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Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig y Canolbarth
Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Meeting Venue

Meeting Date

Wednesday, 16 November 2022

Meeting Time

11.30 am

For further information please contact

nicola.williams@powys.gov.uk

julie.williams2@powys.gov.uk

11-11-2022

AGENDA

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
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2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
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3.	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
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To receive any disclosures of interest relating to matters to be considered on the agenda.

4.	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
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(Pages 3 - 8)

5.	MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES
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To approve the membership of the Sub-Committees.

(To Follow)

6.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE - SENEDD
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To receive a verbal update by the Chair following the meeting of the Local Government Committee and the Housing Committee at the Senedd on 12th October, 2022.

7.	REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN - UPDATE
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(Pages 9 - 10)

8.	UPDATE OF TECHNICAL ISSUE
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To receive a verbal update by the Chair.

9.	AUDIT WALES REVIEW
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To receive and consider the Audit Brief from Audit Wales.

(Pages 11 - 22)

10.	WIDER CORPORATE DUTIES OF THE CJC
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To receive a verbal update by the Chair.

11.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig y Canolbarth
Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CJC - MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT
COMMITTEE HELD AT ON MONDAY, 4 JULY 2022**

PRESENT

Powys County Council

County James Gibson-Watt, Leader / Vice Chair of the Mid Wales CJC

Dr Caroline Turner, Chief Executive

Nigel Brinn, Executive Director

Clive Pinney, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Debby Jones, Professional Lead - Legal

Nicola Williams, Strategic Programme Delivery Manager (CJC)

Julie Williams, Programme Support Officer (*taking notes*) (CJC)

Ceredigion County Council

County Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader / Chair of Mid Wales CJC

Eifion Evans, Chief Executive

Barry Rees, Corporate Director

Elin Prysor, Monitoring Officer and Corporate Lead Officer: Legal and Governance

Stephen Johnson, Section 151 Officer and Corporate Lead Officer: Finance and Procurement

Justin Davies, Corporate Manager: Core Finance

Iona Davies/Rhydian Jones, Translators

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe, Vice Chair of BBNPA

Gareth Jones, Director of Planning and Place

1. ELECT CHAIR 2022/23 / ETHOL CADEIRYDD 2022/23

For the purpose of 2022/23 the CJC is required to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair to the Committee. County Councillor James Gibson-Watt nominated County Councillor Bryan Davies as Chair of the CJC for 2022/23. This was seconded by County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

**RESOLVED that County Councillor Bryan Davies be appointed
Chair for the coming year.**

It was proposed and agreed that the Chairs of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee be alternated each year between the Leaders of Powys County Council and Ceredigion County Council.

2.	ELECT VICE CHAIR 2022/23 / ETHOL IS CADEIRYDD 2022/23
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County Councillor Bryan Davies nominated County Councillor James Gibson-Watt as Vice Chair of the CJC for 2022/23. This was seconded by County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

RESOLVED that County Councillor James Gibson-Watt be appointed Vice-Chair for the coming year.

3.	APOLOGIES / YMDDIHEURIADAU
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There were no apologies for absence received by the Committee.

4.	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTERESTS / DATGAN BUDDIANNAU PERSONOL
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There were no disclosures of interests to declare relating to matters to be considered on the agenda.

5.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 25TH JANUARY 2022 / COFNODION Y CYFARFOD BLAENOROL DYDDIEDIG 25 IONAWR 2022
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The Chair proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th January 2022 be signed as a true record but as he was not present at that meeting, County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe, who had attended the meeting, agreed that they were a true record.

