

MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

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

Date of Meeting: 31st July 2023

Purpose of Report	To set out an update relating to the production of the Corporate Plan for the CJC
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1. Introduction:

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

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

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

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

2. Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Developing a Corporate Plan for the CJC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Vision

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

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

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

4. Wellbeing Objectives

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

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

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

Draft Well-being Objective 1

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

Draft Well-being Objective 2

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

Draft Wellbeing Objective 3

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

5. Forward Work Plan

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

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

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

6. Integrated Impact Assessment:

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

7. Workforce Impacts:

7.1 None.

8. Legal Impacts:

8.1 None.

9. Risk Management Impacts:

9.1 None at this stage.

10. Consultation:

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

11. Reasons for Proposed Decision:

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

12. Recommendations

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

12.2 Members to provide comment on the draft Wellbeing Objectives.

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