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Meeting Venue
By Zoom Webinar

Meeting Date
Monday, 29 January 2024

Meeting Time
9.30 am

For further information please contact

Nicola Williams

23.01.2024

Julie Williams

nicola.williams@powys.gov.uk /

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AGENDA

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
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2.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies of absence –

Emma Palmer, CEO

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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To receive any disclosures of personal interest relating to matters to be considered on the agenda.

4.	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 2023
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The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 12th October 2023 be signed as a true record.

(Pages 5 - 16)

5.	CJC FINANCE OUTTURN REPORT ON THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR
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2022/23

To approve the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Finance Outturn Report on the Annual Return for 2022-23 presented by Duncan Hall, Justin Davies and Auditors.

(Pages 17 - 28)

6.	AUDIT WALES - CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES - COMMENTARY ON THEIR PROGRESS
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The CJC is asked to consider how it may take forward the recommendations made in the final Summary Report from Audit Wales.

(Pages 29 - 48)

7.	CJC BUDGET 2024-25
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To receive a report from Duncan Hall, Section 151 Officer on the proposed budget for the Mid Wales CJC 2024-25

(Pages 49 - 56)

8.	DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION UPDATE
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To consider and approve the Draft Corporate Plan following the consultation period presented by Paul Griffiths, Consultant.

(Pages 57 - 140)

9.	REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE
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To receive the report on the update of the Regional Transport Planning Sub Committee, together with the associated appendices presented by Ann Elias.

(Pages 141 - 166)

10.	REPORT ON THE PROGRESS IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING THE ECONOMIC WELLBEING SUB COMMITTEE
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To receive a report on the progress in relation to establishing the Economic Wellbeing Sub Committee presented by Carwyn Jones-Evans.

(Pages 167 - 170)

11.	REPORT FROM STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE
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To receive a report from the Strategic Development Planning Sub Committee presented by Sarah Groves-Phillips.

(Pages 171 - 178)

12.	REPORT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS FOR THE MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE
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To receive a report on the Compliance of the Mid Wales CJC with the Welsh Language Standards.

(Pages 179 - 182)

13.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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To receive any other business.

14.	DATES OF NEXT MID WALES CJC MEETINGS
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Thursday, 9th May 2024 at 2 pm to 3.30 pm

(AGM) Thursday, 18th July 2024 at 10 am to 11.30 am

Tuesday, 22nd October 2024 at 2 pm to 3.30 pm

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**MINUTES OF THE
 MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE
 HELD ON THURSDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 2023
 11 am to 12.30 pm via Zoom Webinar**

PRESENT

Powys County Council

County Councillor James Gibson-Watt, Leader / Chair of the Mid Wales CJC
 Diane Reynolds, Interim Director, Economy & Community Services (DR)
 Clive Pinney, Head of Legal and Democratic Services / CJC Monitoring Officer
 Nicola Williams, Strategic Programme Delivery Manager (NW)
 Julie Williams, Programme Support Officer (*taking notes*)

In attendance:

Paul Griffiths, Consultant (PG)
 Sara-Jane Byrne, Audit Manager, Audit Wales (SJB)

Ceredigion County Council

County Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader / Vice Chair of Mid Wales CJC
 Eifion Evans, Chief Executive (EE)
 Barry Rees, Corporate Director (BR)
 Duncan Hall, Section 151 Officer and Corporate Lead Officer: Finance and Procurement (DH)
 Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer-Legal & Governance Services (& Monitoring Officer) (EP)

In attendance:

Sarah Groves-Phillips, Planning Policy Manager, Economy & Regeneration (SGP)
 Ann Elias, TraCC Projects and Programme Manager (AE)
 Carol Thomas, Translator

Bannau Brycheiniog

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe, Vice Chair of BBNPA (GR)
 Gareth Jones, Director of Planning and Place (GJ)

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
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The Chair welcomed everyone to the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Formal Meeting and introductions for Diane Reynolds and Sara-Jane Byrne took place.

2.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies received -

Powys County Council

Jack Straw, Interim Chief Executive

Nigel Brinn, Executive Director, Economy & Environment

County Councillor Jake Berriman

Ceredigion County Council

Carwyn Jones-Evans, Growth & Major Development Service Manager

Justin Davies, Corporate Manager: Core Finance

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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To approve the minutes of the Mid Wales CJC & AGM Meeting held on 31st July 2023.

County Councillor Bryan Davies proposed that the minutes of the CJC & AGM meeting held on 31st July 2023 be signed as a true record, County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe seconded, also agreed by The Chair, County Councillor James Gibson-Watt.

5.	AUDIT WALES LETTER "COMMENTARY ON CJC'S PROGRESS MID WALES CJC - SARA-JANE BYRNE, AUDIT MANAGER
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The Audit Wales letter dated 21st August 2023 had previously been circulated to members of the CJC.

The Chair welcomed Sara Jane Byrne from Audit Wales to the meeting who provided CJC members and officers with a summary of the key findings from the letter. The following was noted:

The Auditor General of Wales has been appointed as Auditor for the Corporate Joint Committee. The letter aims to better understand the progress of the CJC with some initial Audit work undertaken Autumn 2022, presented to the CJC during Springtime 2023 and again in early Summer 2023.

It is acknowledged that work will have moved on since the date of the letter but just to draw out several points –

- Understanding the Welsh Governments aims for the CJC's -

At the time of undertaking the work there were mixed views of the value of the CJC's but CJC's recognised that it had a Legal requirement and was progressing with what was required.

Cllr Bryan Davies stressed the sense of frustration with the Welsh Government's preparedness for the new Body within all CJC's, not just Mid Wales, particularly around the financial status issues. Cllr James Gibson Watt commented that as we are only two LAs in the Mid Wales CJC, we already have got in place arrangements for joint working.

- Evolving governance arrangements –

The core arrangements were in place, at the time there was only one Sub Committee up and running and Audit Wales were setting out their expectations that governance arrangements be commenced as things progressed.

- CJC's plans to deliver the Welsh Government aims and meet their statutory obligations –

The CJC was developing its priorities and was positive to see that it was making progress, especially with its Strategic Development Planning function and it was agreed to set up a dedicated team to support that.

Audit Wales acknowledges the financial status issues and the RTP Guidance but wishes to see more progress around the RTP side. A CJC Workshop has recently taken place and Audit Wales are keen to learn what progress has been made. (This is on the agenda today).

- How the CJC relates to existing partnership arrangements –

The Auditor General commented several times on the complexity of the landscape and the keenness to understand how these corporate bodies will all work together. From the draft Corporate Plan at the time, the CJC recognises that it needs to work with all the different partnerships and again the Auditor General will expect further work around this and, how to maximise the involvement of Bannau Brycheiniog.

- CJC's plans to meet their requirements under the WFG Act, including setting their well-being objectives –

At the time the CJC had not published its Well-being objectives although draft ones had been commented on. Audit Wales wanted to highlight that it's about how the CJC has a statutory duty to apply the Sustainable Development principle and the opportunity that brings.

Audit Wales are intending to publish a National Report in the next couple of weeks which will include a high-level summary of the cumulative findings from across the four CJC's and set out the Auditor General's expectations of the CJC's for the next 12/18 months.

Findings are general, as it recognised the four CJC's are at different points and as such some of the aspects will be more pertinent than others, so needs to be read in conjunction with the individual letters.

An advanced embargoed copy of the National Report will be sent to each CJC prior to publication.

County Councillor Bryan Davies reiterated the frustration felt by the four CJC's with the Welsh Government and sought assurances that these had been feedback?

SJB confirmed CJC frustrations had been fed back to Welsh Government who have also had sight of the four letters sent out to each CJC. The issues will also appear in the National Report mentioned earlier.

To date SJB advised that the Welsh Government are aware and recognise that there are lessons to be learnt.

The Chair thanked SJB and noted the four CJC's analysis, the different make up and number of authorities that may be included in each CJC.

The Chair reiterated from a Mid Wales CJC perspective, the value of the CJC, as two local Authorities that make it up plus Bannau Brycheiniog, where there are already joint working relationships on a wide range of issues including Education.

The Chair points out, the CJC is trying to avoid duplication of work and acknowledges that WG have given the CJC's a variable geometry to work within. The CJC will be adapted to work for the best of people in Mid Wales and for the Local Authorities and to ensure that work is not diverting from that which is best left at local level.

SJB confirmed that there were statutory functions and powers that the CJC had to fulfil but flexibility was one Welsh Governments concepts for each CJC. The National Report will reflect what was found a year back for example but recently things have been a bit more optimistic with the conclusion of the financial status and other issues.

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe reiterated that Bannau Brycheiniog cross over several CJC's and the impact that this causes on Officers in terms of the work required and number of memberships on CJC's Sub Committees. Some guidance/stability would be appreciated as far as the Bannau Brycheiniog is concerned.

SJB acknowledges there is a role that the National Parks will work within and given the geographical reach of Bannau Brycheiniog and their own duties, it is important that as a CJC they look to maximise that perhaps beyond things like Strategic Development Planning where the role is key. Audit Wales wants to ensure that these conversations were happening and that the National Parks are being engaged as appropriate considering their broader remit.

County Councillor Bryan Davies wanted to note that potentially there will be another National Park (North) that will become a member of the CJC.

Audit Wales are not able to comment on that specifically, but Welsh Government would be better placed on the dynamics and practical implications.

EE expressed concern with the language used in respect of the Audit Wales presentation earlier, i.e., "the expectations of the Auditor General."

The CJC must work within the parameters of the legislation and are accountable directly to Welsh Government. It is agreed that the CJC is regulated by Audit Wales, but the language used about maximising benefits, is for the discretion of members of the CJC Board. In recent communications with Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change it was clear to the Partner organisations that the CJC must clearly be utilised to add value for the taxpayers of that region and therefore the discretion must sit with the Chair, Vice Chair and the representative from Bannau Brycheiniog. Agreed that Mid Wales CJC is accountable to Audit Wales but only by proving that it is adding value.

SJB acknowledges this point, reiterating that Audit Wales are keen to see progress around the statutory functions of each CJC and that best use is being made of those resources. The National Report will cover many of these aspects.

6.	APPROACH TO AUDITING THE MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE 2023 - SARA-JANE BYRNE, AUDIT MANAGER
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A letter setting out the approach to auditing the CJC which follows on from an earlier letter about the financial audit.

Audit Wales will monitor the CJC's progress over the coming year and attending meetings and seeing documents will assist with this. It sets out the small fee, showing the work over that year.

It was noted that it would have been advantageous to know about the Audit Wales fee at the beginning of the financial year so that it could have been budgeted accordingly.

In the first instance, the CJC's were not invited to discuss the fees and secondly the fees were issued during the financial year.

Audit Wales must recognise that the discretion sits with the Board and with the financial pressures that all three partner agencies will be facing over the coming year there has to be assurances of what is being budgeted.

SJB acknowledged this, advising that Audit Wales wanted to finish a piece of work which had been funded by the Welsh Consolidated Fund before determining work needed and issuing notice of that work. Discussions have already taken place internally within Audit Wales to ensure that advance notice is given for any future fees.

7.	CJC - CORPORATE PLAN FINAL DRAFT / FEEDBACK FROM CJC WORKSHOP ON FRIDAY, 6TH OCTOBER 2023
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It is to be noted on record that Paul Griffiths has been thanked for an excellent job in producing the draft CJC Corporate Plan.

Upon approval today, the draft CJC Corporate Plan will be circulated in its draft form for consultation. The document will then be translated and then go to formal public consultation for a set period.

An important point to remember is that there has been an extensive internal consultation, taking it as a combination of the Corporate Plans and the Corporate priorities of the three Partner organisations already in place and to this effect again we thank Paul Griffiths for bringing those three areas together.

The CJC Corporate Plan will be a framework for future developments. The CJC is made up of three organisations and the draft plan tries to ensure that this is embedded without duplicating or contradicting what is already in place.

Workshops have taken place over the past few months and comments raised have been included in the draft plan and further comments will be taken into consideration as part of the consultation process.

Further new comments will be shared amongst the Board and decisions on appropriate revisions and timings in readiness for the next Mid Wales CJC Formal Meeting on Thursday, 18th January 2024. Expectations are that there will be a Corporate Plan confirmed and out to the public in the early New Year.

PG spoke briefly around the issues of Well-being in future generations again reiterating how it is up to the CJC Board to decide what work is done and how far it is taken. There are resources and timing issues to be taken into consideration also.

In summary and on a positive note, the intent of the Corporate Plan is to be a valuable document for the CJC, used as a framework and communicating clearly to the wider public as well as the Regulators and other partners.

County Councillor Bryan Davies thanked everyone for the excellent CJC Workshop held last week at County Hall, Llandrindod Wells and that all comments have been included in the draft Corporate Plan.

Therefore, happy to propose a recommendation that we approve the draft Corporate Plan today on the proviso that any new comments can be taken into consideration and added before the final Plan is approved.

RECOMMENDATION

- **That the CJC approves the draft Corporate Plan for the consultation exercise to take place.**

County Councillor Bryan Davies proposes that the draft Corporate Plan is approved for the consultation exercise to take place and this was seconded by County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe.

8.	CJC FINANCE UPDATE
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The Section 151 Officer presented the Report.

1. Outturn position for last financial year 2022-23

This budget is split between the General Budget which relates to Ceredigion and Powys and then the Strategic Planning Budget.

Both budgets show an underspend position, partly because the CJC is in its early stages and constraints were in place whilst awaiting confirmation of VAT reclaim.

Summary of Appendix A presented to meeting.

There should be an audited position of the CJC by the 18th January 2024 meeting.

2. A proposed update in terms of the current year's budget for 2023-24

Budget for the current year has already been approved, proposed amendments under Appendix B need approving.

These include costs in terms of staffing and Audit Wales fees with some minor adjustments re current commitments and projections, e.g., democratic support and translation.

It is proposed to use a small number of reserves carried forward from last year, both on the General and Strategic budgets as shown in the Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 9 in the Report

9.1 a To note the outturn for the General Budget for the Mid Wales CJC for 2022-23, a spend of £61,342 outlined in Appendix B.

b To approve the General Budget for the Mid Wales CJC for 2023-24 of £146,255 as outlined in Appendix B.

County Councillor James Gibson Watt and County Councillor Bryan Davies voted to recommend the above in Section 9.1a of the Report.

County Councillor Bryan Davies, County Councillor James Gibson Watt and County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe voted to recommend the Section 9.1b of the Report.

9.	MEMBERSHIP OF CJC SUB-COMMITTEES - BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG
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It was noted that a request had been received from Bannau Brycheiniog to be included in all Sub Committees for all elements associated with the legislation.

To reiterate, there are three pillars underpinning the CJC –

1. Strategic Development Planning where Bannau Brycheiniog must have and do have an input.
2. Economic Development and Regeneration.
3. Regional Transport Planning.

Discussions concluded along with legislation, that input was not required from Bannau Brycheiniog in the Economic Development Group neither does it include the requirement for the Transport link across Mid Wales. The statutory responsibilities for these areas sit solely with Powys CC and Ceredigion CC and not therefore appropriate for Bannau Brycheiniog to sit as part of any discussions within these groups.

The decision was relayed to Bannau Brycheiniog and these have been accepted.

To clarify, Bannau Brycheiniog will remain compliant with the legislation in their presence around the Strategic Development Planning but not with the other two Sub Committees.

GJ, Bannau Brycheiniog is happy with recommendation but to reiterate a clear link between Strategic Development Planning, Regional Transport and the Economic Well Being streams, so where appropriate for the National Park to be included on discussions but not necessarily as a member of the formal Sub Committees.

The National Park has specialisms in specific areas to add value to the CJC, e.g., climate change and biodiversity.

County Councillor Bryan Davies commented that he is happy for Bannau Brycheiniog to be included in discussions as suggested by Gareth Jones.

The Chair confirmed the necessity of including Bannau Brycheiniog in discussions but without being formal members of the Sub Committees.

RECOMMENDATION

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe proposed to accept Item 9 of the agenda, i.e., after discussions along with legislation, that input was not required from Bannau Brycheiniog in the Economic Development Group neither does it include the requirement for the Transport link across Mid Wales be approved and this was seconded by County Councillor Bryan Davies.

10.	UPDATE FROM SUB COMMITTEES (RTP / SDP / ECONOMIC WELLBEING)
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EE gave a summary of the Audit Wales Report which raised concerns around progress not being made in all Sub Committees.

Firstly, to record recognition for the work undertaken by several Officers in progressing these Sub Committees to date.

Pressures and timelines have been shared with the Board and the intention to further progress the work necessary for the creation of a Regional Strategic Plan with Sarah Groves-Phillips, Planning Policy Manager leading a virtual team on this.

Second is the Regional Transport Plan under the direction of Ann Elias, TraCC Projects and Programme Manager and documents for consideration are being prepared.

The Regional Transport Plan Sub Committee is meeting on the 23rd October 2023 with the next Mid Wales CJC Formal Meeting on the 18th January 2024 so not possible to seek approval via the usual decision-making process before the cut-off date of 31st October 2023.

- **A request re. authorisation for delegation of decisions for approval of submission to meet the deadline.**
- **We are also requesting funding from Welsh Government to support that work.**

Thirdly, the work around the Economic Well-being focusing on work in relation to the growth deal areas and OECD will be commissioned by Welsh Government and an event has been organised for 27th October 2023 for that purpose.

There are two recommendations for consideration –

- 1. To approve the Regional Transport Plan implementation.**
- 2. Request funding from the Welsh Government.**

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe raised concern around the critical timing of Officers feedback for the document by end of October 2023 and asked for sufficient time to be allocated i.e., to provide a Forward Work Programme in this respect.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. To approve the Regional Transport Plan implementation.**
- 2. Request funding from the Welsh Government.**

County Councillor Bryan Davies proposed to accept this recommendation and this was seconded by County Councillor James Gibson Watt.

11.	STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP) LETTER FROM THE MINISTER
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As in the last minutes of the previous CJC Meeting, Officers wrote to Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change for clarification of the position on Strategic Development Planning.

The letter was responded to by the Minister and this is on the agenda for your information.

12.	DRAFT COMPLIANCE NOTICE WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS REGULATIONS NUMBER 1
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As a new entity the CJC will be required to follow the Welsh Language Standards Regulations.

A letter received from the Commissioner sets out the requirements and County Councillor Bryan Davies is looking forward to work closely with Powys on these requirements and to positively promote the Welsh Language across the regions.

The Monitoring Officer pointed out that the Commissioner's letter indicated that a consultation period has commenced and will continue until the 5th January 2024. The CJC will need to complete the consultation exercise by that date and requests clarification around the proposed approval as the Mid Wales CJC is not meeting until 18th January 2024.

EE suggested that Officers meet to discuss and reach an agreement with the Chair and Vice Chair on how best to address this issue.

The Monitoring Officer suggested writing to the Welsh Commissioner and advising that the next meeting of the Mid Wales CJC is not until 18th January 2024 and could an extension be given to this effect.

County Councillor Bryan Davies approves this suggestion and it's a practical way of dealing with the imminent deadline.

ACTION

Officers to draft a jointly prepared response for consideration by the Welsh Commissioner for an extension to the consultation deadline and that this be an item at the next CJC Meeting on 18th January 2024.

13.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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None.

14.	DATES OF FUTURE MID WALES CJC FORMAL MEETINGS AND CJC SUB COMMITTEES
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Mid Wales CJC Formal Meetings

Thursday, 18th January 2024 at 11 am to 12.30 pm

Thursday, 9th May 2024 at 2 pm to 3 pm

July 2024 to be arranged

October 2024 to be arranged

CJC Sub Committees (To note)

Strategic Development Planning, Tuesday, 17th October at 4 pm to 5 pm

Governance and Audit, Thursday, 19th October at 4 pm to 5 pm

Regional Transport Planning, Monday, 23rd October at 4 pm to 5 pm

Standards, Thursday, 9th November at 2 pm to 3 pm

Joint Overview and Scrutiny, Thursday, 16th November at 10 am to 11 am

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MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Monday, 29th January 2024

TITLE:	The Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023
AUTHOR:	Duncan Hall – Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement-Ceredigion

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. To consider and approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023.

2. Decision(s) Sought

2.1. To approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023.

3. Background and Relevant Considerations

3.1. Regulation 10(1) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that the Responsible Financial Officer of The Mid Wales CJC sign and date the statement of accounts, and certify that it presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the body at the end of the year to which it relates and of that body's income and expenditure for that year.

3.2. The financial transactions for the Mid Wales CJC for the year ended 31 March 2023 are summarised in the Annual Return which is included in Appendix 2.

3.3. Audit Wales have audited the Annual Return and their report is included in Appendix 1. Their Audit certificate and opinion states – 'It is our intention to issue an unqualified certificate and report for the year ended 31 March 2023 and there are no matters in respect of the opinion which we wish to draw to your attention.'

4. Recommendations

4.1. The Board approves the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023.

5. Legal Implications

5.1. Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 , Local Government and Housing Act 1989

6. Human Resources Implications

6.1. There are no HR implications arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Not applicable

8. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Audit Wales – Audit certificate and opinion
- Appendix 2: Mid Wales CJC return for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Mr Duncan Hall
Ceredigion County Council
Canolfan Rheidol
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3UE

Reference: DO/JB

Date issued: 8 January 2024

Dear Duncan,

Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee 2022-23 Annual Return

In accordance with the requirements of Section 12 and Section 13 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 I am giving my report on the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023.

I have undertaken our work in accordance with the specified procedures issued by the Auditor General for Wales. In summary these procedures require us to consider whether the annual statement of accounts:

- has been prepared on a reasonable basis (for example, the figures agree to the underlying records upon which they have been prepared and are consistent with transactions recorded in the statutory accounts of the constituent local authorities for the same reporting period); and
- casts correctly.

Audit report on the annual return relating to Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee for the period ending 31 March 2023:

Subject to the approval of the 2022-23 annual return, we will be able to certify the annual return and issue our notice of completion of the audit and confirm the following:

‘On the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Committee's governance arrangements; and
- that the Committee does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources’.

Other matters

We have no other matters we need to bring to your attention.

Yours sincerely



Derwyn Owen

for and on behalf of Adrian Crompton, Auditor General for Wales

Minor Joint Committees in Wales

Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Accounting statements 2022-23 for:

Name of body: Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers
	31 March 2022 (£)	31 March 2023 (£)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. Balances brought forward	0	0	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	0	160,000	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	0	0	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg termination costs.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	0	76,676	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	0	83,324	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors	0	81,717	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	0	78,283	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	0	76,676	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	0	83,324	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0	0	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
<p>1. We have put in place arrangements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
<p>2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
<p>3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
<p>4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
<p>5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
<p>6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
<p>7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
<p>8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statements and/or the Annual Governance Statement

1.

2.

3.

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statements and/or the annual governance statement.

Committee approval and certification

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2023.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature:	Minute ref:
Name:	Chair of meeting signature:
Date:	Name:
	Date:

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with, guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023 of:

Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion - Unqualified

On the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Committee's governance arrangements; and
- that the Committee does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations

There are no further matters or recommendations that I wish to draw to the Committee's attention.

External auditor's name:

External auditor's signature:

Date:

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

The Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2023.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Financial accounts have been analysed and no concerns were raised.
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	A review of a sample of invoices and records, all payments were found to be accurate.
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Significant risks to achieving its objectives were reported and discussed within the Corporate Joint committee however no official risk register was created.
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	The budgets and items of expenditure incurred were reported to the Corporate Joint Committee.
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	No additional income was received
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts; expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	No petty cash is held
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	No one is directly employed by the CJC.
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	No assets are held

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	The financial transactions are maintained in the account of the CJC. Bank reconciliations are undertaken.
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	The CJC possess adequate control arrangements for accounting. Financial statements are supported by an audit trail. Debtor and Creditor payments were recorded correctly.

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
11. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
12. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text
13. Insert risk area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Insert text


* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Committee are included in my detailed report to the Committee dated _____.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Committee's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Kate Ryde, Kevin Price (SWAP)
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: 
Date: 22/08/2023

Corporate Joint Committees – commentary on their progress

November 2023

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

In the event of receiving a request for information to which this document may be relevant, attention is drawn to the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The section 45 code sets out the practice in the handling of requests that is expected of public authorities, including consultation with relevant third parties. In relation to this document, the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office are relevant third parties. Any enquiries regarding disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to Audit Wales at infoofficer@audit.wales.

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

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Summary report

Overall finding

- 1 Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) are still in their infancy. I was initially concerned about their slow and varied progress, and Welsh Government's preparedness to facilitate their implementation, but there have been more positive signs of the CJCs moving forward recently.

What this report covers

- 2 I have issued letters to each of the four CJCs, which set out my views on their progress. In this report, I set out a high-level summary of my cumulative findings and my expectations of the CJCs over the next 12 to 18 months.
- 3 As the findings in this report are more general, some may be more pertinent to some CJCs than others. Hence, this report should be read in conjunction with the individual letters I issued to the four CJCs. These are available on my website [here](#).

Background

- 4 Welsh Government established four CJCs to help strengthen regional collaboration between authorities:
 - South East Wales CJC
 - South West Wales CJC
 - North Wales CJC
 - Mid Wales CJC
- 5 They came into effect in April 2021 and were given the following functions from June 2022:
 - developing transport policies
 - preparing a strategic development plan
 - economic wellbeing – anything a CJC considers is likely to promote or improve the economic wellbeing of its area

- 6 Membership of the CJsCs consists of the leaders of the councils within the specific region and the National Park Authorities (NPAs) that sit within that region.

The focus of my audit

- 7 As the CJsCs are new corporate bodies, I looked at their progress in developing their arrangements to meet their statutory obligations and the Welsh Government's aim of strengthening regional collaboration. My team did initial work in autumn 2022 and then did some further work between April and June 2023 to update my findings.

Summary of my findings

- 8 From my initial work in autumn 2022, I was concerned that the CJsCs were making variable progress to establish themselves and I felt unable to determine with confidence if they would deliver as intended. I was concerned that they would just do the bare minimum and exist in name only. I appreciated the CJsCs were being implemented at a time when constituent bodies were facing considerable financial and demand pressures, and that they continue to do so.
- 9 Over two years on since their establishment in April 2021 and 12 months since they were given their core functions and duties in June 2022, it is clear that the CJsCs are still in their infancy. Progress of the CJsCs differ in different areas, but overall, governance arrangements are not yet all in operation and there is much work to be done to meet their strategic planning responsibilities.
- 10 Although they are building on city/growth deal arrangements, they haven't all determined how they are going to work with other partnerships and bodies to make the most of resources and expertise. This is crucial given the main rationale for the CJsCs' establishment was to strengthen regional collaboration.
- 11 As I set out in this report and my individual letters, I would have expected more progress in some areas.
- 12 My work identified some positive findings about the CJsCs' progress. All four CJsCs had put in place the building blocks for their development and to meet Welsh Government's objectives. I found examples of CJsCs exploring how they could make the most of the opportunities the new arrangements provide. For instance, as a more efficient forum for regional decision-making and to work collaboratively to tackle some significant challenges. CJsCs were also making the most of the flexibility to tailor their arrangements to fit with their regional priorities.

