Strategy](#).

South West Wales Economic Delivery Plan (September 2021)

2.4 The REDP sets out an ambitious ‘route map’ for the development of the region’s economy over the next ten years, identifying priorities for intervention and setting out how business, government, education, voluntary/ community organisations, social enterprises and other partners can work together to bring them forward. The 3 ambitions and 3 missions are outlined below.



FIGURE 3 – REDP – AMBITIONS AND MISSIONS (EXTRACT FROM REDP)

South West Wales Energy Strategy (March 2022)

2.5 The South West region is ‘over-consuming’ and, whilst consumption has – and is – reducing, the current trajectory is not on track to achieve the net zero targets

by 2050 (2030 for the public sector). Figure 4 overleaf sets out the 2035 Vision and six regional priorities as extracted from [the Strategy Summary Document](#).

Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)

2.6 [Future Wales](#) is a development plan which sets the national direction in Wales to 2040. It is a Spatial Plan, setting out a broad direction for where investment and development should take place. Future Wales is not however prescriptive about the exact locations/sites where development will take place or how much specific settlements will grow. It will be for Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) to interpret issues such as the scale of national and regional growth areas within their respective geographical boundary and to consider ‘larger than local issues’ at a regional level and in a strategic manner. We will be required to prepare an SDP for South West Wales (Future Wales identifies 4 regions in total across Wales). The process for preparing an SDP broadly mirrors that of the Local Development Plan (LDP) process and an SDP must be in ‘General Conformity’ with the National Development Framework.



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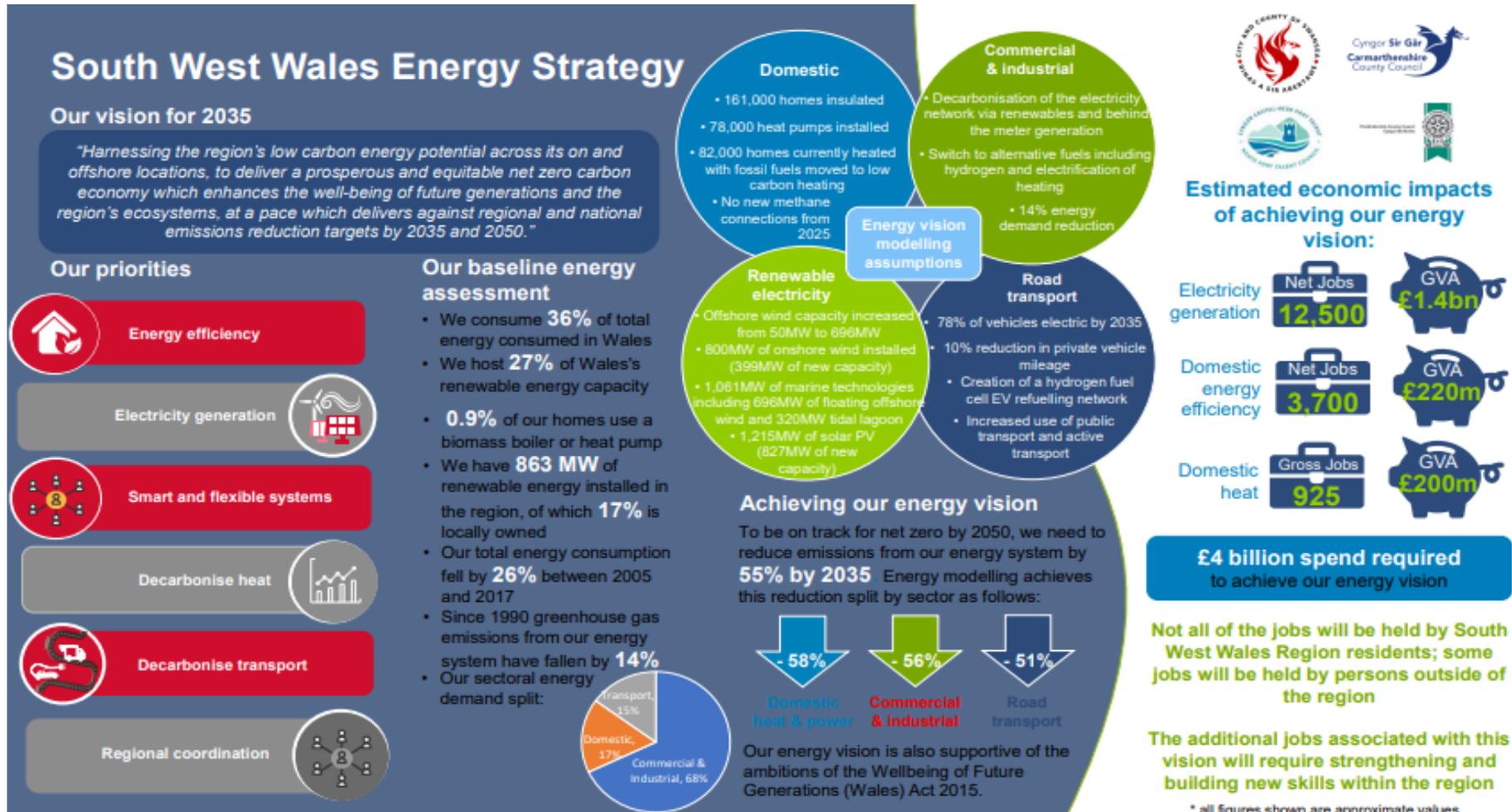


FIGURE 4 - SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY (EXTRACT FROM STRATEGY SUMMARY DOCUMENT)

2.7 Future Wales contains 11 outcomes which are listed below:

“A Wales where people live

1. *... and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places;*
2. *... in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services;*
3. *... in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic; inequality through sustainable growth*
4. *... in places with a thriving Welsh Language;*
5. *... and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth;*
6. *... in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted;*
7. *... in places where travel is sustainable;*
8. *... in places with world-class digital infrastructure;*
9. *... in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution;*
10. *... in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems, and*
11. *... in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient.”*

2.8 At page 144, Future Wales states that *“Across the South West region there are a range of strategic issues. Many of these issues have national, regional and local dimensions and will be delivered through co-ordinated action at all levels”.*

2.9 Future Wales sets out some specific policies for the South West region, as per the following:

- Policy 28 National Growth Area – Swansea Bay and Llanelli;
- Policy 29 Regional Growth Areas – Carmarthen and the Haven Towns;

- Policy 30 Green Belts in the South West;
- Policy 31 South West Metro, and
- Policy 32 Haven Waterway and Energy.

Llwybr Newydd - The Wales Transport Strategy 2021 (March 2021)

2.10 We also have a duty to prepare a Regional Transport Plan (RTP) setting out the priorities for our region.

2.11 It is considered that the content of the South West Wales RTP will be influenced [by Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021 \(Llwybr Newydd\)](#).

A notable facet within Llwybr Newydd is the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy which promotes a modal shift and prioritises walking, cycling and public transport.

2.12 Figure 5 below sets out the vision, 3 priorities and the 4 well being objectives set out within Llwybr Newydd.



FIGURE 5 – LLWYBR NEWYDD: THE WALES TRANSPORT STRATEGY (EXTRACT FROM LLWYBR NEWYDD)

The Swansea Bay City Deal

2.13 [Signed in 2017 - The Swansea Bay City Deal](#) is an investment of up to £1.3 billion in a portfolio of major programmes and projects across the Swansea Bay City Region – which is made up of Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea. The City Deal is being funded, subject to the approval of project business cases, by the UK Government, the Welsh Government, the public sector and the private sector.

2.14 In the 15-year life span of the City Deal, the investment portfolio will boost the regional economy by at least £1.8 billion, while generating more than 9,000 jobs. City Deal programmes and projects are based on key themes including economic acceleration, life science and well-being, energy, smart manufacturing and digital.

3.0 Our Vision

Approach

3.1 In formulating our vision, we have reviewed the high level policy review and issues capturing exercise undertaken in Section 2. To this end, we have extracted key 'visioning elements' which we feel set out an aspirational yet deliverable picture of the South West Wales we want in 2035.

3.2 Our Vision is time bound and is spatially relevant to South West Wales whilst also taking a national steer in the form of Future Wales and Llwybr Newydd. It provides a high level 'hook' that our well-being objectives can deliver upon.

Identifying visioning elements

3.3 The following elements of our 2035 vision have been sourced from the 3 REDP Ambitions: *'resilient', 'sustainable', 'enterprising', 'ambitious', 'balanced' and 'inclusive'*.

3.4 The following elements of our 2035 vision have been utilised from the South West Wales Energy Strategy Vision: *'potential - on and offshore', 'prosperous and equitable', 'net zero carbon economy', 'the well-being of future generations', 'region's ecosystems', '2035' and '2050'*.

3.5 We have captured visioning elements from all 11 of the Future Wales Outcomes within our 2035 vision, including the reference to climate-resilience. We note that climate emergencies have been declared within the region in recent years amongst our constituent Councils.

3.6 In respect of Llwybr Newydd, we have captured the following elements from its Vision within our 2035 vision *"an accessible, sustainable and efficient transport system"*.

3.7 In noting the considerable ambition and projected beneficial impact of the [Swansea Bay City Deal](#), we have also referenced it within our 2035 vision.

Our Vision for South West Wales 2035

3.8 ***“By 2035 South West Wales will be a place where people are living and working within a resilient, sustainable, enterprising, ambitious and climate resilient region that is serviced by world class digital infrastructure and is on track to achieve a net zero carbon economy by 2050, having already achieved its public sector decarbonisation target.***

It will be a distinctive region that tackles health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth. It will have vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services, whilst people will also live and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth. Prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted within the region.

A prosperous, resilient and equitable region that is maximising upon its on and offshore potential, South West Wales is a place where the Welsh language is thriving and the region continues to be a key contributor towards the national target of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050. Effective collaboration between the region’s decision and change makers is demonstrated by the fact that the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee continues to discharge all of its functions effectively. The region continues to feel the benefit from the Swansea Bay City Deal investment portfolio.

The need to enhance the well-being of future generations and ecosystems is firmly embedded within decision making structures that are balanced and inclusive and which recognise the need to sustainably manage our natural resources and reduce pollution resulting in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems. People are living and working in connected, inclusive and healthy places with an accessible, sustainable and efficient transport system and where travel is sustainable.”

4.0 Our aim and well-being objectives

Our aim

4.1 We want to deliver our vision for ‘South West Wales 2035’. We know where we want to get to, and now we need to map out how we are going to get there. This means that our aim over the next 5 years to 2028 is to:

- Complete all of the constitutional, corporate and governance aspects of the SWWCJC’s establishment;
- Deliver tangible betterment in terms of the region’s economic well-being;
- Demonstrably lead the region further along its journey towards net zero;
- Progress the formulation of a Regional Transport Plan for the region; and
- Progress the formulation of a Strategic Development Plan for the region.

How we will deliver

4.2 Whilst we remain ambitious, we must be realistic and open to change given the turbulence in the external operating environment.

4.3 We have set 3 well-being objectives (WBOs) to guide our initial work and are committed to revisiting these as the work of the CJC matures. We are taking an integrated approach as demonstrated by the fact that our well-being objectives will also be informing the formulation of our equality objective. We have reviewed the guidance on preparing well-being objectives [as set out within the 2020 Future Generations Report](#) - notably the emphasis on ensuring that we understand what we want to achieve.

Our well-being objectives

Well Being Objective 1

4.4 To collaboratively deliver the Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Regional Energy Strategy thereby improving the (decarbonised) economic well-being of South West Wales for our future generations.

4.5 Key to the delivery of this objective is the fact that we have [already endorsed the REDP and Regional Energy Strategy](#). It should be noted that the REDP sets out some initial key action areas to deliver against the ambitions and missions. These actions will form the basis of a 'living' action plan document, in the form of a project pipeline supplement, that will be regularly reviewed by regional partners and will evolve to embrace new investment proposals as they emerge. In terms of energy, it should be noted that a strategic action plan is the next stage of the regional energy planning process and is directed at turning the core principles and strategic priorities into reality.

4.6 The steps we will take to deliver this well-being objective are set out in Appendix 1 and 2. This sets out the action/steps, timescale and impact measures that we believe to be possible within the resources we expect to have available.

Well Being Objective 2

4.7 To produce a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales that is founded on collaboration and enables the delivery of a transport system which is good for our future generations of people and communities, good for our environment and good for our economy and places.

4.8 There is already considerable regional working on transport planning in South West Wales and we have based our future plans on these foundations. The RTP preparation process will be shaped by guidance issued by the Welsh Government (understood to be scheduled for December 2022/January 2023) but also by the resources that are made available to us.

4.9 The steps we will take to deliver this well-being objective are set out in Appendix 3. This sets out the action/steps, timescale and impact measures that we believe are possible within the resources we anticipate to be available.

