

# **SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**30 March 2023**

## **Report of the Chief Executive**

**Report Title: Corporate Plan 2023-2028**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To allow for the consideration of comments received in respect of the consultation held on the Draft Corporate Plan and its associated documentation with a view to formally approving / finalising the Corporate Plan.
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <p>(a) Members receive and consider the consultation comments received together with the officer responses and recommendations provided; and</p> <p>(b) Members provide delegated authority to the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial amendments and/or typographical amendments to the Plan and IIA ahead of its publication, and</p> <p>(c) Members formally approve the Plan for publication as finalised.</p>
<b>Report Author</b>	Karen Jones
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Chris Moore
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Craig Griffiths

### **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.

3. [At its December 2022 meeting](#), the CJC approved the publication of the Draft Corporate Plan and its associated documentation for a six-week public consultation period. The CJC also resolved that comments received should 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. Members will note that further to the agreeing of the 2023/2024 budget at the [January 2023 meeting](#) of the CJC, further clarity was provided in respect of actions steps/measures. The [Draft Corporate Plan](#), and its associated documentation (including [Integrated Impact Assessment](#)) was published for consultation from Thursday 26 January 2023 00:00 to Wednesday March 8 2023 23:59.
4. 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.

#### Programme of Publicity:

5. A proactive approach was undertaken in terms of awareness raising in regards the [consultation on the Draft Corporate Plan](#). This included 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) listed the consultation on the ‘have you say’ sections of their respective websites. They were also asked to raise awareness amongst their various consultation contacts. The CJC Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee considered the Draft Corporate Plan at its [meeting on the 23 of February 2023](#) and a presentation was provided to the Sub-Committee in this regard.
6. It should be noted that efforts were made to make the material as accessible and engaging as possible – this included an [‘Easy Read’](#) version of the Draft Plan together with a [‘Plan on a Page’](#).

#### Overview of comments received.

7. 36 respondents completed the online questionnaire, whilst letters were received from the Chair of the CJC Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee and the Swansea Bay University Health Board. Whilst the numbers of respondents can be considered as limited, the responses received were wide ranging and raised a number of interesting points. An overview of the consultation responses received, together with officer responses and recommendations in relation thereto, are set out in Appendix 1. A schedule of recommended changes to the Draft Corporate Plan is set out in Appendix 2 – these include changes as a result of consultation responses received (table 1) and officer led changes (table 2). Appendix 3 sets out a schedule of recommended changes to the Integrated Impact Assessment as a result of consultation comments received. Appendix 4 contains a report of the comments made to the online questionnaire.

- 8 Members will note that within Appendix 2 (Table 2) there are recommended changes to the Draft Corporate Plan proposed by officers which are not as a direct result of any consultation responses received. These are primarily focused on clarifying matters of delivery and action planning and reflect budgeting considerations in regards the Plan's appendices. In this regard, it is considered that a concise action plan is needed at this point as the detail will emerge over the next year as the CJC moves into operational mode. Appendix 5 is a reference document which allows for these changes to be seen as 'tracked changes' from that which was in the Draft Corporate Plan.
- 9 It should be noted that in addition to the schedule of changes proposed in Appendix 2, there be some minor editorial / grammatical amendments that will be required ahead of the publication of the Plan in its final form. Whilst there are no material / substantive change proposed in many sections of the Corporate Plan, it is proposed that the Plan as a whole be updated to reflect chronological events – including the fact that the consultation has now been completed.

#### **Timescale/Next steps:**

10. Pending Members approval, changes to the Draft Corporate Plan and Integrated Impact Assessment will be made immediately. The final 'Composite/consolidated' Plan will be produced and published on the CJC website as soon as practicably possible – i.e. upon completion of translation requirements. What is important to note is that the agreement of the final Plan by the CJC at this meeting (i.e. 30/3/23) means that the CJC will have set its well-being objectives in advance of 31/3/23.

#### **Financial Impacts:**

11. 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, it is considered that the interrelationship between the CJC's budgeting considerations and its activity/action/corporate planning is implicit.

#### **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

12. 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.
13. 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](#) was prepared to accompany the public consultation on the Draft Corporate Plan itself. Reference is made to responses received to the public consultation as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, together with recommended amendments to the IIA set out and to Appendix 3 of this report.
14. Whilst there are no material / substantive change proposed in many sections of the IIA, it is proposed that the IIA as a whole be updated to reflect chronological events – including the fact that the consultation has now been completed. This will not lead to alterations to the Assessment conclusions. The updated version will be signed off by the Chief Executive of the CJC as final.
15. Members will note that the formulation of the Draft Corporate Plan has allowed for the identification of a draft equality objective. This draft objective will be finalised upon Members approving the Corporate Plan as final/approved. For ease of reference, the draft objective (as it was published for consultation) is set out below:

*“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:

16. 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’.
17. Members will note that the formulation of the Draft Corporate Plan has allowed for the identification of draft well-being objectives for the CJC. It is considered that having a Corporate Plan in place will firmly embed the 3 well-being objectives into the CJC corporate governance and provide a central organising principle in this regard.

These draft objectives will be finalised upon Members approving the Corporate Plan as final/approved. For ease of reference, the 3 draft well-being objectives (as they were published for consultation) are set out below:

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:**

18. 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, were 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:**

19. 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 CJC's. 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:**

20. There are no specific risk management impacts for Members to be concerned with in relation to this report. Members will note the requirement for Annual Reports to be produced in regards the progress being made to deliver the well-being objectives, and the CJC Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee will also provide an important function in terms of monitoring progress in this regard.
21. 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. Upon Members approving the

well-being objectives as final, these can be published on the CJC's website immediately – i.e they will be agreed and published ahead of 31/3/23.

### **Consultation:**

22. There is no requirement for consultation in respect of this report. As a wider point, it should be noted that Draft Corporate Plan and its associated documentation was subject to a [six week public consultation exercise](#) (the deadline for receipt of comments was 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:**

23. To ensure that Members are furnished with a full suite of information with a view to informing the intended finalisation/approval of the Corporate Plan by the CJC following the recent consultation undertaken on the Plan in Draft form.

### **Implementation of Decision:**

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

### **Appendices:**

25. Appendix 1- Overview of the consultation comments received together with officer responses and recommendations in relation thereto.

Appendix 2 - Schedule of recommended changes to the Draft Corporate Plan (Table 1 - changes as a result of consultation comments received and Table 2 - officer led changes).

Appendix 3 – Schedule of recommended changes to the Integrated Impact Assessment as a result of consultation comments received.

Appendix 4 - Questionnaire survey results document

Appendix 5 – Reference document – proposed officer changes to the Plan's appendices shown as tracked changes.

### **List of Background Papers:**

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

[CJC meeting October 2022.](#)

[CJC meeting December 2022.](#)

[CJC meeting January 2023.](#)

[CJC Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting February 23 2023](#)

[Draft Corporate Plan](#)

[Draft Corporate Plan – Integrated Impact Assessment](#)