



MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting – Thursday, 9th May 2024

REPORT TO ESTABLISH THE ECONOMIC WELLBEING SUB-COMMITTEE

Purpose of Report	To note the progress and narrative update on actions undertaken to date, and to recommend the formal establishment of the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee and agree a high-level work plan.
Recommendations:	
<p>A) To resolve that the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee is formally established so that the next scheduled meeting on 26/07/24 becomes the sub-committee formally.</p> <p>B) For continuity, that the name “GMW Board” is retained for the sub-committee.</p> <p>C) That the two Constituent Councils review and confirm their proposed Membership, in time to establish to sub-committee as per the recommendations above.</p>	
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Legal Officer	Clive Pinney – Monitoring Officer

Introduction and Background:

1. Members of the CJC have previously received and considered three reports on the progress of proposals for the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee (31/07/23; 12/10/23; 29/01/24). The content of these reports was guided by the Member workshop held 23 June 2023 and a workshop with the OECD on 27th October 2023.
2. The agreed direction of travel from these meetings is take a strategic approach to the evolution of the economic wellbeing committee. Focusing initially on the current regional governance arrangements that are in place between the two local authorities.
3. This report provides an update on the progress against agreed actions to date, and to make a series of recommendations for Members to consider formally establishing the sub-committee and a forward work plan.

Progress on Previously Agreed Actions:

4. The following table provides an update on the Work Plan (as discussed and agreed by members in previous CJC Meetings):

Action	Timeframe	Progress
<p>Vision – to take the updated vision for Growing Mid Wales to the next Sub-Committee meeting for consideration and adoption.</p>	For the next sub-committee meeting.	<p>Not completed</p> <p>Sub-committee not yet established.</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>	February-March 2024.	<p>Not completed</p> <p>Sub-committee not yet established and wider matters relating to the RTP and SDP development have taken priority.</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>	For the meeting 19 th April 2024.	<p>Partial</p> <p>This paper sets out a more comprehensive plan to establish the sub-committee and proposing a forward work plan for it.</p>

Governance – establishing the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee

5. The constitution of the Mid Wales CJC provides as follows (extract):

Economic Well Being – Regional Economic Development (Mid Wales Growth Deal) Sub-Committee

5.11 The CJC may appoint a sub-committee (known as the Economic Well Being – Regional Economic Development (Mid Wales Growth Deal) Sub-Committee) to:

5.11.1 make recommendations to the CJC in relation to promoting and improving the economic well-being of the area (the “Economic Well-being Function”);

5.11.2 make recommendations to the CJC in relation to the Growth Deal/Growth vision;

5.11.3 oversee and review investments and projects in relation to the Growth Deal/Growth vision

5.11.4 exercise such other functions as the CJC may specify.

5.12 The Terms of Reference of the Economic Well Being – Regional Economic Development (Mid Wales Growth Deal) Sub-Committee are set out in Appendix 1 and those terms of reference may be amended by the CJC from time to time.

6. The constitution is clear in its wording and the appointment of the existing Growing Mid Wales Board **does not** constitute a “lift and shift” of the existing Growth Deal arrangements. The financial and management arrangements would be retained under the existing legal agreement (IAA3).

7. It is possible therefore to continue with the existing governance of the Growth Deal through continuing the existing GMW Board meetings – and for it also to serve the broader CJC remit on the agenda.

8. This would avoid any duplication of meetings and additional resource costs and would negate the need for any changes to the constitution at this stage.

9. Meetings are already diarised for GMW Board on a quarterly basis for 2024:
19th April 2024; 26th July 2024; 25th October 2024

10. The membership of the committee would need to be reviewed by both Constituent Councils, to ensure the proposed membership is still valid and up to date.

RECOMMENDATION (A): To resolve that the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee is formally established so that the next scheduled meeting on 26/07/24 becomes the sub-committee formally.

RECOMMENDATION (B): For continuity, that the name “GMW Board” is retained for the sub-committee.

RECOMMENDATION (C): That the two Constituent Councils review and confirm their proposed Membership, in time to establish to sub-committee as per the recommendations above.

Current Position – Defining the role of the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee

11. The ongoing governance and role of the GMW Board is clearly set out in being the senior political decision-making body in respect of the Mid Wales Growth Deal and also the Regional Skills Partnership. This is our “business as usual” in respect of the Economic Wellbeing function of the Mid Wales CJC.
12. In respect of the wider remit of economic wellbeing – Members have previously expressed a desire to adopt a strategic approach initially, carefully considering the benefits/implications and resourcing needs of any additional activity.

Vision for Growing Mid Wales

13. The CJC has previously resolved to look to adopt the Vision for Growing Mid Wales as its Strategy document, that sets the strategic context and direction for all of our current work via Growing Mid Wales.
14. An updated draft document is provided in Appendix 1.
15. This updated version was circulated in late 2023 and obtained support from wider stakeholders and partners via the GMW Partnership.
16. There remains however, some gaps in the Strategy in relation to social and community enterprise; arts, culture and heritage; and cultural tourism.
17. Both Local Authorities have progressed a number of workstreams via UK Shared Prosperity Funding, and new partnerships have emerged supporting a number of aligned economic interests. There would also be further updated evidence as the work on the Regional Transport Plan evolves, and also the Strategic Development Plan.
18. Should the CJC agree to the establishment of the sub-committee (as per recommendations A-C in this paper), it would be prudent that the committee also commissions the newly established sub-committee to review and refresh the updated Strategy, for formal adoption at a later point in the year.

RECOMMENDATION (D): That the Mid Wales CJC commissions the Economic Well-being Committee to adopt the Vision for Growing Mid Wales as the Economic Strategy for Mid Wales, and commits to an update later in the year.

Future Funding and wider role of the CJC

19. A significant proportion of funding to Local Government to undertake economic development activity at present comes either from the UK Government “levelling up” or via Welsh Government in the form of town centre regeneration funding.
20. The funding landscape beyond 2025 is largely unknown and will only be known after

the next UK General Election – which is known to happen in the 2nd half of 2024.

21. There has been a significant body of work underway by the Welsh Government with local and regional stakeholders on the future regional investment landscape. This includes a significant body of work undertaken by the OECD¹ on multi-tier governance in Wales.

22. April 2024 saw the second report from the OECD published, and was announced by the Welsh Government's Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language's in a Written Statement:

23. [Written Statement: OECD report: Regional Governance and Public Investment in Wales, Moving Forward Together \(16 April 2024\) | GOV.WALES](#)

24. The report and its recommendations will require further consideration, alongside the draft action plan that has been developed for Mid Wales following our workshop at the end of 2023.

25. There is a significant body of work to be undertaken in defining the scope, role and function of the CJC in respect of Economic Wellbeing, beyond the current strategic approach in Mid Wales.

26. This will require careful consideration around aspects such as:

- An honest conversation between Local Government and the Welsh Government on the role and function of the CJC.
- Where the CJC can add value, above and beyond existing structures.
- Resourcing – both the funding to deliver the activity and the capacity to deliver.
- Strategic alignment – both of role and function of the CJC alongside UK Government and Welsh Government policy/funding post 2025.

27. Once the above is clarified in terms of the scope and remit of the function, significant planning work will then be required to understand timescales, resources etc.

28. If established, the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee will have oversight and involvement in these discussions as they evolve.

Financial Impacts:

29. 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

¹ [About the OECD - OECD](#)

for the sub-committee as of yet.

30. 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:

31. None identified at this time.

Legal Impacts:

32. 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:

33. None identified at this time.

Consultation:

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