Well Being Objective 3

4.10 ***To produce a sound, deliverable, co-ordinated and locally distinctive Strategic Development Plan for South West Wales which is founded on stakeholder engagement and collaboration and which clearly sets out the scale and location of future growth for our future generations.***

4.11 There is already considerable regional working on transport planning in South West Wales and we have based our future plans on these foundations. The preparation process will be shaped by guidance issued by the Welsh Government (Strategic Development Plans Manual) and the resources made available to us.

4.12 The steps we will take to deliver this well-being objective are set out in Appendix 4. This sets out the action/steps, timescale and impact measures that we believe to be possible within the resources we expect to have available.

5.0 Our Well-being Statement

Overview - The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

5.1 By embedding the requirements of [the WFG Act](#) into our corporate planning, we will ensure that it forms a central organising principle to the way we work. In this regard, we recognise the need to undertake the following steps:

- Set and publish wellbeing objectives [s3(2)(a)]
- Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives [s3(2)(b)]
- Publish a statement about wellbeing objectives [s7(1)]
- Publish an annual report of progress [s13(1)and Sch1]
- Publish a response to a recommendation made by the Future Generations Commissioner [s22(4)]

Our ways of working

5.2 The WFG Act places a duty on each public body to carry out sustainable development. Sustainable Development is defined as a process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. This needs to be done by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle so that the well-being goals are achieved. The principle is made up of five ways of working that public bodies are required to take into account when applying sustainable development. It should also be noted that the Constituent Councils will all be bound by their own requirements in regards the WFG Act. Whilst setting our own well-being objectives, we need to have regard to the Well-being Plans (WBPs) already in place across the region as part of a collaborative and integrated approach. The following sets out how we will embed the 5 ways of working:

5.2.1 Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs: The recognition of the importance of future generations is implicit within our vision and well-being objectives, most notably in the fact that the vision (and as such the objectives designed to deliver the vision) are framed within a time bound context i.e. 'South West Wales 2035'. Our well-being objectives have also informed our equality objective. There will be specific opportunities to further embed these principles as the work develops – for example in undertaking the duty to prepare a Strategic Development Plan (WBO3) there will be a requirement for a range of impact assessments to be undertaken as part of this process – including a Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment.

5.2.2 Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives: The National well-being goals have played a key role in the identification of the SWWCJC well-being objectives. In this regard, reference is made to Table 1 below.

5.2.3 Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them: This Plan will be subject to consultation. The preparation of this Corporate Plan has engendered an increased awareness of the need for us to develop a Participation Strategy. In noting that the Constituent Councils will have their own strategies and engagement exercises, we do have an opportunity to develop an approach which is proportionate and does not duplicate existing provisions within the region. In respect of the WBO's themselves, specific reference should be given to WBO3 which emphasises the fact that the SDP Plan making process will be subject to consultation as per the requirements to prepare a Community Involvement Scheme.

We will emphasise that a key message is one of involvement in the delivery of our well-being objectives and the undertaking of Plan making.

5.2.4 Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions; Collaboration is at the very essence of the SWWCJC way of working, from the way it is constituted (i.e. leaders of the region's Councils) to the manner in which it is seeking to establish a co-option and advisory framework function. All 3 of our WBOs include reference to collaboration.

5.2.5 Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring: The fact that there are a specific set of duties and powers that are relevant to the SWWCJC are pertinent considerations, however in noting this we have sought to develop an appreciation of the issues by virtue of the policy and issues capture exercise undertaken in Section 2. To this end, the vision (which in turn requires the well-being objectives to deliver upon it) is informed by an appreciation of the challenges and opportunities that we face – as demonstrated by the visioning elements exercise undertaken.

5.3 We have put in place a clear flow and delivery pathway from the issues/policy review, through to the Vision and onto the 3 WBOs themselves. We know where we need to get to and how we are going to get there. We are confident that our WBOs are Specific Measurable Attainable and Relevant (i.e. we have duties and/or powers to deliver upon them by 2035) because they are legally deliverable and they also stem from an appreciation of the key issues, challenges and opportunities that we face in South West Wales.

5.4 In undertaking our functions, we are actively embedding the WFG Act 5 ways of working into our corporate governance. Also, in setting our own well-being objectives, we note the need to have regard to Well-being Plans (WBPs) across the region. We will seek to work in an integrated and collaborative way and recognise the significant amount of work that has been achieved to date by Councils and Public Services Boards across the region.

5.5 Our commitment to embedding the 5 ways of working is demonstrated via a dedicated section on the WFG Act within the reports provided to our Members by our Executive Officers. Moving forward, once this corporate plan is formally approved there will be an opportunity to add a section to the report template to allow for commentary on how the proposal will assist us to achieve our 3 WBOs and our Equality Objective.

5.6 [At our October 2022 meeting](#), we endorsed the principle of adopting Neath Port Talbot's 2 stage Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit. This will allow for an integrated approach to be undertaken which includes considerations around the WFG Act.

[Our contribution towards achieving the National well-being goals](#)

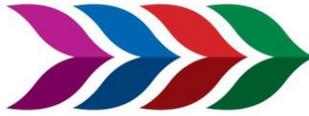
5.7 The WFG Act identifies seven National Well-being Goals: a Prosperous Wales; a Resilient Wales; a Healthier Wales; a More Equal Wales; a Wales of Cohesive Communities; a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language; and a Globally Responsible Wales. In developing our well-being objectives, we have sought to influence the achievement all of 7 goals, however clearly given our focused

duties and powers direct contributions will be made towards those goals that are most aligned with the powers and duties available to us.

5.8 It should also be noted that our 3 well-being goals are intended to be complimentary and integrated to each other and there are clear overlaps – including WBO2 and WBO3 in respect of sustainable travel. To this end, it is appropriate to review the impact all of 3 WBOs in regards the national goals as opposed to separate assessments.

TABLE 1 – OUR WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES AND THE NATIONAL WELL-BEING GOALS

National Goal	Integrated contribution of our well-being objectives
A Prosperous Wales	Increasing productivity and economic growth, to support the creation and safeguarding of more, better paid jobs, opportunities for business starts and growth, and further links between the knowledge base and industry. Good for places and the economy - A transport system that contributes to our wider economic ambitions, and helps local communities, supports a more sustainable supply chain, uses the latest innovations and addresses transport affordability. A region where people live in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted - with world-class digital infrastructure.
A Resilient Wales	Increased emphasis on economic sustainability through focus on the need to decarbonise the economy; resilience to future technology change through emphasis on responding to and harnessing digitalisation. Good for the environment - A transport system that delivers a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, maintains biodiversity and enhances ecosystem resilience, and reduces waste. A region where people live in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution and where travel is sustainable



<p>A Healthier Wales</p>	<p>Whilst the WBO is not directly concerned with health matters, greater prosperity (especially where more equally distributed) leads to better health outcomes. The REDP itself notes the importance of the health and care sector and the opportunity to link it with economic growth. Good for people and communities- A transport system that contributes to a more equal Wales and to a healthier Wales, that everyone has the confidence to use. A region where people live and work in connected, inclusive and healthy places.</p>
<p>A More Equal Wales</p>	<p>The REDP itself recognises the need to build an ‘inclusive growth’ model into the strategy, via efforts to support skills outcomes, resilience to automation, or mechanisms to support greater wealth retention within the community. Good for people and communities - A transport system that contributes to a more equal Wales and to a healthier Wales, that everyone has the confidence to use. A region where people live in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth.</p>
<p>A Wales of Cohesive Communities</p>	<p>Better economic inclusion outcomes should improve cohesion, where linked with programmes and mechanisms that focus on local community involvement and engagement. Good for places and the economy - A transport system that contributes to our wider economic ambitions, and helps local communities, supports a more sustainable supply chain, uses the latest innovations and addresses transport affordability. A region where people live and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth and in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p>	<p>Measures to support the growth of the creative economy (including associated with the Welsh language) should directly support, and could be an important part of the SW Wales investment proposition. More broadly, the WBO seeks to support the economic vibrancy of the region, including principally Welsh-speaking communities. Good for culture and the Welsh language - A transport system that supports the Welsh language, enables</p>

	more people to use sustainable transport to get to arts, sport and cultural activities, and protects and enhances the historic environment. A region where people live in places with a thriving Welsh Language.
A Globally Responsible Wales	Achieving over time a decarbonised growth model will contribute to this goal. Good for the environment - A transport system that delivers a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, maintains biodiversity and enhances ecosystem resilience, and reduces waste. A region where people live in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient - with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems.

5.9 Reference is also made to the requirement to prepare a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as part of the SDP process – along with considerations in regards Habitats Regulations Assessment. This can enable us to understand where the WBO3 (the SDP) can maximise its contribution to the national well-being goals and also potentially allow for the integration of a number of other facets.

5.10 We are content that our well-being objectives will contribute to the achievement of the wellbeing goals and that we are they are taking all reasonable steps to meet our well-being objectives. We are content that our well-being objectives are consistent with the sustainable development principle, most notably in terms of actively promoting collaborative working within our region.

5.11 With such strong alignment to Future Wales and Llwybr Newydd, it is noted that the Welsh Government themselves will have had due regard to the WFG Act in publishing such national strategies.

6.0 Our contribution towards achieving a more equal region

Overview

6.1 With reference to the Equality Act 2010, [Statutory guidance](#) issued by the Welsh Government in respect of CJC's confirm the need to ensure that that the consideration of our public sector equality duty and socio-economic duty is suitably embedded into our corporate governance and decision making structure.

6.2 CJCs are listed bodies under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended and are therefore subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The Equality and Human Rights Commission ("the Commission") is the regulator of the PSED. To this end, we have been in dialogue with officers from the Commission to ensure that we are on the correct path towards compliance in this regard.

6.3 To review the potential impact of establishing the CJCs the Welsh [Government published impact assessments](#) – including a Regulatory Impact Assessment and Integrated Impact Assessment.

6.4 Our approach will be a twin track one, where we want to ensure that our decisions don't impact disproportionately negatively, but that we also grasp any opportunities for betterment as part of a positive approach.

How we measure the impact of our decisions

6.5 The need to measure the impact of our decisions is already firmly embedded into our corporate governance (notably in terms of a section on the reports provided to our Members where such matters are acknowledged). It is considered however

that as our work moves to substantive matters of policy formulation then these decisions should go through an assessment process.

6.6 [In light of the foregoing, at our October 2022 meeting](#), we endorsed the principle of adopting Neath Port Talbot's 2 stage Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit as our Toolkit. The utilisation of the Toolkit will further embed matters of equality into our corporate governance, and as such demonstrates that we are fully acknowledging and embracing our public Sector equality duty and socio-economic duty.

6.7 We also want to set out a specific equality objective within this first Corporate Plan. In preparing this Objective, we have had [reference to the Welsh Government's Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024](#). Reference can be made to the [Is Wales fairer](#) 2018 report. Furthermore, we have had reference to 3 our well-being objectives, because we want to embed an integrated approach in this regard. It is noted that many of the processes (eg SDP) are likely to be subject to impact assessments in their own right (e.g. Integrated Impact Assessments), however we want to identify a specific SWWCJC equality objective which re-affirms our corporate commitment to a more equal South West Wales. This is set out overleaf.

Our Equality Objective – A more equal South West Wales by 2035

6.8 ***“To deliver a more equal South West Wales by 2035 by contributing towards:***

(a) The achievement of the Welsh Government’s long-term equality aim of eliminating inequality caused by poverty;

(b) The achievement of the Equality statement set out in Llwybr Newydd which is to make our transport services and infrastructure accessible and inclusive by aiming to remove the physical, attitudinal, environmental, systemic, linguistic and economic barriers that prevent people from using sustainable transport; and

(c) The achievement of the Welsh Government’s long-term equality aims of cohesive communities that are resilient, fair and equal and where everyone is able to participate in political, public and everyday life.”

6.9 In terms of achieving element (a) of our equality objective, it is considered that this integrates suitably with WBO1 which focuses on economic well-being and energy. In noting that we have already endorsed the Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Regional Energy Plan, we will explore how we can take these Plans back through our Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit in 2023 to identify if there are any further opportunities to deliver a more equal South West Wales.

6.10 In terms of achieving element (b) of our equality objective, it is considered that it integrates suitably with WBO2 which focuses on transport. Llwybr Newydd is very clear on equality matters, and as such there are clear opportunities to provide a regional expression of this national policy direction. We will take any future decisions through our Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit.

6.11 In terms of achieving element (c) of our equality objective, it is considered that it integrates suitably with WBO3 which focuses on strategic development planning (noting that stakeholder engagement and collaboration are key elements of the SDP preparation process – as per the requirements for a Community Involvement Scheme). We will take any future decisions through our Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit.

7.0 Governance and operational facets

Our constitutional and governance framework

7.1 We [first met in January 2022](#) and we were reconstituted for the civic year 2022/2023 [at our July 2022 meeting](#).