- 13 Equally, I found several issues, particularly during my initial work in autumn 2022, which posed risks to the CJC's development. For example, commitment to the CJC was mixed, and clarity and progress of plans at that time to deliver their functions was variable.
- 14 There was also a strong view amongst the CJC's that the Welsh Government could have been better prepared on a range of issues to ease the implementation of the CJC's. This included:
 - establishing the VAT status and financial status of the CJC's;
 - understanding the implications for the City/Growth Deals; and
 - clearer expectations of the practical delivery of the CJC's functions and public duties.
- 15 Delays in resolving these issues did affect the implementation of the CJC's.
- 16 However, since the financial status issues have now been resolved, I can see that the CJC's are moving forward, and I am more optimistic about their progress. Appetite for the CJC's is more positive and the CJC's have, or are developing their, plans and ambitions.
- 17 Unlike other joint arrangements, the CJC's are legal entities in their own right. They need to maximise the benefits this affords them if they are genuinely committed to delivering positive benefits for their regions.
- 18 I would expect to see the CJC's further advanced over the next 12 to 18 months. My audit teams will continue to monitor the CJC's progress. I would be concerned if my teams find that the CJC's have made little progress and that they have not addressed the points I raise in this report.

Recommendations

- 19 I have made five recommendations to the CJC's as set out page 14 relating to:
- governance arrangements
 - delivering their strategic planning functions,
 - meeting their public sector duties,
 - partnership working and involving the National Park Authorities
 - meeting their duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 20 These recommendations set out where I would expect to see the CJC's' making further progress over the next 12-18 months in line with those areas raised in this report. Some of these will be more relevant to some CJC's than others so the CJC's will also need to reflect on the points raised in my individual letters. However, the main thrust of this report is that I would expect to see the CJC's further advanced more generally when I do my next assessment of the CJC's' progress.

Detailed report

Background – what is a Corporate Joint Committee

- 21 Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) are new corporate bodies which have some similar powers and duties to councils. They can directly own assets and employ staff. They must appoint a Chief Executive, Finance Officer, and Monitoring Officer. CJCs' membership is made up of the leaders of the councils within the specific region and the National Park Authorities that sit within that region.
- 22 Four CJCs were 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
- 23 The CJCs came into effect in April 2021 and were given the following functions from June 2022:
 - Developing transport policies
 - Preparing a strategic development plan
 - Economic wellbeing – anything a CJC considers is likely to promote or improve the economic wellbeing of its area.
- 24 CJCs are required to comply with a range of regulations and duties including:
 - Well-being of Future Generations Act well-being duty
 - Welsh language
 - Public Sector Equality
 - Biodiversity
 - Child poverty

Why I did this review

- 25 In my programme consultation paper in March 2022, I set out that I would keep track of governance arrangements around the creation of new bodies. This included the new CJsCs where the Auditor General for Wales has a statutory role. As the CJsCs are new entities set up as a result of new legislation¹, I wanted to gain early assurance about their progress. I also wanted to identify any emerging issues that need to be addressed and provide some early feedback to help CJsCs as they continue to develop.
- 26 I did this audit in accordance with Section 41 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004. This Act places a duty on the Auditor General for Wales 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.
- 27 I also did the audit to help fulfil my duties under section 15 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) 2015 Act (WFG Act).

What I looked at – the scope of this audit

- 28 My work sought to answer the question: 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 do this, my team explored the following areas:
- understanding of the Welsh Government's aims for the CJsCs;
 - CJsCs' evolving governance arrangements;
 - CJsCs' plans to deliver the Welsh Government aims and meet their statutory obligations;
 - how the CJsCs relate to existing partnership arrangements; and
 - CJsCs' plans to meet their requirements under the WFG Act, including setting their well-being objectives.
- 29 I did not do this review to determine the validity of, or requirement for, CJsCs.
- 30 My team did the initial work during October 2022 to February 2023 and did some further work to update their findings between April to June 2023.

1 Four Corporate Joint Committees (CJsCs) were established by regulations under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Methodology

- 31 My findings are based on document reviews, meeting observations and interviews with the Leaders, Chief Executives and Section 151 officers of each of the four CJsCs. My team also interviewed Welsh Government officers and asked the views of the constituent members of the CJsCs as part of our routine liaison meetings. My team also met with representatives from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).

What I found: CJsCs are still in their infancy. I was initially concerned about their slow and varied progress, and Welsh Government’s preparedness to facilitate their implementation, but there have been more positive signs of the CJsCs moving forward recently

Understanding of Welsh Government’s aims for the CJsCs

- 32 The CJsCs generally understood and acknowledged the potential benefits of the Welsh Government’s aims for the CJsCs. These benefits included the opportunity to leverage additional investments, work collaboratively to reduce carbon emissions and to increase capacity and resilience by pooling resources to tackle recruitment challenges.
- 33 But at the time of my initial work in autumn 2022, the level of acceptance, optimism, and engagement for CJsCs amongst CJsCs and the constituent bodies varied considerably. I saw some examples of CJsCs embracing opportunities and developing arrangements, but also scepticism from some about the need for CJsCs at all. Given the significant financial and demand pressures being faced by the constituent bodies, the CJsCs were not seen as a priority.
- 34 Welsh Government provided an implementation grant of £250,000 to each region to support their initial planning. However, there was a clear sense of frustration amongst the CJsCs about the preparedness of Welsh Government on a range of issues which would have facilitated the CJsCs’ progress. These included:
- clarity on the financial status of CJsCs, pertinent, for example, for borrowing and pension purposes;
 - establishing VAT status to avoid incurring 20% VAT;
 - understanding the implications for the City/Growth Deals which sit with the UK government; and
 - clearer expectations and understanding of the practical delivery of their functions and meeting their public duties.

- 35 The CJs were frustrated that these matters had not been considered by Welsh Government at the outset and in the pace of progress to resolve them.
- 36 The phased approach to legislation and guidance was quite messy and disjointed and spanned a number of Welsh Government departments. CJs were working through, and responding to, guidance and requirements as and when they came out. CJs identified some practical challenges to meeting their requirements, which they proactively raised with Welsh Government. Welsh Government officials have acknowledged that they have some clear lessons to learn from this experience.
- 37 These issues impacted the pace at which the CJs progressed, but also served to dampen levels of appetite for the CJs, which I also found were affecting some of the CJs' progress.
- 38 Earlier in 2023, I was concerned that there was a risk that CJs would not develop effectively and simply exist in name only, raising questions about their ability to deliver their statutory functions, meet Welsh Government objectives and provide value for money.
- 39 More recently and since the financial status issues have been resolved, there seems to be a more positive attitude about the CJs. When I updated my work in the early summer, I found that the CJs were beginning to show signs of progress. Consequently, I'm more optimistic about their chances of delivering as they were intended than I was in the autumn last year. It will be important that they now continue to maintain this momentum.

Governance arrangements

- 40 CJs have established their core governance arrangements, but at the time of my updated work in early summer 2023, not all the arrangements were up and running across all the CJs. To a certain extent, this reflected the limited activities of the CJs to date.
- 41 The progress of the individual CJs in establishing their governance arrangements are reflected in the letters I have issued to each of them.
- 42 Overall, I found CJs' progress in developing and operationalising some of their governance arrangements to be mixed. They had all put in place arrangements for statutory officers, some on an interim basis. The CJs had also maximised the flexibility to tailor their arrangements and to use some constituent bodies' existing arrangements. In the rest of this section, I highlight some particular areas where I would expect to see further progress over the next 12 months.

- 43 CJCs are required to have Governance and Audit Committees (GACs), but what I found in the early summer 2023, was that not all CJC GACs had been appointed to and were meeting. South West Wales GAC had met twice.
- 44 Similarly, apart from South West Wales CJC, scrutiny arrangements had not all been agreed and implemented. The CJCs don't have to have a specific scrutiny committee themselves, but they have to co-operate, and provide assistance to, the scrutiny undertaken by constituent bodies or via a joint scrutiny committee.
- 45 The CJCs are local government bodies using public money. It is important that CJCs and the constituent bodies determine how the CJCs will be held to account. GAC and scrutiny arrangements should be providing oversight and scrutiny of the CJCs' activities and arrangements. Without this, there is a risk that the CJCs may operate in a vacuum with limited scrutiny and public transparency.
- 46 The statutory guidance on the CJC sets out the expectation that the CJC will set up specific sub-committees for its key functions. Three of the four CJCs had set up functional sub-committees in line with the guidance. However, at the time of my updated work in the early summer, only the Strategic Development Planning sub-committee for Mid Wales CJC had actually met. So, most of these sub-committees were not yet in operation and simply established on paper.
- 47 I recognise that the activities of the CJCs have been limited to date. However, I would expect to see greater progress with the CJCs' governance arrangements being put into practice to provide the necessary checks and balances in line with good governance standards over the next six to 12 months.

Clarity and progress of the CJCs' plans to deliver Welsh Government's aims and meet their statutory obligations

- 48 CJCs were at different stages of their planning. Some had clear ambitions to maximise particular opportunities for their regions. Others were beginning to clarify their plans. Taking account of the need to resolve the financial status issues, the CJCs had all taken a considered and pragmatic approach to their planning.

- 49 CJCs were confident in their abilities to meet their economic well-being duty building on the existing work and progress of the city and growth deals. When I updated my findings in the early summer, not all CJCs intended to transfer their city/growth deals to the CJCs. South East Wales CJC had had a clear ambition from the start to lift and shift the Cardiff Capital Region city deal programme into the CJC and had developed a transition plan to support this.
- 50 CJCs and city/growth deals are regional arrangements, which have similar and mutually beneficial objectives, but different funding and legal bases. So, whatever the CJCs decide, they and the city/growth deal bodies will need to determine how they can optimise resources to manage these arrangements efficiently and effectively for the benefit of their regions. Given my role is to examine how public bodies manage and spend public money, including how they achieve value in the delivery of public services, I will be keen to see how these two regional arrangements operate.
- 51 I found that the CJCs' progress with delivering their strategic development planning (SDP) and regional transport planning (RTP) functions was more limited. The budgets allocated by the CJCs to support the delivery of these two functions varied considerably between the CJCs.
- 52 Mid Wales CJC had determined its options for delivering its strategic development planning function, including staff resources to support this. North Wales CJC had agreed staffing structures to support both planning functions. But at the time of my updated work in May and June, progress in these areas was less developed with the other two CJCs.
- 53 I appreciate that there were some delays in resolving the financial status issues and that Welsh Government had not finalised the RTP guidance. However, as I emphasise in my letters to each of the CJCs, Welsh Government had engaged with the CJCs about the strategic development and transport planning functions so the CJCs should have had some understanding of expectations. For example, Welsh Government officers shared advisory notices recommending early preparation for the strategic development plans in August 2021. There was also an event to discuss CJCs' planning functions in January 2022. The strategic development planning process, in particular, is complex and lengthy and the CJCs need to get this underway.
- 54 Therefore, despite the financial status issues, I would have liked to have seen more progress with the CJCs strategic development and regional transport planning functions. I would expect to see the CJCs making further progress with these functions over the next 12 months.

55 I found that the CJsCs' had made some progress to meet their public sector duties, but this varied across the CJsCs and reflected their limited operation to date. Generally, CJsCs had agreed arrangements to meet their Welsh Language and equality duties often adopting arrangements used by one of the constituent bodies. With the exception of South East Wales CJC, the CJsCs had not published their child poverty action plans. Welsh Government's draft child poverty strategy is currently out for consultation so the CJsCs will need to ensure their plans build on and align with this. Given the CJsCs' potential reach and underlying aims, the CJsCs will need to ensure these duties are actively considered in their activities and not just done in a tokenistic way to tick a box.

Partnership working

- 56 I have commented frequently on the complex partnership landscape in Wales so was keen to see how CJsCs were exploring how they relate to and work with existing partnerships. To make the most of existing resources and to tackle challenges more collaboratively.
- 57 I found that most CJsCs were building on their city deal/growth deal arrangements in some shape or form, but aside from South West Wales CJC, the CJsCs hadn't formally determined how they can work with other bodies and partnerships, including making the most of the involvement of the National Park Authorities (NPAs). Thus, potentially missing the opportunity to coordinate activities and resources for the benefit of the region.
- 58 South West Wales CJC had looked beyond its statutory membership to help it maximise the contributions of key stakeholders in the region. It was positive to see that it had co-opted other bodies, such as universities and local health boards. It had also taken the opportunity to involve the National Park Authorities (NPAs) more fully in its arrangements, beyond the NPAs' statutory role around strategic development planning.
- 59 However, this wasn't the case with the other CJsCs, who had largely not explored how they could involve the NPAs beyond their strategic planning role. The NPAs also have requirements around economic development. Given this and their geography and reach, there is a real opportunity for the CJsCs to maximise the positive contribution that NPAs could have on the delivery of the CJsCs' well-being objectives and functions, beyond their strategic development planning role.
- 60 It will be key for the CJsCs to explore how they can engage and work with other bodies to make the most of resources and expertise. CJsCs have been set up to strengthen regional collaboration and they need to demonstrate that they can do this. I would expect to see more progress on this across all the CJsCs when I do my next piece of work on CJsCs.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WFG Act)

- 61 Like the other named bodies under the WFG Act², the CJsCs must set and publish well-being objectives. They must act in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting those objectives and when taking steps to meet them. CJsCs were required to set their first well-being objectives by April 2023.
- 62 It was concerning that during my initial work in autumn 2022, some interviewees seemed quite unaware of the CJsCs' duties around the Act. But I appreciate that, at that time, the activities of the CJsCs had been very limited and that setting of well-being objectives had not been seen as a priority.
- 63 When I updated my work in May and June, I found that two of the four CJsCs (South West Wales and South East Wales) had published their well-being objectives, although only South West Wales had consulted on theirs. Mid Wales CJC had drafted theirs. North Wales CJC indicated that its well-being objectives would be influenced by the transfer of Ambition North Wales into the CJC and once it had received the final guidance on strategic development and regional transport planning from Welsh Government and appointed planning officers.
- 64 There was a general consensus amongst the CJsCs of wanting to take a proportionate approach to the Act commensurate with their role and activities. It was positive that they had been discussing their approaches with the Future Generations Commissioner's office. Nevertheless, I would expect North Wales and Mid Wales CJsCs to be progressing with setting and publishing their well-being objectives in line with legislative requirements.
- 65 More broadly, the CJsCs have a duty to act in accordance with the sustainable development principle. That framework has the potential to add value to how they plan and deliver their work. As new entities, CJsCs have the opportunity to ensure that the sustainable development principle underpins what they do and how they do it from the outset.

2 The Well-being of Future Generations Act provides for a shared purpose through seven well-being goals for Wales. These well-being goals are indivisible from each other and explain what is meant by the wellbeing of Wales. Further information about these goals is available in the [Well-Being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 Essentials Guide](#)

- 66 As the CJs take forward their plans and start to make decisions about their regions, I would expect CJs to be able to demonstrate that they are putting the sustainable development at the heart of their activities. It would be a significant missed opportunity if they do not do this. It would also raise questions about the extent to which they have proper value for money arrangements given the five ways of working are integral to these arrangements. I will be undertaking examinations of the extent to which they have applied the sustainable development principle in future years, as required by the Act. So, I will be keen to see how the CJs have embraced this opportunity.
- 67 My team has developed some positive indicators which provide an illustrative set of characteristics of what good looks like when organisations act in accordance with the sustainable development principle. The constituent bodies will be familiar with these, and it will be useful for the CJs to draw on these as they deliver their well-being objectives.

Recommendations

68 My recommendations below set out where I would expect to see the CJsCs' making further progress over the next 12-18 months in line with those areas raised in this report. Some of these will be more relevant to some CJsCs than others so the CJsCs will also need to reflect on the points raised in my individual letters. However, the main thrust of this report is that I would expect to see the CJsCs further advanced more generally when I do my next piece of work on the CJsCs.

Recommendations

Governance arrangements

R1 The four CJsCs should ensure that their governance arrangements are up and running and are effectively providing the necessary checks and balances to support robust and transparent decision-making and effective scrutiny.

Strategic development planning and regional transport planning

R2 The four CJsCs should ensure that they take action to further progress with these functions over the next 12 months in order to facilitate an integrated, efficient and consistent approach to strategic planning in line with Welsh Government's aims.

Public sector duties

R3 The CJsCs need to ensure that they meet their public sector duties where they haven't already done so. For example, to publish child poverty action plans and bio-diversity reports. But more significantly, the CJsCs need to ensure they actively take account of these duties in their decision-making and activities.

Recommendations

Partnership working and National Park Authorities

- R4 Whilst South West Wales CJC has co-opted different organisations and the NPAs into its arrangements, the other CJsCs need to determine more fully how they can engage and work with other bodies to make the most of resources and expertise. This includes exploring how they can maximise the involvement of the NPAs beyond their statutory strategic development planning role.

Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015

- R5 North Wales and Mid Wales CJsCs should ensure that they progress with developing their well-being objectives in line with requirements. More broadly, the four CJsCs should ensure they effectively apply the sustainable development principle, so they are well placed to improve the well-being of the populations they serve and can demonstrate that they have proper value for money arrangements.



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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

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Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Budget 2024/25

	Proposed General Budget 2024/25 £	Regional Transport Plan Budget 2024/25 £	Proposed Strategic Planning Budget 2024/25 £	Proposed Total Budget 2024/25 £	
Expenditure:					
Employees					
Employee Costs - Management / Coordination	56,920	-	18,970	75,890	*1
Employee Costs - Strategic Transport	15,000	80,000	0	95,000	*2
Employee Costs - Strategic Planning	-	-	29,500	29,500	*3
Lay Members Allowances	3,750	-	1,250	5,000	
Employees Total	75,670	80,000	49,720	205,390	
Supplies & Services					
External Audit	3,075	-	1,025	4,100	
Insurance	8,400	-	2,800	11,200	
Professional Fees	-	20,000	0	20,000	
Translation	7,500	-	2,500	10,000	
Other Costs	8,392	-	3,000	11,392	
Supplies & Services Total	27,367	20,000	9,325	56,692	
Support Services					
Democratic Support	24,458	-	8,153	32,611	*4
Legal Support	5,625	-	1,875	7,500	
Finance Support	11,250	-	3,750	15,000	
Support Services Total	41,333	-	13,778	55,111	
Total Budget Requirement	144,370	100,000	72,823	317,193	
Income:					
Welsh Government		100,000		100,000	
Levy Contributions requested from Constituent Bodies					
General Budget Funding					
Powys County Council	72,185	-	0	72,185	
Ceredigion County Council	72,185	-	0	72,185	
	144,370	-	-	144,370	
Strategic Planning Funding					
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	-	-	7,193	7,193	
Powys County Council	-	-	27,815	27,815	
Ceredigion County Council	-	-	27,815	27,815	
	-	-	62,823	62,823	
Tranfers from Reserves	-	-	10,000	10,000	
Funding of Budget Requirement	144,370	100,000	72,823	317,193	
Net Budget	-	-	-	-	

Supporting Notes

*1 Based on 50% of Strategic Programme Delivery Manager (0.5FTE) and 100% of CJC Programme Support Officer (0.61 FTE)

*2 Based on Regional Transport Plan Projects & Programmes Manager (1 FTE) - split £15k for general & £50k against the RTP & £30k of an admin support officer funded by the RTP

*3 Based on Planning Policy Technical Officer (0.2 FTE) & Planning Policy Officer (0.3 FTE)

*4 Based on a Democratic Officer (0.75 FTE)

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MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report Title: Report of the Section 151 Officer with regard to the Budget Requirement and Funding for 2024/25

Date of Meeting: Monday, 29th January 2024

Purpose of Report	To approve the Budget Requirement and funding in respect of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (“MWCJC”) for 2024/25
Report Author	Duncan Hall
Finance Officer	Duncan Hall
Legal Officer	Clive Pinney

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 This report details the proposed Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (MWCJC) Budget Requirement for the financial year 2024/25.
- 1.2 Funding of the Budget Requirement including the proportions contributed from Powys and Ceredigion County Councils and from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is reserved to that of the MWCJC members.
- 1.3 Regulations 16 and 17 of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 detail the process for calculating the Budget Requirement and the Funding of the Budget Requirement. This includes a requirement to carry out and agree the calculations by no later than 31st January. The regulations also provide for the ability to revise of the calculations during the course of the financial year in question, provided that they are formally agreed at a Mid Wales CJC meeting.

2. Budget 2024/25

- 3.1 The Budget for 2024/25 is included within Appendix A. The budget proposed totals £317,193 consisting of £144,370 for the General Budget, £100,000 for the Regional Transport Plan and £72,823 for the Strategic Planning Budget.
- 3.2 It is recommended that Powys and Ceredigion County Councils fund the General Budget equally. The basis for funding the MWCJC budget will be reviewed and agreed annually.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority fund 11.45% (per national park population projections – 2018 based – published May 2021) of the Strategic Planning Budget.
- 3.4 The MWCJC has been successful in being awarded grant funding from the Welsh Government to produce a Regional Transport Plan – there is a further paper which will be included on the agenda for this meeting. £125,000 has been awarded for 2023/24 with a further £100,000 being awarded for 2024/25.
- 3.5 Other Financial Matters:
 - i) Surpluses that accrue in any year will be contained and ring-fenced (Strategic Planning and General Budgets identified separately) within the MWCJC reserve account and will be utilised for future expenditure. If the proposed budgets are approved for 2024/25 the level of funds held in reserve as at the 31st of March 2025 are budgeted to be £43,658 for the General Budgets and £4,666 for Strategic Planning.
 - ii) The MWCJC does not have any liabilities outstanding in respect of any earlier financial year as a result it is not currently recommended that an amount is approved to be held for this purpose.
 - iii) The Strategic Planning budget for 2024/25 may need revising later in the year depending on recommendations from the

SDP sub committee on the submission of a Delivery Agreement.

4. Integrated Impact Assessment:

- 4.1 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.

5. Workforce Impacts:

- 5.1 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.

6. Legal Impacts:

- 6.1 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.

7. Risk Management Impacts:

- 7.1 Failure to set a balanced budget would render the MWCJC in breach of its obligations exposing itself to legal challenge. In addition, suitable arrangements must be put in place to ensure that the constituent authorities and the national park authority are able to fulfil their legal obligations in establishing the MWCJC.

8. Consultation:

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

9. Reasons for Proposed Decision:

- 9.1 To ensure the financial budget is set for the MWCJC in line with relevant legislative requirements applicable to CJs.

10. Recommendations

10.1 It is recommended that Ceredigion and Powys Council MWCJC Members approve the following with regard to the General Budget:

- (a) To approve the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2024/25 of £144,370 and £100,000 for the Regional Transport Plan Budget as outlined in Appendix A.
- (b) To approve if by the end of 2024/25 there is an underspend against the General Budget that the underspend will be held in an earmarked reserve specifically ring fenced for future years General Budget expenditure.
- (c) To approve a levy chargeable against Powys and Ceredigion County Councils of £72,185 each in respect of the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2024/25.
- (d) To approve an increase in the budget for 2023/24 of £125,000 expenditure in relation to the Regional Transport Plan which will be funded by a grant received from Welsh Government.

10.2 It is recommended that all MWCJC Members approve the following with regard to the Strategic Planning Budget:

- (e) To approve the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2024/25 of £72,823 as outlined in Appendix A.
- (f) To approve if by the end of 2024/25 there is an underspend against the Strategic Planning Budget that the underspend will be held in an earmarked reserve specifically ring fenced for future years Strategic Planning expenditure.

(g) To approve a levy chargeable against Powys and Ceredigion County Councils of £27,815 each and a levy of £7,193 chargeable against the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in respect of the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2024/25.

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MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Monday, 29th January 2024

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Report Title: Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028 – Feedback on Consultation Exercise.

Purpose of Report	To provide feedback on the outcome of the consultation exercise relating to the Draft CJC Corporate Plan and subject to approval of revisions, confirm the final document for adoption and publication.
Decision Sought: Approval of a final Corporate Plan and Impact Assessment for publication.	
Report Author	Eifion Evans – Chief Executive Officer CJC
Finance Officer	Duncan Hall – Section 151 Officer
Legal Officer	Clive Pinney – Monitoring Officer

Background

Further to the report presented to the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee held on the 12th October, 2023, an extensive consultation exercise relating to the Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2028 was conducted. The consultation consisted of a digital public engagement exercise alongside invitations to specific consultees in order to encourage a wide response. A list of specific consultees is attached (Appendix 1). The consultation exercise lasted six weeks.

Attached to this report are the detailed responses received (Appendix 2). The main themes identified include a recognition that the region needs to develop bespoke solutions to the challenges being faced in this part of Wales. Although the CJC Corporate Plan does not seek to address all the concerns raised, most of the issues are being addressed in other plans such as the Mid Wales Growth Deal, and the Mid Wales Energy Strategy. Once Members have considered the feedback, and approved any changes, it is intended to formally adopt the document as the CJC Corporate Plan. The Plan was originally intended to cover the period 2023-2028, however, due to timing issues it was not possible to complete the exercise within the calendar year. It is therefore recommended that as the document will be finalised and adopted in 2024, it be retitled CJC Corporate Plan 2024-2029.

It is intended that the Plan be revisited on a regular basis to ensure it reflects emerging changes to circumstances including legalisation and guidance. It may therefore be subject to further revisions subject to CJC member approval.

In accordance with guidance, the Plan has undergone an Impact Assessment (IA) utilising the Powys County Council process and template. This is attached and members will be asked to approve the IA at the conclusion of this report (Appendix 4).

Consultation Feedback

Responses to the consultation have been limited but this may reflect the strategic nature of the document. The Plan is intended to set broad strategic direction, and although more specific detailed plans will emerge in the future, it is acknowledged that there is little practical detail to comment on at this stage of the CJC's development.

No feedback has been received from Welsh Government or the Wales Audit Office.

In overall terms the feedback received has been useful in that comments show an understanding of the various challenges facing the region. Each response has been considered carefully with specific comments being provided on the content, the details of which is shown in Appendix 2.

As members will note, the responders have chosen to remain anonymous and therefore this report is the means by which contributor's will be able to view the Boards acknowledgment.

