

CJC - Strategic Development Planning Sub-Committee



Meeting Venue
Via Zoom Webinar

Meeting Date
Tuesday, 17 October 2023

Meeting Time
4.00 pm

For further information please contact
Katharine Flanagan Jones

11/10/23

Mae croeso i chi siarad yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg yn y cyfarfod. Rhowch wybod pa iaith rydych am ei defnyddio erbyn hanner dydd, ddau ddiwrnod gwaith cyn y cyfarfod.

You are welcome to speak Welsh or English in the meeting. Please inform us of which language you wish to use by noon, two working days before the meeting.

AGENDA

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
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- Welcome and to receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies received from

2.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
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- The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16/02/2023 be signed as a true record

(Pages 3 - 6)

3.	UPDATE FOLLOWING LETTER RE: SDP'S FROM CJC TO MINISTER
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To receive and consider an update following the letter in regard to Strategic Development Planning Sub Committees (SDP's) from the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) to the Minister.

(Pages 7 - 8)

4.	RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR SDP
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To consider the resource requirements for the SDP.

(Pages 9 - 14)

5.	PLANNED SDP WORK PROGRAMME OCT 23-MAR 24
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To consider the planned SDP work programme for October 2023 to March 2024.

6.	REGIONAL LDP UPDATES
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To received and consider regional LDP updates.

7.	PROGRESS OR LEARNING FROM OTHER SDP REGIONS
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To consider progress and / or learning from other SDP regions.

8.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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CJC - Strategic Development Planning Sub-Committee Thursday, 16 February 2023

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CJC - STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE HELD BY ZOOM ON THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT

Powys County Council

County Councillor Jake Berriman - Chair

County Councillor Angela Davies

Peter Morris, Professional Lead, Planning

Nicola Williams, Strategic Programme Delivery Manager (CJC)

In Attendance

Kath. Flanagan Jones, Scrutiny Support Officer (*taking minutes*) (CJC)

Ceredigion County Council

County Councillor Clive Davies

County Councillor Gareth Lloyd

Russell Hughes-Pickering, Corporate Lead, Economy, and Regeneration

Sarah Groves-Phillips, Planning Policy Officer

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe (PCC /BBNPA)

Gareth Jones, Director of Planning and Place

Chris O'Brien – Senior Policy Officer, BBNPA (deputising for Helen Lucocq)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

County Councillors Gareth Jones (PCC), Ceris Jones (CCC), Edwin Roderick (BBNPA)

Officer - Helen Lucocq, Strategy and Policy Manager BBNPA

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 2 DECEMBER 2022

Agreed by all present as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and ratified accordingly by the Chair.

The Strategic Programme Delivery Manager had received the following in response to the action below from the meeting, held on the 2nd of December 2022.

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

The response received from Christopher Stevens, WG, is as follows:

Chapter 1 of the statutory guidance for Corporate Joint Committees deals with Membership and Constitutional arrangements, including replacement and substitution.

Para 2.2 sets out:

“In circumstances where the council member is unable to attend a particular meeting a council member will be able to nominate a substitute from their council executive. Such arrangements should be temporary and for exceptional circumstances and might include for example short term sickness absence, compassionate leave.”

3.	LETTER TO ALL CJC CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S FROM WELSH GOVERNMENT DATED 13TH JANUARY 2023
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Letter attached in the agenda sets out the supportive arrangements for the preparation amongst other information of the Strategic Development Plan, whilst being very clear that there is no additional funding available.

4.	REQUEST FOR FUNDING SUPPORT - LETTER TO THE MINISTER DATED 18TH JANUARY 2023 AND RESPONSE RECEIVED 7TH FEBRUARY 2023
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The Chair noted the letter received from the Minister in response to the request that Powys is able to drop the drop-dead date on their Local Development Plan to allow to concentrate on the Strategic Development Plan. Unfortunately, the Minister is not inclined to do so.

The difficulties remain as BBNPA are members of three CJC's and with resources being depleted. The Chair reported that he had wrote a further letter to the Minister to look at funding options, considering the options and risk with proceeding with a strategic development plan, and the second option of commencing the SDP alongside the ongoing replacement development plans subject to resources.

