

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

21st February 2024

Report Title: Appointment of Deputy Chief Executive

Purpose of Report	To appoint a Deputy Chief Executive to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, capable of exercising the statutory powers of Chief Executive in the absence of the Chief Executive.
Recommendation(s)	It is recommended that the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee create the role of Deputy Chief Executives, and appoint the Chief Executives of Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot as Deputy Chief Executives and they be authorised to act as Chief Executive of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee in the absence of the identified Chief Executive.
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Introduction / Background:

Corporate Joint Committees are required to appoint a number of statutory “executive officers” similar to the roles within principal councils (e.g. Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer). In light of this duty, at its meeting of the 13th January 2022, the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee agreed to appoint a number of statutory officers and the following allocation of roles was agreed:

Function of the CJC	Constituent Authority
Chief Executive	Rotating Annually between Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Swansea.
S151 (Chief Finance Officer)	Carmarthenshire
Monitoring Officer	Neath Port Talbot

In November 2023, the role of Chief Executive passed to Mr William Bramble of Pembrokeshire County Council.

To ensure resilience in respect of service delivery in any absence of the Chief Executive, it would be proposed that Deputy Chief Executive positions be created which shall be capable

of fulfilling the statutory duties of the Chief Executive in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021.

These powers shall be capable of being implemented in the absence of the Chief Executive.

It would be recommended that the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee create the role of Deputy Chief Executive, and appoint the Chief Executives of Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot local authorities as Deputy Chief Executives and they be authorised to act as Chief Executive of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee in the absence of the identified Chief Executive. In the event of any absence, those designated officers will collaboratively to ensure the delivery of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee work programme.

Financial Impacts:

The post of Deputy Chief Executive is not remunerated therefore there are no financial impacts.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

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.

As this report relates to a governance issue alone there is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment.

Workforce Impacts:

The support services provided will be on an ad-hoc basis as and when support is required, and will be carried out by the Deputy Chief Executive within their normal contracted hours with their constituent council, and Chief Executives of respective authorities will keep such matters under review to address workload pressures.

Legal Impacts:

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations came into force on 1st April 2021 the timeframes for the discharging of specific functions. These require the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee to appoint a Chief Executive Officer to keep each of the matters specified below under review, and where the Chief Executive considers it appropriate to do so, make a report to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee setting out the Chief Executive's proposals in respect of any of those matters. The matters are—

- (a) the manner in which the exercise by the CJC of its different functions is co-ordinated;
- (b) the CJC's arrangements in relation to—
 - (i) financial planning,
 - (ii) asset management, and
 - (iii) risk management;
- (c) the number and grades of staff required by the CJC for the exercise of its functions;
- (d) the organisation of the CJC's staff;
- (e) the appointment of the CJC's staff;
- (f) the arrangements for the management of the CJC's staff (including arrangements for training and development).

Risk Management Impacts:

Ensuring the appointment of a Deputy Chief Executive will ensure appropriate resilience arrangements are in place in the event of a long-term absence of the Chief Executive.

Consultation:

No formal consultation required for the purpose of this report.

Reason for proposed decision:

To ensure appropriate resilience arrangements are in place in the event of a long-term absence of the Chief Executive.

Implementation:

Following the three-day call-in period.

Appendices:

None

List of Background Papers:

None