



Report of the Leader of the Council

Council – 3 December 2020

Consultation Response – Corporate Joint Committees

Purpose:	To submit the Council's response to the Welsh Government consultation on Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) as provided by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill
Policy Framework:	Corporate Plan 2020-22
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The consultation response on behalf of Swansea Council is submitted to Welsh Government
Report Author:	Adam Hill
Finance Officer:	Paul Roach
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) are a new statutory mechanism for regional collaboration by local government as provided for in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.
- 1.2 CJCs are intended to provide a more consistent approach by local government for strategic regional governance, planning and service delivery.
- 1.3 CJCs are proposed to be a vehicle for consistent regional collaboration between principal councils.

- 1.4 The provisions also enable the constituent principal councils to invite participation by partners from other sectors in the work of CJsCs through a process of co-opted membership.
- 1.3 CJsCs will be separate corporate bodies which can employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and undertake functions.

2. Establishment of CJsCs

2.1 Part 5 of the Bill provides for the establishment, through regulations, of CJsCs by two routes:

- at the instigation of two or more principal councils. Two or more principal councils can request that the Welsh Ministers make regulations establishing a CJC for their areas in relation to any of the functions they exercise. The Bill sets out how this to be done and any conditions necessary;
- at the instigation of Welsh Ministers. The Welsh Ministers can establish a CJC to exercise functions without a request from principal councils, but only in relation to certain functions or functional areas which are specified on the face of the Bill.

2.2 This consultation is in relation to the establishment of CJsCs through the second route, that is, at the instigation of Welsh Ministers, in relation to the functions set out in Section 6. The consultation seeks views on the draft regulations – hereafter referred to as the Establishment Regulations.

2.3 The Minister for Housing and Local Government has confirmed her intention to bring forward regulations to establish the first CJsCs – that is one for each of four regions by April 2021.

3. Consultation

3.1 This consultation is seeking the Council's views on the draft Establishment Regulations which will create four regional CJsCs across Wales to exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning; they will also be able to do things to promote the economic well-being of their areas.

3.2 Once established, and where the constituent principal councils wishes them to, these CJsCs would be able to exercise other functions in the future.

3.3 It is important to note for the purpose of this consultation that while there are four separate sets of Establishment Regulations, one for each CJC, the content of each separate set of regulations are substantially the same and Welsh Government are therefore consulting on those regulations as one.

3.4 Alongside the Establishment Regulations for each CJC there will be a set of regulations ('Regulations of General Application') that will apply generally to all the CJsCs, setting out the detail of their governance and administrative arrangements and the legislative framework within which they will operate; these are not subject to this consultation but are referred to in order to put the Establishment Regulations within context.

3.5 The full consultation document is attached as a background document. The Council's response is attached at Appendix A.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) 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 Act.
- 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.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.2 There are no direct Equality implications with this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: Welsh Government Consultation document - Regulations to establish Corporate Joint Committees (CJsCs).

Appendices:

Appendix A Consultation Response