7.2 Some of those key procedural steps we have already undertaken since our commencement include:

- Establishing a Governance and Audit Sub-Committee Committee;
- Establishing an Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee; and
- Designating the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Standards Committee as our Standards Committee.

7.3 We have agreed an approach for representatives from the two local health boards that serve our area, along with Swansea and Trinity St David Universities, to [be co-opted](#). We have also agreed an approach for the appointment of [private sector representatives](#) to an Advisory Board.

7.4 We have established 4 sub-committees, [with the terms of reference for each of these agreed in October 2022](#). These sub-committees will have a key role in driving forward delivery of our 3 well-being objectives.

TABLE 2 – OUR SUB-COMMITTEE STRUCTURE (FUNCTION THEMES)

Sub Committee	Lead Chief Executive	Political Lead
Regional Transport Planning	Swansea	Carmarthenshire
Economic Well Being – regional economic development	Carmarthenshire	Swansea
Strategic Development Planning	Pembrokeshire	Neath Port Talbot
Economic Well Being - regional energy strategy	Neath Port Talbot	Pembrokeshire

Budgeting

7.5 A key consideration in terms of how we will discharge our duties and functions is funding.

7.6 We must set a budget for the upcoming financial year i.e.1/4 to 31/3, by the end of January each year. We approved our 2022-23 budget of £575,411 at our [meeting on January 25 2022](#). The ability to increase the CJC budget through an increase in the levy for 2023-24 is considered to be very limited given the general economic outlook for local government budgets and the prevailing cost of living crisis. Consequently, progress in 2023-24 will be more dependent on other funding being available from Welsh Government or other sources.

Operational Facets, including staffing and service arrangements

7.7 We are required to appoint a number of statutory “executive officers” similar to the roles within principal councils (e.g. Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer). The Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot is currently our Chief Executive, with the intention being to rotate this role on an annual basis amongst the respective constituent Council Chief Executives. The Head of Legal Services in Neath Port Talbot retains the Monitoring Officer function, and the Head of Finance in Carmarthenshire retains the Chief Finance Officer function.

7.8 In terms of operational facets provided to the SWWCJC, services are provided by the constituent Councils. Service Level Agreements are being formulated in respect of the statutory functions and the subject areas/function themes.

Engagement and consultation

7.9 We recognise that our constituent Councils undertake engagement and consultation and have their own methods and stakeholders in this regard. We will not seek to duplicate these established platforms, rather we will seek to utilise them and feed any consultation that we have through these channels.

7.10 In the short term, we have taken the following steps:

- Dedicated SWWCJC website and e mail addresses;
- SWWCJC branding;
- Commitment to produce easy read documentation;
- Proportionate awareness raising – including presentations, and
- Publishing accessible documentation.

8.0 Public Sector Duties, Plans and Strategies

Overview

8.1 There are a number of duties relevant to us as summarised within [Statutory guidance](#) issued by the Welsh Government in respect of CJC's. We will embrace these duties, but in so doing we will be taking a proportionate and integrated approach. Our emphasis has been on embedding such considerations into our corporate governance. Specific reference should be made to Section 6 of this Plan in respect of our approach to our public sector equality duty and socio-economic duty.

The Welsh language

8.2 In the absence of the imposition of standards by the Welsh Language Commissioner, we have taken a proactive approach, particularly given the prominence of the language within the social fabric of our region. [At our October 2022 meeting](#), we endorsed the principle of adopting Carmarthenshire County Council's standards as our interim policy position.

8.3 Reference should also be made to our adoption of an Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit which will also allow for consideration of Welsh language matters. Also specific workstreams – notably the Strategic Development Plan – will have policy considerations - e.g Impact Assessment process and national policy [e.g Technical Advice Note 20 – The Welsh Language](#).

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

8.4 As one of the Public Authorities subject to the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty, we are required to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of our functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems. We must have regard to:

- [The section 7](#) list of habitats and species of principal importance for Wales;
- [The State of Natural Resources Report \(SoNaRR\)](#), published by Natural Resources Wales; and
- Any Area Statement which covers all or part of the area in which the authority exercises its functions, once these are produced.

8.5 We must prepare and publish a plan setting out what we propose to do to comply with the Section 6 duty. We must also produce and publish a report on what we have done to comply with the s6 duty by 31 December 2022 and then every three years after this date. Discussions with Biodiversity Policy Officers within the Welsh Government have indicated that we can embed our Duty Plan into our Corporate Plan and in fact this would be preferable to a standalone one ([this is also confirmed in Welsh Government guidance](#)). Whilst there is no specific timescale to publish Our Duty Plan, we have taken the opportunity to publish it within this Corporate Plan so that key principles are embedded into our corporate governance from the outset. This will be subject to review. In terms of our Compliance Report – this will be published by 31 December 2022.

8.6 [The Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\) for Wales](#) was originally published in December 2015 as the Nature Recovery Plan and contains the following ambition: *‘To reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society’*. This ambition is supported by 6 objectives:

- 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels;
- 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their Management;
- 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation;
- 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats;
- 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring, and
- 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.

8.7 We recognise these aims and objectives and have utilised them to frame our first Duty Plan, which is set out in Table 3 overleaf. Our approach and focus is on embedding the consideration of our duties into our corporate governance, noting our specific functions and the fact that the work that will be undertaken (e.g. Strategic Development Plan) will be subject to rigorous scrutiny in terms of designations (including National Site Network) together with policy alignment – [e.g. Technical Advice Note 5 - nature conservation and planning](#).

8.8 In formulating our Duty Plan, we have had regard to the [South West Wales Area Statement](#) (SWWAS) and its themes as set out below:

T1 - Reducing health inequalities: This theme aims to examine the opportunities to address health inequalities in South West Wales by using natural resources and habitats;

T2 - Ensuring sustainable land management: Ensuring our land is sustainably managed for future generations;

T3 - Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity : This theme aims to explore how we can reverse the decline of biodiversity by building resilient ecological networks, and

T4 - Cross-cutting theme: mitigating and adapting to a changing climate : This theme looks at how we can adapt and respond to a changing climate.

Our Biodiversity Duty Plan 2023-2028.

8.9 Our Duty Plan is set out within Table 3 below.

TABLE 3 - OUR BIODIVERSITY DUTY PLAN 2023-2028

NRAP Objective	NRAP Extract	SWWCJC Action	SWWAS Theme
1	Addressing this objective demands corporate change, and the integration of biodiversity values, both economic and intrinsic, into decision making, so that the value is recognised, accounted for and acted on at an early stage.	<p>We will formulate a Corporate Plan and set well-being objectives.</p> <p>We will adopt an Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit (which will include a biodiversity section for screening).</p> <p>We will embed the 5 ways of working into our corporate governance.</p>	T1,T2,T3,T4.



		We will ensure that this Section 6 Plan is referenced in Executive Officer Reports to Members.	
2	We need to use the legislation that we have to ensure we safeguard our protected species and habitats, and to manage them better to reduce the multiple pressures they are facing. We need to identify opportunities for policy change, managing for multiple benefits and using resources (both human and monetary) innovatively. Partnership working is key.	In accordance with legislative / policy requirements we will ensure that impacts are considered – eg Habitats Regulations Assessment to the Strategic Development Plan. As a regional body, we will take a collaborative and integrated approach which is underpinned by partnership working.	T3,T4
3	Action is needed across the whole of Wales to recover biodiversity and build the resilience of our ecosystems.	We will actively scrutinise the requirement for conservation and enhancement as part of our corporate governance. In so doing, we will take decisions that reflect the WFG Act and we note The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) , published by Natural Resources Wales.	T3
4	The Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) puts in place a framework and tools for an integrated approach to tackling negative impacts on our biodiversity while building resilience of our environment.	At a corporate level, we will recognise and embed SMNR approaches into our ways of working. As such, we will place an emphasis on integration and promote nature based solutions. We recognise the Section 7 list of habitats and species of principal importance for Wales.	T3,T4
5	To inform the delivery of our actions to help nature recover we need to improve the quality of data and the confidence we have in it, direct relevant and prioritised research and review and develop monitoring and surveillance.	Much of the data will be collected on a local / Local Authority level. However, we will take opportunities through our activities to attain information on our contribution towards conservation and enhancement – e.g. Strategic	T1,T3,T4

		Development Plan monitoring indicators.	
6	We need to ensure these are as well informed and prioritised as possible, and that this information is accounted for in local planning and decision making. We need to put in place resourcing (both human and monetary) to achieve our nature recovery objectives.	<p>We will utilise Impact Assessments (eg Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment that will be done with the Strategic Development Plan) to increase our understanding. In formulating our budget, we will have reference to our WBOs/sub committees.</p> <p>We will have specific reference to the South West Wales Area Statement and have utilised its cross cutting themes in this Plan.</p>	T1,T2,T3,T4.

Towards the formulation of a Child Poverty Strategy

8.10 The requirement for us to prepare a Child Poverty Strategy is noted. We will address this as the CJC work activities are further developed.

Freedom of Information

8.11 Within 2023, we will also be looking towards the production of a Publication Scheme and any associated requirements in respect of these matters.

9.0 Measuring our performance

Overview

9.1 We need a framework to measure our success.

Well-being of Generations (Wales Act 2015).

9.2 We will be required to report on the progress we have made in meeting our well-being objectives at the end of each year. [Reference is made to the Well-Being of Wales Report 2022](#). Annual Reports must be published as soon as possible, but no later than 31 March. In preparing our report we must review our well-being objectives. We will need to demonstrate that:

- our well-being objectives are contributing to the achievement of the wellbeing goals;
- we are taking all reasonable steps to meet our well-being objectives, and
- our well-being objectives are consistent with the sustainable development principle.

[Audit Wales landscape review Autumn 2022](#)

9.3 During the Autumn of 2022, Audit Wales will have undertaken an early landscape review to understand the evolving arrangements of CJC's across Wales. A Project brief has been issued, with the below forming the overall commentary questions:

- What is our understanding of Welsh Government's aims for the CJC's?
- Have we established effective governance arrangements to meet the Welsh Government aims and statutory obligations?

- Do we have clear and effective plans to deliver the Welsh Government aims and meet our statutory obligations?
- How will we fit in to existing partnership arrangements?, and
- How are we planning to meet their requirements under the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 including how are we setting our well-being objectives?

9.4 It is considered that the production of this Corporate Plan will be an important component of our response to the above, notably in terms of clarifying the progress we have made in terms of governance and meeting our statutory obligations and our responsibilities under the WFG Act. We are also actively reviewing partnership arrangements to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

10.0 Next steps

10.1 This Corporate Plan will be reported to our Members in December 2022 with a view to securing their approval for undertaking a public consultation thereon in early 2023.

10.2 Further to above, any consultation responses received will be reported back to the Members with a view to informing a final version of the Plan as part of its formal endorsement. This is scheduled for March 2023.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Well-being objective 1 - action/steps, timescale and impact measures (Regional Economic Delivery Plan).

To be completed ahead of consultation

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Appendix 2 – Well-being objective 1 - action/steps, timescale and impact measures (Regional Energy Strategy).

To be completed ahead of consultation

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Appendix 3 – Well-being objective 2 - action/steps, timescale and impact measures (Regional Transport Plan).

To be completed ahead of consultation

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Appendix 4 – Well-being objective 3 - action/steps, timescale and impact measures (Strategic Development Plan).

To be completed ahead of consultation

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Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwiadol wag

Appendix 2 – Options - Well-being Objectives actions, timescales and impact measures .

- Full Plan Option
- Minimal Budget Option
- Further reduction on Minimal Budget Option (do Statutory minimum) (such commentary / proposal may be provided to Members in January 2023 and is therefore not set out within this paper at this stage).