General Feedback

The respondents are thanked for the time and effort taken in respect of the consultation exercise. These responses will also be shared, where appropriate, with Members and Officers whose work is covered by these topics, such as the Growth Deal, Skills Partnership, etc. Lead Officers have also taken the opportunity to comment further on the document to ensure the terminology and technical references are as up to date as possible.

This has included the introduction of some timelines and accountabilities within the Action Plan.

Way Forward

A revised Corporate Plan is attached for Members to consider and approve alongside the Impact Assessment (Appendices 3 & 4). The Plan will then be published on partner websites and shared with consultees including statutory bodies.

Financial Impacts

The adoption and publication of the Plan will incur further minimal cost. It is not intended to produce a hard copy of the Plan, which will allow for minimum expense when the document is revised and updated.

Impact Assessment

A draft Impact Assessment (IA) has been undertaken using the Powys process and template. The Powys IA has been developed ensuring full compliance with Welsh Government policy and guidance.

Workforce Impacts

The work associated with the future implementation of the Corporate Plan will be undertaken within the resource capacity already in place. The sub committees responsible for progressing the action plans identified in the report have been provided with appropriate management and administrative support.

Risk Management Impacts

Although there is no legal requirement to produce a Corporate Plan for the CJC it is an expectation of Welsh Government in order to demonstrate commitment and progress against a legal requirement for the establishment of regional CJC's. A recent Wales Audit Commission report has identified variable commitment across Wales towards the development of CJC workplans. The production of a Corporate Plan for Mid Wales will ensure the region can demonstrate appropriate progress and commitment.

Consultation

This report concludes the consultation process in respect of the CJC Corporate Plan.

Reasons for proposed decision

To allow the draft Corporate Plan to be adopted.

Implementation of Decision

This decision will be implemented immediately.

Appendices

1. List of Consultees
2. Responses to the consultation.
3. Revised CJC Corporate Plan 2024-2029
4. Corporate Plan Impact Assessment

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Appendix 2

Responses to consultation

Number 1

Q1. Submit your comments by Tuesday 12 December 2023: another pointless non jobs gravy train in Wales, that's the last thing we need.

Response

No further response is considered necessary or appropriate.

Number 2

The plan must start with the basics. 1. Cheap fossil free renewable energy for all residents of Mid Wales. 2. High speed digital / internet connection for all residents in Mid Wales. The completion of these two objectives would be self-fulfilling, generating the wealth required to archive all other required objectives for the corporate plan. The devil is of course in the detail.

Response

The comments made in this response are accepted as being key to the future of the regions wellbeing. There are already a range of initiatives contained within the plans of the constituent CJC organisations that seek to address these concerns. In addition, regional partnerships such as the Mid Wales Partnership and the Mid Wales Growth Deal have also identified opportunities to respond to these challenges. The CJC will inevitably have the opportunity to monitor progress of these initiatives both locally and more strategically.

Number 3

Firstly, this draft plan does not inspire confidence when it contains so many typo and grammatical errors. The author needs to learn how to use an apostrophe and engage a proofreader. Errors include: Page 9, Section 2.3, last para says employment has decreased by around 54% in 5 years. Should this be 5.4%? Page 14, Funding para, last sentence should readwell placed...., notwell place... Page 14, Delivery Landscape para should read ...have ceased to operate..., not ...have cased to operate... Page 22, last para should read ...can be evidenced in a..., not ...can be evidence in a... Page 24, section 5.1, first para should read ...forefront of the region's collaborative..., not forefront of the regions collaborative... Page 30, last para should read ...of the region's priorities..., not ...of the regions priorities... Page 39, last para should read ...fulfil all its requirements as..., not fulfil all its requirement's as... Secondly, by its own admission, much of the work that may be undertaken by this Committee is already being carried out by other bodies, including The Growing Mid Wales Partnership, The Joint Mid Wales Transport Plan, and The Mid Wales Growth Deal. Is it really necessary to add another layer of bureaucracy between the Future Wales Plan and Local Development Plans? Is this the best use of a budget of initially £170,000, which will no doubt rise over time, when so much of the Committee's work is covered by other organisations? I would suggest that a closer strategic working relationship between Ceredigion and Powys could be better

achieved by merging the two Councils. Two Councils serving a joint population of little over 200,000 people with two sets of infrastructure and two sets of back-office functions does not offer Council Taxpayers value for money.

Response

The response is noted, and the final document has been amended as per the comments received and has also been re-checked for other errors. The time the respondent has spent on reading the document and identifying these issues is acknowledged and appreciated. The comment relating to the need for an additional statutory body to focus on such things is also noted. The requirement to develop CJC's is statutory and beyond the powers of the constituent bodies, as is the structure of local government in Wales.

Number 4

It's great to see Councils in Mid Wales trying to work together. In order to have a robust public transport system the current rail services need to be working and reliable, many people have given up trying to use the Heart of Wales line. Locally available training and support of young people are vital to create a long-term future for the area. Many local colleges have closed or moved out of reach for those lacking personal transport (e.g. from Llandrindod Wells to Neath) in the past 10 years; these training in practical as well as academic subjects such as horticulture, engineering, hairdressing. I feel that the Powys suffers from lack of investment because of the spread nature of the population, but by losing transport, and training / education opportunities the area becomes less appealing to those living here and those who are looking to move here. From an environmental perspective I understand that it is difficult getting the balance right between providing work in a rural area and protecting ecology; farming practices and forestry can conflict with protecting water courses and soil structure. Changes to rural ways of life need to happen but be handled delicately and offering alternatives with similar financial rewards. There is a strong need to alternative fuel sources nationwide, but I do not believe that filling pristine countryside with pylons is the right way to go. Wales should be proud of and promote its beauty for wellbeing and tourism. As a recent purchaser of solar panels, I can see that covering the landscape in Windfarms is unnecessary, a mixed green-fuel economy is achievable and should be sought for Mid Wales. What about creating a new industry for Welsh grasslands - biofuel? This could be a way to reuse existing gas systems and create or replace employment for in rural areas. I look forward to seeing investment in Mid Wales.

Response

The respondent has clearly identified many of the challenges that the region faces, particularly relating to transport, training, skills and education as well as energy security. Members have indicated in previous fora their own concerns with these matters, and it is considered that they will continue to form a key part of plans in the future. Issues relating to transport will be a specific focus for the CJC as indicated in the Corporate Plan. The Mid Wales regional Skills Partnership will of course focus on matters relating to training, skills, and education. The recently adopted Mid Wales

Energy Strategy will consider matters relating to energy security both in the medium and long-term.

Number 5

Not answered.

Number 6

The plan is not loading and it is not accessible. Is this a statutory consultation? Why do you have to download a document before making comments. Why is the document not available in other formats.

Response

The document has been made available in accordance with all other consultations undertaken in this manner and has been accessible. As the respondent has remained anonymous it has not been possible to make efforts to contact the person to try and identify the reason for inaccessibility. The Communications Service is in receipt of this comment and will monitor any future accessibility problems. It is clearly disappointing that the respondent has not been able to contribute to the consultation exercise.

Number 7

Overall, in approval however, one size does not fit all. What may be appropriate for south Wales will not be for mid Wales. Poverty is being driven by climate change and the reaction to this. The push to sustainable options costs the end user lots of money. It limits their freedoms to travel for example if they cannot afford a low carbon vehicle but can afford a fully carbon use vehicle and are penalised for this. Grants need to be awarded for communities and their travel options must be fully supported and consistently applied. A more sustainable approach needs to be adopted the irony is that the rush is not sustainable as it will create poverty, loneliness and cut communities off. The hare and the tortoise story are a good analogy here... Do it but do it successfully. Use data from other countries similar countries (remote, hilly, etc). If this data is not available then pilot schemes. The population must not suffer due to inept planning.

Response

The CJC is developing and tailoring its response to challenges on a regional basis reflecting the needs of Mid Wales, which should go some way to reassure the respondent. It is considered that the regions plans are being developed in a timely fashion, considering long term solutions that are likely to be effective and appropriate for the residents of the region.

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Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig y Canolbarth
Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee
Corporate Plan
2023 – 2028



**Bannau
Brycheiniog**



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Draft – For Consultation 2023

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Appendices

Welsh Government – Strategies and Policies

- [Future Wales – The National Plan 2040](#)
- [Llwybr Newydd – The Wales Transport Strategy 2021](#)
- [The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 - National Wellbeing Goals](#)
- [The Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 and Biodiversity Duty 2023-2028](#)

Governance, Administration and Resources

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Equalities – Integrated Impact Assessment

Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) – Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council



Ceredigion Draft
Strategic Equality Plan

[Strategic Equality Plan & Objectives - Ceredigion County Council](#)

STRONGER
— fairer —
GREENER

[Our Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan - Powys County Council](#)

Sustainability

Performance Management and Monitoring

Scrutiny and Audit

Links to other documents: -

Integrated Impact Assessment

[Agendas, Minutes, Reports of the CJC Board](#)

[Growing Mid Wales Strategy](#)

[Wellbeing and Future Generation \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

[Llwybr Newydd – Transport Strategy 2021](#)

[Future Wales – National Plan 2040](#)

[The Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#)

Corporate Plans for:

[Powys County Council](#)

[Ceredigion County Council](#)

[Bannau Brycheiniog National Park \(Management Plan\)](#)



1.0 Foreword

From the Chair and Vice Chair of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

We are pleased to introduce this document which is in response to legislation established by Welsh Government that requires the creation of Regional Corporate Joint Committees (CJC's) across Wales. The Mid Wales Region comprises Powys and Ceredigion County Councils who will establish and oversee the strategic direction of the Economy and its Transport needs. In addition, the region will develop a Strategic Development Plan which will also include the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

Given the unique circumstances of Mid Wales we see this as a clear opportunity for the region to become a strong voice for rural growth and regeneration across Wales.

The important thing in responding to this challenge is to be clear about how working together will help improve the lives of people living in Mid Wales. The two Councils and the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park already work together on multiple issues and there has always been a positive and productive relationship between both Members and Officers.

The work of the Mid Wales CJC is at an early stage and clarification will be needed in relation to Transport and Development Planning particularly in respect of resource

requirements. We will also work positively with Government and the OECD to determine the right role and function for Economic Wellbeing. We understand our responsibilities to make timely progress and have established sub-committees to progress this important work.

This Corporate Plan sets out our direction of travel for the next five years. It is strategic in nature reflecting the primary responsibility of individual local authorities to deliver services in their own areas. We are committed to sharing resources across services in the region, where we can make a real difference to the lives of our residents.

Chair of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Councillor James Gibson Watt



Vice Chair of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Councillor Bryan Davies



1.1 Introduction

Corporate Joint Committees

The Welsh Government introduced legislation in 2021 to formalise the way in which local authorities work together. This legislation is called ‘The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021’ and provided for the creation of Corporate Joint Committees. These 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).

The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee will work together on the service areas of Strategic Planning, Economic Wellbeing, and Transport. The two Councils and the BBNP already have a long record of collaborating on areas of the economy under the auspices of the Mid Wales Growth Deal and Growing Mid Wales.

In addition, the Councils have long collaborated on matters relating to Transport through the TraCC Partnership (Trafnidiaeth Canolbarth Cymru / Mid Wales Transportation). This is reflected in the Joint Mid Wales Local Transport Plan which was published in 2015.

The Corporate Joint Committee is made up of the Leaders of Powys and Ceredigion County Councils and the Vice Chair of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. The Council Leaders

can vote on all matters included in the CJC agreement, and the Chair of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park can vote on matters relating to Strategic Planning.

This document sets out at a strategic level; what we are doing, how we are doing it, and the governance arrangements that are in place to ensure compliance with Welsh Government legislation and our duties as a public sector organisation. More importantly, however, this document sets out how the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee will seek to improve the lives of people living in Mid Wales.



2.0 The Mid Wales Region –

An Overview

Mid Wales is one of the most sparsely populated areas of the country representing 34% of the land mass of Wales. The region is bordered by fourteen local authority areas, two of which are in England. The population is approximately 205,900 which is both declining and ageing. The more westerly part of the region is one of the Welsh-speaking heartlands of Wales.

The region has several challenging economic conditions which need to be addressed not least a reduction of economic activity over a sustained period. As a predominantly rural area, transport continues to be a challenge for both work and leisure, especially given that the cost of energy has increased significantly. Although planning for local development through Local Development Plans (LDPs) is a responsibility for Local Authorities to administer there also needs to be a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) which aligned with Welsh Planning Policy, will be a feature of this plan.

2.1 Our Economy

The Mid Wales economy is often characterised as a large and predominantly rural region. It is known for its natural beauty, strong cultural identity and heritage.

It is less well-known as a land of untapped economic opportunity - where business survival rates outclass the Welsh average; where our natural and academic assets offer an obvious choice for cutting-edge research providing strong opportunities to create new industrial clusters, where there is a strong yet diverse labour market – with strategic commuter links within and outside the region to other parts of Wales and cross-border into England.

The geography of the Mid Wales economy is a critical component in driving and supporting intra-regional growth across Wales and the UK, where the total of its economic impact is larger than the sum of its individual parts. The region borders North and South Wales as well as the English Counties of Shropshire and Herefordshire. The impact of other regions on the Mid Wales economy is critical and plans need to reflect this interdependence.

The region's economy has its challenges in addressing the structural weaknesses that are currently hindering the potential of our residents and businesses to flourish. Poor connectivity, low Gross Value Added (GVA) per head, limited skills infrastructure, grid constraints and lack of supporting business infrastructure all play their part in limiting the region's potential to take advantage of our opportunities. However, whilst the challenges we face are not unique – the opportunities we have are indeed distinctive and rooted within our region.

An Overview - Our Economy



- 205,000 people employed
- 95,400 employed
- % employed > Welsh average

- Home to two Universities (Aberystwyth and UWTSU)
- Home to the Centre for Alternative Technology (also offering HE courses)
- More than 95% of Aberystwyth's research is internationally recognised
- Educational attainment at Level 2 is 7.5% higher than the Welsh average
- 38.8% residents with NVQ4+

Notable Strengths

- Agriculture
- Food & Drink
- Tourism
- Higher-Value Manufacturing
- Defence & Security Assets

Generating:

- £3.6bn GVA annually
- £17,509 GVA per head

- 6966 km² of land (39% of Wales)
- 7.25m visitors attracted annually to the region's outstanding natural and cultural landscapes

2.2 Our People

The demographic profile of the region presents both challenges and opportunities.

At an overall population of 205,900, Mid Wales is characterised by an ageing population and a net out-migration of young people. Since 2014, the region has seen an overall decline in its population of around 1%. The working age population is less than the Welsh and UK average and is predominantly characterised by higher proportions of 50-64 and 65+ year olds.

There is a relatively small share of working age people due to the higher proportions of 50-64 and 65+ year olds. Comparatively, Mid Wales has proportionally fewer people below the working age – though the figures are partly skewed due to the student population in key locations in Ceredigion.

Population projections for Mid Wales currently estimate a 16% decline in the working age population and 37% increase in the 65+ age group to 2039. Unless addressed this predicted trend is likely to reduce the region's workforce over the next 15 years.

2.3 Labour Market

There are some 91,000 people in employment in Mid Wales, with economic activity rates in line with Welsh and UK averages, driven by high levels of self-employment. Levels of unemployment in the region are comparatively low at 3.7% in July 2022 and the region has seen an improvement in unemployment numbers compared to Wales since 2001.

Despite this, underemployment, low earnings and seasonal employment remain key challenges. Average full-time weekly earnings for example were 85% of the UK average in 2016 and 97% of the Wales average.

Over the past five years, employment in Mid Wales has decreased by around 5.4%. Jobs are particularly concentrated in Health, Manufacturing and Education. The largest increases in employment growth have been in Professional Services, Information and Communication, Agriculture, forestry and fishing. Other sectors have also demonstrated significant growth, illustrating the potential for further expansion in the future.

2.4 Learning & Skills

The region has two Universities which contribute to high level skills leading to world class research and development, as well as a vibrant and growing economy. The recent creation of the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership is ensuring local input into the matching of employer skills needs with education and skills providers. This has led to learning pathways to local employment and apprenticeships.

Mid Wales performs well in educational attainment with levels of achievement at GCSE level exceeding the Welsh average. The proportion of young people Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEETS) is low, while the qualifications profile of Mid Wales performs better than the Welsh average – but with lower rates of older people upskilling.

Despite these strengths, skills gaps and recruitment difficulties are commonplace amongst Mid Wales employers. Apprenticeships and further education delivery are challenged by the rural nature of the region. Employer investment in training is currently relatively low, possibly reflecting the high proportion of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Attracting more young people to live, work and study in Mid Wales is vital for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

For the region to thrive it must reduce the existing trend of young people leaving the area for education and jobs and must be able to retain and attract talent by creating new high value employment opportunities.

2.5 Deprivation

The Mid Wales region has a comparatively low level of deprivation when measured with the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), with Powys being the second least deprived Local Authority area in Wales. Statistical measures do not tend to capture the true nature of rural disadvantage.

Poverty in Mid Wales is variable and often hidden due to the rurality and demographics of the region – therefore not resulting in demonstrable concentrations of poverty in datasets (except from pockets identified in some of our larger towns). This often masks issues of rural deprivation in terms of access to services, isolation and fuel poverty across the region.

2.6 Transport

Transport connectivity both inside and outside of Mid Wales is crucial to economic flows and future growth. The region has 945 km (587 miles) of Trunk and A roads connecting the region with North and South Wales and east to the West Midlands. There are also two railway corridors (Cambrian Main line/Coast and the Heart of Wales line) which run north-south and east-west. Rail links in Mid Wales are characterised by low service frequency, slow line speeds and limited direct services to major UK cities with the only regular principal service being the two-hourly Aberystwyth to Birmingham International through services.

There is a need to improve journey time reliability and capacity, by improving the safety and resilience of the network to support and grow the transition to a low carbon economy. Investment in key strategic corridors to ensure resilience and infrastructure to provide a net zero transport provision across the Mid Wales Road network. This is vitally important to support access to service, tourism and freight, especially in relation to the A487 and links to Fishguard, in addition to the A483, A458 cross-border routes and the A44 across the region.

Due to its rurality, Mid Wales has a high dependence on the private car for transport and less than 1% of road miles are driven by buses. The region also has below average take up of electric vehicles with limited charging points compared to the UK average.

3.0 Our Purpose and Vision

In developing a vision for the Mid Wales Region that reflects the needs of both Councils and the National Park it is essential that we focus on priorities that are shared.

The Mid Wales Region has a range of challenges that are common. These include, amongst others; the level of rurality, an aging population, access to services, the Welsh Language, environmental protection and improvement, reducing inequalities, the economy and employment opportunities, transport and accessibility.

The Corporate Joint Committee is united in focusing on the changes that need to be made to improve wellbeing for our communities across the region in the areas of the Economy, Transport and Strategic Planning. The majority of services will of course continue to be delivered by the individual local authorities. Where there is mutual benefit and advantage by working together strategically on matters relating to the economy, transport and planning, we will seek new ways of working that are productive, impactful, and efficient.

Having considered the shared strategic priorities of each Council and the BBNP, the region sets out the following vision statement which we believe reflects our collective aspirations.

Vision for Mid Wales 2022-2027

‘Mid Wales will be a region that enables and encourages sustainable, environmentally friendly, and inclusive places to live, where residents have access to plentiful employment opportunities, culturally rich and diverse communities, and high-quality education, skills, and training. The Local Authorities will collaborate strategically on matters relating to the economy, transport and strategic planning.

Mid Wales will be a strong voice for rural growth and regeneration and will promote inclusivity, the Welsh language, and equality of opportunity.

The Vision will function as an overarching guide to the way in which services are developed on a regional basis. Although matters relating to the Economy, Transport and Strategic Planning are all connected, strategies and policies can sometimes be developed in isolation. The regional Vision will function as an overarching principle by which these services will be developed for the future.

4.0 Our Priorities for the Region

The three areas that the Corporate Joint Committee will focus on are limited to economy, transport and planning development. These are service areas that can benefit from increased collaboration across the region. The following paragraphs provide further detail about work that will be progressed over the coming years, providing demonstrable benefit to our communities.

4.1 The Economy

The region has been collaborating with a wide range of partners for many years with a particularly focus on the economy. This resulted in a Strategic Economic Plan which has recently been updated and is partly reproduced here to represent the strategic direction of the region.

This update to the Growing Mid Wales Strategic Economic Plan highlights our collective ambition and the economic potential for Mid Wales. It sets out the future that we want to build together to achieve sustainable and relevant economic growth, where our people and businesses have parity of opportunity to grow their ideas and have their potential nurtured. We have identified opportunities for direct public intervention in public infrastructure and our workforce alongside private investment opportunities in key regional assets. We are confident that this combined approach will deliver strong results as part of a team approach.

The region is well-known as a predominantly rural area, accounting for 39% of the land mass of Wales; but is less well-known as a place where there is a wealth of opportunity waiting to be unlocked.

The region has significant opportunities both to strengthen existing economic sectors and stimulate economic drivers that will create growth and investment in regional businesses and the labour market. At a time when there is considerable economic uncertainty due to a range of externalities, it is crucial that all parts of Wales and the UK play their part in strengthening the economic resilience and productivity of their regional economies.

There is significant opportunity to take advantage of existing private sector ambition to develop assets of regional importance with tangible and significant economic impact, from our strengths in our research capability, natural landscapes, skilled workforce and industry.

The region's economy however has its challenges. Market failure is prevalent following decades of under-investment and structural decline. Whilst there have been encouraging signs of employment and business growth in key sectors across the region (construction, tourism, food & manufacturing), there remains a significant productivity challenge owing to the underlying structural weaknesses of the economy (comparatively narrow economic base, poor transport links, changing population demographic) that could continue to reinforce a cycle of decline unless addressed.

Context

Since the first Growing Mid Wales Vision Document was agreed in early 2020, there have been several major events which have caused the economic context to fundamentally change. It was important to update the document to consider this changed context, and the greater challenges they pose in developing the regional economy of Mid Wales.

Coronavirus Pandemic

The economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Mid Wales cannot be understated. The business demography of the region, made up of predominantly SMEs, meant that many small businesses struggled to survive, with some businesses actively opting to cease trading. The tourism sector – one of the largest employers in the region – was also disproportionately affected. Now in recovery mode, the historically low levels of unemployment in the region have increased, reflecting a rise in the long-term sick which may be partly attributable to the pandemic.

EU Transition

Britain leaving the EU has resulted in much change for Mid Wales businesses. In addition to supply chain issues and increased costs for exporters due to changes with customs and border tariffs, sectors such as hospitality and agriculture report significant issues with labour supply due to the loss of migrant workers from the EU.

Economic Downturn and Cost of Living Crisis

The cost-of-living crisis is fundamentally caused by higher inflation, and low wage growth leaving many households worse off in real terms – paying more for their food, energy and fuel. The crisis has been exacerbated by short-term factors, such as the Ukraine war, but the pressure on living standards has long-term trends, such as low productivity growth and increased market power of firms.

Climate Emergency

The need to consider our impacts on the environment and targets set both nationally and locally will be essential given the current climate emergency. This includes how we continue to support the growth and development of the Mid Wales economy whilst moving towards Net Zero. Both Welsh and UK Governments have released several strategies to set out plans and priorities for meeting our climate change targets.

Energy

Energy prices and our current dependency on importing energy into the UK are issues that have recently come sharply into focus as a result on the war in Ukraine. These issues relate strongly to the climate emergency agenda and the need for greater amounts of our energy to come from renewable energy sources. In addition, the region is severely constrained by the ability to export energy due to energy infrastructure capacity.

Funding

EU Transition has seen fundamental changes to the way regional investment funding is allocated and delivered, resulting in a more complex funding and delivery landscape. Local Authorities in Wales have had to adapt quickly to take advantage of opportunities arising from the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund, Community Renewal Fund and the Shared Prosperity Fund. The region will continue to monitor funding announcements to ensure we are well placed to take advantage of future opportunities to secure investment.

Delivery Landscape

As a result of the changes to the funding landscape, the delivery landscape has become more fragmented and harder to navigate. Key backbone operations that were delivered on a pan-Wales basis under EU funding have ceased to operate, leaving strategic gaps which may or may not be filled by new funding.

The Challenges to Overcome

Since the establishment of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership in 2015, partners have seen a strengthening of support for, and focus on growing the Mid Wales economy. While much has been achieved to ensure a strong focus on pursuing regional economic growth, more needs to be done. It will require much stronger working and recognition of the Mid Wales economy across sectors and institutions – with the full support of both Governments to not only support growth opportunities, but also to invest in our underlying economic and social infrastructure.

Economic performance

Despite several opportunities and positive improvements in the regional economy, Mid Wales continues to lag behind other Welsh and UK regions on several key issues:

LOW & LAGGING PRODUCTIVITY: Mid Wales continues to lag behind other Welsh and UK regions in real and per head terms due to the seasonality and structure of its employment base.

A DECLINING, AGEING POPULATION: Rural depopulation, especially of young people, and a changing demographic - demonstrating the 'pinched middle' of a relatively high older population and a proportionately low working age population, and the resulting effect this can have on Welsh language strongholds.

NARROW AND VULNERABLE ECONOMIC BASE: Leading to employment and productivity imbalances. The largest GVA contributors are manufacturing, real estate and wholesale and retail – whilst agriculture employs the most, it contributes comparatively less GVA. Employment seasonality also adds vulnerability.

PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT DECLINE: forecasts show the Welsh economy growing by 1.7% during the period 20 (+ 24,000 jobs) while the Mid Wales economy is forecasted to decline 3.45% (reduction of 3,352 jobs) – whilst the UK looks set to grow by 7.4% over the same period.

STATIC AND WEAKENING LABOUR MARKET: gaps in skills provision and infrastructure to adequately meet industry demands are exacerbated by a lack of focus on the issue in Mid Wales. Weaknesses in regional skills infrastructure exacerbates the lack of employment and educational opportunities – leading to a reducing equality of opportunity and labour mobility whilst reinforcing out-migration. Powys' commuting outflows of -3,495 especially highlight the need to improve employment opportunities.

MARKET FAILURE: Underlying structural economic weaknesses aligned with decades of under-investment by the public sector has exacerbated market failure. Market failure is prevalent throughout the economy and can be clearly evidenced through weak and relatively static commercial and residential build rates, declining and narrowing business base and the inadequate state of our digital, road and energy grid infrastructure – which is in critical need of public sector intervention.

THE HIDDEN NATURE OF A RURAL ECONOMY: relatively strong employment and low unemployment data masks low pay and underemployment. The high self-employment and home working data combined with low incomes is masking rural

poverty which is a real cause for concern amongst local authorities and policy makers.