The Chair informed the meeting that he had provided the last CJC meeting with an update, The CJC noted the progress and expressed disappointment at the lack of financial support.

The Chair has requested the CJC approach the Minister directly to request a meeting to discuss Powys Replacement Plan and promote the removal of the drop-dead end date and combined concerted effort being placed on the SDP. This was agreed by the CJC. The Chair has offered to attend the meeting to make the case.

Officers were supporting of Chair's approach, adding that the same point was raised at the All-Wales RTP / LDP meeting in January, raising that the Future Wales programme does not have an end date, so it is inconsistent for it to remain for LDP.

Whilst no legislative slot exists to remove end dates, the Chair expressed the view that a Ministerial letter was all that would be required and there was some

discussion about the materiality of older adopted plans as new plans emerged. Mark Newey, Welsh Government, at the All-Wales meeting indicated that there was an expectation that plans past their end dates would still have to be given weight. Applying the reasoning given by the Welsh Government Officer, no point is served by an end date. Either the Local Planning Authority is left to manage this risk or the Minister steps in to alleviate it. Members felt this would need to be addressed at a higher Ministerial level meeting.

The CJC needs to focus on moving forward and there is a legal obligation to prepare a Strategic Development Plan subject to identifying necessary resources.

The CJC is constituted by the BBNPA and the two Unitary Authorities any recharge by the CJC falls to the constituent bodies who have not budgeted for the SDP in 2023-2024.

5. CJC REPORT RE: APPROVAL OF SDP RESOURCES
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Planning Policy Officer (CCC) stated that the decision at the last meeting was to pursue Option 2 Planning Policy Officer (CCC) stated that the decision at the last meeting was to pursue Option 2 to prepare an SPD alongside Powys' replacement LDP, subject to necessary resources and for a skeleton delivery agreement brought back for discussion.

Officers commenced this work but paused it to consider further emerging Welsh Government advice and to reflect again on available resources.

The WG suggestion is for the CJC to agree a lead Authority for progression of base-line work for the SDP, to formulate initial preparatory work, evidence requirements, consultation arrangements and timings, and governance in accordance with the SDP regulations, in advance of submitting a formal delivery agreement, aligned to

key stages of the RTP and the Economic Well-Being Plans.

After consideration was given to which of the three Authorities may have capacity to Lead, given the known constraints facing Powys and the BBNP and the possibility of employing consultants, it was agreed that we create new regional positions within one of the authorities or within the CJC with

Ceredigion being best placed to be the interim lead Authority.

Recommendations to the CJC for decision should consider whether posts remain within the respective Authority funded by the CJC or be seconded into the CJC.

Funding arrangements were discussed, and it was noted that there is no agreed budget for sub-committees. The CJC are aware there may need to be some funding forthcoming throughout the year and have agreed to re-visit the budget if required to do so, which is permissible within the Constitution.

Subject to the CJC participants putting suitable funding arrangements in place Members were content for Ceredigion to take lead responsibility and that the

associated costs be appropriately proportioned against the given formula for any planned expenditure.

Councillors across the three Authorities present in agreement.

Actions:

- CJC to be informed that the SDP Committee have unanimously agreed for Ceredigion to take lead responsibility and that those costs be appropriately proportioned against the given formula for SDP expenditure.
- Job Descriptions for the new SDP post(s) be drawn up and evaluated to provide an initial cost framework to take to the CJC for consideration.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Professional Lead, Planning (CCC) requested if it would be advantageous for the CJC's to come together to discuss shared learning and provide a collective voice to the Minister and Chief Planning Lead Officer.

Recommendation seconded by Members present:

To recommend to the CJC, a collaborative meeting of regional CJC Chairs and Lead Officers be considered. The purpose of which would be to enable the regional CJC's to benefit from shared learning and support, and to ensure a united voice to the Minister and WG Officers.