Full Plan Option

1 Regional Economic Delivery Plan (Well being Objective 1)

Sub-Committee Financial Profile 23/24 £405,867

To deliver the REDP, we will take the following steps 2023-2028:

Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Resources	2023 onwards - It will be important to secure sufficient capacity – within individual partner authorities and jointly – to do this, given the scale of the opportunities and challenges. It is proposed that a Regional Economic Delivery Plan Programme Manager and 4 Regional Economic Delivery Plan Programme Officers are appointed to provide the day-to-day resource needed to implement the strategy and to lead delivery of regional projects. These posts would work collaboratively with the economic development functions in each local authority to deliver the Regional Economic Delivery Plan. Up until budgets are agreed and allocated towards these resources, it is intended that temporary EARTH resources would support this programme of work locally and regionally for the next 12 months.	Effective Coordination & Delivery of REDP.	Dedicated staff resources to deliver REDP. Indicative cost calculated at circa £406K per annum to include project manager, programme officer (4), and consultancy budget

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<p>Building Capacity and Expertise to maximise SWW renewable energy and net zero potential</p>	<p>SWW has a substantial opportunity in renewables and low carbon energy sector. There are several major projects in delivery or proposed and there is a need to develop coordination regionally either between the major projects and through skill development, business growth and potential for local ownership models.</p> <p>This function sits under the Energy strand, however there are clear overlaps with the economic development strand and coordination will be vital to maximise success.</p> <p>Major projects and programmes currently being delivered include Pembroke Dock Marine, Dragon Energy Island, Homes as Power Stations, onshore wind and energy from waste projects and a potential nuclear fusion prototype scheme in Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>2022-25 – Economic Development to liaise with the Energy strand and assist in the delivery of the regional energy strategy where appropriate. Opportunities to be explored around promotion to business engagement, development and support, long term upskilling, infrastructure requirements, etc.</p>	<p>Assist in delivery of regional energy plan</p>	
<p>Creation of a Virtual innovation agency to provide a better integrated regional innovation offer</p>	<p>South West Wales has some impressive innovation assets. The REDP identifies the universities’ research capabilities as a key strength to the region.</p>	<p>Establishment of a Virtual Innovation Agency</p>	

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	<p>Risks are emerging linked to lack of clarity on what will replace current European funding and the complexity of the range of institutions and programmes that drive forward innovation support potentially contributes to complexity in terms of business engagement.</p> <p>In addition, innovation (the development and commercialisation of new products, goods and processes) and wider policy objectives, especially in relation to climate change and decarbonisation; digitisation and the exploitation of data; and the pressures and opportunities associated with an aging population are key to future growth of the region.</p> <p>As such there is a need to explore a better-integrated regional innovation offer, in the form of a virtual research and Technology Organisation for SWW.</p> <p>2022-23 Scope out the opportunity for a virtual innovation agency. Develop a consortium of key partners in the public and private sector together with the universities.</p> <p>Covering following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Aim to broker relationships between businesses, programmes and the knowledge base. 		
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	<p>2) Develop a place-based innovation partnership 3) Galvanise responses to social need 4) Demonstrate and promote regional opportunities</p> <p>2023-25 Issues to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential routes to investment post ERDF (increased private sector co financing) • Institutional Options from partnership to constituted delivery vehicle • Links with initiatives and policy development at Welsh and UK Government. 		
<p>Coordinated regional business support programme to support enterprise and entrepreneurship at scale</p>	<p>2022-23 – Scope and review existing businesses support offer across the region to include Local Authorities, Welsh Government and other relevant partners.</p> <p>2022-23 -Establish a regional business group linked as a subgroup to the regional leads group.</p> <p>2022 onwards - Develop and deliver a coordinated suite of support packages for business support to include start up grants and growth grants. Link activity to emerging SPF programme.</p>	<p>X amount of businesses supported</p> <p>X amount of jobs created</p> <p>Improved coordination of business support across region</p>	

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	<p>2023 onwards -Develop a programme to nurture enterprise and entrepreneurship through targeted business support including enterprise clubs, digital exploitation, specialist support and opportunities for commercialisation of products.</p>		
<p>Regional commercial property investment fund</p>	<p>There is a regional shortfall of employment space in Wales, and this is exacerbated in SWW Wales by weak viability and market failure with the cost of development far exceeding the cost of development.</p> <p>2022 -23 Establish a regional Commercial Property Investment Group. Develop governance structure and report to the SWWales Regional leads group.</p> <p>2023 onwards -Develop a property commercial investment fund for Southwest Wales. Linking up with Welsh Government and UK Governments shared prosperity fund.</p>	<p>X - amount of businesses supported</p> <p>X – amount of employment space to be created</p> <p>X – amount of jobs accommodated</p>	
<p>Regional inward investment proposition</p>	<p>Creating an attractive destination for inward investment is a competitive market. In SW Wales, we have many assets which can make us an attractive proposition to those looking to invest in the region.</p> <p>2022-23 – Through the EARTH programme we will create a user friendly, online promotional tool to</p>	<p>X inward investment leads</p>	

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	<p>provide clear and concise information to inward investors.</p> <p>2023 - 2028 Create a dedicated cross-region team who would be trained to update and use the tool and deal with inward investment enquiries and activities. Representative from each LA. Team to report to the regional economic development leads group.</p> <p>2023 – Review barriers to investment and provide solutions to make region more attractive to investors.</p>		
Devolved regional investment fund	<p>With EU programmes in Wales coming to an end and UK Government Funding emerging through the levelling up agenda, the region needs to ensure that the funding mechanisms to stimulate investment and growth are fit for purpose in SWWales.</p> <p>2022-23 – Review the funding mechanisms available for SWWales. Identify funding gaps that are required to realise the regions potential growth.</p> <p>2023-24 Lobby WG and UK for a devolved funding package to prioritised at the SWWales regional Level. Opportunities will then be explored to lever other funds from the private sector, third sector and others.</p>	<p>New Regional Investment Fund</p> <p>X – External Funding levered</p>	

	Explore finance models such as loans, equity investments, mutual investment models, to induce a mechanism to recycle funding for reinvestment.		
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We will take the following longer term steps from 2028-2035:

Carry out a comprehensive review to establish the impact of activities up to 2028. Following review a schedule of longer term steps will be provided.

2 Regional Energy Strategy (Well being Objective 1)

Sub-Committee Financial Profile 23/24 £20,000

To deliver the RES, we will take the following steps 2023-2028:

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Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
<p>Undertake an evaluation exercise to determine that the correct level of resource and expertise is embedded within each Council for the effective delivery of activity and programmes within each specific thematic theme of the strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic energy 2. Renewable energy generation 3. Transport and active travel 4. Commercial and industrial 	<p>Q1 & Q2</p> <p>2023</p>	<p>Implementation of a regional delivery team.</p> <p>Alignment to existing programmes.</p>	<p>Resource capacity and expertise is essential for delivery of the strategy and the delivery programme.</p> <p>Important to liaise with other regional energy strategy programmes and ensure cross regional synergy and that all opportunities are maximised.</p>
<p>Structured review and sense check of the actions contained within the draft SWW Regional</p>	<p>Q3 & Q4</p> <p>2023</p>	<p>Provision of a short-list of improvement programmes.</p>	<p>Important that there is an even distribution of improvement programmes and activity across the region in a fair and equitable delivery.</p>

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Energy Strategy - strategic action plan.			
Formulate thematic themed - implementation programmes for delivering tangible projects and activity converting the core principles and strategic priorities into reality benefiting all sectors across the region.	2024 - 2028	<p>Development of full business cases for each programme.</p> <p>Identification of challenges and barriers for project implementation.</p> <p>Fully resourced and funded projects.</p>	Important that the energy system delivery landscape will evolve as all sectors transition to a net zero society therefore it is important that the strategy improvement have flexibility integrated into them where possible/practicable.

We will take the following longer term steps from 2028-2035:

Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Milestone review of the strategy and improvement programmes.	2029	Evaluation of the performance of the delivery programmes against the strategy's	Given the magnitude and complexity of the programmes required to move towards achieving net-zero, periodic reviews will be essential for ensuring that the correct rate of trajectory is being achieved to reach net-zero.

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		priorities, and objectives.	
Formulation of additional improvement programmes.	2030 - 2035	Increased delivery of the strategy.	The enormity of the challenge needs to be understood and contingency programmes, actions and projects identified at this point in the timeframe, if it is realised that the targets within certain sectors will not be met.
Review exercise to understand the effectiveness of the strategy programme and the success rate of the region transitioning to net zero via innovative energy system solutions and to determine the required rate of carbon reduction by 2050 and improvement programmes required within the second stage of the strategy from 2035 to 2050.	2033 - 2035	Number of improvement programmes across the thematic themes and sectors. Level of carbon reduction achieved from 2023 to 2035.	It will be essential that the learning, success and failures of the 2023-35 Regional Energy Strategy delivery programmes are learnt from and used to shape and define the 2035-50 strategy, ensuring that the correct governance, management processes, resource, expertise are in place to achieve the required level of transition to a net zero society.

In Summary, the outcomes are:

- Complete 3 LAEPs - build understanding/ownership amongst key partners and ensure alignment with Regional Energy Strategy;
- Secure additional resources from WG – agreed in principle, submitting a bid for 3 staff (1 regional coordinator, 2 ‘shared’ project officers);
- Complete the Communications plan to allow for building of engagement and understanding;
- Refine the Action Plan into tangible projects for implementation, and
- Work with WG, industry and academia to support decarbonisation and renewable opportunities and build capacity e.g. Freeport, Launchpad bid

3 Regional Transport Plan (Well being Objective 2)

Sub-Committee Financial Profile 23/24 £368,232

To deliver the RTP, we will take the following steps 2023-2028:

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Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Approve resources required to deliver RTP and recruit necessary staff	CJC approval November 2022 with recruitment early 2023	Having appropriate resources to deliver robust RTP	Costs estimated to be in the region of £368k for staffing and consultancy support (based on development costs of previous RTP)
Respond to RTP guidance and develop RTP delivery programme	Guidance expected to be provided by WG in late 2022/early 2023	Robust and resourced programme for delivery with consultation at the core	
Approval of RTP	TBC – timescales will be provided when guidance is issued	Robust RTP signed off which establishes the transport priorities for the region	The RTP will form the basis for funding bids
Review RTP on an annual basis	Annual	Ensure the RTP is current and appropriate	Will need to be reviewed against any policy changes

We will take the following longer term steps from 2028-2035:

Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Review RTP	Likely to be 2028		RTP's/LTP's have been 5yr plans to date
Continue to implement transport improvements (including Metro) with RTP as backbone plan		Improved connectivity and increased modal shift to sustainable modes of transport	

4 Strategic Development Plan (Well being Objective 3)

Sub-Committee Financial Profile 23/24 £236,000

To deliver the SDP, we will take the following steps 2023-2028:

Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Engage with Welsh Government Officers on the draft SDP Manual to ensure the final version of that guidance serves to help facilitate an SDP that can deliver on CJC and Council corporate objectives	2023		Informal Stakeholder Consultation commenced September 2022, comments to be returned by 31 st December 2022.
Work collaboratively across the region with other Authorities to undertake key projects that will form an evidence base for the SDP	2023-2028	Ensures early key stage work benefit from alignment with latest underpinning evidence, and is aligned with replacement LDPs being produced	Preparatory work already underway on some projects – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defining South West Wales National Growth Area - Forecasting economic and population Growth - Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment
Deliver a number of SDP key stages with engagement and consultation of stakeholders – in particular Delivery Agreement (including Community	Autumn 2023-2028	Delivers on statutory requirement to advance SDP in accordance with a delivery programme to be agreed with	This timescale for delivery of early key stages is dependent on final SDP Manual being published by WG by Autumn 2023, as well as decisions yet to be confirmed in relation to financing, resourcing and formation of SDP delivery teams

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Involvement Scheme, the 'Call for' Strategic Locations and Sites/Areas, Preferred Strategy		Welsh Government	
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We will take the following longer term steps from 2028-2035:

Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Deliver the remaining SDP key stages with engagement and consultation of stakeholders – in particular agree and submit Deposit Plan, undertaken Examination in Public and finally adoption	2028-2030	Meet statutory requirements and Welsh Government policy (as expressed in Future Wales: the National Plan) in respect of adopting a regional strategic development plan, following compliance of all key stages. An adopted SDP for South West Wales provides the opportunity to establish a joined up, regional planning framework to	This timescale is dependent on decisions yet to be confirmed in relation to financing, resourcing and formation of SDP delivery teams

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		guide decision making on larger than local issues, ensuring these are planned for in an integrated and comprehensive way. This includes the key issues of scale and spatial distribution of housing and employment growth, and in regard to infrastructure planning.	
Undertake programme of monitoring of adopted SDP	2030-2035	Ensures that the policies and proposals set out in the adopted SDP are being effectively delivered over time, and enables a mechanism to intervene and review where necessary in order that the Plan is delivering on its objectives	

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Minimal Budget Option

1 Regional Economic Delivery Plan (Well being Objective 1)

Sub-Committee Financial Profile 23/24 £100,000

To deliver the REDP, we will take the following steps 2023-2028:

Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Resources	2023 onwards - It will be important to secure sufficient capacity – within individual partner authorities and jointly – to do this, given the scale of the opportunities and challenges. It is proposed that a Regional Economic Delivery Plan Programme Manager is appointed to provide the day-to-day resource needed to implement the strategy and to lead delivery of regional projects. This post would work collaboratively with the economic development functions in each local authority to deliver the Regional Economic Delivery Plan. Up until budgets are agreed and allocated towards these resources, it is intended that temporary EARTH resources would support this programme of work locally and regionally for the next 12 months.	Effective Coordination & Delivery of REDP.	Dedicated staff resources to deliver REDP. Indicative cost calculated at circa £50K per annum to include project manager, and £50k consultancy budget

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<p>Building Capacity and Expertise to maximise SWW renewable energy and net zero potential</p>	<p>SWW has a substantial opportunity in renewables and low carbon energy sector. There are several major projects in delivery or proposed and there is a need to develop coordination regionally either between the major projects and through skill development, business growth and potential for local ownership models.</p> <p>This function sits under the Energy strand, however there are clear overlaps with the economic development strand and coordination will be vital to maximise success.</p> <p>Major projects and programmes currently being delivered include Pembroke Dock Marine, Dragon Energy Island, Homes as Power Stations, onshore wind and energy from waste projects and a potential nuclear fusion prototype scheme in Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>2022-25 – Economic Development to liaise with the Energy strand and assist in the delivery of the regional energy strategy where appropriate. Opportunities to be</p>	<p>Assist in delivery of regional energy plan</p>	
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	<p>explored around promotion to business engagement, development and support, long term upskilling, infrastructure requirements, etc.</p>		
<p>Creation of a Virtual innovation agency to provide a better integrated regional innovation offer</p>	<p>South West Wales has some impressive innovation assets. The REDP identifies the universities’ research capabilities as a key strength to the region.</p> <p>Risks are emerging linked to lack of clarity on what will replace current European funding and the complexity of the range of institutions and programmes that drive forward innovation support potentially contributes to complexity in terms of business engagement.</p> <p>In addition, innovation (the development and commercialisation of new products, goods and processes) and wider policy objectives, especially in relation to climate change and decarbonisation; digitisation and the exploitation of data; and the pressures and opportunities associated</p>	<p>Establishment of a Virtual Innovation Agency</p>	

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with an aging population are key to future growth of the region.

