

# Public Document Pack



Meeting Venue  
**By Zoom Webinar**

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Meeting Date  
**Monday, 31 July 2023**

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Meeting Time  
**11.15 am**

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For further information please contact  
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Issue Date 26 July 2023

## AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>
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<b>2.</b>	<b>ELECT CHAIR 2023/24</b>
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- To elect a Chair for 2023/24

<b>3.</b>	<b>ELECT VICE-CHAIR 2023/24</b>
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- To elect a Vice Chair for 2023/24

<b>4.</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</b>
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- To receive any apologies for absence –

Apologies received –

- Barry Rees, Corporate Director
- Justin Davies, Corporate Manager – Core Finance

<b>5.</b>	<b>DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST</b>
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- To receive any disclosures of interest relating to matters to be considered on the agenda

<b>6.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b>
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- CJC & AGM – 4-7-22
- CJC – 19-1-23

(Pages 3 - 16)

<b>7.</b>	<b>REPORT ON CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION</b>
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(Pages 17 - 20)

<b>8.</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF CJC CEO AND DEPUTY CEO</b>
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- To appoint CEO
- To appoint Deputy CEO

<b>9.</b>	<b>REPORT FROM THE CJC CHIEF EXECUTIVE - CORPORATE PLAN AND WELLBEING OBJECTIVES</b>
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(Pages 21 - 26)

<b>10.</b>	<b>REPORT FROM THE CJC CHIEF EXECUTIVE - RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLANNING AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING SUB COMMITTEES</b>
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(Pages 27 - 36)

<b>11.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>
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Next meeting – Thursday, 12 October 2023 at 11am – 12.30 pm

**MINUTES OF THE FORMAL AND AGM MEETING OF THE  
MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON ZOOM ON MONDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> 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 Pryor, 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.	WELCOME
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For the first two items on the agenda, County Councillor Bryan Davies took the role of Chair of the CJC and congratulated County Councillor James Gibson-Watt on his appointment as new Leader of Powys County Council and welcomed everyone to the Mid Wales CJC Formal and AGM Meeting.

2.	APOLOGIES
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There were no apologies for absence received by the Committee.

3.	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
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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.**

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.**

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.

4.	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTERESTS
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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
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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
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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 25<sup>th</sup> 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-OPTees TO SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE MID WALES 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
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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
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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.

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**MINUTES OF THE FORMAL MEETING  
OF THE  
MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 at 11 am to 12.30 pm  
Via ZOOM WEBINAR**

**PRESENT**

**Powys County Council (PCC)**

County Councillor 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

Nicola Williams, Strategic Programme Delivery Manager (CJC)

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

**Attending**

County Councillor Jake Berriman for Agenda Item 6

**Ceredigion County Council (CCC)**

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

Eifion Evans, Chief Executive

Barry Rees, Corporate Director

Duncan Hall, Section 151 Officer and Corporate Lead Officer: Finance and Procurement

Justin Davies, Corporate Manager: Core Finance

**Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)**

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe, Vice Chair of BBNPA

Gareth Jones, Director of Planning and Place

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
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The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and brief introductions took place around the table.

2.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence received for the Committee –

PCC - Debby Jones, Professional Lead - Legal

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

3.	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST
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There were no disclosures of interests to declare relating to matters to be considered on the agenda.

4.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
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The Chair proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be signed as a true record and seconded by Councillor James Gibson-Watt.

5.	MEMBERSHIP OF THE CJC COMMITTEES
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The Membership of the Sub Committees was being presented at the CJC for endorsement.

A few vacancies under the Standards, Joint Overview & Scrutiny and Governance & Audit Sub Committees have now been filled. Awaiting two nominations from the BBNPA in relation to the Governance & Audit Sub Committees.

- **ACTION: Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe to inform the Monitoring Officer of the nominations for the Governance & Audit Sub Committees.**

It was confirmed that during the next BBNPA meeting, appointments will be made and the Monitoring Officer will be advised accordingly and report at the next CJC Meeting.

It was advised that the CJC could authorise the Monitoring Officer to accept those nominations or alternatively they can be formally appointed at the next meeting.

- **RECOMMENDED** that delegation is given to the Monitoring Officer to accept nominations from the BBNPA for the Governance & Audit Sub Committee.
- **RESOLVED** that Monitoring Officer to accept BBNPA nominations for the Governance & Audit Sub Committee and report at next CJC meeting.

