

**SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

23RD FEBRUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report Title: Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028

Purpose of Report	To update Members on the operational progress relating to the development of the Draft Corporate Plan and to seek comments from Members during the 6-week public consultation exercise.
Recommendation	It is recommended that: (a) Members note the CJC resolved in October 2022 to endorse the principle of taking a proportionate and integrated approach to meeting the CJC's public sector duties through the production of its first ever Corporate Plan. (b) Members note the CJC resolved in December 2022 to approve the Draft Corporate Plan, along with its associated documentation (including an Integrated Impact Assessment), for a 6 week public consultation exercise and that any consultation responses received will be reported back to the CJC with a view to informing a final version of the Plan ahead of its formal adoption (this is scheduled for the March 30 2023 meeting of the CJC). (c) Members note that further to (b) above, as part of the consideration of the budget for 2023/2024, the CJC resolved in January 2023 to approve the sub Committee key actions summary set out in Appendix B of the circulated report; and provide delegated authority to the

	<p>Chief Executive to elaborate upon these as part of the identification of the well-being objectives, actions /steps/ measures to be included within the Draft Corporate Plan.</p> <p>(d) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be provided with annual reports in respect of the progress being made in meeting the identified well-being objectives at the end of each year as per the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.</p>
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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. It should also be noted that Audit Wales have a duty to assess compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. To this end, Audit Wales are carrying out a study of CJCs through a ‘light-touch’ commentary piece to gather understanding and assurance around progress.
2. [At its October 2022 meeting](#), the 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 the 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.
3. With specific reference to Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the 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. Also, the CJC has already [published its report](#) on what has been done to comply with the Section 6 duty ahead of the deadline of 31 December 2022.

Overview of Draft Corporate Plan content:

4. [The Draft Plan](#) is concise, with its content summarised as follows:
- Foreword;
 - Introduction;
 - Introducing South West Wales;
 - Our Vision - “South West Wales 2035”;
 - Our Aim, Well-being objectives and Well-being statement;
 - Our contribution towards achieving a more equal region (equality objective);
 - Governance and Operational facets;
 - Public sector duties, Plans and Strategies;
 - Measuring Our Performance;
 - Next steps, and
 - Appendices – action / steps, timescales and impact measures.

Programme of Publicity:

5. A proactive approach has been undertaken in terms of awareness raising in regards the [consultation on the Draft Plan](#). This includes issuing of press/media releases and informing stakeholders within the region – including Senedd Members and Members of the UK Parliament, the Economic Strategy Board of the Swansea Bay City Deal as well as the Public Service Boards. Each constituent Council (and the 2 National Parks) have listed the consultation on the ‘have you say’ sections of their respective websites. They have also been asked to raise awareness amongst their various consultation contacts.
6. It should be noted that efforts have been made to make the material as accessible and engaging as possible – this includes an [‘Easy Read’](#) version of the Plan together with a [‘Plan on a Page’](#).

Monitoring and Scrutiny

7. Reference is made to recommendation (d) on page 2 of this report in respect of the ongoing monitoring of the delivery of the Plan. The Plan itself is quite clear in terms of referencing the need to produce annual reports – notably in terms of the progress being made in regards the identified well-being objectives. Whilst noting that the CJC is still in its relative infancy, there will be opportunities to review and reflect on the extent to which the Corporate Plan (if approved / adopted in March 2023) is acting as a central organising principle of the CJC’s work activity – including policy decisions and budget setting.

Timescale:

8. Comments received as a result of the consultation on the Draft Corporate Plan will be considered with a view to informing a final version of the Plan ahead of its intended formal adoption/approval (this is scheduled for the March 30 2023 CJC meeting).

Financial Impacts:

9. There are no new financial related to this report. Also, the formulation of the Corporate Plan (including the consultation process) is being undertaken within approved budgets. In respect of the delivery of the Plan, reference is made to recommendation (c) on page 1 of this report, with the interrelationship between the CJC's budgeting considerations and its activity/action/corporate planning implicit.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

10. 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.