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

**Jake Berriman
County Councillor**



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

Eifion Evans
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn,
Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth. SY23 3UE

Julie James MS,
Minister for Climate Change,
Welsh Government

by e-mail only:
correspondence.Julie.James@gov.wales

Dyddiad Date	8 August, 2023
Gofynnwch am Please ask for	Eifion Evans
Llinell uniongyrchol Direct line	01545 572004
Fy nghyf My ref	EE/SGP/SAD
Ebost Email	ChiefExecutive@ceredigion.gov.uk

Dear Julie James MS,

Mid Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP)

I write to you in my capacity as Chief Executive of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), to request a meeting to discuss developing the Mid Wales SDP and the implications for existing Local Development Plans (LDPs).

The Mid Wales region comprises of Ceredigion (CCC) and Powys (PCC) Local Authorities and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNPA), and it is our firm intention to jointly produce the Mid Wales SDP as quickly as possible. We acknowledge that this is a resource intensive exercise and, to make best use of, and develop, the existing capacity and resources we have, we would value a conversation around options for progressing or not progressing individual LDPs.

The Mid Wales CJC is uniquely placed to make progress on an SDP that properly describes a vision for the region based on our rurality, resources, and resilient communities. Whilst the NRW Interim advice on Planning and Phosphates, has delayed progress on the LDP reviews at CCC and BBNP, Powys, being subject to a 'drop dead date', is preparing a replacement LDP. Overall, however, the CJC is of the view that this hiatus is an opportunity to rethink our collective approach and reprioritise resources to focus on a progressive new plan for the region.

The CJC has organised subgroups, including an SDP subgroup, which has started to map out budgets, timelines, and processes in accordance with the SDP Regulations. By doing so, we have recognised the potential savings to be made should an SDP be the principal plan to be progressed with existing resources (LDP teams and budgets) of the two local authorities being directed towards it.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ateb Saesneg i bob gohebiaeth Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and correspondence in English will be answered in English. Corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

It is recognised that this would potentially leave Powys without a “live” plan for an additional two years, but given the legal view we have been provided with from Planning Officer Society Wales that their current plan would continue to carry material weight where its policies are locally focused and in accordance with Future Wales, they are of a mind to work together to prioritise the SDP for the CJC.

We would therefore welcome the opportunity to explain and expand on our position and to take soundings and indeed receive Ministerial support for this approach to support the Government in its ambitions to secure early SDP coverage and quickly move to the submission of a Delivery Agreement for ministerial sign-off.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eifion Evans', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eifion Evans
Chief Executive
Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee

MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

17th October 2023

REPORT TO THE SDP SUB GROUP

Report Title: Confirmation of how the allocation of resources to progress the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) will be utilised

Purpose of Report	To update on the use of the allocated resources to the SDP
Decision Sought:	
It is recommended that Members:	
1. Note and agree the suggested route forward.	
Report Author	Sarah Groves-Phillips
Finance Officer	Duncan Hall (Section 151 Officer)
Legal Officer	Clive Pinney (Monitoring Officer)

Background:

1. 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 a Mid Wales CJCs through Regulations and at its inaugural meeting on 25th January 2022, the CJC was established, approved a budget for 2022/23 and approved Standing Orders which were to be replaced by a formal Constitution in due course.
2. The 3 main workstreams of the CJC are to prepare a regional Strategic Development Plan (SDP), a Regional Transport Plan (RTP) and an Economic Wellbeing Plan. It is the intention of the guidance that these three work streams should be undertaken in parallel and complement one another.
3. The purpose of this report is for the SDP sub-group to understand how resources will be directed to the SDP pre-preparatory work. Following the report of the last SDP subgroup where resource requirements and the varying landscape of LDP2’s across the region the following recommendations were put to the CJC board:

Strategic Development Planning (SDP)

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

4. As a result of these recommendations being approved the following actions have been agreed:
 - A letter was drafted for Julie James MS (attached as appendix 1)
 - Discussions over how best to utilise the resources approved were conducted internally and a way forward agreed which is outlined below.