There is also a new economic context to consider. Since the drafting of the first GMW Vision document in 2020, the macro-economic context has greatly changed. As well as continuing to recover from the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, Mid Wales businesses and residents have had to navigate new legislation and arrangements arising out of EU transition, as well as the economic downturn partially triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war and the resulting cost of living crisis. Long standing issues will become even tougher to address and will require more focused and concentrated effort to make a step change to the Mid Wales economy.

Addressing these issues will require a step change in the way we collectively work and will require a significant set of interventions to both address these trends by providing the basis for new higher value economic growth and attract a new, economically mobile population. Tackling these issues will not be easy, or inexpensive. However, we are collectively clear that as a region if we are to see the regional economy perform as it should; and if we are to take advantage of the opportunities available to us – then it must be the joint focus of regional partners and both Governments to address.

Our Ambition

Our ambition is for Mid Wales to take full advantage of the opportunities available to create and support economic and social growth by overcoming its challenges to become a fairer, smarter region that contributes to its full potential to address its productivity challenge.



Our Vision for Mid Wales in 2035

By 2035, Mid Wales will be:

“An enterprising and distinctive region delivering sustainable economic growth for future generations driven by innovation, skills, connectivity and more productive jobs supporting prosperous and bilingual communities.”

Through collaborative and integrated working, we will build on our unique assets to ensure that the region’s economy is recognised by the following characteristics:



ENTERPRISING – open for business, new and old. A place to start and grow enterprise to enhance regional productivity with a good quality of life.



SKILLED – a skilled and flexible labour market supported by academic and vocational learning that responds to industry demands that reverses current population trends.



INNOVATIVE – a test bed for innovation, developing new products and processes capitalising on existing research and industry strengths and creating new/strengthening existing industrial clusters.



CONNECTED – a fully connected region, unlocking its economic potential driving business growth and innovation and improving social and labour mobility.



PRODUCTIVE – a strong, productive economy providing the right conditions for business to generate better quality, higher paid jobs alongside better employment opportunity.



PROSPEROUS – a regional economy that is rooted in fairness and equality of opportunity with accessible training and employment pathways.



DISTINCTIVE – a region with a unique natural and cultural landscape & heritage, offering an exceptional quality of life and potential to lead UK decarbonisation and clean growth.



The Mid Wales Region

4.2 Transport

Transport connectivity both inside and outside of Mid Wales is crucial to economic flows and future growth. The region has 945 km (587 miles) of Trunk and A roads connecting the region with North and South Wales and east to the West Midlands. There are also two railway corridors (Cambrian Main line/Coast and the Heart of Wales line) which run north-south and east-west. Rail links in Mid Wales are characterised by low service frequency, slow line speeds and limited direct services to major UK cities with the only regular principal service being the two-hourly Aberystwyth to Birmingham International through services.

There is a need to improve journey time reliability and capacity, by improving the safety and resilience of the network to support and grow the transition to a low carbon economy. Investment in key routes such as the A483/A489 Newtown Bypass and the A487 Dyfi Bridge north of Machynlleth provide resilience to the Mid Wales' Road network. Continued investment is required to secure these strategic corridors of labour and goods mobility to the future – especially in relation to the A487 and the need to improve links to Fishguard as well as the A483, A458 cross-border routes and the A44 across the region. Due to its rurality, Mid Wales has a high dependence on the private car for transport and less than 1% of road miles are driven by buses. The region also has below average take up of electric vehicles with limited charging points compared to the UK average.

Joint Mid Wales Local Transport Plan 2015

The TraCC Joint Mid Wales Transport Plan 2015 sets out a vision for transport in Mid Wales. This vision was developed by working with a range of stakeholders whilst developing the Plan. Although this plan and vision was developed some years ago it is still as relevant today.

Vision for Transport in Mid Wales (LTP 2015)

‘The Mid Wales Local Authorities will plan for and deliver in partnership, an integrated and affordable transport system that facilitates economic development, ensures access for all to services and opportunities, sustains and improves the quality of community life, and makes an active contribution to the management of carbon and the quality of the environment.’

Since this vision was created, the 2015 plan has been held over whilst delivery has progressed, and more recently, new guidance from Welsh Government for the new Regional Transport Plan (RTP) has now been issued and development of the new plan will commence in 2024. It will set out the case for change and a delivery plan for the Mid Wales Region that reflects both Welsh Government Guidance, Strategy and current local and regional need.

The Mid Wales Region

4.3 Strategic Development Planning

The following is an extract from Welsh Governments National Development Framework ‘Future Wales – The National Plan 2040’, which is the highest tier of plan in Wales:-

‘Our planning system is development plan led. Development plans are prepared at national, regional and local scales, with the three tiers together in combination comprising ‘the development plan.’ The Welsh Government by producing Future Wales contributes the national tier of the development plan. This is the highest tier of development plan. Strategic Development Plans cover regional and sub-regional scales and Local Development Plans consider issues at the local scale. The three tiers of the development plan should be aligned and complement each other. Strategic Development Plans, which have not yet been prepared in any region, are required to be in conformity with Future Wales. Similarly, Local Development Plans must be in conformity with Future Wales and the Strategic Development Plan for their area.’

Strategic Development Planning for the region will identify, in a spatial planning context, the most effective and appropriate Planning Policies for the region under which Local Development Plan Lites (LDP lites) will be produced. In policy terms such Plans will need to be in alignment with Future Wales and national planning policy and guidance. Welsh Government have been clear in stating that it does not seek to take decisions that are most appropriately taken at a regional or local level but to provide strategic direction for all scales of planning. At the same time there is a clear requirement for strategic and local plans to conform with 'Future Wales,' and the spatial strategy.

The development of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) will take significant time with the full process taking between 5 and 6 years to complete. In addition, there will need to be sufficient dedicated resources to undertake this work which does not currently exist in budgetary terms.

The Corporate Joint Committee have established an SDP subgroup whereby a number of options of how to develop the SDP have been considered these could include creating a regional team or working within existing planning functions. At present some of the members of the SDP are progressing their own LDPs, which presents a resource and recruitment challenge. The CJC has agreed a dedicated resource is required to undertake the preparatory work for an SDP which would include managing timetables, resources, budgets and other necessary infrastructure with a view to publishing a Delivery Agreement for ministerial sign off as resources allow.

Once a regional SDP has been created, by 2029/30, LDP Lites will be developed concluding in a Regional Strategic Development Plan and individual Council/National Park LDP Lites by 2032/33.

This approach is not without significant challenge in that the creation of an SDP team will require additional resource which is yet to be identified. In addition, there is already a sparsity of recruits for Planning posts across the region and the recruitment to an SDP team would deplete existing teams, potentially leaving gaps in resource and capacity at a local level.

In addition, although Ceredigion and Bannau Brycheiniog LDP's are not timebound with a 'drop dead date' for when they expire, Powys' LDP is currently time expired. Given the resource demand to complete a new LDP this may impact on the availability of Officers to contribute to a regional SDP. Clarification is currently being sought from Welsh Government on the implications for Powys of moving directly to the production of an SDP in preference to continuing with a new LDP.

Notwithstanding the benefits that will come from a more strategic approach to Planning Development, there also remains significant challenge within the region especially in relation to Special Areas of Conservation (SACS) that impact on the River Wye, Teifi and Usk. In addition, given the reliance on agriculture, issues relating to phosphates and the imminent TAN15 flood zones will need careful

consideration especially in how they impact on limiting housing and economic development.

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5.0 Wellbeing Statement and Objectives

Contribution to the national well-being goals.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 seeks to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of Wales by requiring public bodies to work together to create a sustainable Wales.

It is intended to help create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. There are 7 national well-being goals that set out a shared vision for all public bodies to work towards which are: -

- 1. A Prosperous Wales**
- 2. A Resilient Wales**
- 3. A Healthier Wales**
- 4. A More Equal Wales**
- 5. A Wales of Cohesive Communities**
- 6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language**
- 7. A Globally Responsible Wales**

The individual 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. It is essential, however, that we assess how the CJC Regional Strategy also contributes to the national wellbeing goals. The following section of this Plan sets out the CJC's Corporate Well-being Objectives.

In addition, the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee will in accordance with the Well-Being and Future Generations Act 2015 (WBFG) abide by Welsh Governments 'Five Ways of Working' principles which ensure that plans are long term, preventative, integrated, collaborative, and involve stakeholders. This will ensure that the sustainable development duty placed on public bodies throughout Wales is embedded in the way that each organisation works.

As this duty has been in place for many years, all the public bodies who are party to the Mid Wales CJC Corporate Plan are already experienced with applying these ways of working. As the Mid Wales CJC is in the early stages of development, detailed assessments of how our work will comply with these principles are yet to be applied. It is fully accepted, however, that this will need to be done in in both a transparent and measured way as plans develop. In the meantime, and for clarity, we have set out below how we will ensure the 'Five Ways of Working' will be used to test our sustainable development duty. These principles have been used in the development of our Wellbeing Objectives and will continue to be used as the region progresses their implementation.

Long Term

The Future Generations Act has long been adopted by public bodies across Wales as a government policy that guides how such organisations operate. It is fully recognised that decisions and plans need to consider how any resulting actions may impact on the wellbeing of our communities in the long term. For example, the development of the Growth Deal has already used the Five Ways of Working in its development. As detailed project plans develop, assessments will be used to ensure the long-term impact of projects are fully understood before approval to proceed is given. As work on Regional Transport and Strategic Development Plans are developed, similar detailed assessments will also be undertaken at each stage of the process.

Prevention

It is clear that given the challenges facing the environment, health, and society in general, that we ensure that decisions taken in the future avoid repeating mistakes of the past. In particular, careful consideration needs to be given to the often-unforeseen consequences of actions that are sometimes taken in isolation, and the wider impact they may have. Policies and strategies will need to be tested using techniques such as 'scenario planning' to identify threats and opportunities so that adverse impacts are avoided or at least mitigated against. The application of a detailed Impact Assessment using the Powys County Council IA template has helped to assess the Corporate Plans impact on a wide range of matters including the environment, equalities, Welsh Language, and of course the National Wellbeing Goals.

Integration

The basis used for the Wellbeing goals adopted for this Corporate Plan has been the existing Corporate Plans of each of the constituent CJC members. These existing plans had already been developed with the Future Generations Act as a guiding principle and as such all the plans have been tested against the WFG Act. This, in itself, evidences an integrated approach to the creation of the Mid Wales Corporate Plan. As the plan is developed into more detailed actions, careful consideration will be given to existing and emerging plans across Wales to ensure an ongoing integrated approach. Given the regions significant border with England, the principle of integration will also include partners across the border.

Collaboration

The Mid Wales CJC is physically at the heart of Wales. As such the constituent bodies have long recognised the importance of working in ways that ensure organisations both within, and outside the area are included in the development of plans. The term collaboration has been a watch word amongst CJC members for many years and can be evidence in a wide range of initiatives. For example, the development of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership (GMWP), which has been in

existence for many years, is a practical example of collaboration in practice relating to the region's economy. This collaboration has been used to inform the creation of the Mid Wales Growth Deal and the partnership is expected to continue in its role for many years to come.

Involvement

As with all public body 'Strategic Plans,' this Corporate Plan has been subject to wide ranging consultation before being finalised. It has been stated throughout the document that the Mid Wales CJC will develop and mature further over the coming years. As it does so, more detailed plans will come forward and ongoing consultation will be necessary to ensure all stakeholders continue to be involved with plans and subsequent actions that may impact on their lives. For example, the development of a Transport Plan to replace the current Joint Mid Wales Transport Plan will need wide ranging involvement of others to ensure it is integrated, preventative, and long term. The creation of the Strategic Development Plan will be informed by a number of formal consultation exercises at key stages of the plan. This will be a duty under Welsh Government legislation and guidance but is importantly a long-established way of working that is already embedded in the regions approach.

Assessment of Compliance

In order to ensure a consistent and rigorous approach to assessing the application of the 'Five Ways of Working' we will introduce an assessment template similar to that which has been used for the National Wellbeing Goals. This will be applied to each Wellbeing Objective as it progresses and develops into implementation. As the regions Wellbeing Objectives are at an early stage there is an opportunity to ensure rigorous compliance from the outset.



5.1 Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Wellbeing Objectives

The following Well-being objectives will act as a guide for the direction and purpose of the region. They are strategic by nature and will be at the forefront of the regions collaborative work. They will need to be inter-linked in terms of mutual and cross cutting benefits. For example, transport is key to ensuring access to meaningful employment which in turn contributes to a vibrant economy. In a similar way, digital solutions will remove barriers to business location and flexible approaches to working, that benefit both employers and employees. Strategic Planning also has the potential to support local sustainable economic growth.

These interdependencies will need to be reflected in the way that progress is made and measured.

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.’

The Mid Wales Growth Deal has been developed using the latest guidance and advice from both Welsh Government and UK Government and has been endorsed by both organisations. It is supported by an Economic Advisory Group which is made up of Business leaders from across the region.

The Growth Deal is designed to identify the most advantageous investment opportunities across a range of strategic priority areas. This work is complimented by each Council and the BBNP through a wide range of local economic development initiatives that will ensure sustainable growth for communities across the region. The Corporate Joint Committees Corporate Plan will focus on those things that will benefit from regional collaboration.

Detailed delivery plans are overseen and managed by a dedicated Programme Office whilst strategic oversight is provided by a Management Group which includes the Senior Responsible Officers (SRO’s) and Strategic Leads, with Welsh Government and UK Government observers in attendance.

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.’

There have been some key investments in the region that will have a long-lasting impact on travel times and CO2 emissions including the Newtown By-pass and the Ddyfi Bridge improvement scheme. Although the Joint Mid Wales Transport Plan (JMWTP) identified a range of other such improvements it is recognised that Welsh Government now want to focus future investment on more sustainable forms of transport for both work and recreation. Guidance relating to the replacement of existing JMWTP was provided recently and the region will use this to undertake a complete review of current priorities against future needs.

The Corporate Joint Committee will focus on delivering the strategic improvements that can be made to the transport system in Mid Wales – those opportunities that are truly regional.



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.’

It is clear from the Welsh Government that there is a hierarchy of Development Plans that are linked to address national strategic policies and objectives. The ‘Future Wales’ plan sets out the Welsh Government’s framework for Planning Development across the Country, which followed by Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) Regional Development Plans (RDP’s) and Local Development Plans (LDP’s). Clearly there is a need for consistency with a golden thread running through all three levels of plan that will ensure policy alignment throughout the Planning system.

The introduction of an additional layer of Planning Policy into the planning system will require additional resources to deliver. Discussions are currently ongoing with Welsh Government and the CJC to identify the resources required, and once identified, the appointment of a delivery team with the necessary skills and knowledge will take place.

It will, however, take time to ensure, as with Local Development Plans, that the emerging Strategic Development Plan is compliant with guidance and planning law, and meets the needs of the region and local communities.



6.0 Alignment with National Goals –

The following section sets out how the region will align with Welsh Governments Well-Being goals.

▪ **A prosperous Wales**

The delivery of the Growth Deal over the next decade and beyond will help improve the economic health of the region by increasing the number of jobs, improving pay, and increasing investment. The Regional Transport Plan will help to identify improvements in the way that transport is planned and delivered that will increase access to work opportunities and ensure freight can be moved sustainably and the public have access to public transport. The Strategic Development Plan will help to identify opportunities for sustainable development on a regional basis that will feed into LDP's that will impact positively on the prosperity of local communities.

▪ **A resilient Wales**

The principles of the Well-Being Goals have already been used to underpin the development of projects within the Mid Wales Growth Deal and will continue to be used to drive a sustainable approach to economic development. A Regional Transport Plan for the region and the creation of a SDP will provide opportunity to align regional policy with national direction, with a particular focus on sustainability.

▪ **A Healthier Wales**

Improving the prosperity of the Mid Wales population will help improve Health benefits for communities. The correlation between increased prosperity and health is well evidenced through research. Accessible, sustainable transport is also key to enabling people to access health services and a healthy lifestyle. Planning policy which steers local decision making also has the capacity to impact positively on healthy lifestyles by ensuring sustainable developments with access to open space and facilities are co-located.

▪ **A More Equal Wales**

Expanding opportunities across the region to access jobs will help those who are currently excluded.

- **A Wales of Cohesive Communities**

Improvements to the economy of Mid Wales will help ensure inclusivity and resilience within communities, thus increasing cohesiveness.

- **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language**

Increasing opportunities for economic activity, access to work and services, alongside an improved and a sustainable physical environment will help retain people in the region. This will in turn contribute to the strengthening of local culture and the Welsh Language.

- **A Globally Responsible Wales**

With sustainability and the environment at the heart of our plans for the economy, transport, and planning there will be increased alignment between national and local actions.

Corporate Wellbeing Objectives			
National Wellbeing Goals	WBO1	WB02	WB03
Prosperous	X	X	
Resilient	X	X	X
Healthier	X		X
More Equal	X	X	X
Cohesive			X
Culture		X	X
Global	X		

7.0 Action Plan

To progress the Vision and Objectives set out in this document an action plan has been agreed that will help ensure practical and timely progress. The action plan will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the plan is being enacted, and any changes to make the plan more effective are embedded. These action plans are intentionally strategic and high level in that more detailed plans will exist at operational level. These action plans are specifically intended to allow a strategic assessment as to whether progress is being made and if not, what needs to happen to address any shortcomings.

7.1 The Economy – Action Plan

Action	Timescale	Accountability
Develop an action plan for the delivery of the recently revised Growing Mid Wales Partnership - Strategic Economic Plan 2023.	To be agreed.	To be agreed.

7.2 Transport

Action	Timescale	Accountability
Assess Welsh Government guidelines on the production of a new regional transport plan from the point of receipt.	To be agreed.	To be agreed.
Using Welsh Government Guidelines, produce a draft work programme that is timebound from inception to completion.	To be agreed.	To be agreed.

7.3 Strategic Development Plan

Action	Timescale (financial year)	Accountability
Develop a Regional Working Group to progress preparatory work for the SDP	2023/2024	SDP Subgroup (complete)
Prepare and consult on a Delivery Agreement (DA) as detailed in the SDP manual (as yet unpublished)	Indicative 2024/2025	SDP Subgroup
Prepare an SDP in accordance with DA upon agreement at ministerial level	Indicative 2025 – 2030 - 5-year plan development period detailed in DA	SDP Subgroup

8.0 Regional Partners

In developing this Corporate Strategy careful consideration has been given to our regional partners. The term ‘regional’ in this instance is used to describe those organisations that already collaborate closely with the Local Authorities and National Park whose work impacts both directly and indirectly on the region’s services, specifically concerning the economy, transport and planning.

Partners include Local Health Boards, Local Service Boards, bordering Local Authorities in Wales and England, Welsh Government National Resources Wales and UK Government amongst others.

The Local Authorities in the Mid Wales Region are already involved in a number of other regional partnerships which include the Partnership Boards, and Public Service Boards. It will be important to consider the impact of an additional Partnership on existing commitments together with the need to share information with existing partners to avoid duplication and/or confusion. In addition, the capacity to manage and support multiple partnerships will need monitoring.

Engagement with an increased range of partners and stakeholders will take place during the consultation process in respect of this Corporate Plan whilst it is still in draft form. The final draft, which will be considered by the CJC in January 2024 of this year, will allow Members to consider the views of partners as well as the wider public and make any necessary changes before the plan is ratified.

In addition, as the work of the CJC is still at an early stage, both this Plan and associated CJC work will evolve over time, and ongoing engagement will be key to make sure the corporate plan is representative of the regions priorities as it matures.

9.0 Public Sector Duties

The CJC as a public body will need to ensure it fulfils its public sector duties in the same way that the constituent bodies already do. In particular, the CJC will need to be explicit as to how it is going to meet its responsibilities in respect of the following:

- **Promote and conduct sustainable development.**
- **Promote the Welsh Language.**
- **Enable greater diversity and equality.**
- **Reduce the inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.**
- **Seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity.**

The Mid Wales CJC has only recently been formed and there is still work to do to set out explicitly what is needed to fulfil these duties. As the constituent bodies are already undertaking this work there will be an understanding of what is required to ensure that these duties are fully met. This will ensure that as a minimum the CJC's intent is to meet these duties and over time exceed the statutory requirements. Reference has also been made throughout this strategy to many of the duties that need to be fulfilled. In addition, a detailed Impact Assessment has been undertaken to ensure the plan currently complies with a broad range of Welsh Government policies.

As has been identified, more still needs to be done and the CJC will set out in detail plans to ensure full compliance within the next 12 months. This will include a Biodiversity Duty Plan for the remaining period of the plan.



Welsh Government Strategies and Policies

In formulating this Plan, account has been taken of Welsh Government Strategies and Policies to ensure consistency and alignment with National and Regional plans. Some of the main Welsh Government strategies are referenced here. This is not an exhaustive list, but efforts have been made to consider the relevance of wider Welsh Government Strategy and Policy, the source of which may not be specifically referenced here.

It is important, however, that this document focuses on what, how, and when the Region will address strategic challenges for the economy, planning and transport and does not just mirror Welsh Government policy. The following sections set out the key Welsh Government strategies that have been used to develop this plan.

Future Wales – National Plan 2040

The structure of the Welsh Planning System

The Welsh Planning System is development plan led with an expectation that Plans will be developed on a national, regional and local basis. These three tiers will comprise ‘the development plan.’

The Welsh Governments ‘Future Wales’ document states that the National tier of the Development Plan process will be the highest tier. Strategic Development Plans will cover regional and sub regional scale, and Local Development Plans will consider local development policy.

The requirement is that the three tiers of the development plan will align and complement each other. ‘Future Wales’ will need to be reflected in the development of second and third tier plans conforming with guidance. Decisions flowing from the Strategic Development Plan process will need to align and accord with ‘Future Wales’ as will Local Development Plans.

The development of the Welsh Planning system is predicated on the spatial planning principle. In essence WG strategy and policy is not intended to determine local planning decisions but provide guidance, context, policies, and a framework within which more local decisions are taken.

Llwybr Newydd – Transport Strategy 2021

Welsh Government Vision

‘An Accessible, Sustainable and Efficient Transport System.’

Llwybr Newydd – or new path in Welsh – is Welsh Governments new transport strategy. It sets out the vision for how the Welsh transport system

can deliver Government priorities, helping to put the Country on a pathway to creating a more prosperous, green and equal society.

Using the five ways of working set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the strategy has extensively engaged with transport users, service providers and key partners to co-produce this new direction of travel. As well as setting out short-term priorities and long-term ambitions, it has developed nine mini plans explaining how Welsh Government will deliver them for different transport modes and sectors.

Llwybr Newydd is also supported by a more detailed Mobility in Wales report, the Transport Data and Trends report, and an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal. It will require governments, local authorities, transport providers (both commercial and third sector) and colleagues in other policy areas to work together to help ensure that transport contributes to the current and future well-being of Wales; to set Wales on a new path.

The Vision is further explained for clarity purposes as follows: -

‘Accessible’ - this means a system that meets the relevant policy and regulatory standards on equality, access, human rights, and the Welsh language, and aims to remove the physical, attitudinal, environmental, systemic, linguistic and economic barriers that prevent people from using sustainable transport services and infrastructure.

‘Sustainable’ - means a transport system that meets the needs of the present whilst protecting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. ‘

‘Efficient’ - means a transport system that gets people where they want to go, when they want to go there, making best use of resources.

‘Transport system’ - means transport infrastructure (such as footpaths, cycle paths, roads and rail as well as the many other structures and systems that support them including digital infrastructure) and transport services (such as bus and rail, taxis, aviation and maritime transport). The wider system encompasses commercial and third sector transport providers. It also includes governance – the legislation, regulation and policies that govern transport.

The Strategy sets out three priorities: -

Priority 1

- **Bring services to people to reduce the need to travel.**

We will plan for better physical and digital connectivity, more local services, more home and remote working and more active travel, to reduce the need for people to use their cars daily.

Priority 2

- **Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure.**

We will actively aim to achieve a shift away from private car use to more sustainable transport modes for most journeys.

We will invest in low-carbon, accessible, efficient and sustainable transport services and infrastructure that enable more people to walk, cycle and use public transport, and low-emissions vehicles.

Infrastructure - We will provide safe, accessible, well-maintained and managed transport infrastructure.

We will also future proof it to adapt to climate change and facilitate more sustainable transport choices.

Where we need new transport infrastructure, we will use the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy to guide decisions.

We will continue to make best use of existing transport infrastructure by maintaining and managing it well.

We will also adapt it to a changing climate and upgrade it to support modal shift.

Where we need new infrastructure, we will use the:

-Sustainable Transport Hierarchy

1 Walking and Cycling 2 Public Transport 3 Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles 4 Other Private Motor Vehicles

Priority 3

- **Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport.**

We will encourage people to change their travel behaviour to use low-carbon, sustainable transport.

We will do this by making sustainable transport more attractive and more affordable, and by adopting innovations that make it easier to use.

Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.

It will make the public bodies listed in the act think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

This will help us to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the act puts in place 7 well-being goals.

Well-being goals

- **A prosperous Wales**
- **A resilient Wales**
- **A healthier Wales**
- **A more equal Wales**
- **A Wales of cohesive communities**
- **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language**
- **A globally responsible Wales**



Why do we need this law?

Wales faces a number of challenges now and in the future, such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities, jobs, and growth. To tackle these, we need to work together. To give current and future generations a good quality of life we need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make. This law will make sure that our public sector does this.

How does it work?

Sustainable development

Sustainable development is about improving the way that we can achieve our economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. The act starts by giving a definition of what we mean by sustainable development.

In this Act “sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by acting, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

Part 2 ‘improving well-being’ section 2 ‘sustainable development’.

For Wales to be sustainable it is important that we improve all 4 aspects of our well-being. Each is as important as the others.

Well-being duty

The act places a duty that the public bodies will be expected to conduct. A duty means they must do this by law. The well-being duty states:

Each public body must conduct sustainable development.

The action a public body takes in conducting sustainable development must include:

1. setting and publishing objectives (“well-being objectives”) that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals, and
2. taking all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives.

Part 2 ‘Improving Well-being section 3 ‘well-being duty on public bodies’ paragraphs (1) and (2).

This means that each public body listed in the act must work to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. To do this they must set and publish well-being objectives.

These objectives will show how each public body will work to achieve the vision for Wales set out in the well-being goals. Public bodies must then take action to make sure they meet the objectives they set.

Which public bodies does the act include?

- Welsh Ministers
- **Local authorities**
- Local health boards
 - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
 - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
 - Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
 - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
 - Hywel Dda University Health Board
 - Powys Teaching Health Board
 - Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Public Health Wales NHS Trust
- Velindre NHS Trust
- National Park Authorities
 - Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
 - Snowdonia National Park Authority
 - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
- Fire and rescue authorities
 - North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
 - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
 - Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Natural Resources Wales
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- The Arts Council of Wales
- Sports Council of Wales
- National Library of Wales
- National Museum of Wales.

