

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Chief Executive

Report Title: Formulation of CJC Corporate Plan incorporating public sector duties

Purpose of Report	To recommend that Members discharge the range of public sector duties imposed on CJCs through a 'corporate plan'. To outline the intended purpose, scope and timescale for preparing the first corporate plan for the South West Wales CJC.
Recommendation	It is recommended that (a) Members endorse the principle of taking a proportionate and integrated approach to meeting the CJC's public sector duties through a Corporate Plan. (b) That a draft Corporate Plan be reported to Members in December with a view to securing Members approval for undertaking a public consultation thereon in early 2023; (c) Further to (b) above, any consultation responses received will be reported back to Members with a view to informing a final version of the Plan before its formal adoption.
Report Author	Karen Jones
Finance Officer	Chris Moore
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Background:

1. Statutory guidance has been produced by the Welsh Government in respect of CJsCs.
2. Members will note that there are a range of matters listed therein that require the CJC to respond to, notably in respect of public sector duties. Such matters include: The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (and setting of Well-being objectives), The Welsh language, Equality, Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems, Freedom of Information and Child Poverty. These requirements were reported to the CJC at its March 2022 meeting.
3. The CJC is in its infancy and accordingly it is important that a proportionate and pragmatic approach is taken to meeting these public sector duties in the first instance. It is proposed that the various requirements to explain how the CJC will meet the public sector duties are set out in one integrated plan – a corporate plan – rather than through separate planning documents. This is line with Welsh Government guidance.
4. The first corporate plan, incorporating the various public sector duties, will need to be published by 1st April 2023. The Plan will need to be subject to public consultation. Accordingly, a draft plan is proposed to be presented to the CJC in December in order that public consultation can be carried out in early 2023 before the Plan is finalised and approved.
5. The Plan will be concise. The indicative corporate plan content is as follows:
 - Foreword;
 - Introduction;
 - Regional context;
 - Our Vision for “South West Wales 2035”;
 - Our Well-being objectives, steps and Well-being statement;
 - Our approach to meeting our wider public sector duties;
 - Governance arrangements;
 - Monitoring, evaluation and review arrangements;
 - Consultation arrangements/findings.

6. Audit Wales have a duty to assess compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and they will be carrying out a study of CJs this Autumn. It is understood that this will be a 'light-touch' commentary piece to gather understanding and assurance around progress. A project brief has been circulated in this regard and any findings will inform the content of the first corporate plan.
7. In noting the above, it is considered that the formulation of a Corporate Plan provides an opportunity to capture the CJC's progress to date as well as set out future ambitions.
8. With specific reference to Biodiversity 'section 6' duties there is little progress to report by the statutory deadline of 31st December 2022. This reporting requirement will be met this year by way of a brief statement which will be presented to the CJC in December 2022 for approval and subsequent publication. The way in which the CJC proposes to embrace the biodiversity duties in future years will be captured in the corporate plan. In this regard, the Duty Plan will be embedded into the Corporate Plan.

Timescale:

9. It is intended that the draft Corporate Plan be reported to Members in December 2022, with a view to securing Members approval for undertaking a public consultation thereon in the New Year. Any consultation responses will then be reported back to the CJC with a view to revising the Corporate Plan before it is finalised and approved.

Financial Impacts:

10. The development of the Corporate Plan will be undertaken within approved budgets. It is not considered that there will be any new financial related to this work.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

11. 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.

12. 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 formulation of the Corporate Plan will include the identification of well-being objectives for the CJC.

Workforce Impacts:

13. There are no new workforce impacts for the CJC to be concerned with in relation to this report.

Legal Impacts:

14. There are range of public sector duties imposed on CJsCs. This proposal sets out a proportionate and pragmatic way of discharging many of the duties at this stage of the CJC's evolution.

Risk Management Impacts:

15. Failure to comply with the public sector duties could result in a negative report from Audit Wales and the issue of statutory recommendations which would reflect negatively on the reputation of the CJC.

Consultation:

16. There is no requirement for external consultation on this report however, the development of the corporate plan itself will be subject of a requirement for external consultation. This has been factored into the proposed timeline.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

17. To ensure the CJC complies with the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government in respect of CJC's – notably in terms of the requirement to set well-being objectives and to comply with wider public sector duties.

Implementation of Decision:

18. Following the three day call in period.

Appendices:

19. Appendix 1- Audit Wales Project Brief

List of Background Papers:

20. [Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on CJs](#)

[CJC meeting - 15th March 2022 – Report of the Chief Executive: Governance and Administrative Matters](#)

[Link to CJC meeting 15 March 2022](#)