



***SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT
COMMITTEE - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-
COMMITTEE***

10.00 AM THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2024

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

All mobile telephones to be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting

Webcasting/Hybrid Meetings

This meeting will be recorded for broadcast via the Council's Internet Site. By participating you are consenting to being filmed and the possible use of those images and sound recordings for training purposes.

1. Chair's Announcements
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of previous meeting (*Pages 3 - 12*)
 - 3rd September 2024
 - 14th October 2024
4. Sub Committee Update - Strategic Planning (Consultation) (*Pages 13 - 26*)
5. Forward Work Programme 2024-2025 (*Pages 27 - 28*)
 - South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Forward Work Programme 2024-2025 (to follow)
 - South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024-2025 Forward Work Programme

6. Urgent Items
Any urgent items at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100BA(6)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

W.Walters
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

14 November 2024

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: Councillor R.Sparks

**Vice
Chairperson:** Councillor T.Bowen

Councillors: R.Davies, S.Pursesey, D.Howlett, M.John,
M.Tierney, D.Cundy, E.Schiavone, P.Black and
W.Lewis

**Co-Opted non-
voting
Members:** Councillor Dr. Simon Hancock

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

(Via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

3 September 2024

Chairperson: Councillor R.Sparks

Vice Chairperson: Councillor T.Bowen

Councillors: R.Davies, S.Purseley, D.Howlett, M.John, M.Tierney, W.Lewis and D.Cundy

Officers In Attendance K.Tillman, D.Griffiths, S.Rees, D.Thomas, L.White, S.Davies, R.Lewis, S. Aldred-Jones, and T.Rees

1. **Chair's Announcements**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The chair advised that there could potentially be issues with quorum. In order to ensure that business can be expedited the chair agreed to vary the order of the agenda.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meetings held on 16th July 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. **Regional Transport Plan Policy (Draft) & Consultation Update**

Members considered the Regional Transport Plan Policy (Draft) and consultation update as circulated within the agenda pack.

Officers outlined that the purpose of the report was to provide an update to members on the Regional Transport Plan (RTP), the different work streams that have been developed and the progress that has been made. The second purpose of the report is to seek support from the committee on the policy framework that has been drafted. Officers confirmed that the policy framework has taken into account the framework issued by Welsh Government and made it applicable to a local framework. The final purpose is the endorsement of the revised RTP development work programme.

Officers noted that the timescale is challenging but that significant progress is being made against this. Officers advised that a book of data has been produced which will assist in understanding the region and the likely impacts on the transport network. Officers confirmed that large amount of analysis has been undertaken that considers accessibility to key travel points within the region, mainly focusing on travel time. It also takes into account active travel.

Officers confirmed that there has been positive feedback on the case for change from Welsh Government and it has been subject to the recent consultation. There have been 814 responses to the consultation, the vast majority of these responses were from individuals. The two key emerging themes identified from the consultation were a concern about the potential of active travel measures that the plan may include. Also the recognition in the consultation that active travel space may not be suitable for everyone, particularly in the more rural areas. The second theme was the availability and cost of public transport, both bus and rail. In addition to this there was concern about the frequency of operation, the fares that are charged and the coverage of the network. Concerns also incorporated effective interchange between the bus and rail networks.

A key activity identified over the coming weeks will be engagement with technical stakeholders. A report will be brought forward outlining the activities undertaken, for consideration at a later date.

Officers are currently in the process of setting out the basis of the integrated wellbeing assessment. There will be engagement with the

relevant statutory bodies to agree with the scoping analysis of the assessment.

Members noted that the Independent Travel Active Board have published a report about walking and cycling where described Wales as making 'painfully slowing progress' in getting people walking and cycling. Whilst it was acknowledged that the report has only just been published, members queried what consideration this report will be given to ensure that the best value is achieved in terms of walking and cycling?

Officers recognised that the active travel option will not be an option that will fit for all. It will be more pertinent in some areas than others. The policy framework has been drafted to reflect the priorities across a diverse region. Whilst it recognises walking and cycling, it also reflects the need to incorporate the other modes of transport. However, officers noted that they have not yet been able to consider the report in detail at this point. Officers confirmed that they are following the direction of national policy in terms of how they build up to the Regional Transport Plan and what they can subsequently bid into for capital schemes.

