

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Chief Executive

**Report Title: The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 - Section 6
Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty report**

Purpose of Report	To brief Members on the Section 6 requirements as they apply to the Corporate Joint Committee and provide an update on how these requirements are being met.
Recommendations	It is recommended that Members note the content of the appended Section 6 Report and endorse its publication by the 31 of December 2022. It is further recommended that a copy of the Appended Report be sent to the Welsh Government.
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Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Background:

1. [Statutory guidance](#) has been produced by the Welsh Government in respect of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). This guidance confirms that CJCs are subject to the duties under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. CJCs are one of the Public Authorities subject to the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty. In this regard, CJCs are required to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems.
2. Further to the above, CJCs must prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to comply with the Section 6 duty. Members will note that the South West Wales CJC's Section 6 Duty Plan will be embedded into its Corporate Plan.

3. CJs must also produce and publish a report on what they have done to comply with the Section 6 duty by 31 December 2022 and then every three years after this date. In this regard, Members will note that the South Wales CJC's Section 6 Report is set out in Appendix 1.

Timescale:

4. Pending Members endorsement, the Appended Section 6 Report will be published by 31 December 2022, with a copy sent to the Welsh Government's Biodiversity Policy Officer for completeness.

Financial Impacts:

5. It is not considered that there will be any new financial related to this work.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

6. 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.
7. 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'. It is considered that complying with the

Section 6 duty will help the CJC to maximise its contribution to the Well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the achieving of its emerging Corporate Plan.

Workforce Impacts:

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

Legal Impacts:

9. There are range of public sector duties imposed on CJC's and specific reference is made to Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Risk Management Impacts:

10. There are none.

Consultation:

11. There is no requirement for consultation.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

12. To ensure the CJC complies with the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government in respect of CJC's, as well as those pertinent legislative provisions – most notably in terms of Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Implementation of Decision:

13. Following the three day call in period.

Appendices:

14. Appendix 1- Section 6 Report

List of Background Papers:

15. [Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on CJC's](#)