Well-being goals

The 7 well-being goals ('the goals') show the kind of Wales we want to see. Together they provide a shared vision for the public bodies listed in the act to work towards.

They are a set of goals; the act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all the goals, not just one or two.

1. A prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

2. A resilient Wales

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example, climate change).

3. A healthier Wales

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

4. A More Equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).

5. A Wales of cohesive communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

7. A globally responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Biodiversity Duty

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (the Act) introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the section 6 or s6 duty) for public authorities (PAs) in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales.

The s6 duty requires that public authorities ‘must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity as far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems’. To comply with the S6 duty, public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes, and projects, as well as their day-to-day activities.

Under section 6(7) of the Act all public authorities must, before the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year after 2019, publish a report on what they have done to comply with the s6 duty. Given the Mid Wales CJC has only been in existence since early 2022 the duty is yet to be fulfilled.

The Mid Wales CJC has not attempted to set out a detailed plan in this first iteration of our Corporate Plan, given that detailed work is yet to commence in the areas of economy, transport, and strategic development planning.

The opportunity, however, has been taken to set out our commitment to the Duty and our intent to fulfil all its requirements as detailed work is undertaken.

Mid Wales Commitment to Biodiversity

‘The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee is committed to fulfilling all duties contained within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and more specifically the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty as work progresses with the areas of Economy, Transport and Strategic Planning Development.

These areas of work are currently at an early stage and any attempt to fulfil these requirements at the current time would lack sufficient detail to meet the duty in any meaningful way.

‘Our commitment extends to ensuring that we will make a significant, material and beneficial difference to the environment and biodiversity for the region.’

Governance Administration and Resources

The Corporate Joint Committee is established under statutory Welsh Government legislation and as such it is important that the governance arrangements reflect these legislative requirements. In addition, these requirements need to be proportionate, transparent, and accessible.

This section of the Plan sets out the administrative arrangements that have been put in place to ensure appropriate governance and administration of the CJC for Mid Wales. The adoption of these arrangements is reported through a democratic process reflecting long established good practice for decision making and public transparency.

Background

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the LGE Act”) created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local authorities through Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). The LGE Act provides for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations (CJC Establishment Regulations).

The CJC will exercise functions in three areas namely strategic development planning, regional transport planning and the promotion of the economic well-being of their areas. In contrast to other joint committee arrangements, CJCs are separate corporate bodies which can employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and undertake functions.

The Mid Wales CJC will comprise of the Leaders of Powys County Council and Ceredigion County Council (“the Constituent Councils”) and in the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan, the CJC will include a representative of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

The CJC has prescribed functions related to the preparation of the Regional Transport Plan, Strategic Development Plan, and the exercise of Economic Wellbeing powers. These are set out specifically as follows:

- (a) **Economic well-being** (section 76 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)
- (b) **Transport policies** (section 108(1)(a) and (2)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000)
- (c) **Strategic development plan**

The CJC should be treated as a member of the ‘local government family’ and, where appropriate, should be subject to the same powers and duties as local authorities in the way that they operate. This includes the Sustainable Development and Well-being Duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (“the WFG Act”), the Environment Act 1995 and the duty to prepare and publish a strategy for

contributing to the eradication of child poverty in Wales under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010.

CJCs are required to appoint a number of statutory “executive officers” like the roles within principal councils (e.g., Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer).

The current postholders as agreed by the CJC on the are: -

Chief Executive – (This role will be rotated annually between the two constituent Councils)

Chief Finance Officer – Ceredigion Council lead authority

Monitoring Officer – Powys County Council lead authority

CJCs can directly employ such officers but it is also possible for staff to be loaned from a Constituent Council to fulfil these roles as the CJC may determine. It is also intended that all executive roles within a CJC will be afforded the same statutory protection and indemnity as statutory officers within principal councils.

An agreement will be entered into between the CJC and the authorities for staff to be made available to the CJC and will be acting as CJC staff when conducting functions for the CJC. The members of staff that are affected will be consulted to ensure to seek their agreement to these additional obligations.

Support Services

The support services provided will be on an ad-hoc basis as and when support is required and will be conducted by staff within their normal contracted hours with their Constituent Councils, and Chief Executives of each Authority will keep such matters under review to address workload pressures.

Standing Orders

Standing Orders have been agreed at the meeting of the CJC on the 25th January 2022 and are accessible through the link for CJC Committee and Agendas.

Constitution

A Constitution has also been agreed by the CJC on the 25th of January 2022 and are accessible through the link for CJC Committee and Agendas.

There are already 3 sets of governance Regulations in force. In addition to the establishing of regulations, there are 2 sets of General Regulations with a third anticipated to come into force in the Spring of 2023. It is likely that there will be a further set.

It can be appreciated therefore that establishing the governance arrangements for the CJC has to respond and develop against a legal situation which is still evolving.

An Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee has been established to monitor the work of the CJC. Similarly, the arrangements for the Code of Conduct and Standards Committee are to be confirmed. These are in italics in the Standing Orders on the assumption that the arrangements will reflect the consultation, but this has not been confirmed.

The members of the CJC are:

- (a) the executive leaders of a. Powys County Council b. Ceredigion County Council
- (b) A member of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority

The CJC members are entitled to vote in relation to any matter to be decided by the CJC, except that the Bannau Brycheiniog member may only vote where the matter to be decided is about strategic planning functions (and associated issues).

To implement the legislative requirements, it is proposed that the CJC will have three Sub Committees, with the chair and vice chair of each Sub-Committee being drawn from the respective Cabinets of the Constituent Councils (or their nominated deputies) and shared between the two authorities for a 12-month period. It is proposed that the following sub-committees be established: -

- Regional Transport Planning Sub Committee
- Economic Well Being – Regional Economic Development
- Strategic Development Planning Sub Committee

The CJC is required to establish a sub-committee to be known as the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee with the terms of reference being approved by the CJC before 1st June 2022.

The CJC will appoint a Standards Committee in accordance with the terms of reference adopted by the CJC.

Collaborating with its Constituent Councils and the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (“CJC”) will be required to put in place appropriate overview and scrutiny arrangements. Scrutiny will be an important part of the democratic accountability of the CJC. It will be important for CJCs to consult on and agree the arrangements with its constituent councils.

In considering the most effective and efficient approach to scrutiny, Welsh Government require Constituent Councils and CJCs to give thought to the benefits of a joint overview and scrutiny committee made up of the constituent councils together with the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority in respect of Strategic Development Planning matters. The clear aim and ambition however must be to create, facilitate and encourage a clear democratic link back to the constituent councils.

Future reports will be brought back to the CJC to appoint representatives to this Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

The CJC met in January 2023 to establish its budget for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Financial Impacts

The financial impacts of adopting this Constitution and associated documents will be incorporated into the budget for 2023/2024 and future reports to the CJC.

Equality Act

The CJC is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socioeconomic 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 socioeconomic 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 part of the Equality Act the region will meet its statutory duty by adopting existing Strategic Equality Plans (SEP's) that form part of each lead authorities own Corporate Plans.

Sustainable Development

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must conduct sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by acting, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals.

Although an Integrated Impact Assessment will be required as the work of the CJC develops this has not been undertaken to date. It is, however, an integral part of this Corporate Plan and the Integrated Assessment.

Workforce Impacts

Part 5 of the LGE Act 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 an initial framework for example, that the CJC should be established and the time limits for the discharging of specific functions. However, a series of further Regulations are being drafted and consulted on by Welsh Government. The Welsh Government has concluded its consultation on the Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations 2021. The Welsh Government is also currently consulting on draft statutory guidance.

Risk Management Impacts

Failure to constitute the CJC means the CJC will be unable to take any decisions, including setting a budget and accordingly would be in breach of the legal requirements imposed under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (exposing each constituent council and national park authority to challenge) along with the reputational risks that such non-compliance will bring.

Resources

Although Welsh Government have provided funding for the setting up of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee, it is a requirement that the local authority member organisations fund an annual budget to resource ongoing work.

Budget 2023/24

The Budget for 2023/24 is included. The budget proposed totals £175,000 consisting of £131,255 for the General Budget and £43,745 for the Strategic Development Plan Budget. Powys County Council and Ceredigion County Council will fund the budget equally. The basis for funding the MWCJC budget will be reviewed and agreed annually.

The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority fund 11.45% (per national park population projections – 2018 based – published May 2021) of the Strategic Development Plan Budget. The 2023/24 Budget remains predicated on limited expenditure being incurred. This is in part due to number of matters needing resolution with Welsh Government. There are also key areas where further clarification is required before financial implications and timelines can be fully understood e.g., Welsh Government Regional Transport Plan guidance. In addition, at this stage no formal decision has been made regarding the Growing Mid Wales Joint Committee, which currently sits outside of the MWCJC.

Therefore, as several factors become clearer, there may need to be a formal revision of the 23/24 MWCJC budget.

Other Financial Matters

- A. Surpluses that accrue in any year will be contained in the Strategic Planning and General Budgets identified separately within the MWCJC reserve account and will be used for future expenditure.
- B. All costs incurred and charged to MWCJC (being a separate legal entity) will need to be appropriately evidenced. This is to ensure value for money relative to the level of activity, outputs and number of MWCJC meetings taking place.
- C. Audit Wales will also at the right time formally need to certify the year end outturn position for 2022/23. When MWCJC expenditure falls under £2.5m in any given year, then this is via an annual return. It is worth noting that beyond this threshold a fuller Statement of Accounts would be required, which would be a step up in terms of resources required.
- D. The MWCJC does not have any liabilities outstanding in respect of any earlier financial year as a result it is not currently recommended that an amount is approved to be held for this purpose.
- E. Budgets for the MWCJC will be reviewed on an annual basis to reflect the growing work programme and to ensure the resourcing of specific work areas.

Equalities – Integrated Impact Assessment and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

Councils within the region have already identified the importance of equalities as part of their own Corporate Plans. This drive to improve equality of opportunity is therefore shared across the region and is a core principle to this corporate plan and the joint way of working.

The statutory regulation that embeds the need to address inequalities is contained within the Equality Act 2010. More specifically CJC's are listed in the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and are clearly a duty that local authorities, and in this case CJC's, must embrace. This duty is regulated by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The use of Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA's) is now customary practice for public sector organisations and helps to assess how their plans may impact on disadvantaged, deprived and vulnerable groups and individuals. It is also important that initiative-taking steps are taken to improve the life chances of such groups and individuals, and in doing so there needs to be an aspirational approach to address inequality that goes beyond any statutory requirements. The Mid Wales Region will adopt an Integrated Impact Assessment process that ensures statutory compliance but has also set out an overriding equality statement which will guide a number of equality objectives that form part of this plan.

Rather than create a new IIA process for the region it has been decided to adopt the format used by Powys County Council. This process has been developed over many years and has proved effective in assessing compliance with national guidance.

In addition, the Mid Wales CJC is legally required to produce a Strategic Equality Plan (SEP). Both lead authorities have already met this duty by ensuring that the individual Council Corporate Plans include SEP's for their own areas. It has been agreed with the Equality and Human Rights Commission that the inclusion of these existing plans as a part of this Corporate Strategy, will meet compliance with the obligations under the Equality Act and, in particular, the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). An Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee will be appointed to monitor progress of the CJC in this, and all other areas, as described in the governance section of this plan.

Powys County Council Impact Assessment (AI)

The work undertaken in relation to the areas of Economy, Transport and Strategic Planning will have potential impacts on our communities in respect of equalities. It is essential that at each stage of the process we undertake ongoing impact assessments as to how this work will impact on our communities. We are therefore confident that as each area of work will need to undertake its own detailed Integrated Impact Assessment we will meet and exceed out statutory duty.

As an overarching guiding principle, we have set out our vision, together with our objectives, that will be used ensure equalities are at the forefront of our work.

Vision for the Mid Wales Regional Corporate Joint Committee - Equalities

'The Mid Wales Region will prioritise work to improve opportunities for those who experience inequality and socio-economic disadvantage at the heart of what we do.'

Objectives

1. We will work to improve opportunities that residents in the region have access to well paid jobs including those who are socio-economically disadvantaged.
2. We will work to create an integrated transport system that improves opportunities to access work and recreation including those who are disadvantaged through inequality.
3. We will work to ensure that Strategic Development Plan policy and guidance provides improved opportunities for disadvantaged groups and individuals.

Measurement and Assessment

We will use the Integrated Impact Assessment process as set out by Welsh Government to measure how we are progressing with the equality objectives set out above. This assessment will be undertaken in tandem with the IIA we will undertake for the CJC wellbeing objectives that are also set out in this plan.

Sustainability

Sustainability is at the heart of what public sector organisations need to do to ensure future generations can live their lives in a healthy and fulfilling way. In a more concise way, sustainability means that we must strive to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability is defined by Welsh Government as a process of improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.

The Welsh Governments Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 introduced the sustainable development principles in the 5 Ways of Working that all public bodies must adopt. It is a duty that is placed on public sector bodies across Wales. Councils within the region already operate in accordance with these principles in their own Corporate Plans and will continue to adopt an approach throughout this plan that reflects the principles both in the way they are delivered and measured.

Given the more strategic nature of the work of CJC's it is likely that the impact of our work will be spread over a longer period. It is important that we monitor closely how the development of plans, and the delivery of investment decisions, impacts on the sustainability of our communities for the long term.

Five Ways of Working Principles

1. Long term

The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

2. Prevention

How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

3. Integration

Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

4. Collaboration

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

5. Involvement

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

Performance Management and Quality Assurance

Measuring progress with our plans is critical if we are to demonstrate commitment and accountability for actions identified.

To this end we will use the Powys County Council Performance Management and Quality Assurance Framework to assess how well the CJC is delivering on the plan. The principles of Plan–Do–Review, which are the basis for the Framework will be used to make sure progress is assessed, monitored and transparent.

The region also has a duty to meet a range of Welsh Government legislative requirements that have already been set out in this document. For example, meeting our Wellbeing Objectives will be key to demonstrating that the CJC is meeting its commitment to the Act.

Annual Report

The Corporate Joint Committee will produce an annual report that sets out our achievements in terms of how progress has been made in the areas of Economy, Transport and Strategic Planning. In addition, this annual report will set out how we have met our legislative requirements to Welsh Government.

Scrutiny and Audit

The CJC will be scrutinised and audited in accordance with the constitution which is attached as appendix. The work of the oversight sub committees will be partly governed by the statutory guidance contained within a range of Welsh Government strategies and policies.

The following paragraphs set out the purpose and role of both the Governance and Audit Sub Committee, and the Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee.

The Corporate Joint Committee, as set out in the constitution, will be scrutinised by both the Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee, and the Governance and Audit Sub Committee.

Governance and Audit Sub-Committee

The CJC will establish a sub-committee (known as the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee) to:

- a. Review and scrutinise the CJC's financial affairs.
- b. Make reports and recommendations in relation to the CJC's financial affairs.
- c. Review and assess the risk management, internal control, and corporate governance arrangements of the CJC.
- d. Make reports and recommendations to the CJC on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements.
- e. Oversee the CJC's internal and external audit arrangements.
- f. Review any financial statements prepared by the CJC.
- g. Exercise such other functions as the CJC may specify.

Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The CJC have established an Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee in accordance with the terms of reference adopted by the CJC The purpose of the Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee shall be:

Performing the overview and scrutiny function for the CJC on behalf of the Constituent Councils and the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority where appropriate to:

(a) review and or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the CJC's functions.

(b) make reports or recommendations to the CJC or its executive officers with respect to the discharge of any of those functions.

(c) exercise such other functions as the CJC may determine.

(d) To develop a Forward Work Programme annually, reflecting the functions described.

(e) To seek reassurance and consider if the CJC is developing according to guidance from WG.



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Asesiad Effaith

Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig y Canolbarth - Cynllun Corfforaethol



DRAFT

15/12/2023

Cyfeirnod: 5852-5749-3140-0861

Proses o asesu sut y gallai ein cynigion a'n penderfyniadau effeithio ar wahanol fathau o bobl a chymunedau a datblygu cynigion yn unol â deddfwriaeth berthnasol yw Asesiadau Effaith.

Mae hwn yn ofyniad cyfreithiol, ac mae'n sicrhau bod y Cyngor yn ystyried deddfwriaeth allweddol, gan gynnwys Cydraddoldebau, y Gymraeg, Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, Dyletswydd Economaidd-gymdeithasol a Risg wrth ddatblygu cynigion.

1. Gwybodaeth am y Cynnig

Enw'r awdur	Paul Griffiths
Pennaeth y gwasanaeth	,
Deiliad portffolio	
Teitl y cynnig	Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig y Canolbarth – Cynllun Corfforaethol

Disgrifiad o'r cynnig	<p>Mae'r Asesiad Effaith Integredig hwn ar ran Cyngor Sir Powys, Cyngor Sir Ceredigion a Pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog ac yn ymwneud â llunio Cynllun Corfforaethol ar gyfer Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig y Canolbarth. Bydd yr Asesiad Effaith yn sicrhau bod y cynllun yn cydymffurfio â'r gwahanol ofynion deddfwriaethol a restrir yn y canllawiau.</p> <p>Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi deddfu ar gyfer creu Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig ledled Cymru. Mae Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig y Canolbarth yn cynnwys Cyngorau Sir Powys a Cheredigion a Pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog (PCBB). O ran PCBB, bydd cyfranogiad wedi'i gyfyngu i faterion yn ymwneud â Chynllunio Strategol.</p> <p>Prin yw'r canllawiau ynghylch yr hyn y mae'n rhaid i'r Cynllun Corfforaethol ar gyfer Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig ei gynnwys, ond gwnaed y dybiaeth y bydd yn dilyn yr egwyddorion generig cymedrig a sefydlwyd ar gyfer llunio Cynlluniau Corfforaethol sector cyhoeddus.</p> <p>Gwnaed pob ymdrech i ddilyn y canllawiau sydd ar gael ar gyfer cwblhau'r Asesiad Effaith hwn, ond gan fod y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig dal yn ei febyd nid yw'r manylion sydd eu hangen i hysbysu llawer o'r cwestiynau a godir wedi'u cynhyrchu eto. Cydnabyddir felly y bydd angen diweddarau'r Asesiad Effaith hwn yn rheolaidd wrth i fwy o fanylion o ran cynllunio a gweithgarwch ddod ar gael.</p> <p>Ceir disgwyliad gan Lywodraeth Cymru i Gyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig sicrhau bod unrhyw gynlluniau yn cydymffurfio â deddfwriaeth, yn enwedig fel y mae'n ymwneud â chydaddoldebau. Mae pob aelod o'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig eisoes wedi gwneud ymrwymiad yn ei Gynllun Corfforedig ei hun.</p>
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2. Arbedion a gofynion Ymgynghori

Proffil yr arbedion a ddarperir

Gofynion ymgynghori

A oes angen ymgynghoriad?	Oes
Dyddiad terfyn ymgynghori â'r undebau	31/08/2023
Dyddiad terfyn ymgynghori â'r staff	31/08/2023
Dyddiad terfyn ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd	31/08/2023

Dull ymgynghori	Bydd y broses ymgynghori yn cael ei chynnal dros gyfnod o 6 wythnos. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys trigolion, busnesau, Llywodraeth Cymru, staff Cyngor, Aelodau Cyngor a chyrff cyhoeddus perthnasol eraill yn siroedd Powys a Cheredigion, a Pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog yn ogystal ag Awdurdodau Lleol eraill ledled Cymru. Bydd yr ymgynghoriad yn cael ei gynnal ar-lein ond bydd ymwybyddiaeth o'r broses, gan gynnwys sut i wneud sylwadau yn ystod y broses ymgynghori, yn cael ei hybu yn eang.
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3. Effaith ar feysydd gwasanaeth eraill, ardaloedd daearyddol a diogelu data

3a. Effaith ar feysydd gwasanaeth eraill

- Comisiynu a Phartneriaethau (Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol)
- Addysg
- Gwasanaethau Cymunedol
- Cyfreithiol a Monitro
- Gwasanaethau Trawsnewid a Democrataidd
- Priffyrdd, Trafnidiaeth ac Ailgylchu
- Gwasanaethau Economi a Digidol
- Gwasanaethau Tai
- Cynllunio Eiddo a Diogelu'r Cyhoedd
- Datblygu'r Gweithlu a'r Sefydliad
- Cyllid (Adran 151)
- Gwasanaethau Trawsnewid a Democrataidd
- Ysgolion (Cynradd, Uwchradd ac Arbennig) arall

3b. Effaith ar leoliadau daearyddol

3c. Asesiad effaith diogelu data

A fydd y cynnig yn cynnwys prosesu manylion personol unigolion?

Na fydd

Ai Cyngor Sir Powys yw'r rheolydd data?

Nage

Rhagor o wybodaeth

Ni fydd Cynllun Corfforaethol y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn defnyddio unrhyw ddata personol wrth ei gynhyrchu. Mae'n ddogfen lefel uchel y bwriedir iddi bennu cyfeiriad cyffredinol ar gyfer nifer o gyd-wasanaethau ar draws Rhanbarth y Canolbarth a thrwy wneud hynny ystyrir ei bod yn isel ei risg o ran unrhyw dor diogelwch data posibl. Bydd y cynllun yn cynnwys gwybodaeth ystadegol sydd eisoes yn gyhoeddus ac na ellir ei phriodoli i unrhyw sefydliad neu unigolyn penodol.

4. Effaith ar Weledigaeth 2025

4a. Yr economi

Effaith

Mae Cynllun Corfforaethol y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn nodi sut y bydd awdurdodau Powys, Ceredigion a Pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog yn cydweithio i wella llesiant economaidd Rhanbarth y Canolbarth. Yn ogystal â'r economi, bydd y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig hefyd yn cynnwys meysydd Trafnidiaeth a Chynllunio, y mae'r ddau yn effeithio ar iechyd economaidd y rhanbarth.

Bydd gwaith y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn strategol ei natur ac yn sefydlu cysylltiad rhwng polisïau Llywodraeth Cymru ac Awdurdodau Lleol. Bydd y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn cyflwyno polisi rhanbarthol a gallai weithredu prosiectau traws-ranbarthol pan fo'n briodol gwneud hynny. Fel y nodwyd eisoes, bydd y gwaith hwn wedi'i gyfyngu i feysydd yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Chynllunio.

Dyfarniad effaith

Da

Lliniaru	Bydd y cydweithio cynyddol rhwng Powys, Ceredigion a Bannau Brycheiniog yn sicrhau y bydd y gwasanaethau hynny sy'n dibynnu ar gynllunio rhanbarthol yn elwa o drefniadau partneriaeth cynyddol a mwy ffurfiol. Bydd y gwasanaethau hynny a ddarperir orau o fewn daearyddiaeth bresennol pob ardal awdurdod lleol yng ngwasanaethau'r Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Chynllunio yn parhau i gael eu darparu yn lleol. Dim ond y gwasanaethau hynny a fydd yn elwa o weithio rhanbarthol fydd yn ddarostyngedig i'r cynllun hwn. Bydd penderfyniadau yn ymwneud â'r cynllun yn cael eu gwneud gan Arweinwyr y ddau Gyngor priodol ynghyd â Chadeirydd Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, a bydd yr olaf o'r rhain wedi'i gyfyngu i Ddatblygiad Cynllunio Strategol.
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Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da
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4b. Iechyd a gofal

Effaith	<p>Ceir llawer o dystiolaeth bod gan welliannau yn yr economi y potensial i sicrhau canlyniadau iechyd buddiol i bobl. Nod Cynllun Corfforaethol y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yw cyflwyno blaenoriaethau strategol a fydd yn arwain at welliannau yn yr economi ranbarthol dros gyfnod estynedig.</p> <p>Bydd y Cynllun yn ymgorffori nifer o amcanion Llesiant, y mae gan bob un ohonynt y potensial i gael effaith gadarnhaol ar drigolion y Canolbarth Cymru. O ystyried natur strategol y Cynllun, mater i'r awdurdodau unigol fydd penderfynu i ba raddau y mae'r cynllun yn effeithio ar ei ôl troed daearyddol ei hun, er y gellid rhoi mentrau ar y cyd ar waith o dro i dro.</p>
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Dyfarniad effaith	Da
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<p>Lliniaru</p>	<p>Bydd cydweithio agosach, mwy ffurfiol rhwng Powys, Ceredigion a Pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog yn sicrhau y bydd penderfyniadau rhanbarthol o ran yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Chynllunio yn briodol â gwell canlyniadau. Bydd gweithrediad cyson polisi ar gyfer ardaloedd mawr, pennaf wledig o Gymru hefyd yn rhoi mwy o eglurder a dealltwriaeth o bolisi i drigolion, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd sy'n agos at ffiniau.</p> <p>Bydd lliniaru rhag unrhyw effaith polisi negyddol yn cael ei sicrhau trwy wneud penderfyniadau a gweithrediad lleol y gellir eu teilwra i angen ac amgylchiadau lleol.</p>
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<p>Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru</p>	<p>Da</p>
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4c. Dysgu a sgiliau

<p>Effaith</p>	<p>Yn rhan o'r cydweithio presennol rhwng Powys a Cheredigion, lluniwyd Bargaen Twf Canolbarth Cymru a fydd yn arwain at fuddsoddiad sylweddol yn economi'r rhanbarth dros y 10-15 mlynedd nesaf. Mae'r amcan o gynyddu sgiliau a dysgu yn y gweithle yn rhan allweddol o'r Fargen Dwf a bydd yn helpu i gynyddu ffyniant y rhanbarth dros amser. Mae gan yr amcan o gynyddu ffyniant yn y rhanbarth, yn arwain at gyfraddau cyflog uwch, y potensial o helpu teuluoedd i symud allan o dlodi.</p> <p>Mae sefydlu Partneriaeth Sgiliau Rhanbarthol Canolbarth Cymru sy'n adlewyrchu daearyddiaeth y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig ac sy'n cyd-fynd yn agos â'r gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â Bargaen Twf Canolbarth Cymru yn golygu bod yr agenda sgiliau gweithle yn ganolog i gynlluniau ar gyfer yr economi.</p>
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<p>Dyfarniad effaith</p>	<p>Da</p>
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<p>Lliniaru</p>	<p>Bydd mwy o sgiliau a gwybodaeth yn yr amgylchedd gwaith yn arwain at swyddi sy'n talu'n well gan gynyddu ffyniant y rhanbarth.</p> <p>Hefyd, bydd sylfaen sgiliau fwy yn rhanbarth y canolbarth yn cynyddu llwyddiant busnesau lleol ac yn cynyddu dros amser lefel y buddsoddiad lleol yn yr ardal.</p>
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<p>Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru</p>	<p>Da</p>
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4d. Trigolion a chymunedau

<p>Effaith</p>	<p>Bydd twf economaidd y rhanbarth yn sicrhau bod cymunedau yn gynaliadwy ar gyfer y dyfodol hirdymor. Gan fod tueddiad i bobl iau adael y rhanbarth ar gyfer cyfleoedd gwaith gwell mewn mannau eraill, mae angen darparu swyddi hynod fedrus sy'n talu'n dda yn y rhanbarth i fynd i'r afael â'r tueddiad hwn. Yn sgil hynny, mae angen mynd i'r afael â'r anghydwysedd yn nemograffeg poblogaeth y canolbarth a thrwy gadw mwy o bobl ifanc yn yr ardal, a fydd yn cael effaith gadarnhaol wedyn ar gynaliadwyedd cymunedau lleol.</p>
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<p>Dyfarniad effaith</p> <p>Lliniaru</p>	<p>Da</p> <p>Bydd cymunedau yn dod yn fwy cynaliadwy oherwydd cynnydd i gyfleoedd gwaith a fydd o gymorth penodol i gadw pobl iau yn y rhanbarth.</p>
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<p>Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru</p>	<p>Da</p>
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4e. Tystiolaeth

Er bod gan y ddau Gyngor a PCBB hanes maith o gydweithio ar nifer o fentrau a meysydd gwasanaeth, yr ysgogiad allweddol ar gyfer ffurfioli'r berthynas yw deddfwriaeth a roddwyd ar waith gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Y realiti felly yw bod yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol yn rhanbarth y canolbarth fodloni gofynion y deddfwriaeth o ran gweithio rhanbarthol. O'r herwydd, mae dyletswydd i gydymffurfio.