(Pages 3 - 14)

6.	ADOPTION OF A CONSTITUTION FOR THE MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE / MABWYSIADU CYFANSODDIAD AR GYFER CYDBWYLLGOR CORFFORAETHOL CANOLBARTH CYMRU
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The Monitoring Officer presented the report on the Constitution of the Mid Wales CJC

(Pages 15 - 128)

The following recommendations from the Report were agreed:

1. Adopt the Constitution for the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

2. Delegate the power to the Monitoring Officer to make minor editorial changes if required) to the Constitution for its publication on the CJC website.
3. To require the Constitution approved under recommendation 1 to be translated into Welsh and published on the CJC website as soon as is reasonably practicable.
4. That the implementation of the creation of the Economic Well-Being – Regional Economic Development (Mid Wales Growth Deal) Sub-Committee be delayed to a future meeting of the CJC to enable HM Treasury to put in place an Order to allow the four Welsh Corporate Joint Committees to be admitted into the Section 33 VAT refund scheme and for Corporation Tax issues to be clarified.

In addition, the following comments were noted:

- At the inaugural meeting on 25th January 2022 the CJC was established and approved the CJC standing orders which were to be replaced by the formal constitution in due course.
- The purpose of this report is to bring the constitution for consideration and approval. The draft is modelled on a new WLGA constitution template.
- As indicated in the report the constitution will be continually monitored and reviewed by Officers to make sure that it continues to be fit for purpose. The draft constitution is set out in 13 sections, including sub-committees, Officers, Scheme of Delegation, Access to Information, code of conduct, budget and financial procurement, contract and legal matters, etc
- The Monitoring Officer advised that if the constitution is approved today, it will result in the setting up of additional new sub-committees which are set out in section 5 of the constitution. Previously the CJC has already set up three sub-committees for
 - Economic Well-being Sub-Committee
 - Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee
 - Strategic Development Planning Sub-Committee
- If approved, the constitution will also be setting up some new sub-committees, namely
 - Governance and Audit Sub-Committee
 - Joint Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
 - Standards Sub-Committee

County Councillor Bryan Davies queried whether we could amend the constitution and the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the constitution can be reviewed at any stage and amended by agreement of the Monitoring Officer and ratified at a future meeting of the CJC.

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe queried clarity around the lay member from BBNPA and, are there any restrictions on Members from BBNPA as they have Local Government Members in addition to Local Authority Members.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed in terms of the membership of the Governance and Audit Sub Committee, that the BBNPA member should come from the Welsh Government representative rather than from a County Councillor. County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe would like it noted that BBNPA only have two active WG Members.

Dr. Caroline Turner thanked County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe for bringing this to the CJC's attention.

It was proposed by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt that the constitution be adopted along with the above recommendations. This was seconded by County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe.

RESOLVED that the Constitution be adopted along with the recommendations

7.	APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEEES TO SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE MID WALES CJC / PENODI AELODAU I IS-BWYLLGORAU CYDBWYLLGOR CORFFORAETHOL CJC
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The Monitoring Officer presented the report on the Appointment of Co-Optees to Sub-Committees of the Mid Wales CJC
(Pages 129 - 134)

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- To appoint as Co-optees to the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee the persons or post holders specified in the Table at section 4 of the report.
- To authorise the Monitoring Officer to accept and appoint the nominations from the Constituent Councils and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (where appropriate) for membership of the Governance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Standards Committee as Co-Optees of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee provided that those appointments are reported to the CJC at its next meeting.
- To authorise the Monitoring Officer to accept (and appoint as Co-Optees) changes to membership of Sub-Committees notified to the Monitoring Officer in writing provided that those appointments are reported to the CJC at its next meeting.

It was proposed by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt that the Report be adopted. This was seconded by County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be adopted and the recommendations approved.

8.	CJC BUDGET REPORT 2021-22 / ADRODDIAD CYLLIDEB CJC 2021-22
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Justin Davies, Corporate Manager: Core Finance presented the CJC Budget Report 2021-22
(Pages 135 - 138)

RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the outturn position for 2021/22 and that an Audit Wales template confirming the position will be completed in due course.

RESOLVED

The Chair agreed that the Budget Report is an accurate record.