11. It is not considered that an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is required for this report as it does not seek a substantive policy decision from Members. Members will however note that a full / stage 2 [IIA](#) has been prepared to accompany the public consultation on the Draft Corporate Plan itself and that the Draft Corporate Plan contains an equality objective. It is considered that the formulation of the Draft Corporate Plan IIA is an iterative process and the IIA can be updated as appropriate – e.g. as a result of any responses received to the public consultation. Members will note that the formulation of the Draft Corporate Plan has allowed for the identification of a draft equality objective, which is set out below for ease of reference:

*“To deliver a more equal South West Wales by 2035 by contributing towards:
(a) The achievement of the Welsh Government’s long-term equality aim of eliminating inequality caused by poverty;*

(b) The achievement of the Equality statement set out in Llwybr Newydd which is to make our transport services and infrastructure accessible and inclusive by aiming to remove the physical, attitudinal, environmental, systemic, linguistic and economic barriers that prevent people from using sustainable transport; and

(c) The achievement of the Welsh Government's long-term equality aims of cohesive communities that are resilient, fair and equal and where everyone is able to participate in political, public and everyday life."

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (and emerging CJC Corporate Plan and its identified well-being objectives):

Alignment with CJC Corporate Plan 2023-2028 (draft/emerging at the time of writing) and the identified CJC Well-being objectives:

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'. Members will note that the formulation of the Draft Corporate Plan has allowed for the identification of well-being objectives for the CJC which are set out below for ease of reference. By providing an update on the progress being made on the Draft Corporate Plan and seeking to clarify the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the ongoing monitoring of progress in delivering the Plan, it is considered that this report aligns to the emerging corporate policy framework of the CJC in this regard.

Draft Well-being objective 1

To collaboratively deliver the Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Regional Energy Strategy thereby improving the (decarbonised) economic well-being of South West Wales for our future generations.

Draft Well-being objective 2

To produce a Regional Transport Plan for South West Wales that is founded on collaboration and enables the delivery of a transport system which is good for our future generations of people and communities, good for our environment and good for our economy and places.

Draft Well-being objective 3

To produce a sound, deliverable, co-ordinated and locally distinctive Strategic Development Plan for South West Wales which is founded on stakeholder engagement and collaboration and which clearly sets out the scale and location of future growth for our future generations.

Workforce Impacts:

13. There are no new workforce impacts for Members to be concerned with in relation to this report. The production of the Draft Corporate Plan, together with the consultation and reporting facets, are being undertaken within existing staffing resource. Due regard will be given in respect of staffing capacity to deliver the Corporate Plan and its well-being objectives moving forward, with notable reference to the budget approved for 2023/2024 by the CJC at its [January 2023 meeting](#). Currently any

employment within the CJC is undertaken by the constituent authorities and it is anticipated that such arrangements will continue moving forward.

Legal Impacts:

14. There are no specific legal impacts for Members to be concerned with in relation to this report. However, as a wider point, it should be noted that there are range of public sector duties imposed on CJs. The production of the Corporate Plan sets out a proportionate and pragmatic way of discharging many of such duties at this early stage of the CJC's evolution.

Risk Management Impacts:

15. There are no specific risk management impacts for Members to be concerned with in relation to this report, however reference may be made to recommendation (d) on page 2 of this report in respect of ongoing monitoring of the delivery of the Plan. To this end, the role of the Committee in scrutinising the progress made by the CJC in regards the delivery of the Plan and its well-being objectives is duly noted.
16. As a wider point, 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:

17. There is no requirement for consultation in respect of this report. As a wider point, it should be noted that Draft Corporate Plan itself is subject to a [six week public consultation exercise](#) (the deadline for receipt of comments is midnight on March 8 2023). Reference should also be made to paragraphs 5 and 6 of this report in respect of the programme of publicity.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

18. To ensure that the Committee is fully aware of the policy decision of the CJC to prepare a Corporate Plan and the progress being made to deliver upon this policy decision. Furthermore, there is a need to clarify, with reference to the function of this Committee as set out within the CJC's constitution, the role that the Committee will take in monitor and scrutinise the progress being made by the CJC to deliver the Corporate Plan's well-being objectives moving forward.

Implementation of Decision:

19. This decision will be implemented following the three day call in period.

Appendices:

20. Appendix 1- Presentation Slides – Brief Overview of Draft Corporate Plan content.

List of Background Papers:

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

[CJC meeting October 2022.](#)

[CJC meeting December 2022.](#)

[CJC meeting January 2023.](#)

[Consultation page – Draft Corporate Plan – CJC website.](#)