5. Effaith ar nodau llesiant gan gynnwys y Gymraeg a chydraddoldebau.

5a. Cymru lewyrchus

Effaith	Bydd darparu'r Fargen Twf dros y degawd nesaf a thu hwnt yn helpu i wella iechyd economaidd y rhanbarth trwy gynyddu nifer y swyddi, gwella cyflogau, a chynyddu buddsoddiad. Bydd y Cynllun Trafnidiaeth Rhanbarthol wedi'i adnewyddu yn helpu i nodi gwelliannau i'r ffordd y mae trafndiaeth yn cael ei chynllunio a'i darparu a fydd yn gwella mynediad at gyfleoedd hamdden a gwaith. Bydd y Cynllun Datblygu Strategol yn helpu i nodi cyfleoedd ar gyfer datblygu cynaliadwy ar sail ranbarthol a fydd yn cyfrannu at CDLlau ac yna'n cael effaith gadarnhaol ar ffyniant cymunedau lleol.
Dyfarniad effaith	Da
Lliniaru	Gan fod y rhanbarth wedi'i gyfansoddi o dri awdurdod yn unig, ceir rheolaeth a dylanwad sylweddol dros yr hyn y bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn ei gynnwys. O'r herwydd, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw strategaeth neu bolisi a ddatblygir yn gwrthdaro â Gweledigaeth, Nodau ac Amcanion unigol y Cynghorau/ PCBB. Felly bydd y lefel o fewnbwn uniongyrchol i'r cynllun yn sicrhau aliniad â Chynllun Corfforedig pob awdurdod lleol ei hun. Disgwylir y bydd hyn yn lliniaru unrhyw debygolrwydd y bydd unrhyw wrthdaro â strategaeth neu/a pholisi presennol.
Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da

5b. Cymru gydnerth

Effaith	Defnyddiwyd egwyddorion y Nodau Cenedlaethol eisoes fel sail i ddatblygiad prosiectau o fewn Bargen Twf Canolbarth Cymru a byddant yn parhau i gael eu defnyddio i ysgogi dull cynaliadwy o ddatblygiad economaidd. Bydd Strategaeth Drafnidiaeth Ranbarthol wedi'i hadnewyddu yn cynnig cyfle i alinio polisi rhanbarthol â chyfeiriad cenedlaethol, gyda phwyslais penodol ar gynaliadwyedd. Bydd dyletswydd i ddilyn canllawiau a pholisi Llywodraeth Cymru mewn amrywiaeth eang o feysydd a fydd yn sicrhau bod unrhyw effeithiau negyddol posibl yn cael eu lleihau, eu lliniaru neu eu dileu.
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Dyfarniad effaith	Da
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Lliniaru	Gan fod y rhanbarth wedi'i gyfansoddi o dri awdurdod yn unig, ceir rheolaeth a dylanwad sylweddol dros yr hyn y bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn ei gynnwys. O'r herwydd, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw strategaeth neu bolisi a ddatblygir yn gwrthdaro â Gweledigaeth, Nodau ac Amcanion unigol y Cynghorau/ PCBB. Felly bydd y lefel o fewnbwn uniongyrchol i'r cynllun yn sicrhau aliniad â chynllun corfforedig pob awdurdod lleol ei hun. Disgwylir y bydd hyn yn lliniaru unrhyw debygolrwydd y bydd unrhyw wrthdaro â strategaeth neu/a pholisi presennol.
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Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da
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5c. Cymru iachach

Effaith	<p>Bydd gwella ffyniant poblogaeth y canolbarth yn helpu i wella buddion iechyd i gymunedau. Ceir tystiolaeth dda o'r gyberthynas rhwng ffyniant ac iechyd o waith ymchwil. Mae trafndiaeth hygyrch a chynaliadwy hefyd yn allweddol i alluogi pobl i gael mynediad at wasanaethau iechyd, a ffordd iach o fyw y gall datblygu lleol sicrhau bod cydraddoldebau iechyd yn ganolog i bolisi cynllunio.</p> <p>Nid oes unrhyw brosiectau yn ymwneud ag unrhyw un o'r ardaloedd sy'n ddarostyngedig i'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig wedi'u cymeradwyo eto ac felly prin yw'r manylion ychwanegol y gellir eu darparu ar hyn o bryd. Bydd yr Aseiad Effaith hwn yn cael ei adolygu yn rheolaidd i sicrhau bod yr aseiad yn parhau i fod yn gyfredol ac yn berthnasol wrth i waith ddatblygu.</p>
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Dyfarniad effaith

Da

Lliniaru

Gan fod y rhanbarth wedi'i gyfansoddi o dri awdurdod yn unig, ceir rheolaeth a dylanwad sylweddol dros yr hyn y bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn ei gynnwys. O'r herwydd, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw strategaeth neu bolisi a ddatblygir yn gwrthdaro â Gweledigaeth, Nodau ac Amcanion unigol y Cynghorau/ PCBB. Felly bydd y lefel o fewnbwn uniongyrchol i'r cynllun yn sicrhau aliniad â chynllun corfforedig pob awdurdod lleol ei hun. Disgwylir y bydd hyn yn lliniaru unrhyw debygolrwydd y bydd unrhyw wrthdaro â strategaeth neu/a pholisi presennol.

Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru

Da

5d. Cymru o gymunedau cydlynus**Effaith**

Mae economi fywiog yn ganolog i gymuned iach. Mae amrywiaeth o gyfleoedd gwaith sy'n cynnig cyflogau da yn rhan o economi lwyddiannus ac mae amodau o'r fath yn helpu i gynnal a thyfu cymunedau lleol. Mae cysylltiadau trafnidiaeth a chysylltedd cryf hefyd yn nodwedd hanfodol o fywyd cymunedol yn enwedig mewn ardal wledig prin ei phoblogaeth. Yn ogystal â'r pethau hyn, mae fframwaith datblygiad cynllunio cryf lle gall cyfleoedd datblygu a ysgogir yn lleol ddatblygu hefyd yn allweddol o gymuned fywiog a chryf. Felly mae gan y gwaith y bydd y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn ei oruchwylio y potensial i gael effaith gadarnhaol sylweddol ar gydlyniant cymunedol. Mae'n rhy gynnar i fod yn fwy penodol ynghylch beth gallai hyn fod yn y cyfnod ffurfiannol hwn o ddatblygiad y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig.

Dyfarniad effaith

Da

Lliniaru

Gan fod y rhanbarth wedi'i gyfansoddi o dri awdurdod yn unig, ceir rheolaeth a dylanwad sylweddol dros yr hyn y bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn ei gynnwys. O'r herwydd, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw strategaeth neu bolisi a ddatblygir yn gwrthdaro â Gweledigaeth, Nodau ac Amcanion unigol y Cynghorau/ PCBB. Felly bydd y lefel o fewnbwn uniongyrchol i'r cynllun yn sicrhau aliniad â chynllun corfforedig pob awdurdod lleol ei hun. Disgwylir y bydd hyn yn lliniaru unrhyw debygolrwydd y bydd unrhyw wrthdaro â strategaeth neu/a pholisi presennol.

Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru

Da

5e. Cymru sy'n gyfrifol yn fyd-eang

<p>Effaith</p>	<p>Mae'n ofynnol i'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig ystyried amrywiaeth eang o strategaethau a pholisïau Llywodraeth Cymru gan gynnwys Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, Deddf yr Amgylchedd Cymru A Cymru'r Dyfodol - y Cynllun Cenedlaethol ymhlith eraill. Mae cyfle cyfartal, llesiant cymdeithasol, economaidd, amgylcheddol a diwylliannol a thegwch yn ganolog i'r cynlluniau hyn.</p> <p>Mae Cynllun Corfforaethol y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig hefyd yn adlewyrchiad o werthoedd a chredoau y sefydliadau sy'n lletya fel y maent wedi'u cynnwys yn eu cynlluniau corfforedig penodol i'w sefydliadau eu hunain. Mae'r cynlluniau hyn yn adlewyrchu'n gryf y gwerthoedd sydd gan aelodau'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig eisoes. Mae'n rhy gynnar yn natblygiad y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig i gyfeirio'n benodol at gamau a fydd yn cael effaith gadarnhaol ar yr amcan hwn, ond dylai fod yn eglur o'r cynllun bod y bwriad o wneud hynny wedi'i ddatgan yn eglur.</p>
<p>Dyfarniad effaith</p>	<p>Da</p>
<p>Lliniaru</p>	<p>Gan fod y rhanbarth wedi'i gyfansoddi o dri awdurdod yn unig, ceir rheolaeth a dylanwad sylweddol dros yr hyn y bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn ei gynnwys. O'r herwydd, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw strategaeth neu bolisi a ddatblygir yn gwrthdaro â Gweledigaeth, Nodau ac Amcanion unigol y Cynghorau/ PCBB. Felly bydd y lefel o fewnbwn uniongyrchol i'r cynllun yn sicrhau aliniad â chynllun corfforedig pob awdurdod lleol ei hun. Disgwylir y bydd hyn yn lliniaru unrhyw debygolrwydd y bydd unrhyw wrthdaro â strategaeth neu/a pholisi presennol.</p>
<p>Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru</p>	<p>Da</p>

5f. Cymru â diwylliant bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn ffynnu

Defnyddio'r Gymraeg

Effaith	Bydd cynyddu cyfleoedd ar gyfer gweithgarwch economaidd, mynediad at waith a gwasanaethau ochr yn ochr ag amgylchedd ffisegol gwell a mwy deniadol yn helpu i gadw pobl yn y rhanbarth. Bydd hyn yn cyfrannu at gryfhau diwylliant lleol. Bydd twf y Gymraeg yn cael ei wella os bydd cymunedau yn aros yn hyfyw ac yn gynaliadwy, ac yn meddu ar gysylltedd cryf. Mae gwaith y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn canolbwyntio ar wella'r economi a thrafnidiaeth o fewn fframwaith datblygu priodol. Bydd hyn yn arwain at wella economïau lleol a fydd yn helpu wedyn i gadw a thros amser cynyddu cyfleoedd i'r Gymraeg a diwylliant Cymru dyfu.
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Dyfarniad effaith	Da
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Lliniaru	Bydd cynyddu cyfleoedd ar gyfer gweithgarwch economaidd, mynediad at waith a gwasanaethau ochr yn ochr ag amgylchedd ffisegol gwell a mwy deniadol yn helpu i gadw pobl yn y rhanbarth. Mae'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig ar gam ffurfiannol o'i ddatblygiad ac nid yw prosiectau manwl wedi'u datblygu'n llawn eto. Bydd hyn yn digwydd dros amser ac yn adlewyrchu'r gwerthoedd diwylliant cryf sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn y Strategaeth Gorfforedig. Bydd yr Asesiad Effaith hwn yn cael ei adolygu wrth i gynlluniau'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig ddatblygu fel y gellir ychwanegu mwy o fanylion wrth i gynnydd gael ei wneud.
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Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da
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Hybu'r Gymraeg

Effaith	Bydd cynyddu cyfleoedd ar gyfer gweithgarwch economaidd, mynediad at waith a gwasanaethau ochr yn ochr ag amgylchedd ffisegol gwell a mwy deniadol yn helpu i gadw pobl yn y rhanbarth. Bydd hyn yn cyfrannu wedyn at gryfhau diwylliant lleol.
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Dyfarniad effaith	Da
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Lliniaru	Gan fod y rhanbarth wedi'i gyfansoddi o dri awdurdod yn unig, ceir rheolaeth a dylanwad sylweddol dros yr hyn y bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn ei gynnwys. O'r herwydd, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw strategaeth neu bolisi a ddatblygir yn gwrthdaro â Gweledigaeth, Nodau ac Amcanion unigol y Cynghorau/ PCBB. Bydd y lefel o fewnbwn uniongyrchol i'r cynllun yn sicrhau aliniad â chynllun corfforedig pob awdurdod lleol ei hun. Disgwylir y bydd hyn yn lliniaru unrhyw debygolrwydd y bydd unrhyw wrthdaro â strategaeth neu/a pholisi presennol. O ran y Gymraeg, mae Cynghorau Powys a Cheredigion wedi gwneud ymrwymïadau cryf i gynnal a gwella cyfleoedd i'r iaith ffynnu a
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bydd hyn yr un fath yng nghyswllt y Cynllun Corfforaethol ar gyfer y Cydbwyllgor Corfforedig.

**Dyfarniad effaith
wedi'i lliniaru**

Da

Chwaraeon, Celf a Hamdden

Effaith

Bydd cynyddu cyfleoedd ar gyfer gweithgarwch economaidd, mynediad at waith a gwasanaethau ochr yn ochr ag amgylchedd ffisegol gwell a mwy deniadol yn helpu i gadw pobl yn y rhanbarth. Bydd cynaliadwyedd clybiau, cyfleusterau ac amrywiaeth eang o gyfleoedd chwaraeon a hamdden yn dibynnu ar economi fywiog sy'n cadw ac yn denu pobl i ranbarth y canolbarth.

Dyfarniad effaith

Da

Lliniaru

Gan fod y rhanbarth wedi'i gyfansoddi o dri awdurdod yn unig, ceir rheolaeth a dylanwad sylweddol dros yr hyn y bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn ei gynnwys. O'r herwydd, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw strategaeth neu bolisi a ddatblygir yn gwrthdaro â Gweledigaeth, Nodau ac Amcanion unigol y Cynghorau/ PCBB. Felly bydd y lefel o fewnbwn uniongyrchol i'r cynllun yn sicrhau aliniad â chynllun corfforedig pob awdurdod lleol ei hun. Disgwylir felly y bydd hyn yn lliniaru unrhyw debygolrwydd y bydd unrhyw wrthdaro â strategaeth neu/a pholisi presennol.

**Dyfarniad effaith
wedi'i lliniaru**

Da

5g. Cymru sy'n fwy cyfartal

Oedran

Effaith	Bydd ehangu cyfleoedd ar draws y rhanbarth i gael mynediad at swyddi yn cynyddu mynediad i'r rhai sydd wedi'u hallgau ar hyn o bryd.
Dyfarniad effaith	Da
Lliniaru	Gwell buddsoddiad mewn swyddi a thwf.
Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da

Anabledd

Effaith	Bydd ehangu cyfleoedd ar draws y rhanbarth i gael mynediad at swyddi yn cynyddu mynediad i'r rhai sydd wedi'u hallgau ar hyn o bryd.
Dyfarniad effaith	Da
Lliniaru	Mae'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig dal ar gam ffurfiannol ac nid yw cynlluniau a phrosiectau manwl wedi cael eu hystyried eto. O'r herwydd, bydd yr Aseiad Effaith hwn yn cael ei ddiweddarau wrth i'r cynlluniau hyn ddatblygu i sicrhau ei fod yn aros yn gyfredol.
Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da

Ailbennu Rhywedd

Effaith	Dim
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Priodas neu Bartneriaeth Sifil

Effaith	Dim
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Hil

Effaith	Dim
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Crefydd neu Gred

Effaith	Dim
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Rhyw

Effaith	Bydd ehangu cyfleoedd ar draws y rhanbarth i gael mynediad at swyddi yn cynyddu mynediad i'r rhai sydd wedi'u hallgau ar hyn o bryd.
Dyfarniad effaith	Da

Lliniaru	Gan fod y rhanbarth wedi'i gyfansoddi o dri awdurdod yn unig, ceir rheolaeth a dylanwad sylweddol dros yr hyn y bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn ei gynnwys. O'r herwydd, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw strategaeth neu bolisi a ddatblygir yn gwrthdaro â Gweledigaeth, Nodau ac Amcanion unigol y Cynghorau/ PCBB. Felly bydd y lefel o fewnbwn uniongyrchol i'r cynllun yn sicrhau aliniad â chynllun corfforedig pob awdurdod lleol ei hun. Disgwylir felly y bydd hyn yn lliniaru unrhyw debygolrwydd y bydd unrhyw wrthdaro â strategaeth neu/a pholisi presennol.
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Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da
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Cyfeiriadedd Rhywiol

Effaith	Dim
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Beichiogrwydd a Mamolaeth

Effaith	Dim
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Dyletswydd Economaidd-gymdeithasol

Effaith	Un o amcanion sylfaenol y Fargen Twf yw cynyddu gwerth swyddi yn y rhanbarth a lleihau cyflogau isel.
Dyfarniad effaith	Da

Lliniaru	Gan fod y rhanbarth wedi'i gyfansoddi o dri awdurdod yn unig, ceir rheolaeth a dylanwad sylweddol dros yr hyn y bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn ei gynnwys. O'r herwydd, mae'n annhebygol y bydd unrhyw strategaeth neu bolisi a ddatblygir yn gwrthdaro â Gweledigaeth, Nodau ac Amcanion unigol y Cynghorau/ PCBB. Felly bydd y lefel o fewnbwn uniongyrchol i'r cynllun yn sicrhau aliniad â chynllun corfforedig pob awdurdod lleol ei hun. Disgwylir felly y bydd hyn yn lliniaru unrhyw debygolrwydd y bydd unrhyw wrthdaro â strategaeth neu/a pholisi presennol.
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Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da
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5h. Tystiolaeth

Mae datblygiad Cynllun Corfforaethol cyntaf y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn strategaeth hirdymor. Mae'n seiliedig ar yr hyn yr ydym yn ei wybod am ranbarth y canolbarth y ceir tystiolaeth ohono o waith ymchwil blaenorol helaeth yn ymwneud â busnes, trafnidiaeth a chynllunio i gyd trwy ymgynghori o ffynonellau lleol.

Deddfwyd ar gyfer y gofyniad i ddatblygu rhanbarthau daearyddol i ddarparu amrywiaeth o wasanaethau ar sail strategol gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Felly mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo i'r dull hwn ac mae'n ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol gydymffurfio â'r ddeddfwriaeth.

Cydnabyddir felly bod elfen o risg o ran a fydd y buddion a ddisgwylir yn cael eu gwireddu. Mae effaith ffactorau na ellir eu rheoli yn golygu y gallai newidiadau i'r amgylchedd allanol effeithio'n negyddol ar yr hyn y gobeithir bydd yn cael ei gyflawni. Wrth i brosiectau ddatblygu o fewn fframwaith y Strategaeth Gorfforedig, byddant yn destun prosesau fel y Model Busnes Pum Achos. O'r herwydd, bydd profion llym yn cael eu cynnal i wirio bod unrhyw gynigion yn gadarn o ran y gallu i'w cyflawni, fforddiadwyedd a budd.

6. Effaith ar egwyddorion canllaw allweddol a'r gweithlu

6a. Egwyddorion datblygu cynaliadwy

Hirdymor

Effaith	Cyflawni buddion hirdymor yw natur Cynllun Strategol y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig. Mae natur strategol cynlluniau rhanbarthol yn golygu y bydd cynigion sy'n deillio o'r bartneriaeth angen asesiadau mwy manwl a fydd yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i'r Aseiad Effaith gael ei ailystyried nifer o weithiau i sicrhau cydymffurfiad â'r gwahanol ofynion. Felly er bod tystiolaeth yn fwy cyffredinol ar hyn o bryd, ymhen amser bydd dull mwy gronynnog a ffrensig yn penderfynu a yw'r egwyddorion hyn yn cael eu bodloni. Ceir gofyniad eglur yn ddeddfwriaethol hefyd bod cydymffurfiad â Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yr un mor awyddus i sicrhau cydymffurfiad â hi.
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Dyfarniad effaith	Da
Lliniaru	Wrth i gynlluniau manwl ddatblygu, bydd asesiadau parhaus yn cael eu cynnal i asesu effeithiau cynigion sy'n dod i'r amlwg.
Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da

Cydweithrediad

Effaith	Mae meysydd gwasanaeth yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Chynllunio angen ymgynghori helaeth er mwyn bodloni gofynion deddfwriaethol ac yr un mor bwysig, i sicrhau ymgysylltiad llawn a phriodol gyda rhanddeiliaid. Felly, wrth i'r strategaeth gael ei datblygu yn gynlluniau mwy manwl, bydd y broses ymgynghori yn sicrhau gwaith partneriaeth gwell a pharhaus. Hefyd, bydd y gwaith partneriaeth cynyddol y bydd ei angen o ganlyniad i ffurfio'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn cynnig buddion ar draws y rhanbarth.
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Dyfarniad effaith	Da
Lliniaru	Nid yw hyn wedi'i benderfynu eto, ond wrth i waith ddatblygu bydd y mater hwn yn cael ei ailystyried i sicrhau effeithiau cadarnhaol tra'n lliniaru unrhyw effeithiau negyddol.
Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da

Cyfranogiad (gan gynnwys Cyfathrebu ac Ymgysylltu)

Effaith	Eto, wrth i gynlluniau manwl gael eu datblygu, bydd ymgynghori helaeth a chynhwysol yn cael ei wneud a fydd yn sicrhau bod pawb yng nghymunedau'r rhanbarth yn cael cyfle teg i gyfrannu at sut mae cynlluniau yn cael eu datblygu a'u llunio. Bydd Cynllun Corfforaethol y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig hefyd yn destun ymgynghoriad eang cyn iddo gael ei ddiwygio ac yna ei fabwysiadu'n ffurfiol.
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Dyfarniad effaith	Da
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Lliniaru	Bydd ymateb â thystiolaeth i brosesau ymgynghori helaeth yn cael ei ddarparu a fydd yn dangos sut yr ymatebwyd i sylwadau a/neu sut mae'r cynllun wedi newid o ganlyniad.
Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da

Atal

Effaith	Y bwriad yw datblygu partneriaeth strategol sydd â mwy o fynediad at ffynhonnell fwy o wybodaeth a thystiolaeth, i sicrhau bod cyfleoedd buddsoddi o'r budd mwyaf i gymunedau'r rhanbarth.
Dyfarniad effaith	Da
Lliniaru	Bydd newidiadau i gynlluniau mewn ymateb i ymgynghori helaeth yn helpu i lunio cynigion manwl a fydd o fudd i gymunedau ar draws y rhanbarth.
Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da

Integreiddio

Effaith	Bydd y Nodau Llesiant a nodir yng Nghynllun Corfforedig y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn cael eu hasesu yn erbyn nodau Llesiant yr awdurdod lleol a rhai Llywodraeth Cymru. Wrth i gynlluniau aeddfedu, bydd dull ailadroddol yn cael ei fabwysiadu i sicrhau bod y nodau hyn yn cael eu hasesu a'u halinio yn barhaus.
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Dyfarniad effaith	Da
Lliniaru	Ymgynghori ac asesu parhaus yn erbyn y Nodau Llesiant.
Dyfarniad effaith wedi'i lliniaru	Da

6b. Effaith ar y gweithlu

Effaith	Dim
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6c. Effaith ar y gyflogres

Effaith	Dim
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6d. Effaith ar staff o ran y Gymraeg

Effaith	Dim
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6e. Effaith ar brentisiaethau

Effaith	Dim
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6f. Tystiolaeth

Bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn destun ymgynghori eang a bydd tystiolaeth yn cael ei chasglu a fydd yn cynnwys ymgynghori ar yr asesiad hwn. Mae'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig hefyd yn ofyniad gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

7. Tebygolrwydd a risgiau

Risg 1

Disgrifiad	Oherwydd yr amser y mae cyfleoedd buddsoddi strategol yn ei gymryd i'w datblygu a'u gweithredu, y risg yw y bydd yr amgylchedd allanol y datblygwyd cynigion ar eu sail yn wreiddiol yn newid gan effeithio ar y canlyniadau a ddisgwylir.				
Sgôr tebygolrwydd	3	Sgôr effaith	3	Sgôr risg	9.0
Lliniaru					
Sgôr tebygolrwydd gweddilliol	Dylai natur ffrensig y broses asesu a ddefnyddir i wneud penderfyniadau buddsoddi gynnal profion straen ar gynigion cymaint ag sy'n rhesymol ymarferol.				
	2	Sgôr effaith weddilliol	3	Cyfradd risg weddilliol	6.0

8. Crynodeb gyffredinol a dyfarniad

Asesiad amlinellol

Mae Cynllun Corfforaethol y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig ar gam cynnar ei ddatblygiad. Fel dogfen ranbarthol, fel mae'n strategol ac yn lefel uchel yn ôl diffiniad. Wrth iddi ddatblygu, ac wrth i gynnydd gael ei wneud ym meysydd penodol yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Chynlluniau, bydd Asesiadau Effaith mwy manwl yn cael eu cynnal a bryd hynny bydd angen diwygio'r Asesiad Integredig (Asesiad Effaith) hwn.

Cyfeirnod cabinet

9. Tystiolaeth ychwanegol

Mae'r angen i ddatblygu Cynllun Corfforaethol ar gyfer y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn ddisgwyliad gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Mae'r rhanbarth wedi dewis bodloni'r disgwyliad hwn, a thrwy wneud

hynny wedi dilyn y canllawiau sydd ar gael. Defnyddiwyd data a thystiolaeth eisoes i ddatblygu Bargen Twf Canolbarth Cymru ond bydd mwy o dystiolaeth yn cael ei chynhyrchu gan ddatblygiad prosiectau manwl. Bydd hyn yr un fath ar gyfer datblygu cynigion Trafnidiaeth a Chynllunio sydd ar gam cynnar iawn ar hyn o bryd.

