

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC)

General Progress of the South West Wales Corporate Joint
Committee 2023/24

Head of Policy and Business Administration

17.09.2024



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1. Purpose

To provide an overview of the of the governance and functions of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) for the period of 2023/24.

2. Previous Year's Update (March 2022 – September 2023)

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC)

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) had met on two occasions between March 2022 and the end of the September 2023.

The main focus of the committee's work during this period was the committee's corporate plan and finalising governance arrangements. A key focus was the development of Regional Transport Planning to develop the Implementation Plan for Developing a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales.

The Forecast Outturn and Pre-Audit Annual Return 2022/23, together with the Reconstitution of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) was noted and approved.

At the meeting held on 6th June 2023 it was resolved that the Chief Executive of Pembrokeshire County Council was appointed as the next Chief Executive for the SWWCJC from 1st November 2023. It was also noted at this meeting, that this date was most appropriate to ensure that existing governance arrangements were in place, prior to the budget setting process for 2024-25 and the identification of priorities for the forthcoming year.

Further arrangements were set out which outlined the administrative and governance matters for the forthcoming year;

- the re-establishment of the four sub committees of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Regional Transport Planning, Economic Well Being – Regional Economic Development, Strategic Development Planning and Economic Well Being – Regional Energy Strategy),
- the re-establishment of the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee which would continue to be facilitated by Pembrokeshire County Council,
- the re-confirmation that the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Standards Committee as the designated Standards Committee for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee,

- the re-establishment of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

The Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee is facilitated by Neath Port Talbot Council.

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Governance and Audit Sub Committee.

The Governance and Audit Sub Committee is facilitated by Pembrokeshire County Council.

It was suggested that its terms of reference are structured in line with recent Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance on Audit Committees.

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Standards Sub Committee.

The Standards Sub Committee is facilitated by Neath Port Talbot Council.

3. Update for the Period of October 2023 – September 2024

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC)

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) has met on seven occasions between October 2023 and the end of the September 2024.

Consultation was undertaken on the proposed actions for 24/25 to deliver the Well-Being Objectives as outlined within the SWWCJC Corporate Plan 2023-2028. The revised plan was approved at SWWCJC on 30th July 2024.

The main focus of the committee's work during this period was to review compliance of the associated legislative duties of the CJC Functions, whilst reviewing the governance arrangements.

The SWWCJC acknowledged the receipt of correspondence with recommendations from the Auditor General for Wales, together with the requirements to comply with the Welsh Language Standards and Public Sector Equality Duty. Work is ongoing to develop suitable and sufficient strategies and plans.

A key priority is to support the Regional Transport Planning. To initiate an Implementation Plan for Developing a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales, that was approved at SWWCJC 24th October 2024 for submission to Welsh Government. In accordance with the programme. The Case for Change for the Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales was approved at SWWCJC on 21st February 2024 for submission to Welsh Government. Work is ongoing, whilst ensuring

consultation and collaboration to aid the development of the Draft Regional Transport Plan that will be considered by SWWCJC later this year.

The Reconstitution of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) was approved at the SWWCJC held on 23rd May 2024.

Further arrangements were set out which outlined the administrative and governance matters for the forthcoming year;

- the re-establishment of the four sub committees of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Regional Transport Planning, Economic Well Being – Regional Economic Development, Strategic Development Planning and Economic Well Being – Regional Energy Strategy),
- the re-establishment of the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee which would continue to be facilitated by Pembrokeshire County Council,
- the re-confirmation that the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Standards Committee as the designated Standards Committee for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee,
- the re-establishment of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee,
- the cycle of meetings 2024/25

At the meeting held on 30th July 2024 it was resolved that the Chief Executive of Carmarthenshire County Council would be appointed as the next Chief Executive for the SWWCJC from 1st November 2024 taking over from William Bramble of Pembrokeshire County Council.

The Joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy was approved at SWWCJC on 12th September 2024 allowing the implementation of the action plan to inform the Regional Strategic Equality Plan.

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Annual Return 2023/24 was presented and approved at SWWCJC on 12th September 2024.

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

The Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee is facilitated by Neath Port Talbot Council.

