



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JJ/1299/21

All Local Authority Leaders
National Park Authority Chairs
cc Chief Executives
cc WLGA

24 March 2021

Dear Leaders/Chairs

I am delighted to inform you that on 16 March the Senedd formally approved the Establishment Regulations to create four regional Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) for North, Mid, South West and South East Wales. Therefore, these CJCs will be established on 1 April 2021 when the regulations come into force. I am grateful to you all for your engagement on this work and your responses to the consultation which have helped to shape these regulations to ensure that CJCs will meet the needs of local government for the long term.

As we have agreed, the three main functions that your CJC will exercise (Strategic Development Planning, Regional Transport Planning and the Economic Well-being function) will not commence until 2022. This provides you with a period of time to put the necessary constitutional and governance arrangements in place and to set the budget for 2022/23 before the commencement of the key functions.

As we have discussed, I am keen to support you in the implementation of your CJCs and am therefore pleased to confirm I am providing a £1m grant fund in 2021/22 for that purpose. I anticipate this grant being broadly split on an equal basis between the 4 regions, subject to your proposals.

A prospectus is attached at Annex A for your consideration and to support the development of funding proposals for the grant. This prospectus provides a framework enabling each region to identify its own requirements for support during the implementation and transition phase over the coming year. Upon receipt of your proposals, and subject to approval, there will be a light touch grants process providing funding on a quarterly basis for one year - 2021/22. Bids could also include 'once for Wales' joint projects across CJC areas, for example potential development of a scrutiny process for national application.

As part of your establishment and transitional processes, you may also find it useful to use an element of the funding to start preparatory work towards exercising the Strategic Development Planning and Regional Transport Planning functions.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

My officials are keen to support your teams locally within each region on the implementation of your CJsCs so I would be grateful for your confirmation of who the lead contacts should be, if not already provided.

As you are aware, further work is required to complete the legislative framework within which CJsCs will operate. In line with our principle of co-development, Welsh Government officials will continue to engage with your officers and associated professional groupings such as Lawyers in Local Government, Society of Welsh Treasurers and HR Directors in the development of the package of general regulations which will underpin CJsCs. The intention remains that legislation will be developed in line with the principle that CJsCs should be treated as a member of the 'Local Government family' and will therefore be largely subject to the same rules and requirements.

Guidance to support CJsCs is currently being co-produced with local government officers, with the aim of consulting on this over the summer and issuing it later this year.

I again would like to thank you for the way you have engaged in this work, and wish you well in fully realising the benefits that CJsCs can provide.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government