Members queried how the CJC sees its role in delivering active travel across the region. It was acknowledged that each individual authority has their own policies on this. Members queried if the CJC had given any thoughts with regards to what their focus will be on, for example will it be key cross-boundary routes or key arterial routes for economic development? Members considered the CJC a catalyst to assist with the delivery of the infrastructure. It is important when considering a transport network, that a person can complete an entire journey. Members were keen to understand how far into the local authorities remit on active travel, the CJC would be reaching into.

Members referred to the Independent Active Travel Board report and noted that it recommends that future government funding be used to focus on one or two towns within each local authority to ensure greater impact. However, members noted that it is rural areas which need supporting if the RTP is going to make a big impact and be successful, and that funding needs to be considered across the region.

Members referred to the amount of money that is being spent on active travel. It was concerning to some members that active travel appears to not take into consideration those who may not be able to

or have difficulty walking and cycling. Members considered that investment should be more widespread and take into account other modes of transport. Members queried if officers are linking with the bus services in relation to the RTP?

Members suggested that there needs to be a systematic approach which links between all modes of transport and spread across the region. Members expressed their concern and the requirement for further definition around some of the policies outlined.

Officers outlined that in order to gain a modal shift it would not just be a matter of capital investment. There is an element of providing the infrastructure, encouragement and awareness of promotion that needs to be done. In order to promote active travel it needs a modal shift, for people to be comfortable to change their patterns and do something that they may not be used too. Not only does this change require changes in infrastructure, but it also requires further funding for the building and the maintenance, to ensure things are maintained to a good standard.

Traditionally, active travel related to the shorter journeys and specifically surrounded cycling and walking. However, there is an element of normalising longer active journeys then there will be a significant benefit all around.

There is a clear message from Welsh Government, that there must be prioritisation of sustainable modes of transport. Officers of the CJC are trying to interpret the policies and provide recommendations that can be implemented through the RTP and the various individual local authority plans.

Members encouraged colleagues to read the Active Travel guidance as it sets out the aim of active travel is to make communities accessible.

Following scrutiny, members noted the verbal progress reports from officers on the RTP development workstreams; members endorsed the Regional Transport Plan policy framework; members endorsed the revised RTP development work programme.

5. **Joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy - Strategic Equality Plan**

Members considered the joint equality, diversity and including strategy – Strategic Equality Plan, as circulated within the agenda pack.

Officers provided members with an update on the Strategic Equality Plan.

Members endorsed the Joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (Appendix A) for approval, to enable the development of Regional Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) ahead of seeking approval from South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

6. **Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring 24/25**

Members considered the Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report 24/25 as circulated within the agenda pack.

Officers went through the report. Members attention was drawn to appendix A. This report details the quarter 1 financial monitoring and projected year end position for 24/25. Officers iterated the projected surplus position and reserves position outlined within the report at the financial year end.

Members were advised that there would be a workshop held in the Autumn, where the future priorities for the CJC would be discussed. Members queried if there would be consideration of a reduction in the levy for the forthcoming year given the level of reserves. Officers advised that this could be considered at the workshop.

Members queried who was going to be part of the workshop. Officers anticipate that it will be made up of officers and members of the relevant groups. Officers advised that they would be happy to attend a future meeting of the scrutiny committee to gage the views of members and pass them to the workshop.

Following scrutiny, the report was noted.

7. **Forward Work Programme 2024-2025**

Members selected the following items to add to the Forward work Programme for the meeting scheduled for the 14th of October 2024.

- Draft RTP, IWBA and RTDP
- Welsh Language Standards – Compliance Update
- Budget Update Pre Audit Return
- Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring 2024/25
- South West Wales Regional Energy Policy and Scene Setting - Energy Funding Request

8. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

CHAIRPERSON

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

(Via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

14 October 2024

Chairperson: Councillor R.Sparks

Vice Chairperson: Councillor T.Bowen

Councillors: R.Davies, S.Purseley, D.Howlett, M.John, E.Schiavone and P.Black

Officers In Attendance A.Eynon, S.Aldred-Jones, K.Tillman and A.Thomas

1. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee General Progress Update 2023/2024**

Members considered the report as circulated within the agenda pack.