The Sub-Committee has met on five occasions during the period of October 2023 – September 2024 with focus on the; functions of the SWWCJC and associated budget constraints, regional transport planning (Implementation Plan for Developing a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales and The Case for Change for the Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales), Auditor General for Wales report, budget setting for 2023/24 and associated monitoring, proposed revisions to the SWWCJC Corporate Plan 2023 – 2023, Welsh Language Standards, Joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, together with the SWWCJC Forward Work Programme.

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Governance and Audit Sub-Committee.

The Governance and Audit Sub Committee is facilitated by Pembrokeshire County Council.

The Sub-Committee has met on two occasions during the period of October 2023 – September 2024 with focus on electing the Chair and Vice Chair, governance and financial reporting.

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Standards Sub-Committee.

The Standards Sub Committee is facilitated by Neath Port Talbot Council.

The Sub-Committee has met on one occasion to cover SWWCJC matters during the period of October 2023 – September 2024 with focus on CJC Documentation in respect of Ethical Standards.

4. Governance

4.1 Formally constituted January 2022 and Reconstituted at the SWWCJC AGM 23rd May 2024

Chair Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea) and Vice Chair Cllr Darren Price (Carmarthenshire)

Chief Executive Will Bramble (Pembrokeshire)

Four Constituent Local Authorities (Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot)

Two National Park Associations (Pembrokeshire Coast and Bryncheiniog Bannau National Parks)

4.2 Seven Subcommittees established and active.

Regional Energy

Regional Economic Wellbeing and Development

Regional Transport

Strategic Development Planning

Overview and Scrutiny

Audit and Governance

Standards

4.3 SWWCJC Programme Board and Steering Group

Chief Executive of SWWCJC, Partners (Four Constituent Local Authorities and Two National Park Associations), Statutory Officers (Monitoring Officer and Section Officer) Regional Directors of the Regeneration Directors Group, Head of Policy and Business Administration.

4.4 Corporate Plan

Further to consultation on the proposed actions to deliver the Well-being Objectives the Plan has been reviewed and approved at SWWCJC 30th July 2024.

4.5 Joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

The Joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy was approved at SWWCJC on 12th September 2024 allowing the implementation of the Regional Strategic Equality Plan.

5. Stakeholder Engagement

5.1 Co-opted Members

- Regional Learning and Skills Partnership (RLSP)
- University of Trinity St David
- Swansea University
- Hywel Dda Health Board
- Swansea Bay Health Board
- Members of the Economic Strategy Board (ESB)
- Private Sector Advisory Board

6. Regional Leads

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

Regional Transport

Activity

- Implementation Plan Status **Approved**
- Case for Change Status **Approved**
- Policy Framework – Status **Approved**
- Consultation – Undertaken July – August 2024
- Draft RTP to be submitted to Welsh Government Status **Pending**

Regional Energy

Activity

- Local Area Energy Plans - Status **Complete**

Economic Wellbeing and Development

Activity

- Shared Prosperity and Transforming Towns funding supporting the missions under the Regional Economic Delivery Plan – Status **Active**

Strategic Development

Activity

- Regional Officers engaged with the development sessions for regional energy, transport and economic development
- Consultation – Status **Pending**

7. All Wales Approach & Shared Learning

- All Wales CJC PM Meetings four regions (Monthly) with Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Welsh Government Officers
- Welsh Government - Chief Executive and Leaders meeting the Director General of the Covid Recovery and Local Government Directorate
- Welsh Government – Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries – Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) Leads
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)- Action Plan
- Auditor General for Wales
- Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Welsh Language Commission - Standards Setting and Compliance Officer
- Welsh Government - Local Government: Performance and Partnerships

8. Continuous Improvement

- Work with Regional Director Forums and Core Groups to promote the SWWCJC
- Share good practice from regional groups, together with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Share good practice from All Wales Corporate Joint Committee CJC PM Group

9. Priorities

Autumn 2024

- Private Sector Advisory Board – Selection Process and Appointment
- Joint Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
Implementing the Regional Strategic Equality Plan
- Welsh Language Standards Compliance Notice
- Workshop Planning - Priorities and Budget Setting for 2025/26
- Risk Management
- Audit Wales – Recommendations
 - Participation strategy
 - Child poverty action plan