As such there is a need to explore a better-integrated regional innovation offer, in the form of a virtual research and Technology Organisation for SWW.

2022-23 Scope out the opportunity for a virtual innovation agency. Develop a consortium of key partners in the public and private sector together with the universities.

Covering following points:

- 1) Aim to broker relationships between businesses, programmes and the knowledge base.
- 2) Develop a place-based innovation partnership
- 3) Galvanise responses to social need
- 4) Demonstrate and promote regional opportunities

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	<p>2023-25 Issues to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential routes to investment post ERDF (increased private sector co financing) • Institutional Options from partnership to constituted delivery vehicle • Links with initiatives and policy development at Welsh and UK Government. 		
<p>Coordinated regional business support programme to support enterprise and entrepreneurship at scale</p>	<p>2022-23 – Scope and review existing businesses support offer across the region to include Local Authorities, Welsh Government and other relevant partners.</p> <p>2022-23 -Establish a regional business group linked as a subgroup to the regional leads group.</p>	<p>X amount of businesses supported</p> <p>X amount of jobs created</p> <p>Improved coordination of business support across region</p>	

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	<p>2022 onwards - Develop and deliver a coordinated suite of support packages for business support to include start up grants and growth grants. Link activity to emerging SPF programme.</p> <p>2023 onwards -Develop a programme to nurture enterprise and entrepreneurship through targeted business support including enterprise clubs, digital exploitation, specialist support and opportunities for commercialisation of products.</p>		
<p>Regional commercial property investment fund</p>	<p>There is a regional shortfall of employment space in Wales, and this is exacerbated in SWW Wales by weak viability and market failure with the cost of development far exceeding the cost of development.</p> <p>2022 -23 Establish a regional Commercial Property Investment Group. Develop governance structure and report to the SWWales Regional leads group.</p>	<p>X - amount of businesses supported</p> <p>X – amount of employment space to be created</p> <p>X – amount of jobs accommodated</p>	

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	<p>2023 onwards -Develop a property commercial investment fund for Southwest Wales. Linking up with Welsh Government and UK Governments shared prosperity fund.</p>		
<p>Regional inward investment proposition</p>	<p>Creating an attractive destination for inward investment is a competitive market. In SW Wales, we have many assets which can make us an attractive proposition to those looking to invest in the region.</p> <p>2022-23 – Through the EARTH programme we will create a user friendly, online promotional tool to provide clear and concise information to inward investors.</p> <p>2023 - 2028 Create a dedicated cross-region team who would be trained to update and use the tool and deal with inward investment enquiries and activities. Representative from each LA. Team to report to the regional economic development leads group.</p>	<p>X inward investment leads</p>	

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	<p>2023 – Review barriers to investment and provide solutions to make region more attractive to investors.</p>		
<p>Devolved regional investment fund</p>	<p>With EU programmes in Wales coming to an end and UK Government Funding emerging through the levelling up agenda, the region needs to ensure that the funding mechanisms to stimulate investment and growth are fit for purpose in SWWales.</p> <p>2022-23 – Review the funding mechanisms available for SWWales. Identify funding gaps that are required to realise the regions potential growth.</p> <p>2023-24 Lobby WG and UK for a devolved funding package to prioritised at the SWWales regional Level. Opportunities will then be explored to lever other funds from the private sector, third sector and others.</p>	<p>New Regional Investment Fund</p> <p>X – External Funding levered</p>	

	Explore finance models such as loans, equity investments, mutual investment models, to induce a mechanism to recycle funding for reinvestment.		
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We will take the following longer term steps from 2028-2035:

Carry out a comprehensive review to establish the impact of activities up to 2028. Following review a schedule of longer term steps will be provided.

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2 Regional Energy Strategy (Well being Objective 1)

Sub-Committee Financial Profile 23/24 £20,000

To deliver the RES, we will take the following steps 2023-2028:

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Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
<p>Undertake an evaluation exercise to determine that the correct level of resource and expertise is embedded within each Council for the effective delivery of activity and programmes within each specific thematic theme of the strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic energy 2. Renewable energy generation 3. Transport and active travel 4. Commercial and industrial 	<p style="text-align: center;">Q1 & Q2 2023</p>	<p>Implementation of a regional delivery team.</p> <p>Alignment to existing programmes.</p>	<p>Resource capacity and expertise is essential for delivery of the strategy and the delivery programme.</p> <p>Important to liaise with other regional energy strategy programmes and ensure cross regional synergy and that all opportunities are maximised.</p>
<p>Structured review and sense check of the actions contained within the draft SWW Regional</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q3 & Q4 2023</p>	<p>Provision of a short-list of improvement programmes.</p>	<p>Important that there is an even distribution of improvement programmes and activity across the region in a fair and equitable delivery.</p>

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Energy Strategy - strategic action plan.			
Formulate thematic themed - implementation programmes for delivering tangible projects and activity converting the core principles and strategic priorities into reality benefiting all sectors across the region.	2024 - 2028	<p>Development of full business cases for each programme.</p> <p>Identification of challenges and barriers for project implementation.</p> <p>Fully resourced and funded projects.</p>	Important that the energy system delivery landscape will evolve as all sectors transition to a net zero society therefore it is important that the strategy improvement have flexibility integrated into them where possible/practicable.

We will take the following longer term steps from 2028-2035:

Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Milestone review of the strategy and improvement programmes.	2029	Evaluation of the performance of the delivery programmes against the strategy's	Given the magnitude and complexity of the programmes required to move towards achieving net-zero, periodic reviews will be essential for ensuring that the correct rate of trajectory is being achieved to reach net-zero.

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		priorities, and objectives.	
Formulation of additional improvement programmes.	2030 - 2035	Increased delivery of the strategy.	The enormity of the challenge needs to be understood and contingency programmes, actions and projects identified at this point in the timeframe, if it is realised that the targets within certain sectors will not be met.
Review exercise to understand the effectiveness of the strategy programme and the success rate of the region transitioning to net zero via innovative energy system solutions and to determine the required rate of carbon reduction by 2050 and improvement programmes required within the second stage of the strategy from 2035 to 2050.	2033 - 2035	Number of improvement programmes across the thematic themes and sectors. Level of carbon reduction achieved from 2023 to 2035.	It will be essential that the learning, success and failures of the 2023-35 Regional Energy Strategy delivery programmes are learnt from and used to shape and define the 2035-50 strategy, ensuring that the correct governance, management processes, resource, expertise are in place to achieve the required level of transition to a net zero society.

In Summary, the outcomes are:

- Complete 3 LAEPs - build understanding/ownership amongst key partners and ensure alignment with Regional Energy Strategy;
- Secure additional resources from WG – agreed in principle, submitting a bid for 3 staff (1 regional coordinator, 2 ‘shared’ project officers);
- Complete the Communications plan to allow for building of engagement and understanding;
- Refine the Action Plan into tangible projects for implementation, and
- Work with WG, industry and academia to support decarbonisation and renewable opportunities and build capacity e.g. Freeport, Launchpad bid.

3 Regional Transport Plan (Well being Objective 2)

Sub-Committee Financial Profile 23/24 £80,000

To deliver the RTP, we will take the following steps 2023-2028:

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Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
<p>Approve resources required to deliver RTP and recruit necessary staff</p> <p>Following budget challenges recognise that little or no resources can be allocated to the CJC transport strand</p>	<p>CJC approval November 2022 with recruitment early 2023</p>	<p>Having appropriate resources to deliver robust RTP</p>	<p>Costs estimated to be in the region of £368k for staffing and consultancy support (based on development costs of previous RTP)</p>
<p>Respond to RTP guidance and develop RTP delivery programme</p>	<p>Guidance expected to be provided by WG in late 2022/early 2023</p> <p>Immediately so that WG can consider whether they should divert funding from LTF, ATF or other work streams to fund the development of the RTP</p>	<p>Robust and resourced programme for delivery with consultation at the core</p>	<p>This would mean that we would not have an up to date transport strategy for the region with outdated base information, modelling, LDP information, regeneration projects, demand predictions, outcomes. All transport bids are based on the LTP/RTP hence there is a risk that WG will</p>

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<p>Advise WG that it will not be possible to develop a robust RTP due to lack of resources</p>		<p>Failure to secure funding would lead to a do minimum scenario whereby the existing RTP would have to be extended and it would not align with the Llwybr Newydd (Wales Transport Strategy).</p>	<p>not fund transport schemes and improvements without an updated RTP. A minimum level of resource (say £80k) would enable an officer to be recruited who could coordinate responses and make representations on behalf of the region with a view to attaining Welsh Government backing to progressing this key policy area in partnership - but it would not be sufficient to develop an RTP.</p>
<p>Approval of RTP</p>	<p>TBC – timescales will be provided when guidance is issued</p>	<p>Robust RTP signed off which establishes the transport priorities for the region</p>	<p>The RTP will form the basis for funding bids</p>
<p>Review RTP on an annual basis</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>Ensure the RTP is current and appropriate</p>	<p>Will need to be reviewed against any policy changes</p>

We will take the following longer term steps from 2028-2035:

Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Review RTP	Likely to be 2028		RTP's/LTP's have been 5yr plans to date
Continue to implement transport improvements (including Metro) with RTP as backbone plan		Improved connectivity and increased modal shift to sustainable modes of transport	

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4 Strategic Development Plan (Well being Objective 3)

Sub-Committee Financial Profile 23/24 £20,000

To deliver the SDP, we will take the following steps 2023-2028:

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Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Engage with Welsh Government Officers on the draft SDP Manual to ensure the final version of that guidance serves to help facilitate an SDP that can deliver on CJC and Council corporate objectives	2023		Informal Stakeholder Consultation commenced September 2022, comments to be returned by 31 st December 2022.
Work collaboratively across the region with other Authorities to undertake key projects that will form an evidence base for the SDP	2023-2028	Ensures early key stage work benefit from alignment with latest underpinning evidence, and is aligned with replacement LDPs being produced	Preparatory work already underway on some projects – including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Defining South West Wales National Growth Area - Forecasting economic and population Growth - Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment
Deliver a number of SDP key stages with engagement and consultation of stakeholders – in particular Delivery Agreement (including Community	Autumn 2023-2028	Delivers on statutory requirement to advance SDP in accordance with a delivery programme to be agreed with	This timescale for delivery of early key stages is dependent on final SDP Manual being published by WG by Autumn 2023, as well as decisions yet to be confirmed in relation to financing, resourcing and formation of SDP delivery teams

Involvement Scheme, the 'Call for' Strategic Locations and Sites/Areas, Preferred Strategy		Welsh Government	
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We will take the following longer term steps from 2028-2035:

Action	Timescale	Impact Measures	Comments
Deliver the remaining SDP key stages with engagement and consultation of stakeholders – in particular agree and submit Deposit Plan, undertaken Examination in Public and finally adoption	2028-2030	Meet statutory requirements and Welsh Government policy (as expressed in Future Wales: the National Plan) in respect of adopting a regional strategic development plan, following compliance of all key stages. An adopted SDP for South West Wales provides the opportunity to establish a joined up, regional planning	This timescale is dependent on decisions yet to be confirmed in relation to financing, resourcing and formation of SDP delivery teams

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		framework to guide decision making on larger than local issues, ensuring these are planned for in an integrated and comprehensive way. This includes the key issues of scale and spatial distribution of housing and employment growth, and in regard to infrastructure planning.	
Undertake programme of monitoring of adopted SDP	2030-2035	Ensures that the policies and proposals set out in the adopted SDP are being effectively delivered over time, and enables a mechanism to intervene and review where necessary in order that the	

		Plan is delivering on its objectives	
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Note – table is the same as option 1 – but is considered ‘flexible’ enough to reflect the ‘minimum cost’ option, noting the reference to timescale for delivery being dependent on the final SDP Manual being published by WG by Autumn 2023 and decisions yet to be confirmed in relation to financing, resourcing and formation of SDP delivery teams. These caveats apply to both the shorter term (2023-28) and longer term (2028-2035) timeframes.