6.	REPORT TO THE CJC FROM THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE
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Report presented on behalf of the Strategic Development Planning (SDP) Sub Committee by Councillor Jake Berriman, Chair of the SDP Sub Committee.

Feedback is sought from the CJC members in relation to correspondence (circulated this morning) from the Welsh Government in respect of funding for Strategic Development Plans.

Brief overview

The CJC has an obligation to prepare a Strategic Development Plan across Mid Wales to bring together a plan through the relevant members of the CJC with the constituent Local Authorities and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

The sub-committee met on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Terms of Reference were agreed and a letter had been written to Julie James, Minister for Climate Change. The letter outlined the position and requested that Powys be permitted to lose its 'drop dead' end date in terms of its existing adopted local development plan, so that resources could be set aside for the production of the replacement plan.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> December meeting, a response from the Minister advised that the Welsh Government was disinclined to remove Powys' 'drop dead' end date, stating that Powys needed to carry on preparing the local development plan.

Members will be aware regarding cost of the work and an options paper was produced with six options with focus on option 2 which was how to commence the SDP alongside the local development plans.

The Local Authorities are in different positions with Ceredigion and the National Park having suspended their local development plans for a variety of reasons.

Agreed to focus on option 2 with a caveat that the Chair of the SDP would again write to the Minister to highlight the fact the Brecon Beacons National Park is involved in three SDP's in addition to its own replacement plan and there are no new resources available and that Powys is already committed to a costly replacement plan with no option other than to continue with that provided by the Government.

The CJC Chair wished to note two points –

1. With regards to the letter to Julie James, Minister whilst acknowledging the position the SDP Sub Committee Chair, the Chair recommended that sight of the letter before it was sent would have been useful.

The CJC Chair wishes to be kept informed of any future correspondence to Minister's from the CJC or any of the Sub Committees

2. With regard to the letter received from the Welsh Government this morning, is there a requirement to reply to that letter from members of the CJC or The Chair?

It was acknowledged that the Chair of the CJC would have a copy of any correspondence in this respect going forward.

It was reported that the pressure is to progress the RTP first before the SDP. The RTP guidance is imminent with the SDP manual forecast by the end of this year.

It is acknowledged that the manual is due at year end and an expectation to have the CJC to sign off a Delivery Agreement with the Welsh Government over the timetable of producing an SDP by the end of the year also.

The Chair of the SDP stresses a further conversation led by the CJC Chair and the Chief Executives is required.

Endorsement noted of comments regarding the timeline and expectations.

Concerns were raised about being asked to provide a system without guidance which is essential for formulating for compliance with the Welsh Government.

The Chair welcomes opinions regarding meeting with Welsh Government and agreed that a meeting needs to be arranged urgently to have the drop-dead date lifted, get clarity on the guidance, expectations of an SDP and how it interlinks with Local Plans.

Eifion Evans, Chief Executive of Ceredigion CC stated it was critical that support be given to Powys to get the drop dead date removed.

The CJC Chair, Vice Chair and BBNP are happy to support.

- **ACTION - Chair of the Mid Wales CJC to contact the Minister Julie James to request a meeting to discuss Powys issue with the review of the LDP.**

7.	CJC ANNUAL RETURN 2021-22
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The CJC Annual Return was presented by the Section 151 Officer, with the CJC being in existence in 2021/22 no expenditure incurred and no transactions therefore a nil return reported to Audit Wales.

- **RECOMMENDATION to approve the Annual Return outlining the positions for 2021/22 and noting a nil position.**
- **RESOLVED and approved the CJC Annual Return 2021-22 by Councillor James Gibson Watts and seconded by Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe.**

8.	CJC BUDGET 2023/24
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Presentation of the CJC Budget Report for 2023/24 which includes a strategic planning and core element as laid down in CJC Regulations.

Proposed budget of £175,000 which is a slight increase on the current year which is £160,000.

Key pertinent points –

The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee is a separate legal entity so acting in its own interests.

Outstanding issues are VAT, Corporation tax issues, HM Treasury, these are close to being concluded and some operational challenges also given that the CJC is a separate legal entity.

Noted the SDP discussions earlier and advised this is not the time to be growing the CJC Budget until an absolute direction of travel is confirmed.

Discussions took place around the quorate needed for the meeting and concerns raised around capacity at the BBNPA.

