

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15th January 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

Report Title: Corporate Plan 2023-2028 (2025-2026 Priorities)

<p>Purpose of Report</p>	<p>To advise the Members of South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SWWCJC) of the proposed priorities for 2025/26.</p> <p>Whilst the Wellbeing Objectives remain unchanged, the actions to deliver them have been revised.</p> <p>The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) Corporate Priorities for 2025/26 will be presented to Members of SWWCJC on 21st January 2025.</p>
<p>Recommendation(s)</p>	<p>That Members endorse the proposed Corporate priorities and associated actions for onward approval by the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC).</p>
<p>Report Author</p>	<p>Wendy Walters, Chief Executive for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC)</p>
<p>Finance Officer</p>	<p>Chris Moore</p>
<p>Legal Officer</p>	<p>Craig Griffiths</p>



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
 Neath Port Talbot Council



Parc Cenedlaethol
 Arfordir Penfro
 Pembrokeshire Coast
 National Park



1. Introduction / Background

The Committee approved the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee 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.

This report proposes no change to the wellbeing objectives set for the Committee, however, the proposed actions/steps that the Committee proposes to take in 2025/26 in pursuit of the wellbeing objectives have been revised.

The SWWCJC will continue to consult with stakeholders in accordance with the three Well being objectives.

2. Proposed Actions

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 2025 - 2026 in pursuit of those objectives, subject to sufficient resources being available.

Economic Well-being 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 renewable energy 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 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.
- 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.
- Continue to deliver against the South West Wales Regional Economic Development Plan (REDP)

- Review together with the Regional Energy Plan incl of Freeports
- Develop a prospectus for Inward Investment
- Continue to deliver against the Regional Energy Strategy and pilot projects;
- Solar Together – South West Wales (iChoosr)

Project Summary

Group Purchasing Scheme for Solar, Battery and EV Chargers designed to establish a fixed price with good quality products from reputable installers for private property owners who are 'able to pay' and don't qualify for grant schemes, projected managed by iChoosr.

Project Objectives

Accelerate the uptake of Photovoltaic (PV) generation, battery storage and Electric Vehicle (EV) home charging in the region.

- South West Wales Behavioral Change Programme

Project Summary

Community based behavioural change programme consisting of a regional communications/coordination officer and website with advice and sign-posting and retrofit advice delivered by trusted local community groups, to help the public make the energy transition to net zero carbon.

Project Objectives

Empower the public make the switch from fossil fuels and change how they use energy in their daily life, reducing their carbon emissions and their bills by increasing their energy efficiency in the home, in travel, etc.

- Cross-Boundary Electric Vehicle (EV) charging pilot

Project Summary

Pilot looking at the feasibility of sharing Local Authority depot EV charging infrastructure, particularly for home to work vehicle users working with Welsh Government Energy Service.

Project Objectives

Pilot to identify the benefits and challenges of sharing EV charging infrastructure ultimately to accelerate the uptake of EV vehicles within the public fleet.

Regional Transport Plan (RTP) 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.
- Continue to engage with stakeholders to develop and finalise the South West Wales Regional Transport Plan.

Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Well-being 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.

3. Stakeholder Engagement

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 actions will be refined and a final set of proposed actions will be submitted to the SWWCJC for approval as part of the corporate planning process and budget setting. The final proposal will include timescales, resource allocations and the means of monitoring progress of delivery against the three wellbeing objectives.

4. Financial Impacts

The resources available to the South West Wales 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 Ministers regarding the resource impacts of the statutory duties placed upon CJs.

5. 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.

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. It is not considered that an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is required for this report as it does not seek a substantive policy decision from Members, as the commitments and wellbeing objectives remain unchanged.

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:

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'. Members will note that in respect of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 one of the seven Well-being Goals is “A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language”.

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

6. Workforce Impacts

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

7. Legal Impacts

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.

The SWWCJC will continue to consult with stakeholders in accordance with the three Well being objectives.

8. Risk Management Impacts

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.

9. Consultation

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.

The SWWCJC will continue to consult with stakeholders in accordance with the three Well being objectives.

10. Reason for 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.

11. Recommendation

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.

12. Implementation of Decision

Following the conclusion of the 3 day call in period.

13. Appendices

14. List of Background Papers

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

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

[South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee - Tuesday, 16th July, 2024 2.00 pm](#)

[South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Tuesday, 30th July, 2024 2.00 pm](#)