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The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Draft Corporate Plan 2018-2033

Integrated Impact Assessment

December 2022

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1 Overview

1.1 This Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010;
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015;
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015,
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Version Control

Version	Author	Job title	Date
Version 1	Karen Jones	Chief Executive	December 7 2022

1.2 At its [meeting of October 11 2022](#), the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) adopted an IIA Tool based around that which is utilised by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

1.3 In order that the SWWCJC can demonstrate that it is meeting its public sector duties, inter alia, the SWWCJC will utilise the IIA as a mechanism for considering the impact of proposals at the point of decision. This is already standard practice within the Constituent Authorities where officers routinely present an assessment of the impact of proposals on duties related to equality; socio-economic characteristics; Welsh language; child poverty; biodiversity and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to inform the deliberations of Members.

2 Details of the initiative

2.1 Title of the Initiative:

2.2.1 South West Wales CJC Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028.

2.2 Brief overview of function of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

2.2.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (the LGE Act) created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government authorities, namely CJs. The LGE Act provides for the establishment of CJs through Regulations (CJC Establishment Regulations).

2.2.2 CJC's will exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning. They will also be able to do things to promote the economic well-being of their areas. In contrast to other joint committee arrangements, CJs are separate corporate bodies that can employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and undertake functions.

2.3 Summary of the initiative:

2.3.1 The SWWCJC Draft Corporate Plan (2023-2028) seeks to capture progress to date as well as set out future ambitions in the form of a vision and well-being objectives – together with an equality objective. It will also allow for the charting of the progress made in respect of the

public sector duties. The SWWCJC is taking a proportionate and integrated approach to meeting its public sector duties through the production of a 1 Corporate Plan as opposed a series of separate documents.

2.4 Is this a 'strategic decision'?

2.4.1 Yes. Whilst it is noted that the remit of the work of the SWWCJC is narrow and prescribed to the specific functions set out in paragraph 2.2.2 above, the Draft Corporate Plan is still considered to be a strategic document. It contains well-being objectives which may affect to varying degrees the whole population of the region. The Draft Corporate Plan also includes a Vision and an equality objective.

2.4.2 It should be noted however that the constituent Councils will still be bound by their own duties and legislative requirements, and any detailed plans and proposals that emerge from the SWWCJC in the future (e.g. Regional Transport Plan, Strategic Development Plan) will be subject to their own specific review in respect of IIA. In this regard, the production of the Draft Corporate Plan (and this IIA) does not negate the need for specific policy initiatives to be taken through the IIA process as appropriate.

2.5 Who will be directly affected by this initiative?

2.5.1 Potentially everyone who lives, works and/or visits the South West Wales Region.

2.5.2 It is likely that it is the actual Plans, Policies and Programmes that emerge in due course that will have the greatest impact (see 2.4.2. above). These will need to be reviewed in detail in due course.

2.6 When and how were people consulted?

2.6.1 This IIA has been developed to support the Draft Corporate Plan. It is considered a full (stage 2) IIA is required as the Draft Corporate Plan is deemed to be a Strategic Document.

2.6.2 The Draft Corporate Plan will be reported to the SWWCJC in December 2022, with a view to securing Members approval for the undertaking of a 6 week public consultation to be undertaken thereon in early 2023. Any consultation responses received will be reported back to Members with a view to informing a final version of the Plan before its formal adoption – scheduled for March 2023. It is anticipated that the consultation will also provide useful evidence for embedding into a second iteration of this IIA.

2.6.3 Pending any responses received, this IIA will be updated ahead of March 2023, with suggested amendments made to the Draft Corporate Plan as appropriate. Due to the fact it is a strategic document we need to learn more about what impact it will have – notably upon the protected characteristics.

2.6.4 Discussions have taken place at officer level with the region’s regeneration directors feeding into the Draft Plan. Advice has also been sought from a range of sector specific professionals – including the Welsh language Commissioner’s Office and Welsh Government’s Biodiversity Policy Officer. Furthermore, presentations on the work of the CJC have been provided as part of an awareness raising process – these include the Carmarthenshire Public Service Board.

2.7 What were the outcomes of the consultation?

2.7.1 The discussions held with officers / directors have been helpful in framing the Draft Plan

2.7.2 We know however that we need to understand more about any impact the Draft Plan will have – notably on protected characteristics.

In this regard, this IIA will be updated following the public consultation exercise.

3 Evidence

3.1 What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?

3.1.1 [Statutory guidance](#) has been produced by the Welsh Government in respect of CJs. There are a range of matters listed therein that require the SWWCJC to respond to, notably in respect of public sector duties. Such matters include: The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (and setting of Well-being objectives), The Welsh language, Equality, Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems, Freedom of Information and Child Poverty.

3.1.2 [At its October 2022 meeting](#), the SWWCJC resolved that the most appropriate method of meeting its public sector duties in a proportionate and integrated manner would be via the formulation of its first ever Corporate Plan. It is considered that the formulation of a Corporate Plan provides an opportunity to capture the CJC's progress to date as well as set out future ambitions – including setting out its Vision for South West Wales 2035 and the identification of well-being objectives. With specific reference to Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems, it should be noted that the CJC is embedding its Section 6 Duty Plan into its Draft Corporate Plan.

3.1.3 In formulating the Draft Plan, we have looked at the powers and duties that relate to CJC's, the statutory guidance issued and have reviewed progress to date in terms of the CJC's establishment and constitutional aspects.

3.1.4 We will feed in any consultation responses into the Plan making process (and iteratively build them into this IIA).

3.1.5 The below are the key evidential facets / policy driver components that have informed the Draft Plan.

- [The Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021;](#)
- [Constitutional and governance arrangements of the SWWCJC since its inception;](#)
- [Future Wales - The National Plan 2040;](#)
- [South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan;](#)
- [South West Wales Regional Energy Strategy;](#)
- [Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021;](#)
- [The Swansea Bay City Deal;](#)
- [The 2020 Future Generations Report;](#)
- [The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 – 7 national goals and the 5 ways of working;](#)
- [Corporate Joint Committee: statutory guidance summary;](#)
- [Welsh Government - Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024;](#)

- [Is Wales fairer 2018](#)
- [The Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\) for Wales;](#)
- [South West Wales Area Statement;](#)
- [Well-Being of Wales Report 2022](#)

4 Equalities

4.1. How does the initiative impact on people who share a protected characteristic?

Protected Characteristic	+	-	+/ -	Why will it have this impact?
Age	+			<p>The Regional Economic Delivery Plan (REDP) would indicate that Well-being objective 1 of the Draft Corporate Plan offers particular opportunities around economic well-being, with a view to future job prospects and most notably with a view to the retention of younger age groups within our region. The review of economic performance in the region suggests good progress over recent years, especially in terms of job creation, but there is a persistent gap in outcomes between the region and the rest of the UK. This reflects the 'structural' nature of many of the region's challenges linked to the long-term processes of industrial change (which in some respects are still ongoing), and are shared with other regions in Wales and the UK. There are a series of distinctive strengths and opportunities in South West Wales, especially linked with the region's energy potential (particularly green energy and the net zero opportunity), university-industrial links, strong cultural identity, environmental assets and quality of life offer. The REDP aims to build on these distinctive regional strengths and opportunities to develop a more prosperous and resilient South West Wales economy.</p> <p>With reference to older age groups, Well-being objective 2 of the Draft Corporate Plan offers particular opportunities around sustainable transport via the production of the Regional Transport Plan. The Draft Corporate Plan recognises the Equality statement set out in Llwybr Newydd which is to make our transport services and infrastructure accessible and inclusive by aiming to remove the</p>

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			physical, attitudinal, environmental, systemic, linguistic and economic barriers that prevent people from using sustainable transport.
Disability	+		Well-being objective 2 of the Draft Corporate Plan offers particular opportunities around sustainable transport via the production of the Regional Transport Plan. The Draft Corporate Plan recognises the Equality statement set out in Llwybr Newydd which is to make our transport services and infrastructure accessible and inclusive by aiming to remove the physical, attitudinal, environmental, systemic, linguistic and economic barriers that prevent people from using sustainable transport.
Gender reassignment		+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during on the Draft Corporate Plan in the New Year.
Marriage & civil partnership		+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during on the Draft Corporate Plan in the New Year.
Pregnancy and maternity		+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during on the Draft Corporate Plan in the New Year.
Race		+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during on the Draft Corporate Plan in the New Year.
Religion or belief		+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during on the Draft Corporate Plan in the New Year.
Sex		+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during on the Draft Corporate Plan in the New Year.
Sexual orientation		+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during on the Draft Corporate Plan in the New Year.

4.2 What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

4.2.1 Consultation is required to seek to identify actual impact on a range of areas as outlined in 4.1 and to explore potential mitigating actions for consideration.

5 Public Sector Equality Duty

5.1 How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty ?

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Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation	+			With regards the well-being statement set out within Section 5 of the Draft Corporate Plan, reference is made to the commentary provided in regards the well-being goals.
To advance equality of opportunity between different groups	+			Economic well being (well-being objective 1): Better economic inclusion outcomes should improve cohesion where linked with programmes and mechanisms that focus on local community involvement and engagement.
To foster good relations between different groups	+			Transport (well-being objective 2): A transport system that contributes to our wider economic ambitions, and helps local communities, supports a more sustainable supply chain, uses the latest innovations and addresses transport affordability Strategic Planning (well-being objective 3): A region where people live and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth and in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services.

5.2. What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

5.2.1 Feedback from the formal consultation will further inform this section

6 Socio Economic Duty

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Impact	Details of the impact/advantage/disadvantage
Positive/Advantage +	With regards the well-being statement set out within the Draft Corporate Plan, reference is made to the commentary provided in regards the well-being goals.
Negative/Disadvantage	Economic well being (well-being objective 1): - The REDP recognises the need to build an ‘inclusive growth’ model into the strategy, via efforts to support skills outcomes, resilience to automation, or mechanisms to support greater wealth retention within the community. Also - increasing productivity and economic growth, to support the creation and safeguarding of more, better paid jobs, opportunities for business starts and growth, and further links between the knowledge base and industry.
Neutral	<p>Transport(well-being objective 2): - Good for people and communities - A transport system that contributes to a more equal Wales and to a healthier Wales, that everyone has the confidence to use. Good for places and the economy - A transport system that contributes to our wider economic ambitions, and helps local communities, supports a more sustainable supply chain, uses the latest innovations and addresses transport affordability.</p> <p>Strategic Planning (well-being objective 3): - A region where people live in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth. A region where people live in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted - with world-class digital infrastructure.</p>

6.1 What action will be taken to reduce inequality of outcome?

6.1.1 Feedback from the formal consultation will further inform this section

7 Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

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		-	+/ -	Why will it have this impact?
Community Cohesion	+			It is anticipated that the 3 wellbeing objectives of the Draft Corporate Plan, individually and combined, will have a positive impact for individuals and communities alike; increasing social and cultural interaction, participation and economic improvement /stability. Specific reference is also made to the identification of an Equality Objective within the Draft Corporate Plan and the intention to achieve a 'more equal South West Wales'. It should also be noted that in reviewing the potential impact of establishing the CJs, the Welsh Government published impact assessments – including a Regulatory Impact Assessment and Integrated Impact Assessment. It is considered therein that aligning strategic planning functions at a regional level will help to underpin / enhance the economic well-being of a region increasing prosperity and reducing disadvantage. It is stated that CJs enable planning of key strategic services at scale which can underpin the planning and delivery of the specified functions at a national, regional and local level and support efforts to tackle socio-economic disadvantage and tackle issues of deprivation.
Social Exclusion	+			
Poverty	+			

7.1 What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

7.1.1 Feedback from the formal consultation will further inform this section

8 Welsh language

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	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this effect?
What effect does the initiative have on: – people’s opportunities to use the Welsh language	+			<p>The Vision of the Draft Corporate Plan is quite clear in setting out the corporate direction of travel as shown in this extract <i>“South West Wales is a place where the Welsh language is thriving and the region continues to be a key contributor towards the national target of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050”</i>.</p> <p>A review of the 3 well-being objectives (which are in turn tied to the prescribed functions of economic well-being, production of Regional Transport Plan and production of Strategic Development Plan) indicate the following positive interventions:</p> <p>Economic well being (well-being objective 1): - The REDP Measures to support the growth of the creative economy (including associated with the Welsh language) should directly support, and could be an important part of the SW Wales investment proposition. More broadly, there will be an emphasis on seeking to support the economic vibrancy of the region, including principally Welsh-speaking communities.</p> <p>Transport (well-being objective 2)- Good for culture and the Welsh language - A transport system that supports the Welsh language, enables more people to use sustainable transport to get to arts, sport and cultural activities, and protects and enhances the historic environment.</p>

				<p>Strategic Planning (well-being objective 3): - A region where people live in places with a thriving Welsh Language. It should be noted that in preparing the SDP – there will be policy considerations in place that will have to be considered - notably Technical Advice Note 20 – The Welsh Language.</p>
<p>– treating the Welsh and English languages equally</p>			+	<p>The Draft Corporate Plan contains a specific section (paragraph 8.2) on this matter. This confirms that in the absence of the imposition of standards by the Welsh Language Commissioner, we have taken a proactive approach, particularly given the prominence of the language within the social fabric of our region. At our October 2022 meeting, we endorsed the principle of adopting Carmarthenshire County Council’s standards as our interim policy position. What this means in reality is that in operational and governance terms, the treating of Welsh and English languages equally is firmly embedded into our operational and governance arrangements from the outset.</p> <p>The Draft Corporate Plan (and the final adopted Plan) will be published bi-lingually. Notable within the Draft Corporate Plan is the reference to budgeting and it should be noted that a dedicated budget is in place for translation.</p>

8.1 What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

8.1.1 We will utilise the IIA to review and where relevant seek to identify mitigation in regards any negative impacts.

8.1.2 We will continue to monitor and implement the use of the standards and report as appropriate. We will continue to hold constructive dialogue with the Welsh Language Commissioner’s Office.

