

## SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

30<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

**Report Title: South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To confirm the next Chief Executive of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee pursuant to previous decisions taken by the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.
<b>Recommendation</b>	It is recommended that members note that the role of Chief Executive of the South West Wales CJC is rotated annually amongst the Chief Executives of the Constituent Councils, changing on an annual basis and members appoint Wendy Walters, Chief Executive of Carmarthenshire County Council as Chief Executive of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee from the 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024 pursuant to this arrangement.
<b>Report Author</b>	Craig Griffiths
<b>Finance Officer</b>	N/A
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Craig Griffiths

#### Background:

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, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). The LGE Act provides for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations (CJC Establishment Regulations).
2. 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 (as set out below).



## Role of the Chief Executive

3. CJC's are required to appoint a number of statutory "executive officers" similar to the roles within principal councils (i.e. Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer).
4. At its establishment meeting in January 2022, it was proposed that the role specifically of the Chief Executive of the South West Wales CJC be rotated annually amongst the Chief Executives of the Constituent Councils, changing on an annual basis (Neath Port Talbot being first, followed by Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Swansea)
5. Members of the CJC designated Karen Jones (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council) as the first Chief Executive of the CJC and accordingly that officer is required to perform the following role:
  - (a) Oversee the manner in which the exercise by the CHC of its different functions are co-ordinated;
  - (b) Oversee the CJC's arrangements in relation to—(i) financial planning, (ii) asset management, and (iii) risk management;
  - (c) the number and grades of staff required by the CJC for the exercise of its functions
  - (d) the organisation of the CJC's staff;
  - (e) the appointment of the CJC's staff;
  - (f) the arrangements for the management of the CJC's staff (including arrangements for training and development).
6. The CJC must provide its chief executive with such staff, accommodation and other resources as are, in the chief executive's opinion, sufficient to allow the chief executive's duties under this section to be carried out.
7. Discussions have been ongoing amongst regional Chief Executives pursuant to the original determination, which has identified that the role of the next Chief Executive will be Wendy Walters from the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024. It is felt that the November 2024 date would be the most appropriate date for this transfer to take place as it will enable existing governance arrangements to be concluded and a new Chief Executive be in place prior to the budget setting process for 2025/2026 and priorities for the forthcoming year being established.

## **Financial Impacts:**

8. No impacts.

## **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

9. 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.

10. 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'.
11. 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 governance arrangements in accordance with legislation.

**Workforce Impacts:**

12. No impacts.

**Legal Impacts:**

13. Part 5 of the LGE Act provides for the establishment, through regulations, of CJCs and compliance will be had with this and other legislative obligations in the establishment of CJCs. In particular the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and set out an initial framework for example, that the CJC should be established and the timeframes for the discharging of specific functions.

**Risk Management Impacts:**

14. Failure to confirm a Chief Executive would mean that the CJC would be in breach of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021, and could expose the CJC to legal challenge of non-compliance as well as the reputational issues that this could bring,

**Consultation:**

15. There is no requirement for consultation in respect of this report.



### Reasons for Proposed Decision:

16. To ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place for the CJC to be established in line with the policy intent and related legislative provisions enacted by the Welsh Government.

### Implementation of Decision:

17. This decision is proposed for implementation following a three-day call in period.

### Appendices:

18. None

### List of Background Papers:

19. None