- **ACTION – The Strategic Programme Manager for the CJC is to check with the Monitoring Officer/Regulations and raise with Welsh Government whether it would be acceptable for the two Local Authorities and the BBNPA to delegate a person to attend the meetings, if one of the three elected members were not able to join that meeting, so that the meeting could proceed.**

### **Summary**

An overall budget of £175,000, split into a strategic planning element and a core general budget element as laid down in the regulations and due to the uncertainty in terms of requirements and directions etc. and confidence levels in terms of value for money when it comes to the SDP and RTP which was discussed earlier. Last year's budget was £160,000 so just a slight increase.

It was noted that there is the ability within the regulations to revise the budget within a financial year so if required in 2023/24 where some of the future requirements do

become clearer and we are content with the direction of travel, taking into account the significant budget challenges in each authority, we are able to increase the budget within the year if required.

Any CJC underspend at the end of the year would go into a Mid Wales CJC Reserve account and would need to be split into a strategic planning element and a general element.

## **Pension Fund**

Nominations required for the administering of a pension for the CJC.

Ceredigion CC fall under the Dyfed Pension Fund which is administered by Carmarthenshire CC and it would not be appropriate for the pension fund to be the administering authority for the Mid Wales CJC as Carmarthenshire CC are not part of the CJC themselves and therefore by default the Powys Pension Fund would be the most obvious Pension Fund Administering Body.

Response to Welsh Government on that basis that should the CJC become an employer at some point in the future then the Powys Pension Fund would be the designated Pension.

Appendix A of the report sets out the detail of the £175,000, its split into just over £131,000 being the general budget and just under £44,000 being the strategic planning element.

Its funding two posts being the Strategic Programme Delivery Manager and the CJC Programme Support Officer and other support cost whether it be Democratic Services, Legal support or Finance support.

- **RECOMMENDATION 10.1 A - E is only for Ceredigion and Powys members to approve because it does not include strategic planning.**
- **RECOMMENDATION 10.2 F - J and needs to be all CJC members including the National Park because that is the strategic planning element.**
- **RECOMMENDATION to ratify the decision re the Powys Pension Fund as the designated administering Authority.**

Councillor James Gibson-Watt queried recommendations 10.1 – should section two of the report not be resolved satisfactorily by the end of the financial year that further discussions with Government Officials to take place.

Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe queried the formula for the Strategic Plan budget for awareness going forward, the Section 151 Officer confirmed the BBNPA contribution did not include any support costs.

- **RESOLVED 10.1 A- E proposed by Councillor James Gibson-Watt and seconded by Councillor Bryan Davies as Chair.**
- **RESOLVED 10.2 F – J Councillor Bryan Davies proposed and seconded by Councillor James Gibson-Watt.**

- **RESOLVED** re the Powys Pension Fund being designated as the administering pension fund authority for the CJC this was proposed by Councillor Bryan Davies and seconded by Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe.

9.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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There was no other business to report to the committee today.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and the meeting conclude.

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## MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

**Report Title: Amendment to CJC Constitution**

**Date of Meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To amend section 6 of the Constitution to provide for appointment of a Deputy Chief Executive
<b>Report Author</b>	Clive Pinney, Monitoring Officer
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Duncan Hall, Section 151 Officer
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Clive Pinney, Monitoring Officer

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Constitution was approved by the CJC on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022, and section 6 provides for the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) but not for the appointment of a Deputy Chief Executive Officer.
- 1.2 Rules 6.2 and 2.3 of the Constitution require a CEO to be appointed at the AGM every year with the roles alternating between the Chief Executives of Ceredigion and Powys on an annual basis.
- 1.3 The Chief Executive of Powys County Council was appointed as the CEO for the CJC at its AGM meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Regrettably, the CEO has been on long term sick leave since February 2023 and in the absence of a Deputy CEO, the CJC made a formal decision to appoint CEO of Ceredigion as the CEO of the CJC on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### **2. Contents**

- 2.1 As the Chief Executive of Ceredigion was only appointed as the CEO for the CJC on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 it is recommended that this appointment is continued until the AGM in 2024.

2.2 To avoid the possibility of the CEO being unavailable in the future for whatever reason, it is recommended that the CJC also appoints a Deputy CEO who can deputise as and when required. In order to achieve this, it is recommended that section 6.2 of the Constitution is amended to read as follows: -

**“DUTY TO APPOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**6.2.1** The CJC will appoint a Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer for such period as it considers appropriate from the Chief Executive Officers of Powys County Council and Ceredigion County Council and in accordance with Rule 2.3 of the Constitution the roles they will rotate on an annual basis.