10. Trefniadau monitro parhaus a llywodraethu

Trefniadau monitro

Bydd y Cynllun Corfforaethol yn destun nifer o brosesau i fonitro cynnydd. Bydd gan Gyd-bwyllgorau Archwilio a Chraffu'r Cynghorau swyddogaeth barhaus i fonitro gwaith y Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig ac asesu ei effeithiau yn erbyn ymrwymadau a wnaed yn y cynllun/iau esblygol. Bydd Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru hefyd yn gwerthuso'r cynllun ei hun, a hefyd dros amser, llwyddiannau'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig yn erbyn cynlluniau cyflawni. Bydd Llywodraeth Cymru, a wnaeth ddeddfu i greu Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig yn parhau i fonitro cynnydd hefyd.

Dyddiad adolygu

01/07/2024



MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting – Monday, 29th January 2024

REPORT OF THE CJC Transport Sub Committee

Purpose of Report	To provide the CJC with an update on the progress of the work of the Regional Transport Sub-Committee
Decision Sought:	
<p>A) To note the content of the report and next steps in relation to the development of a Regional Transport Plan for the Mid Wales CJC.</p> <p>B) To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the CJC Transport Sub-Committee.</p> <p>C) To note the acceptance of funding by the CJC and for the request for Ceredigion County Council to deliver the RTP Implementation Plan and for the regional transport lead officer to continue to commission the work required via Ceredigion County Council's commissioning arrangements for this piece of work, on behalf of the CJC.</p>	
Report Author	Ann Elias, Regional Transport Lead, Ceredigion Council (on behalf of the CJC)
Finance Officer	Duncan Hall, Section 151 Officer
Legal Officer	Clive Pinney – Monitoring Officer

Introduction:

1. The Transport Sub Committee is being requested to advise the CJC on the development and delivery of the Regional Transport Plan as required by the regulations and subsequent guidance set by Welsh Government.

Background:

2. Following the issuing of guidance from the Welsh Government, the Transport Sub Committee met on the 23rd October 2023 to consider the draft Implementation Plan and required resources to develop a Regional Transport Plan.

Terms of Reference.

3. 23rd October 2023 was the first meeting of the Transport Sub-committee and they were asked to consider proposed amendments to the terms of reference. These terms were amended following the request of the two constituent local authorities (Powys and Ceredigion) to wind up the existing transport partnership known as TraCC, because the agreement was between three local authorities, Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys and now that the Welsh Government regulations stated the CJC Regional Transport Plan would only be for two of the three local authorities, it was considered an unnecessary duplication of meetings.
4. Therefore, the terms of reference removed TraCC – amended copy attached (**Appendix 1**)

Regional Transport Plan – Implementation Plan

5. The sub-committee considered the draft Regional Transport Plan Implementation plan which had been required to be submitted to Welsh Government by the 31st October 2023. This was approved in line with the agreed delegation provided by the CJC meeting on the 12th October 2023 (**Appendix 2**)
6. The implementation plan, together with a request for funding was submitted to Welsh Government by the deadline of 31st October 2023 in compliance with the guidance.
7. Officials from the Welsh Government’s Department for Climate Change have provided feedback to the Chair of the CJC. They requested that the CJC takes account of these comments as the CJC develops the Regional Transport Plan. Funding was also confirmed to support the development of the RTP, in the form of a grant award FY2023-24 and FY2024-25 (**Appendix 3**). To be accepted by the CJC at the beginning of January 2024. Note: we are not disclosing the value of the grant award due to a procurement process that needs to be undertaken for this work.
8. The CJC has previously resolved that the regional transport lead officer previously coordinating TraCC continues to take forward the RTP work for this phase.
9. Considering the current temporary resource arrangements are being provided by Ceredigion – it is proposed that the procurement of the RTP as per the implementation plan proceeds via Ceredigion County Council’s Standing Orders for this single piece of work. This is to ensure the timely delivery of the RTP by 31st March 2025 and avoid any further delays.

Decisions Sought:

- A) To note the content of the report and next steps in relation to the development of a Regional Transport Plan for the Mid Wales CJC.
- B) To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the CJC Transport Sub-Committee.

- C) To note the acceptance of funding by the CJC and for the request for Ceredigion County Council to deliver the RTP Implementation Plan and for the regional transport lead officer to continue to commission the work required via Ceredigion County Council's commissioning arrangements for this piece of work, on behalf of the CJC.

Financial Impacts:

10. The full financial implications of progressing an RTP will not be fully known until the tender process is completed, currently officers have only been working to estimates pre-procurement.
11. If the procurement process results in a resource requirement greater than the budget available – that would require engagement with Welsh Government and finance officers in both Local Authorities.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

12. 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.
13. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals.
14. The allocation of resources for the RTP would support the CJC in exercising its

functions listed under the legislation above. The allocation of resources and the commencement of the Implementation Plan to deliver the RTP does not in itself require an integrated impact assessment as it is not forming policy, however later stages of RTP development will require an IIA.

Workforce Impacts:

15. The formal start of the RTP will have workforce impacts across the 2 constituent authorities with a requirement for officers to join workstreams and engage with stakeholder forms and consultations. Currently there is no provision for re-charging their time to this CJC work.
16. There has not been any assessment of the cost associated with Annual Monitoring report requirements which will be an output of the RTP process and until these requirements are established costs cannot be assessed by their will be an impact on existing local authorities.
17. The cost estimated for the officer time to deliver the RTP are currently being seconded from Ceredigion County Council on the bases of two full time posts.

Legal Impacts:

18. None recognised at this time.

Risk Management Impacts:

19. The current risk the delivery of the RTP is whether CJC is able to secure appropriate consultancy support and that we are able to engage with stakeholders sufficiently to establish the required “case for change” by 29th February 2024 the next critical date, identified within the guidance.

Consultation:

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



Regional Transport Planning

TERMS OF REFERENCE

General.

5.1 Subject to Rule 5.5 below, the CJC may arrange for the discharge of its function by:

- 5.1.1 A sub-committee;
- 5.1.2 A member of staff;
- 5.1.3 Any other corporate joint committee;
- 5.1.4 Any county or county borough council in Wales.

Membership

5.2 A sub-committee appointed by the CJC may include, or be wholly comprised of, persons who are not members of the CJC.

5.3 The functions of a sub-committee, the number of members of a sub-committee and the term of office of each member must be fixed by the CJC and the subcommittee may only exercise those functions as are delegated to it by the CJC.

Delegation

5.4 Subject always to Rule 5.5 below, the CJC delegates operational decisions on the discharge of its functions and anything that is required to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions as set out in the Section 7.

5.5 The CJC may not delegate any of the following to any other person or subcommittee:

- 5.5.1 Its function in relation to developing policies under the relevant provisions of the Transport Act 2000 (“Transport Policy Function”);
- 5.5.2 Its function in relation to preparing a Strategic Development Plan under the relevant provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the “Strategic Development Plan Function”);
- 5.5.3 The decision to agree the CJC budgets and contributions of the Constituent Councils and the National Park;
- 5.5.4 The decision to establish CJC sub-committees; and
- 5.5.5 Other specific decisions and responsibilities set out in the Establishing Regulations.

Rules Applying to All Sub-Committees.

5.6 The following Rules apply to all Sub-Committees:

- Rule 4.29 to 4.30 (Location of Meetings)
- Rules 4.31 to 4.35 (Notice of Meetings and Summons to attend),
- Rules 4.37 to 4.38 (Remote Attendance)
- Rule 4.40 (Closure Motions)
- Rule 4.41 (Point of Order)
- Rule 4.42 to 4.43 (Personal Explanation)
- Rule 4.44 to 4.46 (Declarations of Interest)
- Rules 4.47 to 4.49 (Access to Agenda and Connected Reports),
- Rules 4.50 to 4.52 and 4.54 to 4.55 (Minutes),
- Rule 4.60 (Filming, Audio Recording and use of Social Media during Meetings)

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Rules 4.62 (Inspection and Publication Of Minutes and Other Documents After Meetings), and

Rules 4.63 (Language and Translation) apply to a meeting of a sub-committee of the CJC as they apply to a meeting of the CJC.

Rule 8.7 (Right for Public to Attend Meetings)

Quorum

5.7 At least one quarter of the members of a Sub-Committee must be present at all meetings and the Brecon Beacons National Park Member must be present at:

- 5.7.1 meetings where the Strategic Development Plan is to be discussed; and
- 5.7.2 for decisions to change voting procedures in relation to the Strategic Development Plan.

Voting

5.8 Each person entitled to vote has one vote.

5.9 Any vote is to be decided by majority decision.

5.10 Where a vote is tied, the chairperson has the casting vote.

Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee.

5.13 The CJC shall appoint a Sub-Committee (known as the Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee) to exercise the development of transport policies under sections 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000.

5.14 The Terms Of Reference Of The Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee are set out in Appendix B and those terms of reference may be amended by the CJC from time to time.

Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee – Terms of Reference

B1. Introduction

- B1.1 The Welsh Government has now brought forward The Corporate Joint Committees (**Transport Functions**) (Consequential Modifications and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2022 (the Transport Functions Regulations 2022)
- B1.2 The Transport Functions Regulations 2022 changes the responsibility of functions under Section 108 of the Transport Act 2000 moves the responsibility for delivering a transport plan from the local authorities to the Corporate Joint Committee and revokes the Regional Transport Planning (Wales) Order 2014.
- B1.3 The Constituent Councils established a joint committee to oversee and co-ordinate the discharge of the Councils obligations in relation to Regional Transport Planning.
- B1.4 The CJC will appoint the Regional Transport Planning SubCommittee to advise the CJC on its Regional Transport Planning function . The sub-committee will be responsible for making the necessary recommendations to the CJC in relation to the delivery of a Regional Transport Plan for the Constituent Councils.

B2. Composition of the Regional Transport Planning

- B2.1 The composition and functions of the Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee will consist of 6 members, 3 from each of the Constituent Authorities. (to include members with responsibility for transport, highways and economic development)
- B2.2 The Chair of the Sub-Committee shall be elected from Members of the Constituent Authorities and rotated between Authorities on an annual basis.

B3. Regional Transport Planning Sub Committee Recommendations

- B3.1 The Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee will make recommendations to the CJC in relation to the development of Regional Transport Planning. The CJC will then be asked to consider the recommendations. If the recommendations are not approved by the CJC, they may be referred to the Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee for reconsideration and re-submission to the CJC.

B4. Meetings

- B4.1 The Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee shall meet on at least a quarterly basis, or at such frequency as the Sub-Committee shall determine from time to time in order to fulfil its role.
- B4.2 The Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee may invite such number of appropriate third parties to observe Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee Meetings as it sees fit from time to time. Such third parties may include individuals or representatives of such organisations and private sector companies as the Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee shall determine from time to time.

- B4.3 Any third parties invited to a Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee Meeting shall be entitled to take part in such meeting but shall not be able to vote in respect of any decisions to be taken. Any third party in attendance at a Regional Transport Planning Meeting may be required by the Chairperson **not to attend some or any part of** a Regional Transport Planning Meeting
- B4.4 A Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee Meeting may be held in accordance with Rules 4.29 to 4.30 (Location) and 4.37 to 4.38 (Remote Meetings).
- B4.5 Meetings will be held in public and arrangements for the publication of and access to documents will be the same as for meetings of the CJC as set out in Section 4.

B5. Quorum

- B5.1 The quorum necessary for the Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee Meeting shall be at **least two elected members** from the Constituent Councils or the appropriate deputies appointed.

B6. Voting

- B6.1 At meetings of the Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee each elected member or appropriate deputy appointed in attendance shall have one vote each. Decisions at meetings of the Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee will be taken by a majority vote of a quorate meeting.

B7. Minutes

- B7.1 Minutes of the proceedings of a Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee meeting must be drawn up and recorded. The minutes must be approved by the person chairing the Sub-Committee meeting or the person chairing the next suitable such meeting by signing the minutes, or by electronically signifying approval.

B8. Proceedings of Meetings

- B8.1 Rule 5.6 above will apply to the meetings of the Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee.
- B8.2 Members of the Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee shall be subject to the Code of Conduct for Members.
- B8.3 Meetings may be rearranged, cancelled or additional meetings scheduled with the agreement of the Chair.
- B8.4 Each meeting will be recorded through the production of notes which will be made available to the public online after the meeting with the exception of any exempt or confidential information. Notes of meetings will usually be brief, containing a summary of discussions, action points and recommendations.
- B8.5 The Regional Transport Planning Sub-Committee is not a decision-making body for delivery of a Regional Transport Plan and the Chair should aim to facilitate consensual agreement on matters under consideration. Where a consensus cannot be reached, the Chair shall present the split views of the committee to the CJC.
- B8.6 The Members' Code of Conduct in Section 9 will apply.



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig y Canolbarth
Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan Implementation Plan



1. INTRODUCTION

The Governance of the Regional Transport Plan process is set out in the CJC regulations, and the formal regional transport sub-committee has been set up to provide research and development advice and guidance in order to provide recommendations to the CJC before making its decisions.

To further support the CJC Regional Transport Sub Committee there will be a local authority officer working group.

The corporate joint committee is required to undertake following regarding Regional Transport Planning, following its establishment in 2022.

- the function of developing policies under section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2004(4) is, in respect of the area of each constituent council to be exercised by the Mid Wales CJC, and not be the constituent council.
- Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000 applies in relation to the Mid Wales CJC and its constituent councils subject to the modifications in the Schedule to the Corporate Joint Committees (Transport Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2021(5)

The purpose of the **Regional Transport Plan** (RTP) will be to deliver a regional transport by March 2025 as set out and in line with Welsh Government guidance, issued in July 2023

[Regional transport plans: guidance for Corporate Joint Committees | GOV.WALES](#)

Although the duty to produce a RTP sits with the CJs, the duty to deliver a programme of actions for the RTP sits with the local authorities. Despite this, it is expected that the local authorities in each CJC will collaborate on a single collective delivery plan, an RTDP, alongside the RTP process.

The Area of the regional transport plan covers the counties of Ceredigion and Powys, which also includes the majority of area of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Area location Plan



The Mid Wales Region has forged its strategic aim and objectives by engaging with The Growing Mid Wales Partnership (GMWP) who have identified the transport aims to grow the economy as: - ***“To drive economic growth and attract new investment we need to improve connectivity both to and within the region. We will build on our existing linkages to help deliver the transport network required to help grow the economy and raise productivity”***. It will be important to work with the wider transport stakeholders to ensure the Vision for the RTP takes account of both the GMWP and that it also supports delivery of the Welsh Government’s Welsh Transport Strategy.

The CJC is required to produce a Regional Transport Plan **“Implementation Plan”** by the 31st October 2023 to be submitted to the Welsh Government (WG) which will set out how the RTP will be developed and submitted by 29th March 2025, and what funding is required to undertake that task.

The Guidance issued by WG sets out the need for the plan to identify how it takes account of the National, Regional and Local Strategies and priorities.

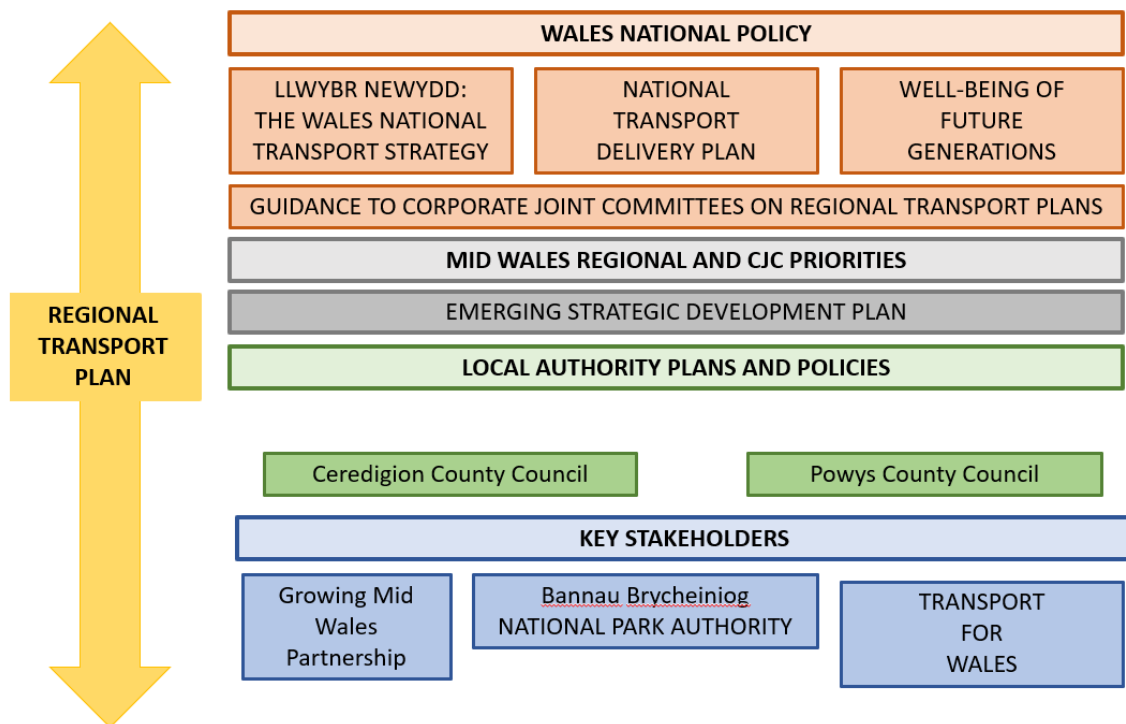


Figure 2: Policy Context for Regional Transport Plan

3. SCOPING THE KEY WORK PACKAGES

Table 1 below shows what are considered to be the key work packages that require completing to develop.

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
Developing the Case for Change			
Appoint a partner organisation	Commission to consultants to assist the CJC in delivery of the RTP	CJC	A.S.A.P following funding award from WG. November 2023
Member and key stakeholder engagement plan (to include actions and delivery)	<p>Seek the views of portfolio holders and/or other Members, and key stakeholders about the issues to be captured in the case for change and the policies / schemes needed to address them.</p> <p>Agree approach to engaging members and key stakeholders.</p> <p>Produce materials – bilingual, clear and concise messaging etc.</p> <p>Agree the required number of drop in events and the locations of these.</p> <p>Agree any arrangements and the approach for engaging elected members.</p> <p>Consider innovative way of engaging with hard to engage groups.</p>	Agreement between authorities needed.	<p>Tight timescales suggest this stage is necessary very early in the process.</p> <p>Nov/Dec 2023</p>
Undertake stage one WeITAG to identify Strategic Case for change	<p>Set out the regional impact of the following on the RTP and future transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Llywbr Newydd Welsh Transport Strategy and Delivery plan - National Development Plan and National Infrastructure Plan - Local development plans 	Consultancy	<p>Risk WG need to publish new WeITAG Guidance.</p> <p>Risk – WG need to publish Rural Pathway document.</p>

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wellbeing Act - Regional Transport plan 2008 - Joint Local Transport plan 2014 - Local Authority Plans e.g. (Wellbeing) - Cross Boarder plans (Midland Connect; Marches LEP and DfT both Road and Rail) 		
Transport for Wales Data	TfW to provide Mid Wales Transport Data set to consultants	TfW	
Review of Evidence and Identify Issues and Opportunities	<p>GIS mapping Both North and South-West and Mid Transport and Aberystwyth transport Models findings</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rurality and access to services - Car dependency - Bus – improvements such as Bwcabus and Fflecsi, Traws, opportunities from franchising and future plans - Rail - opportunity for proposals and connections to across the network and links East-West and North-South - Road network: e.g. A482, A479, A486, A487, A44, A470, A40, A483, A458, - Walking and cycling - Housing and economic growth - Access to Bannau Brycheiniog - Supporting tourism - Supporting industry 	Consultancy	

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Origin and destination of trips, and importance of Cross border movement 		
Identify RTP Vision	<p>Current LTP vision: Vision for Transport in Mid Wales the Mid Wales Local Authorities will plan for and deliver in partnership an integrated and affordable transport system in the region that facilitates economic development, ensures access for all to services and opportunities, sustains and improves the quality of community life, and makes an active contribution to the management of carbon and the quality of the environment.</p> <p>New Growing Mid Wales Vision (2023)</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to employment, services and attractions - High quality active travel and public transport networks - Net Zero -Climate Change 	RTP working Group - after discussion with LAs and stakeholders	
Identify RTP Smart Objectives	<p>Identify RTP higher level desired outcomes. Identified from GMWP vision document, and Local Authority Wellbeing Plans</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce carbon emissions. - Wellbeing - Support Mid Wales businesses. - Improving transport connectivity - Making public transport more affordable 	Consultancy	

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing rail services and improving cross-border connectivity - Sustainable access to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park - Supporting the tourist economy - Supporting economic growth - Increasing active travel - Supporting / encouraging the take up of EVs. - Road Safety - Enhancing Freight connectivity and encourage more rail freight. 		
Governance	<p>Governance arrangements will be via the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee for development, sign off and adoption of plan. Supported by RTP Officer Working Group.</p>	CJC - RTP Officer	
Approval Case for change by CJC		CJC, supported by local authority officers	Date to be confirmed
Developing the Regional Transport Plan			
Identifying the High-Level interventions and policies	<p>Identify the policies that will deliver the identified objective that will support the delivery of the Welsh Transport Strategy.</p> <p>1. Employment and Tourism Access. Existing and planned out of centre employment sites may be poorly served by public transport. People without access to a car may be excluded from accessing some job, leisure, and tourism opportunities. There is a lack of evening and weekend bus provision,</p>	Constituency	<p>Draft BEFORE PUBLIC CONSULTATION to be submitted to WG by 29th May 2024.</p> <p>Risk this date will not be met.</p>

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	<p>which leads to difficulties in accessing employment opportunities and reliance on the private car. There is an increased need to travel and for longer distances to access job opportunities. The issues above of poor public transport access are acute in Mid Wales given its deep rurality and low population density.</p> <p>2. Inclusive Access to Services. Dispersed settlement patterns have implications for accessibility and access to key services, consequently there is a greater dependence on the private car. Lack of available affordable transport for some communities. Need to tackle the problems many people encounter in accessing work, education, and healthcare. Changes in locations of key services such as health are likely to increase car travel and may isolate some communities. Ageing and in places declining population can result in the withdrawal of local services, reducing access to key services resulting in further depopulation. Opportunities through innovation and collaboration to improve rural transport delivery.</p> <p>3. Integration of Public Transport. Bus access to existing and emerging employment sites requires interchange and multiple operator trips making journeys more complex and less attractive. Access to rail</p>		

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	<p>stations by car, public transport, walking or cycling can be poor.</p> <p>4. Active Travel Potential. A high proportion of commuter trips within the key settlements are less than 5km and could potentially be undertaken by active travel modes. There are opportunities to increase mode share by active travel modes and to improve the health and well-being of the local community.</p> <p>5. Journey Time Reliability and Strategic Connections. Poor opportunities for passing pinch point and constraints on the strategic road network led to increased journey times and reduced journey time reliability for the movement of people and goods. There are opportunities to better connect the area across borders.</p> <p>6. Freight Connections. Provision for freight vehicles inadequate on most key strategic highway corridors. Disproportionate impact of road freight on the existing sub-standard highway network. Opportunity for rail freight to reduce road transport of goods.</p> <p>7. Highway Condition and Road Safety. Poor condition of highways can have an impact on safety. There is an opportunity to continue to improve the road safety record.</p>		

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	<p>8. Resilience to Climate Change. Increased risks to the resilience of the network through impacts of climate change, including flood risk. Opportunities to improve the standard and resilience of the network. There are opportunities to increase mode share by active travel modes and reduce carbon impacts of transport.</p> <p>9. Availability and Sustainability of Funding. Significant constraints on both capital and ongoing reduce funding threatening the provision of even basic levels of access to markets, jobs and services. Significant reductions in the availability of funding threatening the resilience and reliability of the road network.</p> <p>Outcomes from existing LTP:</p> <p>1. Access to Key Destinations and Markets: Economic growth in the region will have been supported, through an improvement in the efficiency, reliability, resilience, and connectivity of movement, including freight, within Mid Wales and to and from other key destinations and markets.</p> <p>2. Access to Employment and Services: Social equality and employability will have been promoted through inclusive, integrated and affordable access to employment and key health, education, social services, and play and</p>		

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	<p>recreation facilities, with a focus on tackling access to the Enterprise Zone and Local Growth Zones and those areas particularly deprived in terms of access to services.</p> <p>3. Improving Health and Well-being by Increasing Walking and Cycling: Levels of cycling and walking for both necessary active travel and recreation, by residents and visitors, will have been increased.</p> <p>4. Improved Safety and Security: The actual and perceived safety and security of travel by all modes will have been improved.</p> <p>5. Benefits and Minimised Impacts on the Environment: The potential for transport improvements to reduce carbon emissions and improve the local and global natural and built environment will have been maximised and negative impacts minimised, including adaptation to the effects of climate change.</p>		
Developing the Local Authorities Regional Transport Delivery Plan			
Identify projects and schemes that deliver objectives.	<p>Considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What business case development have been undertaken. - Identified how a scheme within programme be prioritised. - Ensuring Wellbeing objections are delivered. <p>The guidance requires schemes in the RTDP to be “ranked in order of priority in terms of</p>	Consultancy in discussion with RTP officers working groups	<p>Draft BEFORE PUBLIC CONSULTATION to be submitted to WG by 29th May 2024.</p> <p>Risk this date will not be met</p>

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	impact on delivering WTS priorities. These should be the schemes that local transport authorities intend to invest in to deliver the RTPs”.		
<p>Identify a methodology for prioritising schemes.</p> <p>Seek guidance and best practice</p>	<p>Identify and agree a robust methodology for assessing schemes against impact on WTS priorities and sub priorities. Possibly 10-point system from -5 to +5 for scale of impact.</p> <p>WTS priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring services to people in order to reduce the need for people to use their cars on a daily basis. - Accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure - Behaviour change 	<p>RTP officers working group before taking to RTP Transport Sub committee for approval</p>	
<p>Prioritise schemes</p>	<p>Prioritise schemes using the methodology identified above.</p> <p>Assessment, and narrative around results, should be cognisant that different funding streams may have different priorities and requirements</p>	<p>To be agreed (working on the principle of collaboration)</p>	
<p>Agree Prioritised scheme list</p>		<p>CJC Transport sub-Committee</p>	
Develop the Integrated Well-being Assessment			
<p>Step 1</p>	<p>Review the Case for Change, undertake scoping to establish what specialist work packages may be needed to develop the IWBA including any supporting statutory impact assessments, and develop a brief/s to commission that work and</p>	<p>RTP Officer working group & stakeholder engagement? (Maybe GMWP workshop)</p>	

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	ensure it is fed into the process of developing the RTP.		
Step 2	<p>An integrated well-being framework should be developed and agreed with key partners. Options for policies or projects should be reviewed against that framework.</p> <p>As set out in WelTAG guidance Welsh transport appraisal guidance (WelTAG) 2022 (gov.wales)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will the programme or project benefit people and communities? - How will it benefit the environment? - How will it benefit places and the economy? - How will it benefit culture and the Welsh language? 	As above	<p>Draft BEFORE PUBLIC CONSULTATION to be submitted to WG by 29th May 2024.</p> <p>Risk this date will not be met</p>
Step 3	When the draft RTP is published for consultation: it should be accompanied by a draft IWBA report showing how well-being has been taken into account and how the five ways of working have been followed.	CJC Transport lead	Prior to consultation
Step 4	When the final RTP is submitted to WG it should be accompanied by a final IWBA report taking on board any consultation responses.	CJC Transport lead	29 th March 2025 Risk this date will not be met
Public and Stakeholder consultation			
Plan proposed consultation period	<p>This will be identified with the stakeholder Engagement plan.</p> <p>Produce materials – bilingual, clear and concise messaging etc.</p> <p>Develop a feedback platform such as a focused questionnaire (Confirmation is required regarding what support</p>	TBC	<p>Consultation after submission of first draft to WG (late May 2024).</p> <p>Need to avoid consultation in summer holidays but have next</p>

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	TfW can give regarding this process.) A decision will need to be made regarding whether drop in events will take place across the region and if they are to take place what locations will be used? Make any arrangements for engaging elected members.		draft ready by late October. Risk – dates for consultation need to fit into a programme.
Attend any drop in events	Staffing levels to be agreed by LAs	Staffing levels to be agreed by LAs	Risk associated with LA resources
Update Draft Plan			
WG feedback	Review and action WG feedback		Between May 2024 and 31 st Oct 2024
Consultation feedback	Review and action consultation feedback	Consultancy	Risk date cannot be met.
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan			
Contribution to National Priorities	Develop a MEP that monitors regional progress in achieving the national priorities and ambitions in the WTS will be monitored, measured and evaluated. This must include the region's contribution to national decarbonisation and modal shift targets.	Consultancy withing with RTP officer working group	Guidance unclear on when MEP needed- The MEP will need to ensure no duplication with WTS data collection.
Agree measures to monitor	Identify a set of measures with baseline information for each. The measures can include qualitative outcomes and quantitative measures. Note that CJs are required to record progress annually	Consultancy withing with RTP officer working group	
	A comprehensive evaluation should be prepared after three years to assess whether the RTP is delivering its outcomes, providing value for money and whether there are any unintended consequences. This should follow published	Consultancy working with RTP officer working group	This will take place After submission and approval of RTP group

Work Package	Description	Lead Organisation	Key Dates
	guidance and best practice on evaluation. The results of this comprehensive evaluation will feed into the subsequent RTP for each CJC, and the subsequent NTDP.		
Equalities Impact Assessment			
Undertake EqIA	Consider impact on all protected characteristics	TBC	Guidance unclear on when EqIA needed – Risk to final delivery timeline
Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment			
Undertake EIA and HRA	Consider all statutory requirements.	Consultants	Guidance unclear on when EqIA needed – Risk to final delivery timeline

5. AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Currently local authority resources available for RTP is very limited and to employ staff provides unnecessary administration and time delay therefore the favoured option is to engage a consultancy to work along side the CJC.