9.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS / UNRHYW FATER ARALL
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VAT – The Monitoring Officer confirmed there has been agreement with HM Treasury that CJC's are brought within the Section 33. This will require an Order to be achieved and HM Treasury have indicated this is expected to be in place around the Autumn although no firm date yet.

The Monitoring Officer will keep members informed on the progress of this issue.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded.

County Councillor Bryan Davies

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Regional Transport Plan 2023

The delivery of the new regional transport plans is now the responsibility of the new CJC. I expect WG will issue guidance shortly on how and what is required to complete this task by 31st March 2024.

In 2008 Ceredigion and Powys as part of the TraCC Partnership undertook a joint Regional Transport Plan, and then again in 2014 they undertook the Joint Local Transport Plan, but this time they also came together with North Wales and commissioned consultants to share and reduce the overall costs to each local authority. The result was two plans joint Mid Wales Plan and Joint North Wales Plan.

The CJC will need to commission and deliver the new Regional Plan (work to undertaken between April 2023 and March 2024) and in trying to pre-empt this work coming forward there is a couple of ways the CJC could approach it.

- a) Request TraCC to commission work on behalf of the CJC to undertake an RTP to cover Ceredigion and Powys areas. Estimated consultants £150k divided by two £75k each
- b) Request TraCC to commission work on behalf of CJC to work jointly with North Wales and commission two RTP's one for each region estimated cost £250k divided by eight £31,250 each.
- c) CJC independently appoint consultants to undertake the work on their behalf. – costs estimate as above for consultants.

Because the costs are only my estimates, I would recommend early engagement with consultants through either local authority frameworks or Transport for Wales framework to seek estimate of costs, rather than going out to tender.

The above estimates do not include costs associated with the employment of CJC or Local authority officers to manage process.

Confirmation is required regarding the proposed working arrangements going forward to undertake the Regional Transport Plan project

- 1) Do you require the current working arrangements through TraCC to undertake this task and seeking expressions of interest from framework consultants?
- 2) Do you wish TraCC to undertake discussion with North Wales regarding jointly commissioning work?

Ann Elias, TraCC Regional Transport Projects, and Programme Manager

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Mid and West Wales
Corporate Joint Committee

Via email

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Reference: AC/324/caf

Date issued: 1 September 2022

Dear Colleagues

Approach to auditing the Corporate Joint Committees and understanding their evolving arrangements

As the appointed auditor of the Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs), I set out in this letter that I will be doing an early landscape review to understand the CJCs' evolving arrangements. I also set out my approach to auditing the CJCs for 2021-22 and 2022-23 to meet my requirements under the Public Audit Wales Act 2004 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

CJC commentary/landscape review

In my work programme consultation paper in March 2022, I set out that I would be keeping track of governance arrangements around the creation of new bodies, including the new CJCs in local government, where I have a statutory role.

In the autumn 2022, my team will be doing some work to gain an understanding of the CJCs' evolving arrangements and their plans. I will publish a summary of my findings. The commentary will also:

- provide an overview of the progress of the CJCs in setting up their arrangements to carry out their three functions and meet their legislative requirements;
- compare and contrast the approaches of the four CJCs;

- gain assurance that the CJs are putting in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of their resources;
- provide early feedback to help the CJs learn and improve, and make recommendations where relevant to improve the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the discharge of functions of the CJs;
- understand the approach the CJs are taking to respond to the WFG Act, including setting their well-being objectives;
- identify any emerging areas for improvement or issues that need to be addressed in order to facilitate regional collaboration; and
- help inform the focus of future audit work relating to the CJs.

This work will be done under Section 41 of the Public Audit Wales Act 2004. This Act places a duty on me to undertake studies designed to enable me to make recommendations for improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the discharge of the functions or services of local government bodies in Wales. The work will also support my responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) 2015 Act (the 'Act') as the CJs are now named bodies under the Act. My team will shortly share a project brief providing more information about this work.

