

# SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Report of the Chief Executive

**Report Title: Corporate Plan Priorities 2024-2025 – Permission to Consult**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To request Members' approval to consult with stakeholders on the actions/steps the Committee proposes to undertake to deliver the wellbeing objectives set for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee in 2024/25.
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	It is recommended the Corporate Joint Committee authorises the Chief Executive to undertake formal consultation on the wellbeing objectives and the proposed actions/steps to be taken in 2024/25 to deliver the wellbeing objectives.
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### **Introduction / Background:**

The Committee approved the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Corporate Plan 2023-2028 in October 2022. The Plan set out the following three objectives.

- 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.
- 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 current and future generations of people and communities, good for our environment and good for our economy and places (rural and urban).
- 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.

The Plan's appendix sets out the actions/steps to be taken in 2023/24 to achieve the objectives, including timescale and measures. A number of these actions have been achieved. More detail will be provided in the 2023/24 Annual Report.

Audit Wales, in presenting their recent letter to the Committee, concluded that the Committee had met the statutory duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2014.

This report proposes no change to the wellbeing objectives set for the Committee but it does update the actions/steps that the Committee proposes to take in 2024/25 in pursuit of those

objectives, subject to the Committees approval after consultation. It is proposed that a similar consultation process be undertaken again this year, whereby consultation was organised through the consultation mechanisms already operated by individual councils as well as general promotion of the opportunity to comment on the proposals and direct mailing of other key stakeholders.

Subject to sufficient resources the proposed actions/steps for 2024/25 are as follows:

**To collaboratively progress the implementation of the Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Regional Energy Strategy thereby improving the decarbonised economic well-being of South West Wales for our future generations Regional Economic Well-being**

- Explore opportunities to support the range of activities set out in the Investment Zone prospectus;
- Further develop the skills and supply chain arrangements across the region to maximise the benefits from investments in Floating Offshore Wind and wider renewable energy developments;
- Work to clarify the successor funding arrangements for Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up funding;
- Continue to develop work to improve the promotion of and access to investment opportunities across the region;
- Further develop the regional work to enhance the visitor economy;
- Continue work with Net Zero Industry Wales to develop a regional investment pack, to promote the area to potential investors;
- Test the Regional Energy Strategy to ensure its deliverability and support the completion of work to establish the Local Area Energy Plans;

**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 current and future generations of people and communities, good for our environment and good for our economy and places (rural and urban).**

- Further progress the development of the Regional Transport Plan in line with the delivery agreement submitted to Welsh Government in 2023/24;
- Continue to press Welsh Government for the funding necessary to meet the statutory duty to prepare a regional transport plan.

**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.**

- Prepare to start the process of developing the regional Strategic Plan for south west Wales once in receipt of Welsh Government guidance;
- Investigate the options for delivering the expertise and support needed to complete the Strategic Development Plan.

The proposed steps will be refined in light of consultation responses received and a final set of proposed actions/steps will be submitted to the Committee for approval before the end of March 2024 as part of the corporate planning process. The final proposal will include timescales, resource allocations and the means of monitoring progress.

In addition to updating the actions/steps linked to the wellbeing objectives, the corporate plan will also contain a number of improvement actions linked to the governance arrangements of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee. This will include responses to feedback received from Audit Wales, the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Equality and Human Rights Commissioner, alongside new statutory duties such as the need to develop a Participation Strategy.

### **Financial Impacts:**

The resources available to the Corporate Joint Committee are finite and therefore the programmes of work will need to be deliverable within the budget constraints, further representation will be made through WLGA and to Welsh Ministers regarding the resource impacts of the statutory duties placed upon CJsCs.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact assessment to be completed for this report.

### **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The WBGFA requires the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee to consult on any proposal to change its wellbeing objectives. It is not proposed that the wellbeing objectives should be amended but that the actions/steps to achieve the objectives are updated for the next planning period.

### **Legal Impacts:**

There is no requirement to undertake public consultation on the updating of priorities as part of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, consultation is only required when setting or changing objectives.

### **Risk Management Impacts:**

Failure to update the actions/steps would create a risk that the wellbeing objectives would not be achieved, adversely impacting the reputation of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

### **Consultation:**

It is proposed that the proposed actions/steps are subject to formal consultation prior to finalising the Corporate Plan for 2024/25.

**Reason for Decision:**

To enable the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee to take on the views of its stakeholders at a point where the actions/steps proposed to be taken in 2024/25 are formative.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended the Corporate Joint Committee authorises the Chief Executive to undertake formal consultation on the well-being objectives and the proposed actions/steps to be taken in 2024/25 to deliver the wellbeing objectives.

**Implementation of Decision:**

Following the conclusion of the 3 day call in period.

**List of Background Papers:**

Corporate Joint Committee Corporate Plan – 2023-2028