

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report of the Chief Executive

Report Title: Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028

Purpose of Report	To provide for the consideration of the South Wales Corporate Joint Committee's Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028 with a view to attaining Members approval to undertake a public consultation thereon in early 2023.
Recommendation	It is recommended that: (a) Members receive and note the content of the Draft Corporate Plan (together with associated appendices) and approve its publication for a six-week public consultation exercise in January/February 2023; (b) Further to (a) above, any consultation responses received will be reported back to Members with a view to informing a final version of the Plan ahead of its formal adoption (scheduled for March 2023); and (c) That delegated authority be provided to the Chief Executive to make any typographical, factual and / or editorial amendments to the Draft Corporate Plan ahead of its publication.
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Background:

1. [Statutory guidance](#) has been produced by the Welsh Government in respect of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). 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.
2. [At its October 2022 meeting](#), the South West Wales CJC resolved that the most appropriate method of meeting its public sector duties in a proportionate and integrated manner would be via the formulation of its first ever Corporate Plan. 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 – including a Vision for *South West Wales 2035* and the identification of well-being objectives. With specific reference to Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems, it should be noted that the CJC is embedding its first ever Section 6 Duty Plan into its Corporate Plan. Members will note that the Draft Corporate Plan is set out in Appendix 1.

Timescale:

3. Pending Members approval, a six week public consultation on the Draft Corporate Plan will take place – scheduled for January / February 2023. Any consultation responses will be reported back to the CJC ahead of its adoption – this is scheduled for March 2023.

Financial Impacts:

4. The formulation of (and consultation upon) the Draft Corporate Plan will be undertaken within approved budgets. It is not considered that there will be any new financial implications in this regard.
5. Members will note that in preparing the Draft Corporate Plan, input has been received from the region's regeneration directors, most notably in respect of the steps, timescales and impact measures which underpin the delivery of the identified well-being objectives. This is proving to be an iterative process undertaken against the backdrop of those wider discussions and considerations in respect of budgeting matters and options. Members will note that Appendix 2 set out the action/steps,

timescale and impact measures based around 2 budget options. Further information will be provided to Members as part of the finalisation of the budget at the CJC meeting in January 2023. The final version of Appendix 2 (i.e. the version based upon the approved budget) will then be included within the composite version of the Draft Corporate Plan which is intended to be published for consultation, pending Members approval. Members will note that further information on the implications of budget option 3 will be placed before them at the January 2023 CJC meeting.

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. An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) will accompany the public consultation on the Draft Corporate Plan. Members are provided with a copy of the IIA at Appendix 3. Members will note that the Draft Corporate Plan contains an equality objective. It is considered a full (stage 2) IIA is required as the Corporate Plan is a Strategic Document. Members will note that the formulation of the IIA is an iterative process and that the IIA can be updated as appropriate – e.g. as a result of any responses received to the public consultation.
8. 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 Draft Corporate Plan has allowed for the identification of well-being objectives for the CJC.

Workforce Impacts:

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

Legal Impacts:

10. There are range of public sector duties imposed on CJCs. The production of a Corporate Plan sets out a proportionate and pragmatic way of discharging many of the duties at this early stage of the CJC's evolution.

Risk Management Impacts:

11. 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:

12. The Draft Corporate Plan will be subject to a six week public consultation exercise – this is scheduled for January/February 2023.
13. It is intended that the consultation be hosted by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council; however the constituent Councils and the National Parks will be asked to provide links across to the survey from their consultation platforms. All other constituent Councils and the National Parks will be asked to raise awareness of the consultation via their established networks and contacts.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

14. 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:

15. Following the three day call in period.

Appendices:

16. Appendix 1- Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028.
17. Appendix 2 - Action/steps, timescale and impact measures for embedding into the Composite (Consultation version) of the Draft Corporate Plan.
18. Appendix 3 - Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

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