

**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE
MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE
HELD ON ZOOM ON TUESDAY, 25TH JANUARY 2022**

PRESENT

Powys

County Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader

Dr Caroline Turner, Chief Executive

Clive Pinney, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Nicola Williams, Strategic Programme Delivery Manager

Anne Phillips, Deputy Head of Finance

Julie Williams, Programme Support Officer taking notes

Ceredigion

County Councillor Ellen Ap Gwynn, Leader

Eifion Evans, Chief Executive

Barry Rees, Corporate Director

Elin Prysor, Monitoring Officer and Corporate Lead Officer

Stephen Johnson, Section 151 Officer and Corporate Lead Officer

Justin Davies, Corporate Manager: Core Finance

Nicola Davies, Welsh Translator

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe, Chair

Helen Lucocq, Strategy and Policy Manager

1.	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
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County Councillor Ap Gwynn welcomed everyone to the historic occasion of the first meeting with Powys and Ceredigion County Councils and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to set up the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee as directed by the Welsh Government.

2.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from –

Nigel Brinn, Executive Director of Economy and Environment

Catherine Mealing-Jones, Chief Executive, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

3.	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR
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It was moved by County Councillor Harris and seconded by County Councillor Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED that County Councillor Ap Gwynn be appointed Chair for the coming year.

It was moved by County Councillor Ap Gwynn and seconded by County Councillor Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED that County Councillor Harris be appointed Vice-Chair for the coming year.

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

4.	DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTERESTS
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There were no disclosure of interests to declare relating to matters to be considered on the agenda.

5.	APPOINTMENT OF MWCJC STATUTORY OFFICERS
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The regulations required the CJC to appoint three statutory officers, comprising of a Chief Executive, a Chief Finance Officer ('Section 151 Officer') and a Monitoring and Proper Officer. The Chief Executive role will rotate annually between the Chief Executives of Powys County Council and Ceredigion County Council.

RESOLVED to appoint

- 1. Dr Caroline Turner, Powys County Council as Chief Executive.**
- 2. Stephen Johnson, Ceredigion County Council as Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer.**
- 3. Clive Pinney, Powys County Council as Monitoring and Proper Officer.**

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions to the setting up of this meeting this far and congratulated all on their new roles within the CJC.

6.	ADOPTION OF MWCJC STANDING ORDERS/CONSTITUTION
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The CJC was required to make Standing Orders to regulate its proceedings and business. The Monitoring Officer advised that the regulations set out by Welsh Government envisaged CJC's working within the 'Local Government family' with, to a large extent, the same powers and duties of Local Authorities. This had been reflected in the draft standing orders.

Whilst the MWCJC was a corporate body and could employ staff and have its own budget, officers from Powys and Ceredigion have been nominated to work as Officers of the MWCJC.

The membership of the MWCJC would consist of the two Leaders of the Local Authorities, with a representative from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority when dealing with the Strategic Development Plan. To enable the CJC to undertake its functions, it was suggested that three sub-committees be established:

- Sub Committee for the Regional Transport Planning
- Sub Committee for the Economic Well-being
- Sub Committee for the Strategic Development Planning

In addition, an Audit and Governance Committee, a Standards Committee and a Scrutiny and Overview Committee would be appointed in due course.

In response to questions about the role of the National Park in governance and scrutiny, the Monitoring Officer advised that further Welsh Government Guidance on those issues was awaited.

RESOLVED

- 1. To adopt the standing orders for the Corporate Joint Committee and accept the proposed direction for the Constitution in Appendix 1 of the Report.**
- 2. To delegate the power to the Monitoring Officer to make editorial changes to the standing orders for their publication.**
- 3. To approve the creation of the sub committees identified in Paragraph 18 of the Report.**

7.	MWCJC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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The MWCJC considered the Forward Work Programme.

The Monitoring Officer advised that responsibility for the three functions did not actually transfer to the MWCJC until July so there was some vagueness in the guidelines. Tranche 3 of the guidelines was expected at any time followed by tranche 4 of the guidelines in the Spring 2022. The Monitoring Officer advised that work would take place in the background to make sure that things are ready for the transfer of functions.

RESOLVED to approve the MWCJC forward work programme.

8.	DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGETS FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2021/22 AND 2022/23
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The CJC considered the Corporate Joint Committee Budget for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

RESOLVED

- 1. To approve the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2021/22 of zero and therefore no levy raised against Powys and Ceredigion County Councils.**
- 2. To approve the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23 of £120,000 as outlined in Appendix A.**
- 3. To approve a contingency budget line of £3,000 within the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23.**
- 4. To approve a zero-amount budgeted to be held as a reserve to meet expenditure which will be incurred in respect of future years from the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23.**
- 5. To approve if by the end of 2022/23 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.**
- 6. To approve a zero amount to meet liabilities outstanding in respect of any earlier financial year from the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23.**
- 7. To approve a levy chargeable against Powys and Ceredigion County Councils of £60,000 each in respect of the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23.**

With regard to the Strategic Planning Budget

- 8. To approve the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2021/22 of zero and therefore no levy raised against Powys and Ceredigion County Councils or the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.**
- 9. To approve the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23 of £40,000 as outlined in Appendix A.**
- 10. To approve a contingency budget line of £1,000 within the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23.**
- 11. To approve a zero-amount budgeted to be held as reserve to meet expenditure which will be incurred in respect of future years from the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23.**
- 12. To approve if by the end of 2022/23 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.

13. To approve a zero amount to meet liabilities outstanding in respect of any earlier financial year in respect of the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23.

14. To approve a levy chargeable against Powys and Ceredigion County Councils of £18,283 each and levy of £3,434 chargeable against the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in respect of the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2022/23.

9.	AGREE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE MID WALES CJC MEETINGS
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The Monitoring Officer advised that a MWCJC Meeting needed to take place after the elections in May but a meeting may be convened sooner to approve the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs to the sub-committees.

10.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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None.

The Chair thanked everyone for their preparatory work and contribution to date to the setting up of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

County Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn

Chair