**6.2.2** The Deputy Chief Executive Officer will automatically deputise for the Chief Executive Officer whenever requested to do so by the Chief Executive Officer or when the Chief Executive Officer is absent for any reason.”

**3. Integrated Impact Assessment:**

3.1 There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment.

**4. Workforce Impacts:**

5.1 There are no workforce implications.

**5. Legal Impacts:**

5.1 The recommendations are supported from a legal point of view.

**6. Financial Impacts**

6.1 There are no financial implications.

**7. Consultation:**

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

**9. Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

9.1 To comply with Rules 6.2 and 2.3 of the Constitution and to ensure future continuity of the function of the CEO.

## **10. Recommendations**

**10.1 To continue with the appointment of the Chief Executive of Ceredigion as CEO of the CJC until the next AGM in July 2024.**

**10.2 To appoint the Chief Executive of Powys as the Deputy Chief Executive of the CJC until the next AGM in July 2024**

**10.3 To amend section 6.2 of the Constitution with immediate effect as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report**

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## MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

**Report Title: Corporate Plan - Report from the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporate Joint Committee**

**Date of Meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To set out an update relating to the production of the Corporate Plan for the CJC
<b>Report Author</b>	Eifion Evans, CEO of the CJC
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Duncan Hall
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Clive Pinney

### **1. Introduction:**

The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) is now established and as required by [statutory guidance](#) produced by Welsh Government, is expected to meet a range of requirements, in particular its public sector duties.

In that respect, Audit Wales have a resulting duty to review compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A further update on their “light-touch” commentary is on the agenda for this meeting.

Aligned with similar developments nationally with the other 3 Corporate Joint Committees, the most appropriate method of ensuring the CJC has a mechanism to meet its public sector duties is the formation of a Corporate Plan.

This report provides an update on the work ongoing to develop the Mid Wales CJC’s first ever Corporate Plan, including the draft Vision and Wellbeing Objectives, and forward work plan to proposed adoption.

## 2. Background

The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) was formally established in January 2022, and the work of the committee has proceeded to formally adopt and establish its operating protocols, appoint roles, and evolve as legislation and subsequent guidance issued by Welsh Government. All meeting papers and decisions are uploaded onto the Powys Council website [here](#).

The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee has constituted three sub-committees, as defined in legislation and subsequently laid down in regulations, in the following three areas:

- **Strategic Planning:** with the function of preparing a strategic development plan (and accordingly Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- **Transport:** with the function of developing policies under section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000(1) is, in respect of the area of each constituent council, to be exercised by the Mid Wales CJC, and not by the constituent council.
- **Economic Wellbeing:** with the function as defined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 grants the Mid Wales CJC the same powers as the constituent Councils.

The CJC and its sub-committees are made up of Local Government Authorities which in the Mid Wales Region include Ceredigion County Council, Powys County Council, and the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) (the latter of which is involved in matters relating specifically to Strategic Planning).

Guidance has subsequently issued by Welsh Government, setting out detailed requirements/expectations in matters relation to Transport and Strategic Planning.

Further planning work has been undertaken in respect of the three sub-committee areas and will be set out in the remaining business of this meeting.

### **3. Developing a Corporate Plan for the CJC**

In July 2023, relevant Political Members and Senior Officers from the three CJC partner organisations met to workshop some key principles around developing our approach in the three areas of work.

Throughout the establishment and evolution of the Mid Wales CJC, the political steer (from Welsh Government and the region) has been on the basis of:

- The role and remit of the CJC is for the CJC itself to decide (within the context of legislation, regulation and subsequent guidance).

Mid Wales has a strong track record of partnership working, and local government in the region has already established and successfully enabled a number of regional partnership and decision-making structures to support regional working. In that regard, it is important to acknowledge the particular challenges, opportunities and institutional capacity/capability in the region.

The establishment of the CJC offers significant opportunities and will present a significant change to the way we support our region.

However, the practical implications and consequential changes to our processes will take time to plan and implement. The CJC will need to set out how it intends to comply with its public sector duties – and there are time bound elements the CJC will need to deliver.

