

## SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (SWWCJC)

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### Report of the Chief Executive

**Report Title:** Corporate Plan 2023-2028 version 2 (2024-2025 Priorities)

<p><b>Purpose of Report</b></p>	<p>To advise the Members of South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SWWCJC) of the draft version two of the Corporate Plan, to include revised actions the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) proposes to deliver the Wellbeing Objectives set for 2024/25 and seek their endorsement.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p>	<p>It is recommended that Members endorse the draft version two of the Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 for onward approval by the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC).</p> <p>Whereby the proposed actions to deliver the wellbeing objectives have been updated following the consultation undertaken during January 2024.</p>
<p><b>Report Author</b></p>	<p>Will Bramble Will Bramble, Corporate Joint Committee Chief Executive &amp; Kristy Tillman</p>
<p><b>Finance Officer</b></p>	<p>Chris Moore</p>
<p><b>Legal Officer</b></p>	<p>Craig Griffiths</p>



## 1. Introduction / Background:

1.1 The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) approved the Corporate Plan 2023-2028 in October 2022. The Plan set out the following three objectives.

- 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.
- 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).
- 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, which clearly sets out the scale and location of future growth for our future generations. The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) can also choose to include additional parties which are described as Co-opted partners and/or advisors.

1.2 The Plan's appendix sets out the actions/steps to be taken to achieve the wellbeing objectives, including timescale and measures. A number of these actions have been achieved and considered satisfied.

This report proposes no change to the wellbeing objectives set for the SWWCJC, however, the actions/steps that the SWWCJC proposes to take in 2024/25 in pursuit of the wellbeing objectives have been reviewed and updated with consideration to the consultation feedback.

Note. This will be subject to the Committees endorsement of the proposed actions updated following the feedback received from the consultation concluded on 18th February 2024.



## 2. Consultation Overview:

2.1 The Corporate Plan adopted for 2023-2028 by the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee sets out three well-being objectives. Whilst there are no changes to the objectives set for the Corporate Joint Committee it does require an update on the actions/steps that the Committee proposes to take in 2024-2025 in pursuit of those objectives, subject to sufficient resources being available.

2.2 Public Consultation was undertaken between 26<sup>th</sup> January - 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to gain views on the actions/steps proposed under each of the three wellbeing objectives. Sixteen responses were received.

## 3. Economic Well-being and Energy

### 3.1 Economic Well-being and Energy Objective (1) with associated steps/ actions:

To collaboratively progress the implementation of the Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Regional Energy Strategy thereby improving the decarbonised economic well-being of South West Wales for our future generations Regional Economic Well-being.

- Explore opportunities to support the range of activities set out in the Investment Zone prospectus.
- Further develop the skills and supply chain arrangements across the region to maximise the benefits from investments in Floating Offshore Wind and wider energy transition developments.
- Work to clarify the successor funding arrangements for Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up funding.
- Continue to develop work to improve the promotion of and access to investment opportunities across the region.
- Further develop the regional work to enhance the visitor economy.
- Continue to work with Net Zero Industry Wales to develop a regional investment pack, to promote the area to potential investors.
- Test the Regional Energy Strategy to ensure its deliverability and support the completion of work to establish the Local Area Energy Plans.

### 3.2 Economic Well-being Objective 1 – Priorities – Views of our Stakeholders

- 69% (11) Agree
- 13% (2) Disagree
- 13% (2) Don't know
- 6% (1) Strongly disagree



### 3.3 Suggestions informed by the consultation to add or make amendment to the proposed actions

- The need to ensure balance and proportionality towards achieving Net Zero, without impacting the economy
- Net Zero targets need to be proportionate to the locality without impacting the local economy and added impoverishment.
- Consider the benefits of agile or remote support functions
- Promote opportunity for the Waterfront for both local and visitor purposes
- Promote wider opportunities for funding and business startups

## 4. Regional Transport

### 4.1 Regional Transport Well-being Objective (2) with associated steps/ actions:

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).

