

# SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

## Report of the Chief Executive

**Report Title: Endorsement of CJC Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To recommend the adoption of an Integrated Impact Assessment Tool to support the work of the CJC.
<b>Recommendation</b>	It is recommended that (a)Members note the need for the CJC to embrace the public sector duties applied to it. (b)Members agree to adopt the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council 2 stage Integrated Impact Assessment Tool to aid the CJC in discharging the public sector duties.
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### Background:

1. Statutory guidance has been produced by the Welsh Government confirming the requirement for CJCs to embrace certain public sector duties. The CJC was advised of these requirements at its meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.
2. In order that the CJC can demonstrate that it is meeting its public sector duties, inter alia, the CJC needs to have a mechanism for considering the impact of proposals at the point of decision. This is already standard practice within constituent authorities where officers routinely present an assessment of the impact of proposals on duties related to equality; socio-economic characteristics; Welsh language; child poverty; biodiversity and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to inform the deliberations of Members.

3. The approach taken to such assessments does not vary to a great extent between authorities. Consequently, it is proposed that the CJC adopts one of the approaches already in operation, avoiding the need for unnecessary work in creating a bespoke approach for the CJC. Given the distribution of responsibilities amongst the partners, it is proposed that the Neath Port Talbot Integrated Impact Assessment Tool is used. A copy is appended for Members reference.
4. Subject to the CJC approving this proposal, it is proposed that proportionate training of reporting officers be undertaken to ensure the Impact Assessment tool is applied appropriately. A similar opportunity will be made available to members of the CJC and relevant CJC committees.

### **Financial Impacts:**

5. It is not considered that there will be any new financial impacts for the CJC itself in the consideration of this report.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

6. The CJC is subject to a range of public sector duties. It must:
  - Promote and carry out sustainable development;
  - Create and foster an atmosphere in which the Welsh Language can grow within the CJC and in the communities we serve
  - Equality - observe the 'due regard' duty on public bodies to: eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and to foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. CJCs must also consider how its decisions might help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage. The CJC is subject to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011.
  - Seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is reasonably consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems.
  - Make and demonstrate its commitment towards the eradication of child poverty in Wales.

The adoption of the Integrated Impact Assessment Tool will provide a mechanism by which the CJC systematically considers these matters in the discharge of its functions.

### **Workforce Impacts:**

7. There are some training needs that arise from the adoption of this proposal. Brief training will be needed for reporting officers and members participating in the work of the CJC to ensure the tool is applied appropriately.

### **Legal Impacts:**

8. The adoption of the Integrated Impact Assessment tool will aid the CJC in demonstrating that it is discharging the public sector duties placed upon it.

### **Risk Management Impacts:**

9. Failure to adopt a suitable impact assessment tool leaves the CJC exposed to legal challenge that its decisions are not compliant with legal duties. Failure to adopt a suitable impact assessment tool could also impact on the quality of advice available at the point of decision with consequential implications for outcomes.

### **Consultation:**

10. There is no requirement for external consultation on this report.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

11. To aid the CJC in ensuring compliance with the statutory guidance and associated legal duties related to the CJC's public sector duties.

### **Implementation of Decision:**

12. Following the three day call in period.

### **Appendices:**

13. Appendix 1 – NPT Integrated Impact Assessment Guidance  
Appendix 2 - NPT First Stage Assessment  
Appendix 3 – NPT Integrated Impact Assessment

## List of Background Papers:

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

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

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