

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Monitoring Officer

7th December 2022

Report Title: National Park Authorities as Co-opted members to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Purpose of Report	To seek authority to agree co-option status with National Park Authorities
Recommendation	Members agree that co-option (non-voting) status be granted to Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (for areas other than strategic development planning) as set out in paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 of this report.
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Finance Officer	N/A
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Background:

1. The Corporate Joint Committees Statutory Guidance references that in order to fulfil their responsibilities and duties effectively, Corporate Joint Committees will need to, and be expected to, actively involve others in their work. It will be important that each Corporate Joint Committee creates an inclusive and collaborative culture to ensure a wider perspective and approach to its work. Each Corporate Joint Committee will wish to give thought to how this can best be achieved taking into account its own unique circumstances.

Co-option

2. As set out in *Corporate Joint Committees: Statutory Guidance*, when Corporate Joint Committees are exercising the function of preparing a Strategic Development Plan the relevant National Park Authority is also a member of the Corporate Joint Committee for that purpose.
3. The guiding principle is National Park Authorities are members of a Corporate Joint Committee “to the extent to which the matter to be decided on is about strategic planning functions”
4. The regulatory framework for Corporate Joint Committees is designed to provide flexibility and enable local discretion where possible. As part of this flexible approach, council members

of the Corporate Joint Committee may however choose, in agreement with the National Park Authority, to extend the scope of the National Park Authority membership

5. When doing anything that impacts on a National Park Authority area, the Corporate Joint Committee must consider how they can further support the purposes of national park authorities to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the national park by the public.
6. It would accordingly be proposed that co-opted (non-voting) status be granted to the Chair of Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and the Chair of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee for all matters (save for the strategic planning functions) within its purview. This would be subject to the signing of the appropriate co-option agreement that has been approved by the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.
7. It would also be proposed that, subject to entering into an agreed co-option agreement, co-opted (non-voting) status be granted to one nominated representative from the Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and one representative from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to attend the (a) Regional Transport Planning Sub Committee; (b) Economic Wellbeing (Regional Economic Development) Sub Committee and (c) Economic Wellbeing (Regional Energy Strategy) Sub Committee.
8. Finally, subject to entering into an agreed co-option agreement, co-opted (non-voting) status be granted to one nominated representative from the Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and one nominated representative from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to attend the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee.
9. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not proposed that co-opted status be extended to the Governance and Audit Committee or Standards Committee.

Financial Impacts:

10. Appointed co-optees would be non-remunerated posts but would be able to claim expenses such as travelling expenses, which are within the Corporate Joint Committee budget but it is anticipated that the majority of such meetings will take place virtually.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

11. The Corporate Joint Committee 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’.

Workforce Impacts:

13. There are no impacts associated with the workforce.

Legal Impacts:

14. The Corporate Joint Committees Statutory Guidance references that in order to fulfil their responsibilities and duties effectively, Corporate Joint Committees will need to, and be expected to, actively involve others in their work. It will be important that each Corporate Joint Committee creates an inclusive and collaborative culture to ensure a wider perspective and approach to its work. Each Corporate Joint Committee will wish to give thought to how this can best be achieved taking into account its own unique circumstances.

Risk Management Impacts:

15. Failure to ensure a diverse and representative group of co-optees would mean the Corporate Joint Committee will not be able to consider the range of views National Park Authorities could bring to the functions the Corporate Joint Committee are required to undertake.

Consultation:

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

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

17. To ensure the Corporate Joint Committee can actively involve others in their work programme.

Implementation of Decision:

18. This decision is to be implemented immediately

Appendices:

19. None

List of Background Papers:

20. None