- Further progress the development of the Regional Transport Plan in line with the delivery agreement submitted to Welsh Government in 2023/24.
- Continue to lobby Welsh Government for the funding necessary to meet the statutory duty to prepare a regional transport plan.

### 4.2 Regional Transport Plan (RTP) Well-being Objective 2 – Priorities – Views of our Stakeholders

- 50% (8) Agree
- 25% (4) Disagree
- 13% (2) Strongly agree
- 6% (1) Strongly disagree
- 6% (1) Don't know



### 4.3 Suggestions informed by the consultation to add or make amendment to the proposed actions

- The Regional Transport Plan to include all methods of travel not just cycling to ensure the needs of the community.
- Seek opportunities to compete with other countries
- Focus needs to be on a sustainable, affordable and reliable transport network in the West and Mid west of Wales. Penalising the use of the congested M4 through tighter restrictions and the use of personal transport by levying excessive charges parking, etc is harming the economy.
- Improve the availability of bus services within rural areas
- A feeling that transport is being cut and not improved. A further understanding to gain an insight to the research and criteria behind the target measure of 75% cars being electric by 2035 is needed.
- Improve public engagement to ensure the barriers associated with accessing public transport, cost of driving, positioning of electric charging stations (most aren't suitable for wheelchair users) can be voiced.

## 5. Strategic Planning

### 5.1 Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Objective (3) with associated steps/ actions:

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.

- Prepare to start the process of developing the regional Strategic Plan for South West Wales once in receipt of Welsh Government guidance, together with the appropriate budget with reliance on Welsh Government funding.
- Investigate the options for delivering the expertise and support needed to complete the Strategic Development Plan.

### 5.2 Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Well-being Objective 3 – Priorities – Views of our Stakeholders

- 56% (9) Agree
- 13% (2) Disagree
- 6% (1) Strongly agree
- 13% (1) Strongly disagree
- 13% (2) Don't know



### 5.3 Suggestions informed by the consultation to add or make amendment to the proposed actions

- Start the development without final guidance  
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.
  - Listen to the electorate  
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.
  - Accountability for projects  
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.
- The SDP does not cover the delivery of projects.
- Consider the long-term objectives for jobs and businesses, together with attracting larger enterprises.  
Note. These objectives are already included within the Local Development Plans.
  - Ensure engagement and collaboration processes & systems are incorporated  
Note. These processes are adopted as statutory requirements of the Local Development Plan making process.



## 6. Consultation 2024 -

### **What impact will this have to inform the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) priorities for 2024-25**

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) hold the views and interests of the those living, working and visiting the region at the heart of our decisions.

We endeavour to promote an active and holistic approach to promote sustainable futures amongst the region and indeed for Wales. Engagement with our stakeholders is vital, whilst we engage using several methods and approaches, the views of our communities are especially important to ensure representation.

The proposed steps will be refined in light of consultation responses received and a final set of proposed actions/steps will be submitted to the SWWCJC for approval as part of the corporate planning process. The final proposal will include timescales, resource allocations and the means of monitoring progress.

The views and suggestions gained from the consultation will aid and refine the action plan for each objective, the additional actions are as follows:

#### **6.1 Wellbeing Objective 1 Economic Wellbeing and Energy**

- Further consideration will be given to the views and suggestions received from the consultation.
- The need to ensure balance and proportionality towards achieving Net Zero, without impacting the economy.
- Net Zero targets need to be proportionate to the locality without impacting the local economy and added impoverishment.
- Consider benefits of agile or remote support functions
- Promote opportunity for the Waterfront for both local and visitor purposes
- Promote wider opportunities for funding and business startups  
Note. The Regeneration Directors Group are covering this opportunity in accordance with the Regional Economic Delivery Plan (REDP).



## 6.2 Wellbeing Objective 2 Regional Transport Plan (RTP)

- Further consideration will be given to the views and suggestions received from the consultation.