9 Biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems.

9.1 How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the Biodiversity Duty?

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Biodiversity Duty	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	+			The Draft Corporate Plan makes clear reference to The Environment (Wales) Act 2016. As one of the Public Authorities subject to the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty, the SWWCJC is required to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems. In this regard, the SWWCJC takes a proactive approach by embedding a Plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with the Section 6 duty into the Draft Corporate Plan. The SWWCJC will also publish a progress report by 31/12/22. The Draft Corporate Plan provides a high level hook for those detailed areas of policy and strategy that will follow.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.	+			At a high level, it should be noted that the Vision of the Plan is quite clear – notably the reference to <i>“The need to enhance the well-being of future generations and ecosystems is firmly embedded within decision making structures that are balanced and inclusive and which recognise the need to sustainably manage our natural resources and reduce pollution resulting in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems.</i> The approach in the Draft Corporate Plan is on embedding the consideration of public sector duties into the corporate governance of the SWWCJC, noting the specific functions and the fact that the work that will be undertaken (e.g. Strategic Development Plan) that will be subject to

			rigorous scrutiny in terms of designations (including National Site Network) together with policy alignment – e.g. Technical Advice Note 5 - nature conservation and planning .
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9.2 What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

9.2.1 We will utilise the IIA to review and where relevant seek to identify mitigation in regards any negative impacts.

9.2.2 We will continue to monitor and implement the use of the Section 6 Duty Plan and report as appropriate. We are in ongoing dialogue with the regional ecologists, as well as the Welsh Government’s biodiversity policy officers.

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10 Well-being of Future Generations

10.1 How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

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Ways of Working	Details
i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead	It noting that the Constituent Councils will all be bound by their own requirements in regards the WFG Act, Section 5 of the Draft Corporate Plan sets out a well-being statement for the SWWCJC. In this, respect reference is made to paragraph 5.2.1 - notably “the recognition of the importance of future generations is implicit within our vision and well-being objectives, most notably in the fact that the vision (and as such the objectives designed to deliver the vision) are framed within a time bound context i.e. ‘South West Wales 2035’. Our well-being objectives have also informed our equality objective”.
ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse	It noting that the Constituent Councils will all be bound by their own requirements in regards the WFG Act, Section 5 of the Draft Corporate Plan sets out a well-being statement for the SWWCJC. In this, respect reference is made to paragraph 5.2.2.- notably “The National well-being goals have played a key role in the identification of the SWWCJC well-being objectives”. In this regard, Table 1 of the Draft Corporate Plan undertakes a detailed review whilst recognising that direct contributions will be made towards those goals that are most aligned with the powers and duties available to the SWWCJC.
iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external	It noting that the Constituent Councils will all be bound by their own requirements in regards the WFG Act, Section 5 of the Draft Corporate Plan sets out a well-being statement for the SWWCJC. In this, respect reference is made to paragraph 5.2.3 – notably the confirmation that the Draft Corporate Plan itself will be subject to consultation.

<p>iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the population</p>	<p>It noting that the Constituent Councils will all be bound by their own requirements in regards the WFG Act, Section 5 of the Draft Corporate Plan sets out a well-being statement for the SWWCJC. In this, respect reference is made to paragraph 5.2.4 – notably “Collaboration is at the very essence of the SWWCJC way of working, from the way it is constituted (i.e. leaders of the region’s Councils) to the manner in which it is seeking to establish a co-option and advisory framework function”. It should also be noted that all 3 of the Draft Corporate Plan’s well-being objectives (WBOs) refer to collaboration.</p>
<p>v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to:</p>	<p>It noting that the Constituent Councils will all be bound by their own requirements in regards the WFG Act, Section 5 of the Draft Corporate Plan sets out a well-being statement for the SWWCJC. In this, respect reference is made to paragraph 5.2.5 – notably the following extract “We have put in place a clear flow and delivery pathway from the issues/policy review, through to the Vision and onto the 3 WBOs themselves. We know where we need to get to and how we are going to get there. We are confident that our WBOs are Specific Measurable Attainable and Relevant (i.e. we have duties and/or powers to deliver upon them by 2035) because they are legally deliverable and they also stem from an appreciation of the key issues, challenges and opportunities that we face in South West Wales.”</p>
<p>Constituent Councils well-being objectives</p>	<p>The Draft Corporate Plan contains a well-being statement which contains the following statement “<i>The preparation of this Corporate Plan has engendered an increased awareness of the need for us to develop a Participation Strategy. In noting that the Constituent Councils will have their own strategies and engagement exercises, we do have an opportunity to develop an approach which is proportionate and does not duplicate existing provisions within the region</i>” Also the following – “<i>In undertaking our functions, we are actively embedding the WFG Act 5 ways of working into our corporate governance. Also, in setting our own well-being objectives, we note the need to have regard to Well-being Plans (WBPs) across the region. We will seek to work in an integrated and collaborative way and recognise the significant amount of work that has been achieved to date by Councils and Public Service Boards across the region</i>”.</p>
<p>Other public bodies objectives</p>	<p>The Draft Corporate Plan contains a well-being statement which contains the following statement “<i>Whilst setting our own well-being objectives, we need to have regard to the Well-being Plans (WBPs) already in place across the region as part of a collaborative and integrated approach</i>”</p>

11 Monitoring Arrangements

Information on the monitoring arrangements to monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh

Measure, The Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

11.1 Section 9 of the Draft Corporate Plan sets out a performance management commentary. An Annual Report will be produced each year which will consider whether the well-being objectives remain appropriate. Where necessary, the well-being objectives and improvement priorities will be revised. We will be required to report on the progress we have made in meeting our well-being objectives for the preceding financial year. Annual Reports must be published as soon as possible, but no later than 31 March. In preparing the report we must review their well-being objectives. We will need to demonstrate that:

- our well-being objectives are contributing to the achievement of the wellbeing goals;
- we are taking all reasonable steps to meet our well-being objectives; and
- our well-being objectives are consistent with the sustainable development principle.

11.2 The Annual Report will be published and communicated as appropriate . There may also be a role for the CJC Overview and Scrutiny Sub—Committee. The detailed steps, set out in the Plan, will be monitored. A key step forward from a governance and delivery point of view is our creation of 4 sub-committees, with the terms of reference for each of these agreed in October 2022. These sub-committees will have a key role in driving forward delivery of our 3 well-being objectives

12 Assessment Conclusions

	Conclusion
Equalities	The IIA will be revisited in light of responses to the consultation in January / February 2023, conclusions to the assessment will be reached and included in the next version of the IIA.
Socio Economic Disadvantage	
Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty	
Welsh	
Biodiversity	
Well-being of Future Generations	

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12.1 Overall conclusion

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised
- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions
- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

12.2 Details of the overall conclusion reached in relation to the initiative

12.2.1 There are no concerns in respect of the IIA at this stage and the Draft Corporate Plan is an appropriate form to be consulted upon. As part of an iterative and engaging approach, we will now be consulting upon the Draft Corporate Plan in early 2023. Any feedback received to that consultation will be utilised to update the Plan and this IIA as appropriate.

13 Actions

13.1 What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

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Action	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	How will we know we have achieved our objective?
<p>Pending Members approval in December 2022, we will undertake a public consultation the draft plan for a period of 6 weeks during January / February 2023.</p> <p>As part of this consultation, we will seek to secure more information to inform this IIA where there are evidence gaps.</p>	<p>The consultation will be hosted by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council; however the other constituent Councils and the National Parks will be asked to provide links across to the hosted survey from their consultation platforms. All other constituent Councils and the National Parks will be asked to raise awareness of the consultation via their established networks and contacts.</p> <p>Responses to the consultation will be collated and considered by the SWWCJC business and portfolio management function ahead of reporting to Members in March 2023.</p>	<p>Consultation in January / February 2023 (6 weeks). Any consultation responses received will be reported back to Members with a view to informing a final version of the Plan ahead of its formal adoption (scheduled for the March 2023 meeting of the CJC).</p>	<p>We will have undertaken a comprehensive engagement exercise, fully considering all responses to continue to refine the draft plan.</p>

14 Sign off

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by				
Signed off by				

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Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwiadol wag

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Chief Executive

**Report Title: The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 - Section 6
Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty report**

Purpose of Report	To brief Members on the Section 6 requirements as they apply to the Corporate Joint Committee and provide an update on how these requirements are being met.
Recommendations	It is recommended that Members note the content of the appended Section 6 Report and endorse its publication by the 31 of December 2022. It is further recommended that a copy of the Appended Report be sent to the Welsh Government.
Report Author	Karen Jones
Finance Officer	Chris Moore
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Background:

1. [Statutory guidance](#) has been produced by the Welsh Government in respect of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). This guidance confirms that CJCs are subject to the duties under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. CJCs are one of the Public Authorities subject to the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty. In this regard, CJCs are required to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems.
2. Further to the above, CJCs must prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to comply with the Section 6 duty. Members will note that the South West Wales CJC's Section 6 Duty Plan will be embedded into its Corporate Plan.

3. CJs must also produce and publish a report on what they have done to comply with the Section 6 duty by 31 December 2022 and then every three years after this date. In this regard, Members will note that the South Wales CJC's Section 6 Report is set out in Appendix 1.

Timescale:

4. Pending Members endorsement, the Appended Section 6 Report will be published by 31 December 2022, with a copy sent to the Welsh Government's Biodiversity Policy Officer for completeness.

Financial Impacts:

5. It is not considered that there will be any new financial related to this work.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

6. The CJC is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
7. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'. It is considered that complying with the

Section 6 duty will help the CJC to maximise its contribution to the Well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the achieving of its emerging Corporate Plan.

Workforce Impacts:

8. There are no new workforce impacts for the CJC to be concerned with in relation to this report.

Legal Impacts:

9. There are range of public sector duties imposed on CJC's and specific reference is made to Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Risk Management Impacts:

10. There are none.

Consultation:

11. There is no requirement for consultation.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

12. To ensure the CJC complies with the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government in respect of CJC's, as well as those pertinent legislative provisions – most notably in terms of Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Implementation of Decision:

13. Following the three day call in period.

Appendices:

14. Appendix 1- Section 6 Report

List of Background Papers:

15. [Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on CJC's](#)

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwriadol wag

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems
Duty

2022 Report

December 2022

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1.0. Introduction and Context

1.1 The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) has prescribed functions related to the preparation of the Regional Transport Plan, Strategic Development Plan and the exercise of Economic Well-being powers. These are set out specifically as follows:

- (a) Economic well-being (section 76 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021);
- (b) Transport policies (section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000); and
- (c) Strategic Development Plan (Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004)

1.2 Essentially, the SWWCJC must produce a Regional Transport Plan and Strategic Development Plan, whilst it will have the power to promote economic well-being within the region.

1.3 The members of the SWWCJC are the executive leaders of Carmarthenshire County Council, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, The City and County of Swansea along with A Member of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and a member of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. The SWWCJC members are entitled to vote in relation to any matter to be decided by the CJC, except that the Brecon Beacons National Park and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority members may only vote where the matter to be decided is about strategic planning functions.