It should also be a clear principle that any structure we put in place should be effective as well as efficient with due regard to the characteristics of the Mid Wales region and its constituent Local Authorities.

As a result, we intend to develop the approach on an iterative basis. The Corporate Plan will need to reflect the high-level approach initially, be informed by the developing work of the sub-

committees, and then be regularly reviewed and leavened with detail over time.

### **3. Vision**

The Vision for the work of the CJC will need to be developed and set out in the Corporate Plan.

Mid Wales and its Constituent Councils and the National Park have a number of existing plans and strategies that could be used as a basis for forming a cohesive and integrated Vision that spans Economic Wellbeing, Transport and Strategic Planning.

Fundamentally however, the work of the CJC has a significant sphere of influence on the accessibility and availability of opportunities for our residents and business in Mid Wales, both now and in the future.

### **4. Wellbeing Objectives**

The Constituent Councils and the National Park have already set out how they will be contributing to the national wellbeing goals in their respective Corporate Strategies and Well-Being plans.

The CJC however, will also need to develop and set out Corporate Well-being Objectives in tandem with a Wellbeing Statement.

These will be developed and consulted upon as part of the Corporate Plan, however the following Well-being Objectives are proposed in draft:

#### **Draft Well-being Objective 1**

*‘To improve the economic well-being of Mid Wales for future generations by narrowing the gap between key economic indicators such as wage rates and productivity relative to other parts of Wales and the UK and creating sustainable growth.’*

#### **Draft Well-being Objective 2**

*‘To collaboratively and sustainably improve transport connectivity and infrastructure in Mid Wales to benefit the residents who live and work in the region, grow the economy and raise productivity.’*



### **Draft Wellbeing Objective 3**

*'To provide consistent regional policies and guidance for Sustainable Development in Mid Wales that clearly set out our priorities for spatial growth.'*

### **5. Forward Work Plan**

The work to develop a draft Corporate Plan is well underway. Whilst the CJC is overdue on the development and publication of its Well-being Objectives (due April 2023), it should be noted that significant work has been underway to understand the implications of the legislation, regulations and guidance – and determine the best approach for Mid Wales.

The following forward work plan for the development and adoption of the Corporate Plan is proposed:

July 2023	Finalisation of the draft corporate plan
August 2023	Officer engagement and review.
September 2023	Workshop
October 2023	Consultation
November 2023	Review/Amendments
December 2023	Adoption & Publication

### **6. Integrated Impact Assessment:**

6.1 An IIA will be required to be developed in tandem with the Corporate Plan, and will be published for consultation at the same time.

## **7. Workforce Impacts:**

7.1 None.

## **8. Legal Impacts:**

8.1 None.

## **9. Risk Management Impacts:**

9.1 None at this stage.

## **10. Consultation:**

10.1 There is no requirement for public consultation in respect of this report. However, the draft Corporate Plan will be subject to consultation.

## **11. Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

11.1 To ensure the financial budget is set for the MWCJC in line with relevant legislative requirements applicable to CJsCs.

## **12. Recommendations**

**12.1 Members to note the progress and comment on the proposed approach to develop the Corporate Plan.**

**12.2 Members to provide comment on the draft Wellbeing Objectives.**

**12.3 Members to note the timescale for development, consultation and adoption of the Corporate Plan.**

## MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

**Report Title: Report from the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporate Joint Committee**

**Date of Meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To approve the recommendations set out in the report with regards the progression of delivery of work in the Sub Committees of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee.
<b>Report Author</b>	Eifion Evans
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Duncan Hall
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Clive Pinney

### 1. Introduction

Further to a workshop taking place in June 2023 with Members and Officers of the Mid Wales CJC, it was agreed that the CEO of the CJC would submit a report with recommendations for approval with regards to the delivery of work in the following sub-committees of the CJC -

- Strategic Development Planning
- Regional Transport Planning
- Economic Wellbeing

### 2. Background

The Mid Wales CJC was established in April 2021 by statutory instruments made under the Local Government and Elections Act 2021.

In the meeting of the CJC on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, it was agreed that to enable the CJC to undertake its Statutory Duties, the following three sub-committees be established:

- Sub Committee for the Regional Transport Planning
- Sub Committee for the Economic Well-being (the Mid Wales Growth Deal)
- Sub Committee for the Strategic Development Planning

In addition, an Audit and Governance Committee, a Standards Committee and a Scrutiny and Overview Committee are to be established.