Note. Consideration will be given to how RTP integrates and aligns with plans to develop the strategic ports of Milford Haven and Port Talbot and also how the RTP integrates and aligns with plans to develop the wider network of ports and airports in the region.

- Improve the availability of bus services within rural areas
- Improve public engagement to ensure the barriers associated with accessing public transport can be voiced.

## 6.3 Wellbeing Objective 3 Strategic Development Plan (SDP)

- Start the development without final guidance

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.

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).

- Listen to the electorate  
 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.
- Accountability for projects  
 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.

The SDP does not cover the delivery of projects.





- Consider the long-term objectives for jobs and businesses, together with attracting larger enterprises.  
 Note. These objectives are already included within the Local Development Plans.
- Ensure engagement and collaboration processes & systems are incorporated  
 Note. These processes are adopted as statutory requirements of the Local Development Plan making process

## 7. Financial Impacts:

7.1 The resources available to the Corporate Joint Committee are finite and therefore the programmes of work will need to be deliverable within the budget constraints, further representation will be made through Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and to Welsh Minister regarding the resource impacts of the statutory duties placed upon CJC's.

## 8. Integrated Impact Assessment:

8.1 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.



8.2 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.

**The full IIA was applicable and undertaken as the Corporate Plan is a strategic document. Please refer to Appendix B Corporate Plan IIA.**

**Further consultation and engagement will be undertaken in due course associated to the SWWCJC Functions. This information gained will inform policies, functions and programmes and will be subject to the IIA process.**

**Action – Continue as planned.**

8.3 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:*

*(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. 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:



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Neath Port Talbot Council



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 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, most notably in terms of Well-being Objective(s) as outlined below for ease of reference:

**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.”*

Following the consultation, the proposed actions to deliver the wellbeing objectives have been updated to include the feedback received, however, these remain unchanged.

**9. Workforce Impacts:**

9.1 There are minimal workforce impacts for the CJC to be concerned with in relation to this report.



## 10. Legal Impacts:

- 10.1 There is no requirement to undertake public consultation on the updating of priorities as part of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, consultation is only required when setting or changing objectives.

However, the SWWCJC has consulted on the proposed actions for 2024-25.

## 11. Risk Management Impacts:

- 11.1 Failure to update the actions/steps would create a risk that the wellbeing objectives would not be achieved, adversely impacting the reputation of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

## 12. Consultation:

- 12.1 There is no requirement to undertake public consultation on the updating of priorities as part of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, consultation is only required when setting or changing objectives.

However, the SWWCJC has consulted on the proposed actions for 2024-25

## 13. Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To advise the members of South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SWWCJC) of the draft version two of the Corporate Plan, to include revised actions the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) proposes to deliver the Wellbeing Objectives set for 2024/25 and seek their endorsement.

## 14. Recommendation/s:

It is recommended that Members endorse the draft version two of the Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 for onward approval by the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee. Whereby the proposed actions to deliver the wellbeing objectives have been updated following the consultation undertaken during February 2024.



## 15. Implementation of Decision:

15.1 Following the conclusion of the 3 day call in period.

## 16. Appendices:

Appendix A – SWWCJC Corporate Plan 2023-2028 version 002  
2024-2025 Priorities Draft 002

Appendix B – Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 version 002 - IIA

Appendix C – Corporate Plan Priorities 2024 \_2025 Consultation Summary 19.02.2024

## 17. List of Background Papers:

### **SWWCJC 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Agenda Item 6. Corporate Plan 2023-2028

[Agenda for South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee on Thursday, 30th March, 2023, 2.00 pm: NPT CBC](#)

### **SWWCJC 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Agenda item 8. Corporate Plan Priorities 2024-2025 – Permission to Consult

[Agenda for South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee on Tuesday, 5th December, 2023, 10.00 am: NPT CBC](#)



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