The officer outlined the content of the report and clarified that it is different to the annual report which includes consideration of financial monitoring.

The report outlines the progress that has been made in 23/24. The report sets out the governance arrangements that are in place and considers partner and external engagement through the co-optees. The reports sets out the progress of the functions of the Corporate

Joint Committee, in specific relation to regional transport, energy, economic wellbeing, economic development and strategic planning.

The report also considers priorities for Autumn 2024 onwards. These priorities look at appointing additional advisors for the private sector advisory board. One of the main priorities identified is finalising the Regional Strategic Equality Plan.

Members were also advised that a workshop is going to be held in November to consider what the priorities are going to look like for 25/26.

Following scrutiny, members note and endorse General Progress of the South-West Wales Corporate Joint Committee 2023/24.

4. **Welsh Language Compliance Notice**

Members considered the report as circulated within the agenda pack. The report outlines what measures have been put in place following the adoption of the compliance notice.

The CJC are complying as far as reasonably practicable and there will be ongoing monitoring of compliance. The officer outlined which standard is excluded from compliance. In terms of implementation, there is a budget in place to ensure this and the CJC actively promote the Welsh language within the organisation and communities.

Members queried if the CJC has its own Welsh language interpretation resource, or if they access the local authority provision and if the CJC are charged for this. The officer confirmed there is a SLA in place with the CJC's democratic services partner which is overseen in Neath Port Talbot. In terms of the CJC's strategy for translation services, in terms of correspondence requests etc. this is available under the regional support arrangements through Swansea or Carmarthenshire translation services.

Following scrutiny, Members note the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards Compliance Notice as outlined within the report.

5. **Workshop Priorities 2025/2026**

Members were provided with a verbal update on the 25/26 priorities. The priorities identified are the financial priorities and the delivering of the wellbeing objectives. Members were advised that the workshop will consider an update from the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the s.151 Officer in terms of the current position of the CJC. The regional directors that cover each of the four functions of the CJC will reflect upon progress for 23/24 and will consider what the priorities are for the forthcoming year. This will aid the budget setting for 25/26. Risk management will also be a key consideration at this workshop. The corporate plan will also be considered to ensure that it is still relevant.

Following this workshop, a paper will be drafted for members to consider outlining the priorities identified. Permission to consult on the Corporate Plan in the New Year will also be sought.

Members queried whether the draft Regional Transport Plan will be an outline plan or a full plan. It was confirmed that pre-consultation has already taken place and that this information will be presented with a full draft plan. Permission to consult in the New Year will be sought and it is hoped that the full plan will be submitted to Welsh Government following conclusion of the consultation and collation of the results.

Following scrutiny, members noted the verbal update.

6. **Forward Work Programme 2024-2025**

Members considered the Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Joint Committee. It was agreed to add the following for consideration at the next meeting:

- Draft Priorities and Budget Options for 2025/26
- Draft Regional Transport Plan, Integrated Well-being Appraisal and Regional Transport Delivery Plan
- Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring 2024/25
- Energy Funding Request

Officers advised that they would liaise with the Chair on anything further to add to the Forward Work Programme.

Members noted the Forward Work Programme.

7. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

CHAIRPERSON

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee 21st November 2024

Report of the Chief Executive

Report Title: Strategic Planning Development Manual Consultation

<p>Purpose of Report</p>	<p>For Information & Endorsement</p> <p>To provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee with an update on of the development of the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and endorsement of recommendations ahead of seeking a decision via the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) on 3rd December 2024</p>
<p>Recommendation(s)</p>	<p>That Members note and endorse the overview of the implementation of the work required pursuant to the Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021, specifically noting the difficulties in complying with legal obligations and endorsing the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) to further engage with Welsh Government and Cabinet Secretaries to advise on the progress and challenges to limit actions to the SWWCJC for any potential breach/s.</p>
<p>Report Author</p>	<p>Nicola Pearce</p>
<p>Finance Officer</p>	<p>Chris Moore</p>
<p>Legal Officer</p>	<p>Craig Griffiths</p>

1. Introduction / Background:

1.1 In accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021, the Welsh Government launched a public consultation seeking views on their policy intent for the legislation required to establish the procedure for Strategic Development Plans (SDP's) to be prepared across Wales on the 12th October 2020.