The requirement and constraints

5. To progress an SDP regionally it is felt that a dedicated resource is essential to progressing work. There are several questions and outstanding issues that need ironing out before the SDP subgroup would be in a position to prepare a Delivery Agreement (DA) (the legal timetable that holds the plan to account). These center on governance and collaborative working approaches as well as mapping out a regional skills audit. Work around matching up LDP stages and potential timelines incorporating key stages of the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) and Economic Wellbeing plan and gathering of baseline data will also require resources.
6. Resources of circa 35k were identified for this financial year (2023/2024). This would not support the employment of a full-time officer; thus, further options are available: Commission external support in the form of consultancy, however it was not considered this would be the best use of resources as it would take a consultant a fair while to get to speed with the regional requirements and ultimately, it's not a compact piece of work. It would also require a 'sell to Wales' procurement exercise which can take several months.
7. We could recruit for a part time role which with experience would likely not be a successful campaign given recruitment difficulties regionally and again could take several months.
8. Undertake an internal secondment opportunity with existing staff who have experience of the issues and the required outputs.
9. Option 3 was determined as the most expedient and likely to deliver the best results. Discussions were had internally as to suitable candidates, and it was agreed that given work flows in Powys these would be best placed coming from the Ceredigion team whose LDP2 is on formal pause.
10. Thus, the following approach was agreed as the best way forward, and that would be for a temporary period until the end of financial year redistribute work internally in the Ceredigion policy team to provide 0.5 FTE dedicated to SDP work.
11. The manager of the Ceredigion policy team has considered the internal skill set of the team and would advise that Connor Cook (Planning Policy Officer) is up to speed on the SDP regulations and manual and the requisite policy knowledge to determine the timetable and work streams. Alongside this Catrin Cond (Senior Planning policy Officer) has a detailed knowledge of the plan preparation process and coordination, as well as costings and IT requirements and thus between them they would make an effective team to undertake this pre-preparatory work at both officer and Senior Officer level.

12. By sharing the resource in this manner, it would not result in the loss of anyone individual staff member from the team on a substantial basis and their skill sets complement each other and they would be able to ensure cover and a back stop for one another in report preparation. The SDP lead for the region Dr Sarah Groves-Phillips would then support them in preparing relevant documentation and sense checking the work programming as well as presenting to sub-groups and board etc.
13. It is the view of the LPA that a re-organisation of internal priorities would not warrant formal secondments as similar workflows been undertaken several times in the past across service areas. It is proposed that Catrin Cond is allocated at grade 12, 1 day SDP work per week and Connor cook is allocated at Grade 10, 1.5 days per week to the SDP. This coincides with the addition of a planning policy officer post already planned for the in team who could pick up any workstreams these officers would be required to drop.
14. The utilisation of the resources available would deliver the following outcomes:
 - Internal Requirements**
 - Timeline for SDP (including matching with other regional plans and Powys LDP2)
 - Mapped reporting structure for (member, officer engagement) below SDP sub-group level.
 - Establishment of SDP officers / member working groups – either regional or LPA/ NPA specific or both as advised.
 - Skills mapping regionally.
 - Complete SDP regs/ 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

Financial Impacts:

15. The financial implications have been accounted for in the CJC decision identifying a resource allocation

Integrated Impact Assessment:

16. 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 favorably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

17. 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.
18. The allocation of resources for an SDP officer would support the CJC in exercising its functions listed under the legislation above. The allocation of resources to such a role does not in itself require an integrated impact assessment as it is not forming policy.

Workforce Impacts:

19. The informal secondment of two members of the Ceredigion policy team to the SDP would allow for work to progress without the requisite recruitment lag or need to tender on sell to Wales. The workforce impacts internally will be ameliorated by the upgrading of an assistant role to officer which was pre-planned. Furthermore, a number of existing workstreams in the policy team will be closing out shortly allowing for more time to be dedicated to the SDP.

Legal Impacts:

20. None recognised at this time

Risk Management Impacts:

21. Failure to direct resources towards an SDP given the limited capacity and resources of existing policy teams in the region will likely result in the stalling of work on the SDP and therefore the duty of the CJC to undertake an SDP will be on-hold for the foreseeable future.

Consultation:

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

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

23. To ensure appropriate resources are in place for the CJC to make progress on preparing an SDP and thus complying with its statutory duties.

Implementation of Decision:

24. This decision is proposed for immediate implementation

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Letter to Julie James MS seeking clarity on LDP position.

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