

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

6th November 2023

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Report Title: Terms of Reference of the Energy Sub Committee of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Purpose of Report	To note the terms of reference for the CJC Sub-Committee in respect of Energy
Recommendation	It is recommended that members note the terms of reference of the Energy Sub-Committee
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Finance Officer	N/A
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Background:

1. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the LGE Act”) created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs).
2. The CJC will exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning. They will also be able to do things to promote the economic well-being of their areas. In contrast to other joint committee arrangements, CJCs are separate corporate bodies which can employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and undertake functions.
3. The South West Wales CJC will comprise Carmarthenshire County Council, the City and County of Swansea Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Constituent Councils”). In respect of some functions, both Pembrokeshire National Park and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park will also be members in respect of strategic planning and co-opted members (non-voting) in other areas.
4. In order to implement the legislative requirements, it was proposed that the CJC have four Sub Committees, with the chair of each Sub-Committee being drawn from the Leaders of the Constituent Councils (or their nominated deputies) and shared between the four authorities.
5. Attached at Appendix 1 of this Report are the terms of reference for the Energy Sub Committee.

Financial Impacts:

6. No impacts

Integrated Impact Assessment:

7. 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.

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'.

9. There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment for this report as the setting up of the CJC is underpinned by legislation and that this report is to note governance arrangements in accordance with legislation.

Workforce Impacts:

10. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts:

11. No impacts

Risk Management Impacts:

12. No impacts

Consultation:

13. There is no requirement for consultation in respect of this report.

Appendices:

14. Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference

List of Background Papers:

25. None

Appendix 1

Overarching Aim of Sub-Committee

The Regional Energy Plan (“REP”) approved by the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee on the 15th May 2022 has the overall objective to develop a strategic pathway identifying key interventions to deliver on the region’s ambitions for decarbonising its energy system. An Energy Vision scenario has been modelled to set out a potential decarbonisation route that will put the region on track to achieve a net zero energy system by 2050.

The vision for the South West Wales region is *“harnessing the region’s low carbon energy potential across its on and offshore locations, to deliver a prosperous and equitable net zero carbon economy which enhances the well-being of future generations and the region’s ecosystems, at a pace which delivers against regional and national emissions reduction targets by 2035 and 2050.”*

The priorities for achieving this vision are:

- Energy Efficiency
- Electricity Generation
- Smart and Flexible Systems
- Decarbonise Heat
- Decarbonise Transport
- Regional Coordination

The overarching aim of the Sub-Committee is to oversee the delivery of the REP, highlighting any amendments that may be necessary for the Corporate Joint Committee to then to consider.

Functions

The Sub Committee shall

- Monitor and review the delivery programme for the REP to include performance, financial and risk management and make recommendations to the Corporate Joint Committee on the development and delivery of the REP consistent with the objectives of the Sub Committee;
- Work with Welsh Government, user groups, industry and other regulatory stakeholders to coordinate energy related opportunities across the region;
- Make recommendations to the Corporate Joint Committee on regional Energy for the South West Wales Region aligned to delivering the REP;
- Where appropriate develop a regional response to Wales Government energy consultation documents for approval by the Corporate Joint Committee for submission to Welsh Government;
- Provide advice and observations relating to energy related issues submitted to the Corporate Joint Committee by other bodies, both inside and outside the South West Wales region; and

Attendees

The following shall attend the Sub-Committee

- The Executive Leader of the Constituent Council identified as the political lead for Energy
- The Lead Officer of the Constituent Council identified as the officer/constituent council lead for Energy for the purposes of providing professional advice to the Sub-Committee on behalf of the Chief Executive of the Corporate Joint Committee
- The Executive Member from Carmarthenshire County Borough Council for Energy
- The Executive Member from the City and County of Swansea Council for Energy
- The Executive Member from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for Energy
- The Executive Member from Pembrokeshire County Borough Council for Energy
- Private Sector Representations for Energy as a non-voting representative
- Officers of constituent councils with management responsibility for Energy (or their nominated representatives) for the purposes of presenting reports and answering any technical questions raised by the Sub-Committee
- Minute Taker (Democratic Services of Neath Port Talbot Council)

The following shall be entitled to attend any Sub-Committee Meeting:

- Chief Executive of the Corporate Joint Committee (Chair) or their nominated representative
- Private Sector representatives
- Monitoring Officer of the Corporate Joint Committee or their nominated representative
- S151 Officer of the Corporate Joint Committee or their nominated representative
- Any invitees of the Chief Executive of the Corporate Joint Committee

Frequency of Meetings

The Sub-Committee shall meet every six (6) months subject to any additional meetings that shall be called to address specific matters or if unanimously agreed by the Sub-Committee.

Where a special meeting is required, this will be convened by the Chief Executive of the Corporate Joint Committee.

Unless notified to the contrary, all meetings shall take place remotely via Microsoft TEAMS

Chair

The meeting shall be chaired by the Executive Leader of the Constituent Council identified as the political lead for Regional Transport Planning.

In their absence, the meeting shall be chaired by an alternative Leader from a Constituent Council as agreed by the collective Constituent Council leaders.

Decision Making

The Sub Committee shall have no decision making powers unless expressly granted by the Corporate Joint Committee

Each constituent council member (excluding the Chair) has one vote and the Chair will not have a casting vote

Substitutions

The Executive Members of each Constituent Council shall be entitled to appoint a representative to attend in their absence subject to notification being provided to the Chief Executive of the Corporate Joint Committee

Quorum

A quorum for the meeting shall be an elected representative from each of the Constituent Councils that comprise the Corporate Joint Committee (excluding the Chair).

Constitution and Procedure Rules

The constitution of the Corporate Joint Committee shall apply to any meetings of the Sub-Committee that take place.