1.2 Future Wales : The National Plan 2040 is prepared by Welsh Government and forms part of the development plan for the whole of Wales.

1.3 Local Development Plans (LDPs) are prepared by Local Planning Authorities. Local Development Plan 'Lites' (LDPLs) will be prepared following adoption of an SDP.

Once an SDP is adopted, each Local Planning Authority within that region can prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) Lite, which is a slimmed down version of the Local Development Plan and as such should be more nimble and less resource heavy to produce and adopt. (LDPs).

1.4 Corporate Joint Committees are responsible for the preparation and adoption of the SDP for their region. The SDP must incorporate the scale and location of housing and employment growth - strategic housing and employment development sites and their placemaking principles - Strategic Green Infrastructure routes - Transport infrastructure - a co-ordinated approach to environmental designations, energy, minerals and waste as well as individual LPA spatial strategies to provide the framework for and enable the preparation of LDPLs once the SDP is adopted.

1.5 The SWWCJC outlines a commitment within the South West Wales Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 for the development of the SDP as part of the Well-being Objectives, notably as incorporated within;

Well-being Objective 3

To produce a sound, deliverable, coordinated 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.

1.6 An action plan has been developed and is regularly reviewed to deliver the scope within Well-being Objective 3 (Appendix 1).

2. Progress:

- 2.1 The South West region continues to 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, Council and National Parks' corporate objectives.
- 2.2 The SWWCJC has written to Welsh Government to acknowledge that following consultation on establishing the procedure for the preparation of Strategic Development Plans, as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021, new guidance would be published by Welsh Government to support the development of SDPs. The SWWCJC understands that a formal consultation with Local Planning Authorities on a draft version of the guidance has been delayed and is not now due to be published until Spring 2025. Therefore, the SWWCJC considers it vital that this guidance is in place to ensure that the SDPs to be delivered across Wales all align to an agreed set of procedures and requirements as identified in the version to be published following consultation.
- 2.3 From the information which has been published to date, it is generally accepted and reasonable to assume that the preparation of the first tranche of SDPs from commencement to adoption is likely to take in excess of five years to complete and will certainly require the allocation of both financial and staff resources. The SWWCJC envisage a financial commitment of around £2.469m over that five-year period, to cover staffing and specialist services (as necessary). The financial commitment would be required in addition to that already granted towards the RTP however this will be subject to review pending publication of the guidance referred to above.
- 2.4 SWWCJC has access to limited funding which is reliant upon levies paid for through council tax, as well as the successful receipt of grant funding from Welsh Government, as was the case for the Regional Transport Plan which secured as a grant £125,000 in 23/24 and £100,000 24/25 towards its cost.
- 2.5 As a region, participating authorities already have stretched resources delivering their respective RLDPs. It is not therefore an option to divert existing planning staff away from continuing with this work to enable commencement of the SDP. Furthermore, the participating authorities cannot prepare LDP Lites until they have an adopted SDP in place. Given that each authority in the South West Wales region are at different stages of LDP preparation, they cannot re-deploy resources to commence work on the SDP at this stage. As a consequence of this, the SWWCJC will not be in a position to commence preparatory work until such time that the necessary funding and guidance is available to enable a viable plan to be developed. The preparatory work would identify milestones and resource commitments which would be required for incorporation within the Delivery Agreement. These matters have been regularly discussed in recent Planning Officers Society Wales (POSW) meetings where Chief Planning Officers representing all four regions were of the same mind.

The first stage of the SDP is to prepare a Delivery Agreement which sets out the milestones associated with the preparation and adoption of the SDP. Welsh Government have indicated that other regions are progressing work on preparing their Delivery Agreement, however this has been discussed at length in various officer groups and at least two of the other three regions are in the same position as the SWWCJC. Moreover the other region have drafted a Delivery Agreement but have also indicated that they do not have the resources to deliver the milestones which will be presented in that Agreement. Preparing a Delivery Agreement without sufficient financial and staff resources would therefore appear to be an academic exercise.

