



## Report of the Interim Chief Executive

Governance & Audit Committee – 13 July 2022

### Update Report South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide the Governance & Audit Committee with an update on the current status and progress in relation to the new SWW Corporate Joint Committee.
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#### For Information

#### 1. Background

As advised in the previous report to G&A committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the Act”) provides for the establishment, through regulations, of CJsCs.

- 1.1 Establishment Regulations were approved by the Senedd to establish four CJsCs in Wales including the South West Wales Region –
  - Carmarthenshire County Council;
  - Neath & Port Talbot County Council;
  - Pembrokeshire County Council;
  - Swansea Council.
- 1.2 In addition for the strategic planning functions the CJC would include both Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire National Parks.

- 1.3 Governance will be a key element of CJs and a number of factors must be considered by CJs.
- 1.4 Following the previous Cabinet report approved on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 work progressed to develop the principles informing the future CJC structure and governance
- 1.5 As a result of these discussions, a further report was presented to Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 which outlined the ways in which the CJC may be constituted in order to meet legislative requirements. The committee will also note that the CJC has already been established by legislation.
- 1.6 Since the last update to this Committee, 3 meetings of the CJC have now been held on the following dates:

13<sup>th</sup> January  
25<sup>th</sup> January  
15<sup>th</sup> March

All meeting details and links are available via the host Local Authority Neath Port Talbot [Browse meetings - South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee: NPT CBC](#) and specific links are shown in the background papers links.

These committees have now agreed a range of matters including:

- The initial confirmation of committee members and the election of chair Cllr Rob Stewart (please note that membership changes will be made post election)
- Confirmation of the scope of the CJC which is regional transport plan, strategic development planning function and delivery of activities that contribute to the economic well being
- The setting of the budget for the 2022/23 financial year as outlined in the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting
- The approval of the CJC Constitution and Standing Orders.
- Confirmation that the Chief Executive role to be rotated annually with Neath Port Talbot taking the role in year 1.
- Allocation of responsibilities and appointment of statutory officers across the region and leads for each work stream;
- The establishment of a CJC Governance and Audit Sub-Committee.
- The establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
- That NPT Standards Committee is designated as the CJC Standards Committee.
- Approval of the new regional economic development plan (REDP) and regional energy strategy which underpins the Economic well being objectives.

## **2. Governance and Audit Functions**

- 2.1 The CJC is required to establish a sub-committee to be known as the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee. Nominations to this committee were agreed at the Annual Meeting of Council which agreed that the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee in Swansea, Paula O'Connor and 2 other Councillors were nominated as the Swansea Council Representative(s) to the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee.
- 2.2 The first meeting of the CJC governance and audit committee has not yet been arranged.

## **3. 2022/2023 work programme and budget**

- 3.1 The work programme for the year ahead will be set at the next planned CJC on the 26th July. This will consider each of the strands of the CJC which is regional transport plan, strategic development planning function and delivery of activities that contribute to the economic well being.
- 3.2 In terms of budget the CJC meeting took place on 25 January 2022. The current agreed budget was set at £575k for 22/23. The CJC has set a zero financial budget for the 21/22 financial year and agreed that no levy be raised against constituent councils for that year but that to ensure fairness and equity across the region the regional funding of the CJC would be set through a levy apportionment by population size. Swansea's share of this equates to £200k and was budgeted for accordingly.
- 3.3 The financial position of the National Parks is yet to be determined but it should be noted that their financial contribution extends only to supporting the strategic planning aspect of the CJC.
- 3.4 During the course of 2022/23 the forward programme for 2023/24 will be developed and this will in turn link in directly with the future budget requirements.

## **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The South West Wales CJC has a range of statutory duties which it has to comply with in the conduct of its business under both legislation and statutory guidance.
- 4.2 The South West Wales CJC is a statutory body in its own right and includes its own governance and audit arrangements.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report itself. Future ongoing costs, including the first formal levy from the CJC were

built into the Council's budget setting round for 22-23, and this will continue to be an annual part of all future budget considerations.

## **6. Integrated Assessment Implications**

6.1 This is a status report and therefore an assessment is not required.

### **Background papers:**

Links below to CJC meetings of 13<sup>th</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> March.

[Browse meetings - South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee: NPT CBC](#)

**Appendices:** None