My audit requirements

As the CJs are considered to be local government bodies under Part 2 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act), I am required to:

- Give an opinion on the annual accounts of the CJC;
- Satisfy myself that the CJC has proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources;
- Provide opportunity for electors to ask questions or make objections at audit; and
- Consider whether there are any matters that come to my attention that should be brought to the attention of the public and/or whether I should make written recommendations under section 25 of the 2004 Act.

As the CJs are also now named bodies under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, I am also required to:

- assess the extent to which the CJs have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when:
 - setting well-being objectives; and
 - taking steps to meet them.

- carry out such an examination of each public body at least once in a reporting period and report on the results of those examinations to the Senedd.

2021-22 audit

Proper accounting practice will be determined by the income and expenditure recognised by the CJC. For the 2021-22 Statement of accounts, where there have been no transactions in the year for the CJC, I would accept a statement of accounts that simply states that the CJC has had no transactions in the year. As such, there would be no specific proper arrangements audit work. I do not anticipate charging a fee to those CJC's that fall into this category.

As with the accounts, we would accept an Annual Governance Statement that simply states that the CJC was established on 1 April 2021 but has largely been inactive throughout the year.

My audit opinion would simply confirm that we agree there has been no activity or minimal activity.

Those CJC's with income and expenditure below £2.5 million will need to prepare accounts in the form of the normal small body annual return. The annual return includes a proforma annual governance statement. My accounts audit and proper arrangements work to inform my 2021-22 opinion will reflect the low level of activity during 2021-22. My audit opinion will be a limited assurance opinion confirming that no matters have been identified during my audit that indicate that the annual return has not been properly prepared or that the CJC has not complied with its statutory responsibilities. In addition to this work, my teams have been engaging with you over the year to understand your evolving governance arrangements. They will continue to do this. I anticipate charging a fee of approximately £2,000 for this work, but my team will discuss this with any CJC's that fall within this category.

2022-23 audit

At this stage, the CJC's have set budgets for 2022-23 which sit below the £2.5 million threshold which would require a full set of financial statements. The CJC's will, therefore, be required to prepare accounts in the form of the normal small body annual return. As for 2021-22, our audit work will reflect the extent of the CJC's' activities.

However, I recognise that as the CJC's develop, their budgets and levels of income and expenditure may change. For those CJC's with income or expenditure exceeding £2.5 million, a full set of financial statements will be required as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code. Where this is the case, I will discuss with each of the CJC's

my intended work on the accounts and to satisfy myself that the CJC has proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

The CJC's are required to publish their well-being objectives by April 2023. I am required to undertake a dedicated examination of the extent to which each CJC has acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting their well-being objectives. I will seek to incorporate this examination into my commentary work in a proportionate way.

I am also required to carry out examinations to assess the extent to which CJC's have applied the sustainable development principle when taking steps to meet their well-being objectives. I will adopt a proportionate approach to this work. I will also integrate this work with my proper arrangements work in future audit plans.

If you have any queries about the commentary work or audits please contact Derwyn Owen (Derwyn.owen@audit.wales) or Sara-Jane Byrne (sara-jane.byrne@audit.wales).

Yours sincerely



ADRIAN CROMPTON
Auditor General for Wales

Project Brief – Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) commentary

Audit year: 2022-23

Date issued: August 2022

Publication reference number: 3143A2022

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Project brief

Legislative basis for the commentary

- 1 This project is being undertaken in accordance with Section 41 of the Public Audit Wales Act 2004. This Act places a duty on the Auditor General to undertake studies designed to enable him to make recommendations for improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the discharge of the functions or services of local government bodies in Wales.
- 2 It also supports the Auditor General in discharging some of his commitments and responsibilities in relation to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) 2015 Act (the 'Act') which requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities, and each other.
- 3 Our privacy notice can be found on [our website](#) and it provides information about the potential collection of personal information by the Auditor General as part of this work.