1.4 Reference should also be made to the information already set out online, including detailed information on the constitution of the SWWCJC. Reference should also be given to the emerging Corporate Plan 2023-2028.

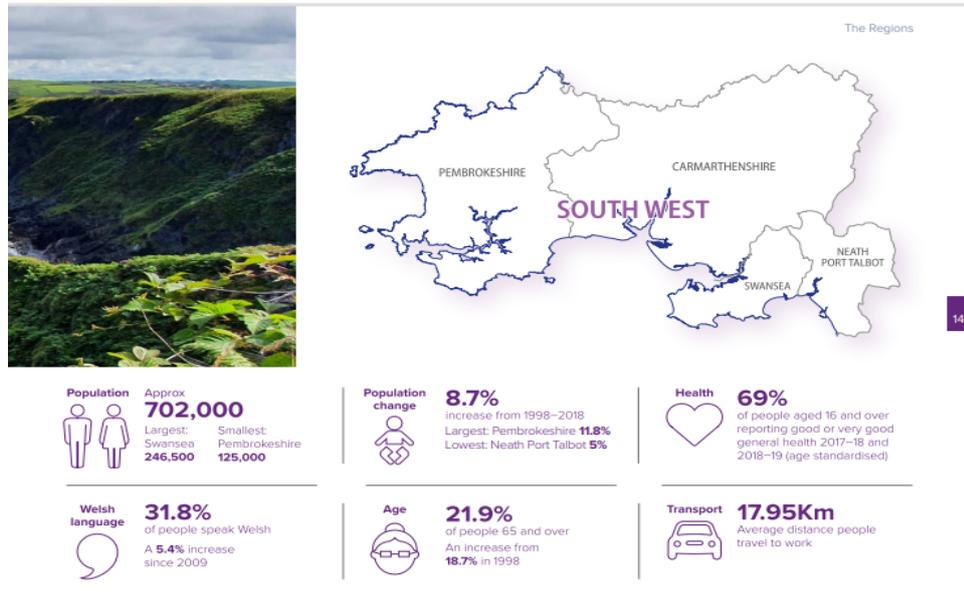


FIGURE 1 - HIGH LEVEL OVERVIEW – EXTRACT FROM FUTURE WALES : THE NATIONAL PLAN 2040

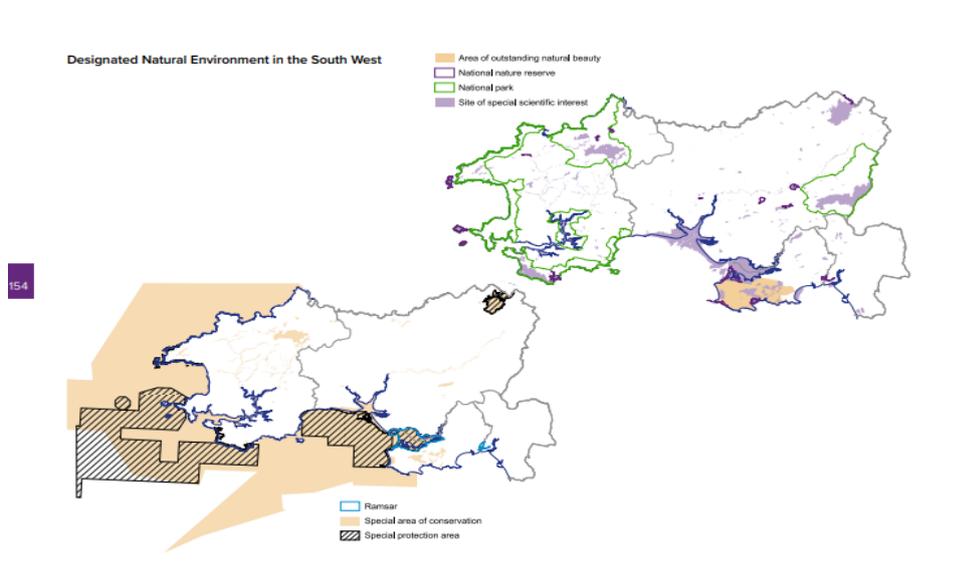


FIGURE 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNATIONS – EXTRACT FROM FUTURE WALES : THE NATIONAL PLAN 2040

1.5 It should be noted that CJC's are very recent entities across Wales, with the SWWCJC holding its first meeting in January 2022. To this end, this Section 6 report will clearly be limited in scope as there has only been a minimal period of activity. The emphasis within this report will therefore be on showing how the SWWCJC is approaching its Biodiversity duties moving forward, not least in terms of how such considerations are being continuously embedded into its corporate governance.

2.0. Statutory Guidance

2.1 [Statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government](#) confirms that the SWWCJC is subject to the duties under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. As one of the Public Authorities subject to the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty, it will be required to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of our functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems.

2.2 Paragraph 49.2 of the guidance confirms that “in order to comply with the section 6 duty CJC’s should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as their day to day activities”.

3.0. Specific Section 6 requirements upon the SWWCJC

Progress Report

3.1 The SWWCJC must produce and publish a report on what we have done to comply with the s6 duty by 31 December 2022 and then every three years after this date. To this end, it should be noted that this Section 6 Report sets out to meet this requirement. This Section 6 Report was tabled before at the meeting of the SWWCJC on the 7 December 2022 and a copy will be sent to the Welsh Government's Biodiversity Policy Team. There is no requirement to consult on this Section 6 Report.

Section 6 Duty Plan

3.2 The SWWCJC must also prepare and publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with the Section 6 duty. The SWWCJC has not previously prepared a Section 6 Duty Plan. It should be noted that the first Corporate Plan for the SWWCJC is currently being formulated. This Draft Corporate Plan was tabled at the meeting of the SWWCJC on the 7 December 2022.

3.3 Discussions with Biodiversity Policy Officers within the Welsh Government have indicated that it is appropriate for the SWWCJC to embed its Section 6 Duty Plan into its Corporate Plan - and in fact this would be preferable to a standalone one ([this is also confirmed in Welsh Government guidance](#)). Whilst there is no specific

timescale to publish its first Section 6 Duty Plan, the SWWCJC has taken the opportunity to publish its first Section 6 Duty Plan at this early stage, incorporating it into the Corporate Plan. This is deemed important so that key principles are embedded from the outset.

4.0. Highlights, Key Outcomes and Issues

4.1 As previously stated, the SWWCJC has only been operational for a short time and given the emphasis on establishing it from a governance / constitutional point of view, and the limited scope of functions / powers available to it, there is limited information to provide in respect of Biodiversity specific actions.

4.2 Many of the highlights in 2022 have involved relationship building, with exploratory discussions and engagement taking place with ecologists within the region and with Welsh Government Biodiversity Policy Officers. There has been a focus on general awareness raising of the SWWCJC, including a presentation to the Carmarthenshire Public Service Board.

4.3 The process of formulating the Section 6 Duty Plan has engendered within the SWWCJC an increased understanding of [The Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\)](#) for Wales and its six objectives, along with [The South West Wales Area Statement \(SWWAS\)](#) and its themes.

4.4 Clearly the key outcome and highlight in 2022 is the formulation and publication of the very first Corporate Plan which will embed the very first Section 6 Duty Plan.

5.0. Action Report

5.1 There are limited actions to list given the short time period and nature of activity, however it is deemed appropriate to briefly set out within this Section 6 Report the approaches that will be mapped out within the Section 6 Duty Plan. The NRAP has played a key role in framing the Section 6 Duty Plan. The approach and focus is on embedding consideration of the Section 6 duties into the corporate governance of the SWWCJC, noting that specific future workstreams (e.g. Strategic Development Plan) will be subject to rigorous scrutiny in terms of designations (including National Site Network) together with policy alignment in their own right e.g. [Technical Advice Note 5 - nature conservation and planning](#). Below is the intended format of the Section 6 Duty Plan as set out within the Corporate Plan.

TABLE 1 – SECTION 6 DUTY PLAN FORMAT

NRAP Objective	NRAP Extract	SWWCJC Action	SWWAS Theme
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5.2 Other notable outcomes in the Section 6 Duty Plan are to ensure that its content is referenced in Executive Officer Reports to the SWWCJC. Also, it is not intended that biodiversity will not be considered in isolation as demonstrated by the adopting of an Integrated Impact Assessment Toolkit by the SWWCJC (which includes a biodiversity section). Importantly, the Corporate Plan will also set out the SWWCJC approach to meeting its responsibilities under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

5.3 Upon the adoption of the Corporate Plan, the key action moving forward is to ensure that the Section 6 Duty Plan elements are actioned and firmly embedded into the corporate governance of the SWWCJC.

6.0. Review of Section 6 duty

6.1 It is not appropriate to undertake a review at this point.

6.2 The first ever Corporate Plan (including the Section 6 Duty Plan) for the SWWCJC is due to be formally adopted in March 2023.

6.3 The Corporate plan itself will be subject to an ongoing monitoring and review process as appropriate. To this end, there will be opportunities available to ensure that the Section 6 Duty Plan is suitably actioned.

6.4 It is considered that the next scheduled Section report in 2025 will allow for considerably more focus on actions and a reflective approach on progress to date – including the impact that the Section 6 Duty Plan is having on decision making and overall corporate governance.

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Monitoring Officer

7th December 2022

Report Title: National Park Authorities as Co-opted members to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Purpose of Report	To seek authority to agree co-option status with National Park Authorities
Recommendation	Members agree that co-option (non-voting) status be granted to Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (for areas other than strategic development planning) as set out in paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 of this report.
Report Author	Craig Griffiths
Finance Officer	N/A
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Background:

1. The Corporate Joint Committees Statutory Guidance references that in order to fulfil their responsibilities and duties effectively, Corporate Joint Committees will need to, and be expected to, actively involve others in their work. It will be important that each Corporate Joint Committee creates an inclusive and collaborative culture to ensure a wider perspective and approach to its work. Each Corporate Joint Committee will wish to give thought to how this can best be achieved taking into account its own unique circumstances.

Co-option

2. As set out in *Corporate Joint Committees: Statutory Guidance*, when Corporate Joint Committees are exercising the function of preparing a Strategic Development Plan the relevant National Park Authority is also a member of the Corporate Joint Committee for that purpose.
3. The guiding principle is National Park Authorities are members of a Corporate Joint Committee “to the extent to which the matter to be decided on is about strategic planning functions”
4. The regulatory framework for Corporate Joint Committees is designed to provide flexibility and enable local discretion where possible. As part of this flexible approach, council members

of the Corporate Joint Committee may however choose, in agreement with the National Park Authority, to extend the scope of the National Park Authority membership

5. When doing anything that impacts on a National Park Authority area, the Corporate Joint Committee must consider how they can further support the purposes of national park authorities to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national park by the public.
6. It would accordingly be proposed that co-opted (non-voting) status be granted to the Chair of Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and the Chair of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee for all matters (save for the strategic planning functions) within its purview. This would be subject to the signing of the appropriate co-option agreement that has been approved by the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.
7. It would also be proposed that, subject to entering into an agreed co-option agreement, co-opted (non-voting) status be granted to one nominated representative from the Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and one representative from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to attend the (a) Regional Transport Planning Sub Committee; (b) Economic Wellbeing (Regional Economic Development) Sub Committee and (c) Economic Wellbeing (Regional Energy Strategy) Sub Committee.
8. Finally, subject to entering into an agreed co-option agreement, co-opted (non-voting) status be granted to one nominated representative from the Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and one nominated representative from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to attend the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee.
9. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not proposed that co-opted status be extended to the Governance and Audit Committee or Standards Committee.

Financial Impacts:

10. Appointed co-optees would be non-remunerated posts but would be able to claim expenses such as travelling expenses, which are within the Corporate Joint Committee budget but it is anticipated that the majority of such meetings will take place virtually.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

11. The Corporate Joint Committee is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

12. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the ‘well-being goals’.

Workforce Impacts:

13. There are no impacts associated with the workforce.

Legal Impacts:

14. The Corporate Joint Committees Statutory Guidance references that in order to fulfil their responsibilities and duties effectively, Corporate Joint Committees will need to, and be expected to, actively involve others in their work. It will be important that each Corporate Joint Committee creates an inclusive and collaborative culture to ensure a wider perspective and approach to its work. Each Corporate Joint Committee will wish to give thought to how this can best be achieved taking into account its own unique circumstances.

Risk Management Impacts:

15. Failure to ensure a diverse and representative group of co-optees would mean the Corporate Joint Committee will not be able to consider the range of views National Park Authorities could bring to the functions the Corporate Joint Committee are required to undertake.

Consultation:

16. There is no requirement for external consultation on this report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

17. To ensure the Corporate Joint Committee can actively involve others in their work programme.

Implementation of Decision:

18. This decision is to be implemented immediately

Appendices:

19. None

List of Background Papers:

20. None