2.6 Therefore, until such time as resources are made available, the SWWCJC will be unable to submit a proposed Delivery Agreement, nor will we be able to commence SDP preparation work.

Notwithstanding the fact that the SWWCJC have yet to commence preparation of the Delivery Agreement the region has worked collaboratively to undertake key studies that will inform an evidence base for a future SDP. Progression beyond this point is not however possible until sufficient staff and financial resources are put in place and this is reliant upon Welsh Government providing the financial resources referred to above.

2.7 The Welsh Government advised that in procedural terms there are no impediments hindering the preparation of an SDP. Noting that two Advisory Notes were published in August 2021 to assist in formulating governance structures to prepare an SDP and the scope of its content. These are not prescriptive but will assist deliberations. In addition, they had circulated an informal draft version of the SDP Manual, the guidance for preparing an SDP. There will be some 'fine tuning', but the general principles should remain following the responses we received. As referenced above, the intention of Welsh Government is to formally consult in the Spring of 2025, with publication anticipated Summer/Autumn 2025.

2.8 The Welsh Government advised that they have worked positively with the South-East Wales region to develop a draft Delivery Agreement. Further advising that it may be prudent for the other three regions to work collectively and connect to enable this approach to be tailored and applied across all regions. Despite this encouragement from WG to commence work on the Delivery Agreement, the significant delay in publishing the SDP Manual consultation is a concern and may suggest that there are going to be changes to the process. It is therefore considered prudent to delay work until after the final version of the manual is published and sufficient resources are made available.

2.9 As referenced above, while substantive work on the SDP has not yet commenced, Policy teams across the region have worked collaboratively to undertake key studies that will inform an evidence base for the SDP. Measures have been introduced to rationalise and standardise methodologies for evidence gathering. This ensures early



key stages benefit from alignment with the latest underpinning evidence and is aligned with the replacement LDPs being produced. There has been no substantive progress on key SDP stages to date given the delays to the publishing of the final SDP Manual / Guidance, together with the lack of financial resources allocated to the work stream by Welsh Government. When appropriate, further discussion is required on staff resources and workforce model to be applied once a budget has been allocated / identified.

3. Timescales:

3.1 Welsh Government have advised that the 'Delivery Agreement' is to be submitted by the end of 2024.

The SWWCJC has advised that this date is not achievable for the reasons stated above.

4. Financial Impacts:

4.1 The SWWCJC has approved a continuity budget aligned to the levy honored by partners and grant payments (as applicable). This provides a contribution of £20k for the planning service across the SWW region and is being used to commence the collection of a consistent evidence base which will inform a future SDP.

It is however envisaged that a financial commitment of around £2.469m over a five year period is required to deliver the SDP through to adoption. This is clearly in excess of the SWWCJC budget allocation towards the development of the SDP.

5. Integrated Impact Assessment:

5.1 The SWWCJC 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.

In recognition of the above duties, the CJC has adopted an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Tool which allows for a two stage approach to be undertaken to measure any potential impact of its decisions.

Outcome - In preparation of the 'SDP', engagement and consultation of stakeholders – (including Community Involvement Scheme, the 'Call for' Strategic Locations and Sites/Areas, Preferred Strategy will need to be undertaken.

There has been no substantive progress on key SDP stages to date given the delays to the publishing of the final SDP Manual / Guidance, together with the lack of financial resources allocated to the work stream by Welsh Government.

The CJC approved its Corporate Plan 2023-2028 in March 2023. The Corporate Plan includes the CJC's Equality Objective which is set out below for ease of reference:

"To deliver a more equal South West Wales by 2035 by contributing towards:

The achievement of the [Welsh Government's long-term equality aim](#) of eliminating inequality caused by poverty;

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

[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. There will be no room for racism and / or discrimination of any kind."

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Alignment with CJC Corporate Plan 2023-2028 and the identified CJC Well-being objectives:

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'.



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council



Parc Cenedlaethol
Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast



Bannau
Brycheiniog 6

The CJC approved its Corporate Plan 2023-2028 in March 2023. The Corporate Plan contains the CJC's well-being objectives and frames the corporate direction of travel. To this end, it is considered that the recommendation(s) contained within this report align(s) to the corporate policy framework of the CJC as set out within its Corporate Plan.