Background to the commentary

- 4 In our programme consultation paper in March 2022, we set out that we would be keeping track of governance arrangements around the creation of new bodies, including the new Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) in local government, where the Auditor General has a statutory role.
- 5 Four corporate joint committees have been established by regulations under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to help regional collaboration between authorities:
 - South East Wales CJC
 - South West Wales CJC
 - North Wales CJC
 - Mid Wales CJC
- 6 The aim in setting up the CJCs is to strengthen regional collaboration. They became legal entities as of April 2021 and can have budgets, staff, assets and undertake functions. They are largely subject to the same or similar powers and duties as councils. From 30 June 2022, the CJCs have three functions:
 - Developing transport policies
 - Preparing a strategic development plan
 - Economic well-being - anything CJC considers is likely to promote or improve the economic well-being of its area
- 7 There are a series of statutory guidance documents to support the implementation of the CJCs, with further guidance due out later this year.

Purpose of the commentary

- 8 The purpose of this commentary is to:
- gain an early understanding of the CJsCs' evolving arrangements and their plans;
 - provide an overview of the progress of the CJsCs in setting up their arrangements to carry out their three functions and meet their legislative requirements;
 - compare and contrast the approaches of the four CJsCs;
 - gain assurance that the CJsCs are putting in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of their resources and make related recommendations where relevant;
 - provide early feedback to help the CJsCs learn and improve;
 - understand the CJsCs' plans to set their well-being objectives and apply the sustainable development principle;
 - identify any emerging areas for improvement or issues that need to be addressed in order to facilitate regional collaboration including understanding how the CJsCs align with other partnerships and regional structures; and
 - help inform the focus of future audit work relating to the CJsCs.

Method

- 9 This commentary will include observing relevant meetings, document reviews and interviews with CJC officers and members. As a minimum, we would like to interview the Chair, Chief Executive and Director of Finance of each CJC. We will also get the perspectives of the constituent bodies of each of the CJsCs (ie the councils and national park authorities) through our regular liaison meetings with the Chief Executives and key contacts at these bodies.
- 10 We also intend to speak with Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association.

Overall commentary question

- 11 The question this commentary will seek to answer is: **Are Corporate Joint Committees making good progress in developing their arrangements to meet their statutory obligations and the Welsh Government's aim of strengthening regional collaboration?** To answer this question, we will explore:
- the understanding of Welsh Government's aims for the CJsCs;

- have CJs established effective governance arrangements to meet the Welsh Government aims and statutory obligations;
- whether CJs have clear and effective plans to deliver the Welsh Government aims and meet their statutory obligations;
- how the CJs will fit in to existing partnership arrangements; and
- how CJs are planning to meet their requirements under the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 including how they are setting their well-being objectives.

Output

12 We will provide a report.

Document request

Exhibit 1: document request

Prior to the interviews, we will undertake a review of the documents identified below. However, we would be grateful if you could supply us with any additional documents which you feel may be relevant for this commentary. The list is not exhaustive and requests for additional documents may be made during the course of the commentary. Where documents in the list below are publicly available, we would be grateful if you could please direct us to where we can find them

Document Title

- Plans/documents setting out ambitions for each of the CJs
- Plans/documents outlining how the CJs will carry out the three functions conferred upon them
- Plans/documents outlining how the CJs will be resourced
- Plans/documents outlining how the CJs will meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015, including publishing their well-being objectives by April 2023
- Plans/documents setting out CJC governance arrangements in meeting the legislative requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, and regulations

Timescales for the commentary

Exhibit 2: Timescales for the commentary

Proposed timetable	
Project brief issued	August 2022
Document review Meeting observations Interviews	September-October 2022
Draft output	January 2023

Audit Wales contacts

Exhibit 3: Audit Wales contacts

The table below sets out the Audit Wales team that will be working on this commentary.

Name	Contact details
Director	Gary Emery Gary.emery@audit.wales
Audit Manager	Sara-Jane Byrne Sara-jane.byrne@audit.wales
Senior Auditor	Jason Williams Jason.williams@audit.wales
Senior Auditor	Allison Rees Allison.Rees@audit.wales