5. RISK IDENTIFICATION

At this early stage, the high-level risks associated with delivering a Regional Transport Plan for Mid Wales are considered to be:

- Political agreement on policies and high-level outcomes.
 - o To be mitigated through engagement and discussion throughout the process
- Regional agreement on prioritised RTDP schemes list
 - o To be mitigated through the development of a robust and impartial scoring methodology
- Challenging timescales for submission and adoption of the RTP
- If the RTP is linked to Transport funding from April 2025, it may be necessary to seek an early approval process from Welsh Government to ensure schemes and projects identified within the RTP receive funding.

6. Timeline and Key Dates

31st October 2023	CJC to submit implementation plan to WG
29th February 2024	CJC to submit RTP Case for Change including SMART objectives to WG
29th May 2024	CJC to submit initial draft RTP, IWNA and RTDP to WG BEFORE public consultation
31st October 2024	CJC to submit final draft RTP, IWBA and RTDP to WG
29th March 2025	CJC to submit final RTP, IWBA and RTDP to WG
30th June 2025	Welsh Government decision to approve RTP.



County Councillor James Gibson-Watt

Chair of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

15 December 2023

Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 26 October 2023 to the Deputy Minister submitting the final copy of the Mid Wales RTP implementation plan. We trust this exercise has been helpful in setting a path for development of the Regional Transport Plan (RTP).

Comments are provided from Welsh Government and Transport for Wales in Annex 1 to this letter. For expediency, we do not ask the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) to revise and resubmit the Implementation Plan in light of these comments. Rather we ask that they are taken into account in moving forward.

From this point, we look forward to the activities set out in the Implementation Plan moving at pace to achieve the timescales set out in the implementation plan. I would like to reiterate our offer that the Transport for Wales (TfW) Regional Transport Team stand ready to support the CJC in developing the plan, and I hope we can work closely across the CJC, TfW and Welsh Government to ensure we deliver this work efficiently and within the challenging budgetary and resource pressures we all face.

In terms of Welsh Government funding to support the development of the RTP, we are pleased to attach a grant award letter for FY2023-24 and FY2024-25. We will work with you to ensure you are able to complete as much activity as possible to make best use of the funding within that window. As well as developing the RTP, the funding should be used to support the development of the region's Strategic Development Plan, which should be closely aligned with the RTP.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Warner'.

Christopher Warner, Deputy Director, Transport – Strategy & Policy, under authority of the Minister and Deputy Minister for Climate Change

Cc Nicola Williams, Strategic Programme Delivery Manager – Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) / Rheolwr Cyflenwi Rhaglenni Strategol - Cydbwyllgor Corfforaethol (CJC).

Annex 1 – Welsh Government and Transport for Wales Comments on the Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan Implementation Plan

Comment Number	Comment
1	Commissioning of services to assist the CJC in delivery of the RTP should not be contingent on any additional funding award by Welsh Government. The CJC's have a statutory duty to produce the RTP. Whilst WG may provide additional specific funding, if not the activity should be covered through existing funding streams.
2	Risks are noted on the new WeITAG Guidance and Rural Pathway. The final new WeITAG will not significantly alter from the long published draft. The Rural Pathway document will merely seek to provide ideas and case studies to assist in the development of the RTP. Progression of the RTP should not be delayed pending either of these documents.
3	Identify RTP Vision – Please be mindful that the RTP vision (and objectives etc) may need to be significantly different to the current LTP Vision or Growing Mid Wales Vision, due to significant changes in national policy and the need for the RTP to specifically deliver the Wales Transport Strategy on a regional basis. (We see the points noted to consider in the new Vision align with this).
4	Points noted for consideration in developing objectives are well aligned with national policies.
5	Approach to identifying high level interventions and policies is excellent, and well aligned to national policies.
6	Intention to seek support from WG/TfW on method for prioritising schemes noted and will be provided.
7	Programme risks are noted throughout. The CJC should strive to have an approved RTP in place as soon as possible, ideally of course before the start of the 2025-2030 implementation period, or failing that before the FY25/26. If an approved Plan is not in place before the start of the implementation period this will of course impact delivery, as would the later the plan is approved in respect of the start of the FY25/26. Activities to produce the Plan are recommended to be proportionate to the, relatively short, delivery period of 5 years to assist in securing an approved plan as soon as possible. We see this is recognised in Section 5 (risk identification).
8	Risk noted of staffing drop in events. WG/TfW can help support these events.
9	Estimation in Implementation Plan of funding required noted. Noted that the covering letter requests this funding be covered by WG. This is being considered but please note that WG is not required to provide any additional funding specifically for this.
10	There is currently little or no mention of how the RTP development will interface transport departments with land planning and economic regeneration equivalents. RTP Guidance requires that CJC's must take into account these interfaces. Collaboration with these departments may well offer significant opportunity to achieve transport (and shared) objectives by influencing their decision making. The CJC must consider how to interface these 3 departments in the development of the RTP.



MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting – Monday 29th January 2024

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING THE ECONOMIC WELLBEING SUB-COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report	To provide the CJC with an update on the progress to date in establishing the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee and make recommendations for its formal establishment.
Recommendations:	<p>A) To note the progress and narrative update on actions undertaken to date.</p> <p>B) For Members to consider and comment on the proposed Forward Work Plan set out in paragraph 10 – and if content, that Members support the proposals.</p>
Report Author	Carwyn Jones-Evans Strategic Lead, Growing Mid Wales/ Corporate Manager, Ceredigion CC
Finance Officer	Duncan Hall, Section 151 Officer
Legal Officer	Clive Pinney – Monitoring Officer

Introduction and Background:

- A) Members of the CJC have previously received and considered two reports on the proposals for the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee (31/07/23 and 12/10/23). The content of these reports was guided by the Member workshop held 23 June 2023.
- B) Significant work has been underway to take forward the actions identified by the Committee.
- C) This report provides an update on the progress against those actions, and to make a series of recommendations for Members to consider to formally establish the sub-committee.

Progress Update:

- D) The following table provides an update on the Work Plan (as discussed and agreed by members in the 12/10/23 CJC Meeting):

Actions	Progress
Updating the Vision for GMW with key stakeholders in the GMW Partnership and Government (ongoing).	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Updated document was extensively consulted upon with Membership. Both Governments aware and given opportunity to comment.</p>
Confirm the final version of the document (GMW Partnership meeting on 24 November, 2023).	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Updated draft Vision was taken to Growing Mid Wales Partnership on 24/11/23 – and was supported by its Membership. The only comment received was to consider strengthening references to the community and voluntary sectors within the document.</p>
CJC Workshop with members has been arranged for 6th October, 2023 to receive comments/views on the document Workshop with the OECD has been arranged for 27 October, 2023.	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Workshop was held to discuss the CJC Corporate Plan.</p> <p>OECD workshop was held on 27th October.</p>
Establish an Officer Working Group to consider outcomes of the OECD Workshop and technical aspects relating to “lift & shift” (November 2023).	<p>Not completed.</p> <p>Report from OECD was not received in time for any workshops pre-Christmas.</p> <p>Legal advice (via MO) sought on the technical aspects of the constitution.</p> <p>Not in a position to hold a workshop until parameters of constitution and likely direction of travel known.</p>
Liaise with sub-committee members regarding the direction of travel (November 2023).	<p>Not completed.</p> <p>On hold due to the above not held. Officers did not have the information to liaise with Members.</p>
Arrange the first sub-committee meeting to adopt the Strategy and agree a forward work plan (December 2023).	<p>Not completed.</p> <p>Not able to complete as previous actions not completed.</p>

E) Meetings are already diarised for GMW Board on a quarterly basis for 2024:

26th January 2024
 19th April 2024
 26th July 2024
 25th October 2024

Proposed Forward Work Plan

F) The following forward work plan is now proposed as follows:

Action	Timeframe
<p>Vision – to take the updated vision for Growing Mid Wales to the next Sub-Committee meeting for consideration and adoption.</p>	<p>For the next Sub Committee meeting</p>
<p>Function – further work is needed to start developing the role and remit of the sub-committee (beyond the existing Growth Deal and Skills functions).</p> <p>A draft of the OECD report has been received and being reviewed by officers for accuracy.</p> <p>It is proposed that a further Officer and Member workshop is organised for February/March to consider the OECD report and draw out direction of travel for the committee beyond the Vision and delivery of Growth Deal.</p>	<p>February-March 2024.</p>
<p>Forward Plan/Objectives for the Economic Wellbeing function long term.</p> <p>As a result of the workshop above, it is anticipated we can take a paper to the April sub-committee on the long-term aspirations for the committee.</p>	<p>For the meeting 19th April 2024.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- G) To note the progress and narrative update on actions undertaken to date.
- H) For Members to consider and comment on the proposed Forward Work Plan set out in paragraph above – and if content, that Members support the proposals.

Financial Impacts:

- I) None identified at this time. Provision is made via the CJC budget setting process for the running of the CJC governance. No resource requirements have been identified for the sub-committee as of yet.
- J) The delivery of the Mid Wales Growth Deal will continue within its existing

governance arrangements in place and the finance/legal and agreements that have been previously agreed with UK and Welsh Governments and the two Local Authorities.

Workforce Impacts:

K) None identified at this time.

Legal Impacts:

L) None identified at this time. Legal advice was sought from the Monitoring Officer in relation to the constitution and the provisions for this sub-committee.

Risk Management Impacts:

M) None identified at this time.

Consultation:

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



MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting – Monday, 29th January 2024

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF PRE-PREPARATORY WORK OF THE SDP SUB-COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report	To provide the CJC with an update on the progress to date on the pre-preparatory work for the SDP
Recommendations:	<p>A) To note the progress and narrative update on actions undertaken to date.</p> <p>B) For Members to consider and comment on the proposed Forward Work Plan set out in paragraph 10 – and if content, that Members support the proposals.</p>
Report Author	Dr Sarah Groves-Phillips Strategic Lead, Strategic Development Plan/Policy Manager, Ceredigion CC
Finance Officer	Duncan Hall, Section 151 Officer
Legal Officer	Clive Pinney – Monitoring Officer

Introduction and Background:

1. Members of the CJC have previously received and considered reports on the proposals for the Strategic Development Plan, with a budget agreed to implement pre-preparatory works to enable the formal start of an SDP to commence.
2. Significant work has been underway to take forward the actions identified by the SDP sub-group.
3. This report provides an update on the progress against those actions, and to make the CJC aware of barriers to progress on the formal start of an SDP.

Regional Update:

4. Following the last meeting of the CJC on the 12th of October 2023, it was agreed that Powys County Council would consider their internal procedures and seek monitoring officer advice re formal pausing of their replacement plan preparation (LDP2). This was with a view to seeking full council resolution on decisions around this step. After this Powys have reviewed their position and sought legal counsel this advice is still

forthcoming. The SDP sub-group and CJC will be notified when this advice has been received and reviewed.

5. Bannau Bryceiniog National Park were also anticipating discussion as to future direction of replacement plan preparation at BBNPA. At the time of the last sub-group no formal decision had been reached, it is understood it will be Spring before such a resolution is made. The SDP sub-group and CJC will be notified when any formal decision has been made.
6. The Ceredigion replacement LDP remains on formal pause due to the revised JNCC targets for riverine levels of Phosphates in the Teifi Special Area of Conservation whilst mitigations are devised and implemented. Work on this remains at pace with the establishment of the Teifi Nutrient Management Board, development of the Nutrient Management Plan and recent announcement of the Teifi Demonstrator catchment project, to date the LDP position remains unchanged.
7. At a meeting of the Planning Officers Society for Wales (POSW) alongside Welsh Government colleagues on the 25th of October 2023, John Fudge and Mark Newey (Policy Leads at WG) discussed the letter sent to CJC's by Minister Julie James in the summer and outlined their expectations that a Delivery Agreement for all SDPs would be submitted before the end of this financial year. Discussion focused on resource constraints and difficulty with timelines across all regions. – It was not apparent from the meeting that any CJC region was in a position to comply with this request as resource requirements remain a Wales wide concern for SDPs as well as the planned delay to the SDP manual release (consultation on the manual expected May 2024). However, it is brought to the attention of the CJC for information and reiteration of the expectation at a ministerial level.

For Discussion and Agreement:

Forward Work Programme

8. The SDP subgroup held on the 17/10/23 agreed the following action list of pre-preparatory work which was planned between October 2023 and March 2024. The identification of an indicative budget has been prioritized given the budget setting process both the Local Authorities and the CJC undertake in Jan/ Feb each year. An indicative budget has been shared with partners and will be reviewed at an SDP subgroup workshop to be convened in February.
9. Internal Requirements
 - Timeline for SDP (including matching with other regional plans and Powys, potential BBNPA LDP2)
 - Mapped reporting structure for (member, officer engagement) below SDP subgroup level.

- Establishment of SDP officers / member working groups – either regional or LPA/ NPA specific or both as advised.
- Skills mapping regionally.
- Complete SDP regulations/ draft manual requirements list
- Resource Requirements for SDP (staffing / consultancy)
- Consideration of IT requirements across the region
- Draft Budget for SDP

Statutory Requirements

- Draft Delivery Agreement
- Draft Community Involvement Scheme

10. The following table outlines the progress to date on each of the identified work streams:

Work Stream	Current Status	Expected completion Date
Timeline for SDP (including matching with other regional plans and Powys/ BBNPA LDP2)	Need clarity on LDP 2 preparation in PCC and BBNPA before completion	Mar 2024
Mapped reporting structure for (member, officer engagement) below SDP sub-group level.	Discussions with Welsh Government ongoing as issue highlighted across multiple regions awaiting further direction – suggested in SDP engagement that initial agreement to undertake SDP is taken through local democratic processes and PSB groups are utilised for on-going engagement	ongoing
Establishment of SDP officers working groups – either regional or LPA/ NPA specific or both as advised.	Teams site established, meetings arranged, discussions ongoing – SDP partners feel a series of officer / member workshops scheduled around the	ongoing

	formal SDP subgroup meetings would also be worthwhile.	
Skills mapping regionally.	<p>Each authority/ park area been contacted, and a data set has been completed for Ceredigion with skill sets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Please note</i> BBNPA have confirmed that they are unable to respond to the request to complete the skills audit as they have no staffing resources to put to the SDP. 	On-going – may need to review how we approach this.
Complete SDP regs/ manual requirements list	List created – engagement with officer working group feedback from BBNPA incorporated – await SDP manual to formalise	Partially complete – await publication of SDP manual (May 24) to complete
Resource Requirements for SDP (staffing / consultancy)	Not complete -officer discussion have identified that BBNPA feel a more appropriate solution for staffing the SDP is to have a dedicated officer at each authority who is responsible for the SDP and acts as a liaison between the CJC SDP and the constituent policy / LDP team. This has additional cost implications for the SDP budget – some of which could be alleviated by each authority where possible redirecting staff workstreams or employing additional resources.	March 2024

Consideration of IT requirements across the region	Meeting with Powys arranged, discussions ongoing – seems likely that the region will move to the Powys IT system as the most recently procured system	March 2024
Draft Budget for SDP	Indicative budget spreadsheet created to be finalised once all pre-preparatory work complete and agreements made regionally as to future progress and staff resources for the SDP.	Partially complete – to be discussed at upcoming workshop but can only be finalised alongside formal DA
Draft Delivery Agreement	A draft is available – however without formal decisions on commencement and structure of an SDP team it is not able to be completed and would be premature to finalise for submission to Welsh Ministers	Contingent on regional partners decision making and capacity issues
Draft Community Involvement Scheme	A draft is available – however without formal decisions on commencement and structure of an SDP team it is not able to be completed	Contingent on regional partners decision making and capacity issues

Resource Requirements

11. The engagement work to date regionally highlights differing views on the staffing resource requirements to undertake an SDP whilst all 3 authorities agree broadly the costings outlined in the indicative budget. There remains considerable concern over how this would be delivered with some partners advocating for a dedicated regional SDP team therefore the budget has been focused on identifying the cost of SDP preparation. In effect the base cost of producing the evidence, consultation, and examination of an SDP alongside the costs of employing a dedicated SDP manager and a GIS officer (an identified skills shortage regionally). Dependent on decision making as to how to manage staffing resources to undertake an SDP, further costs may be liable for staffing – but this will be contingent on whether the region moves as one to SDP work with existing policy teams, resources internally are partially re-directed to SDP work or a standalone team were created.

12. BBNPA have confirmed they do not have any staffing resources to direct to an SDP, and would like to stress that the SDP will need a specific resource that responds to both the local and regional context. It is their view the best way to do this is to create a 'virtual team' resourced by specific Regional Planning Officers hosted by the constituent LPAs, whose work programme is co-ordinated by the SDP team leader who is an independent appointment by the CJC. These officers will be able to provide a link back into the local context and knowledge without requiring LPAs to resource a layer of plan which they are not mandated to produce.

13. At this stage given the regional partners capacity needs further consideration it would not be effective to recommend a budget is set for SDP and subsequently a Delivery Agreement is finalised. However, an ongoing resource is required to continue baseline pre-preparatory work and it has been suggested this should remain at the 0.5 FTE equivalent identified in the last two quarters of 23/24 to enable the bringing together of the workstreams that are presently ongoing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A) To note the progress and narrative update on actions undertaken to date.
- B) For Members to consider and comment on the proposed Forward Work Plan set out in paragraph 10 above – and if content, that Members support the proposals.

Financial Impacts:

14. The financial implications of progressing an SDP have been outlined in an indicative budget and shared with partners, this will need consideration at constituent authority level and an agreement reached alongside resource identification during the 2024/2025 budget setting process in PCC, BBNPA and CCC. At present only a resource requirement for a 0.5 FTE SDP resource has been set in the forthcoming budget until decisions as to progress on an SDP can be reached.

Workforce Impacts:

15. None identified at this time. Contingent on decisions as to delivery structure of an SDP.

Legal Impacts:

16. None identified at this time. Legal advice was sought from the Monitoring Officer in relation to the constitution and the provisions for this sub-committee.

Risk Management Impacts:

17. None identified at this time.

Consultation:

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

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Meeting:	MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 29 th January 2024
Title of Report:	Report on the Welsh Language Standards for the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (MWCJC)
Purpose of Report:	To provide members of the CJC with an update and proposed way forward with regards to the Draft Compliance Notice served by the Welsh Language Commissioner
Decision Sought:	To consider and approve the recommendations in Section 11 of the report
Report Author:	Eifion Evans, Chief Executive, Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee
Finance Officer:	Duncan Hall, Section 151 Officer
Legal Officer:	Clive Pinney, Monitoring Officer

1. Introduction

This report provides members with an update on the MWCJC's compliance with the Welsh Language Standards together with recommendations in Section 11 of the report.

2. Background

Following the introduction of Corporate Joint Committees, a number of regulations/orders were made alongside the Establishment Regulation in March 2021.

These included:

Corporate Joint Committees (Amendment of Schedule 6 to the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011) Regulations 2021. The amendment regulations provide that CJC's established by regulations made under Part 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 are liable to comply with the Welsh Language Standards within the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

The CEO of the MWCJC received a letter from the Welsh Language Commissioner (WLC) dated 4th October stating that following one to one meetings with representative of our organisation, the Commissioner is now starting the statutory consultation process under section 47 of the Welsh Language Measure with the MWCJC.

The Consultation period on the draft compliance notice will commence on 4th October 2023 and will end on the 5th January 2024. However, to allow the MWCJC to consider this report an extension to the 26th January 2024 has been agreed with the Commissioner's Office.

It should be noted that the draft compliance notice served on the MWCJC proposed adoption of Ceredigion County Council's standards and not Powys County Council. This will result in a huge financial burden on the MWCJC.

On the 14th December 2023 the WLGA arranged a meeting with the Commissioner's Office and all CJC's in Wales. This was attended by the Chief Executive and the Strategic Programme Manager from the MWCJC.

3. Proposed Way Forward

During the meeting held with the Commissioner's Office the following was discussed:

The extent to which the MWCJC believes that the use of Powys County Council's Welsh Language Standards as a baseline for compliance with Welsh Language regulations would be reasonable and proportionate.

During the discussions held with the Commissioner's Office it was agreed:

- a) that the MWCJC could respond to the consultation by suggesting the use of Powys County Council's Welsh Language Standards as a baseline for compliance with the Welsh Language Regulations 2021.
- b) The MWCJC will be willing to work to progress to improve on its adopted Welsh Language standards in its compliance notice and to achieve Ceredigion's Welsh Language Standards.
- c) The annual reporting requirements for the MWCJC will be in line with the existing arrangements for the two Local Authorities. The first report will be due by the end of June 2025.
- d) The extent to which the MWCJC's promotional activities could be incorporated into the existing strategies of the relevant local authorities when they are next up for review.

4. Recommendations

- a) The MWCJC approves the following recommendations:

- The MWCJC adopts Powys County Council’s Welsh Language standards as a baseline for compliance with the Welsh Language Regulations 2021.
- The MWCJC will work to progress to improve on its adopted Welsh Language standards.
- The annual reporting requirements for the MWCJC will be in line with the existing arrangements for the two Local Authorities. The first report will be due by the end of June 2025.
- The extent to which the MWCJC’s promotional activities could be incorporated into the existing strategies of the relevant local authorities when they are next up for review.

b) The MWCJC provides a generic response to the Welsh Language Commissioner’s consultation letter dated 4th October 2023 on the draft compliance notice by the agreed extended end date of 26th January 2024.

5. Financial Impact

5.1 There would be significant costs to the MWCJC if it adopted Ceredigion County Councils Welsh Language standards due to the difference in Standards between the two Local Authorities.

6. Integrated Impact Assessment:

6.1 There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment for this report.

7. Workforce Impacts:

7.1 There are no workforce implications for the MWCJC in this report. All resource requirements to comply with the Welsh Language Standards will be undertaken by the respective Local Authorities.

8. Legal Impacts:

8.1 There are no Legal implications within this report.

9. Risk Management Impacts:

9.1 There are no Risk Management implications within this report.

10. Consultation:

10.1 The consultation referred to in this report is undertaken by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

11. Reasons for Proposed Decision:

11.1 To ensure the MWCJC satisfies with the requirements of the Welsh Language Commission and is compliant with the Welsh Language Requirements 2021

12. Recommendations

The MWCJC approves the following recommendations:

- a) The MWCJC adopts Powys County Council's Welsh Language standards as a baseline for compliance with the Welsh Language Regulations 2021.
- b) The MWCJC will work to progress to improve on its adopted Welsh Language standards.
- c) The annual reporting requirements for the MWCJC will be in line with the existing arrangements for the two Local Authorities. The first report will be due by the end of June 2025.
- d) The extent to which the MWCJC's promotional activities could be incorporated into the existing strategies of the relevant local authorities when they are next up for review.
- e) The MWCJC provides a generic response to the Welsh Language Commissioner's consultation letter dated 4th October 2023 on the draft compliance notice by the agreed extended end date of 31st January 2024.