In the meeting of the CJC on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 the appointment of Co-Optees to the Sub-Committees on the Mid Wales CJC were approved together with the Terms of Reference for each of the Sub-Committees as set out in section 5 of the Constitution.

To date the only Sub Committee that has met is the Strategic Development Planning which consists of Members and Officers from Ceredigion and Powys County Council and Bannau Brycheiniog Park Authority.

### **3. Strategic Development Planning**

Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 applies to the Mid Wales CJC and requires the CJC to exercise its function of preparing a Strategic Development Plan (SDP). An SDP is a 20-year plan that takes approximately 5-6 years to develop and adopt. An SDP will outline the regions strategic priorities and create a planning framework to accommodate growth, focusing on Climate Change, Green Infrastructure, Flooding, Housing, Employment, Transport and a range of other key issues and themes. Guidance for SDP preparation is available in the form of an SDP manual. The manual outlines a similar procedure to that of LDP preparation with a number of key stages informed by public consultation.

Given the varying regional plan preparation stages at present, 3 SDP subgroup meetings have been held, whereby options and budget papers have been presented and a lead authority (Ceredigion) agreed. With recommendations from the subgroup reflecting the need to undertake significant preparatory work and a dedicated resource allowed for to begin this.

It is important to note that at present Ceredigion LDP and Bannau Brycheiniog LDP do not have a formal drop-dead date as were adopted prior to the 2015 Planning (Wales) Act. However, Powys LDP is time expired and will cease to be a plan in 2026. There is conflicting advice at a local and national officer and ministerial level as to the implications of drop-dead dates. With Legal opinion sought in the South West Wales SDP region suggesting that plans would continue to carry material weight beyond expiry date provided the plan was still relevant and in accordance with wider national policy.

LDP's and SDPs can be resource intensive and costly to produce, thus given the scale of our region and commitments of some partners i.e., BBNPA being a wider part of 3 SDP regions. It is important to consider what is realistically achievable and what would deliver the most benefit to the region. It has been agreed that an SDP is the most sensible approach with an opportunity to ensure a 'rural proofed' regional plan can be delivered that meets the needs and requirements of this unique central heartland of Wales.

To progress an SDP, it is recommended that the CJC seek clarification at a ministerial level on the implications of Powys moving to progress an SDP rather than their replacement plan. Powys are currently preparing their LDP and are approximately 6 months behind schedule, Regional recruitment difficulties and requisite budgetary constraints mean progressing both plans simultaneously is unworkable.

Pre-preparatory work on the SDP would center on developing a budget, aligning timetables across the 3 areas, including the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) and the Economic Wellbeing Plan, identifying key priorities, establishing a regional settlement hierarchy. Mapping regional skills, and identifying other authority leads who can assist as well as addressing IT needs across the region. With a view to preparing and submitting a Delivery Agreement for ministerial sign off in 2024.

#### **4. Regional Transport Planning**

Section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2004(4) requires the CJC to develop transport policies and establish a regional transport plan for its area, of which Ceredigion and Powys councils form the plan area.

The CJC must **develop policies** for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within its area, which will implement the Regional Transport Plan.

Once the plan and its policies have been agreed each highway authority (Ceredigion and Powys Council's) will need to write a delivery plan for polices that have been developed.

The Welsh Government issued Regional Transport Guidance on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, it is somewhat preceptive in setting out what the CJC will be expected to cover, and they do not want included, which is somewhat surprising given that the plan belongs to the CJC and needs to set out the regional context of the strategic transport network.

1. We DO want the RTPs to be firmly focused on achieving modal shift.
2. We DO NOT want overly long documents written solely by consultants.
3. We DO want evidence of clear outcome-focused thinking.
4. We DO want you to use innovative approaches and technology in both developing and implementing the RTP.
5. We DO want you to draw on existing analysis and plans, including the work of the Transport for Wales (TfW) Geospatial and Strategic

**Transport Analysis unit (G-STAT).**

- 6. We DO want you to work together as a CJC to produce the RTP.**
- 7. We DO want you to follow the five ways of working set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.**
- 8. We DO want you to use creative ways to engage people to achieve modal shift.**
- 9. We DO want you to include disincentives for car use as well as incentives for more sustainable travel.**
- 10. We DO want the Strategic Development Plans and the Regional Transport Plans to be developed together.**

The guidance sets out an expected timeline for the key Milestones for the preparation, engagement, and approval of the plan.

- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 – CJCs to submit Implementation Plan to Welsh Government.
- 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – CJCs to submit RTP Case for Change including SMART objectives to Welsh Government
- 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – CJCs to submit initial draft RTP, IWBA and RTDP to Welsh Government BEFORE public consultation
- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – CJCs to submit final draft RTP, IWBA and RTDP to Welsh Government
- 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – CJCs to submit final RTP, IWBA and RTDP to Welsh Government
- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – Welsh Government decision on approval of RTPs

This timeline is extremely challenging and therefore until the CJC has had the opportunity to fully consider the resources required to undertake all the tasks to achieve successful delivery of the plan, it would be unwise to sign up to the suggested timeline at this point in time. Whilst the Welsh Government have published the RTP guidance together with other transport related documents, it still hasn't published the new WelTAG guidance which is the necessary process that the CJC is expected to follow to establish our "case for change", one of the first stages of the plan. Also, the "Rural Pathway"; or the Freight and Logistic Plan, which are supporting policy documents has as yet to be published and are needed to understand and ensure the case for change takes account of them.

RTP process that need to be undertaken: -

Case for Change

Implementation Plan

Review of existing Joint Regional Local Transport Plan

Stakeholder Engagement Plan
WelTAG Lite Report
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
Undertake two Gateway reviews of the plan process against the implementation plan
RTP Main Document -formal consultation
Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and scoping report
Submission of final RTP

The Deputy Minister for Climate Change statement issued on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, states that “RTPs *and new Strategic Development Plans will be co-developed by CJsCs to ensure a more joined up approach to land-use and transport planning*”. Whilst there is a need to consider both plans the timing of their delivery will make a “co-development” under the published timeline seem unrealistic, because the two processes will follow different timelines.

The statement also states, “*I have also appointed Cllrs Hunt and Medi to lead a 'Place Based Development Advisory Group'. They will be tasked with examining ways of working between transport, land use planning and development and making recommendations about how those areas can better integrate to achieve shared objectives*” The RTP guidance doesn’t identify how this advisory group will influence the production of our plan and I would suggest this provides further risk to achieving a defined timeline at this stage without further information. However, in commencement of planning the Implementation plan may resolve this point.

The work of the RTP would benefit from the CJC identifying what its regional objectives are, so that we can identify the opportunities to achieve better outcomes, before work commences on the preparation of the RTP.

Whilst delivery of a joint regional transport plan is not something new for the two local authorities, what has changed is the boundary of the new plan. It will no longer include southern area of Gwynedd council therefore, the three local authorities currently involved in the TraCC Mid Wales Transportation forum, will need to consider whether this resource is still required to continue and whether with the development of the new RTP by the CJC requires a different approach going forward, and the continued operation of TraCC is a duplication.

Whilst no formal evaluation of costs associated with the RTP guidance has been undertaken at this point in time it is estimated that resources in the region of £200k will be required.

## 5. Economic Wellbeing

As laid down in legislation, and subsequent regulations, the Mid Wales CJC has been granted the economic well-being function, as defined in Section 76 of The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

This is defined as “...may do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic well-being of its area.”

The economic well-being function may be exercised in relation to or for the benefit of:

(a) the whole or any part of the corporate joint committee's area.

(b) all or any person's resident or present in its area.

The economic well-being function includes power to do anything in relation to, or for the benefit of, any person or area situated outside the corporate joint committee's area, including areas outside Wales, if the corporate joint committee considers that it is likely to promote or improve the economic well-being of its area.

The above are subject to any prohibition, restriction or other limitation on the exercise of the economic well-being function as may be provided for in joint committee regulations or regulations under section 83.

There is no formal guidance issued by Welsh Government in respect of the Economic Wellbeing function (as is for the SDP and RTP). The function granted is defined as a “concurrent power,” in that the CJC and Constituent Councils (Ceredigion and Powys) have the same rights to exercise the powers in their respective areas and those rights are not diminished by either parties exercising them.

It is therefore for the Constituent Councils/Mid Wales CJC to determine what types of decisions, functions and or activity remain at a local level and what would be best undertaken at a regional level through the CJC.

Nationally, work is already underway by the Welsh Government to review its economic strategy, regional economic framework and it has also engaged the OECD to develop an action plan for regions in respect of economic development. An initial workshop was held with Members earlier in July 2023 – and the scope and maturity of the Mid Wales CJC was communicated clearly.