Well-being Objective 1

“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.”

Well-Being Objective 2

“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 current and future generations of people and communities, good for our environment and good for our economy and places (rural and urban).”

Well-Being Objective 3

“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.”

6. Workforce Impacts:

- 6.1 Limited resources are in place to support the preparatory works due to capacity, sector skills gap/s, recruitment and retention, which have been factored into the consideration of this report.

7. Legal Impacts:

- 7.1 It should be noted that failure to progress preparatory works in the form of the 'Delivery Agreement' and not submitting the same to Welsh Government by the end of 2024, pursuant to the work required under The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021 does render the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee open to legal challenge that it is in breach of its obligations, this may come via a judicial review. This may render the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee open to potential costs of defending a challenge. There would also be reputational risks to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

8. Risk Management Impacts:

8.1 In addition to the legal impacts under section 7 of this report, the following apply;

- a. To commence preparatory work in the absence of the published guidance (final).

This would not be appropriate as there is reliance upon the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) to secure funding from Welsh Government to initiate the Strategic Development Plan process in accordance with the guidance.

However, steps are being taken to develop the evidence base to support Replacement Local Development Plans (RLDP) and the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) in a way that will start to create the evidence base to support the Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

- b. The SWWCJC has approved a continuity budget for 2024/25, aligned to the levy honored by partners and grant payments (as applicable).

It is envisaged that a financial commitment of around £2.469m over that five year period is required, which is in excess of the SWWCJC budget allocation towards the development of the SDP.

This alone would require almost five times increase in the existing annual levy in order to undertake. The financial outlook for 2025/26 and beyond continues to be hugely challenging and accordingly such an increase would not be appropriate and affordable.

9. Consultation:

9.1 The preparation of the 'SDP' consultation and engagement (including Community Involvement Scheme, the 'Call for' Strategic Locations and Sites/Areas) with the public and stakeholders throughout the development and adoption process will be in accordance with the statutory process.

10. Reasons for Proposed Decision:

10.1 To advise on the progress and challenges in respect of the development of a Strategic Development Plan for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021

11. Implementation of Decision:

11.1 This report will be considered at a forthcoming Corporate Joint Committee meeting and is for noting, endorsement and comment at the meeting of the Sub-Committee.

12. Appendices:

12.1 Appendix 1. Well-being Objective 3 – Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Action Plan

13. List of Background Papers:

13.1 [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Strategic Planning Sub-Committee, 19/11/2024 14:00](#)

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Appendix 6 – Well-being Objective 3 - Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Action Plan

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

Priority	Actions	Progress Update March 2024	Impact Measures	Action Status
Engage with Welsh Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, Council and National Parks corporate objectives. Further engage with Welsh Government regarding the resource requirements to develop the SDP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWWCJC considered Draft Manual as part of an informal Welsh Government (WG) Consultation in December 2022. Formal Consultation on the SDP Manual / Guidance delayed until Autumn 2024. Limited Budget reliant on grant funding from Welsh Government(WG). SWWCJC Members and Officers continue to lobby WG to allocate an adequate budget 	Any issues addressed in final guidance.	Ongoing
Prepare Delivery Agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work collaboratively across the region to undertake key studies that will form an evidence base for the SDP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross boundary collaboration on is advancing to inform the replacement of Local Development Plans (LDP's) across the region and to provide the structure for the Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Opportunities introduced to rationalise and standardise methodologies for evidence gathering. 	Ensures early key stage work benefit from alignment with latest underpinning evidence, and is aligned with replacement LDPs being produced.	Ongoing – In Progress
Develop SDP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a number of SDP key stages with engagement and consultation of stakeholders – (including Community Involvement Scheme, the 'Call for' Strategic Locations and Sites/Areas, Preferred Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No substantive progress on key SDP stages to date given the delays to the issuing of the SDP Manual / Guidance and the lack of financial resources allocated to the work stream by Welsh Government. Discussion needed on staff resources and workforce model to be applied once budget has been allocated / identified. 	Compliant SDP.	Pending