Regionally, we already have a number of partnership arrangements in respect of developing strategy, providing advice, and delivering funding:

- **Strategy and Engagement:** GMW Partnership, Economic Advisory Group (private sector), Regional Skills Partnership, Energy Advisory Board.
- **Delivery:** Mid Wales Growth Deal – with a legally constituted Joint Committee (GMW Board).
- **Hybrid arrangements – spanning regional and local:** Welsh Government Regeneration Funding, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, EU funds previously.



The key principles that are being drawn by the region in respect of the CJC are being developed as part of the development of its Corporate Plan. However, in respect of the economic wellbeing function – there is significant mapping and planning work needed to identify the scope and remit of the CJC in this space.

We can however adopt a strategic role for the CJC in this space initially. Mid Wales already has a strategic vision document (Vision for Growing Mid Wales) that was developed with stakeholders and the cross-sector GMW Partnership. It was the key document that provided the strategic context for bringing forward the Mid Wales Growth Deal and the Regional Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Vision for GMW is being reviewed and updated in line with the existing funding we are now delivering, and the remaining areas of intervention that we may wish to consider providing a strategic direction on regionally.

It is proposed that existing arrangements continue to update the Vision for GMW, it is consulted and refined by the GMW Partnership, then is considered formally by the CJC to adopt as the strategic vision for economic wellbeing.

It is then proposed that the economic wellbeing begins to meet informally in shadow form<sup>1</sup> to begin considering the options to develop and agree the scope and remit of the sub-committee.

The key tasks that this working group would need to resolve are:

- **Resourcing:** Identifying resource requirements and a lead officer
- **Strategy:** provide input and shape the ongoing work to update the Vision for Growing Mid Wales.
- **Action Planning:** Work with the OECD to understand and align work on the action plan to meet both the needs of Welsh Government and the needs of the Mid Wales CJC.
- **Growth Deal:** Further explore and understand the implications and practicalities of a proposed “lift and shift” of Mid Wales Growth Deal into the CJC.

## 6. Integrated Impact Assessment:

- 6.1 There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment for this report as the setting up of the CJC is underpinned by legislation and this report is to establish financial arrangements in accordance with legislation.

## 7. Workforce Impacts:

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7.1 Currently any employment within the MWCJC will be undertaken by constituent authorities and recharged back to the MWCJC taking due account of any associated taxation issues.

## **8. Legal Impacts:**

8.1 Part 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provides for the establishment, through regulations, of CJsCs and compliance will be had with this and other legislative obligations in the establishment of CJsCs. In particular the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations came into force on 1st April 2021 and set out that the CJC should be established and the timeframes for the discharging of specific functions.

## **9. Risk Management Impacts:**

9.1 Currently there are no risks identified with the recommendations in this report.

## **10. Consultation:**

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

## **11. Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

11.1 To ensure that a way forward is agreed to commence delivery of the Statutory Functions of the Mid Wales CJC.

## **12. Recommendations**

**12.1 It is recommended that Ceredigion and Powys Council MWCJC Members approve the following with regard to progression of work with the three sub committees of the CJC.**

### **12.2 Strategic Development Planning (SDP)**

- 1. CJC to seek clarification on the legal position of the region moving to SDP work, leaving Powys in a 'no plan' period.**
- 2. CJC to support the resource requirements of pre-preparatory work in establishing the SDP and developing the Delivery Agreement.**

### **12.3 Regional Transport Planning (RTP)**

- 1. To commence the work of the CJC Transport Sub Committee and request Welsh Government to present on the Regional Transport Guidance.**

- 2. To undertake work to assess costs to undertake the RTP.**
- 3. That the existing GMW Transport Lead Officer is asked to lead on the work.**
- 4. To confirm that the southern area of Gwynedd is not included in the new regional transport plan and for the local authorities of Ceredigion and Powys to review the role and whether there is a need to retain the existing transport group TraCC.**

#### **12.4 Economic Wellbeing**

- 1. That the Mid Wales CJC resolves to receive the updated Vision for Growing Mid Wales from the GMW Partnership in the Autumn, for consideration to adopt as the strategy for this area of work.**
- 2. That the Mid Wales CJC provides the mandate for the sub-committee to begin meeting informally to begin scoping and detailing the options as outlined in the report, to report back in a plan by the next available CJC Meeting.**

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