<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare to start the process of developing the regional Strategic Plan for South West Wales once in receipt of Welsh Government guidance; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No substantive progress on developing the regional SDP to date given the delays to the issuing of the SDP Manual / Guidance and the lack of financial resources allocated to the work stream by Welsh Government. Discussion needed on staff resources and workforce model to be applied once budget has been allocated / identified. 	Compliant SDP	Pending
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the options for delivering the expertise and support needed to complete the Strategic Development Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial assessment of the options available to formulate the 'SDP Preparation Team' that is capable of delivering the required outputs has been undertaken. Discussion / agreement needed on staff resources and workforce model to be applied once budget has been allocated / identified 		Ongoing – In Progress
<p>Addition Actions informed by the Consultation January 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further consideration will be given to the views and suggestions received from the consultation. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start the development without final guidance <p>Note. This would not be appropriate as there is reliance upon the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) to secure funding from Welsh Government to initiate the Strategic Development Plan process in accordance with the guidance.</p> <p>However, steps are being taken to develop the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) and the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) in a way that will start to create the evidence base to support the Strategic Development Plan (SDP).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst work on the SDP has not formally started, the region has been progressing various work collaboratively in preparation of the SDP, such as an assessment of the constraints and opportunities and potential refinement of the Swansea Bay and Llanelli National Growth Area and Regional Nutrient Credit Trading Scheme. 		Pending

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to the electorate <p>Note. The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) will undertake consultation and engagement throughout preparation and development of the Strategic Development Plan, as a mandatory requirement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal consultation has been undertaken to date. 		Pending
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountability for projects <p>Note. The purpose of the Strategic Development Plan has focus on issues that cross Local Planning Authority boundaries and will consider how people in each of the four regions in Wales go about their day to day lives to include working and commuting patterns to shopping and leisure activities.</p> <p>The SDP does not cover the delivery of projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action as the SDP does not cover the delivery of projects 		N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the long-term objectives for jobs and businesses, together with attracting larger enterprises. <p>Note. These objectives are already included within the Local Development Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross boundary collaboration on projects is advancing to inform Replacement LDPs across the region and to provide the building blocks for the SDP. Opportunities taken to rationalise and standardise methodologies for evidence gathering. NPT/Swansea as an example has undertaken a joint Economic and Housing Growth Assessment (E&HGA). This has been undertaken by Turleys Associates, and broadly uses the same methodology as the E&HGA undertaken by Carmarthenshire. A consistent approach to looking at future employment across the region will provide a good base for the SDP to build on. 		Ongoing – In Progress

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure engagement and collaboration processes & systems are incorporated <p>Note. These processes are adopted as statutory requirements of the Local Development Plan making process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South West Wales Regional Planning Group provides officers with the forum to engage, share progress and methodologies and provide updates. Whilst a more formalised approach is needed for the SDP, this provides a good base to build on. • Progress made on building an integrated approach to the CJC's 'mandated functions', regional plans and programmes which is key to maximising the ability to deliver on the joint ambition – e.g. Planning Officer attendance at the SWW Regional Transport Plan (RTP) Workshops providing input on the draft RTP; and input into the production of the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). 		<p>Ongoing – In Progress</p>
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South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Forward Work Programme 2024-2025

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2024		
3 September	Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring 24/25	Chris Moore
	RTP Policy (Draft) & Consultation Update	Stuart Davies
	Joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy – Strategic Equality Plan	Will Bramble/Kristy Tillman
14 October	Welsh Language Standards – Compliance Update	Will Bramble / OKristy Tillman
	Priorities Update 2025/2026	Kristy Tillman
	General Progress Update 2023/2024	Will Bramble / Kristy Tillman
21 November	Sub Committee Update - Strategic Planning (Consultation)	Nicola Pearce
2025		
9 January	Quarter 2 and 3 Financial Monitoring 2024/25	Chris Moore
	Budget for financial year 2025/26	Chris Moore
	Energy – Programme Update	Richard Brown / Rachel Moxey
	Sub-Committee Update – Economic Wellbeing and Economic Development	Ainsley Davies/Simon Davies/Paul Relf

	Draft Regional Transport Plan, Integrated Well-being Appraisal and Regional Transport Delivery Plan	Stuart Davies
11 March		

To be programmed:

South West Wales Regional Energy Policy and Scene Setting - Energy Funding Request	Rachel Moxey
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