

## Report of the Chief Executive

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### **Subject: Co-option of the Chair on to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Members on Scrutiny and Sub-Groups**

#### Purpose of the Report

To seek the approval of Members to co-opt Members onto the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Scrutiny and Sub-Groups and to nominate members to these groups.

#### Background

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the LGE Act”) created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). The LGE Act provides for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations (CJC Establishment Regulations).

The CJC exercises functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning. They can undertake activities to promote the economic well-being of their areas. In contrast to other joint committee arrangements, CJCs are separate corporate bodies which can employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and undertake functions. The South West Wales CJC comprises Carmarthenshire County Council, the City and County of Swansea, Pembrokeshire County Council and Neath Port Talbot County Borough (“the Constituent Councils”). In respect of Strategic Planning functions, both Pembrokeshire National Park Authority and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority are members.

#### Representation

Over the past 18 months the Chair, Vice Chair and officers have held regular discussions with the Local Authority Members of the CJC regarding how the Authority engages with the CJC and on which scrutiny and sub-committees the Authority is represented. While it is clear that the Authority’s representatives were able to vote on any issue relating to Strategic Planning, there was a difference of view on how they could engage on other issues. From previous discussions with Members a case was made that the Authority was a full member of the CJC, able to vote on issues such as governance, finance as well as planning and be represented on the relevant Sub Committees. However, this view was not accepted by members of the CJC. This created some confusion on what the Authority’s representatives could vote and comment on. In order to resolve the issue at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 the South West Wales CJC agreed to:

- Co-opt the Chair of the Authority (or their representative) onto the South West Wales CJC. They are already full members in relation to Strategic Planning

but this will enable them to participate in any discussion on non-planning issues. However, they will not be able to vote on non-planning issues.

- Co-opt a member onto the Scrutiny Committee. They co-opted member will not be able to vote.
- Co-opt a member onto the following sub-groups:
  - Regional Transport Planning
  - Regional Economic Development
  - Regional Energy Strategy

The Co-opted members will not have voting rights.

The Authority will be a full member, with voting rights, of the Strategic Development Planning Sub Committee and has previously nominated the Vice Chair to sit on this group. However, the Authority will not be represented on the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Co-option Agreements are included as Annex to the report.

This provides a pragmatic option that will enable the Authority to engage fully with the work of the CJC, although this be without voting rights in the majority of areas.

#### Standards

Co-opted members within a CJC are subject to the same standards of conduct as Members of the Authority.

#### Financial Impacts

For the current year and the financial year 2023-24 the Authority will not be required to contribute to the costs of the CJC. This is based on the fact that little work has been undertaken to develop the Strategic Development Plan. When this work commences it is expected that the Authority will need to provide a financial contribution to support this work, however, the level of that contribution is not currently known.

#### Risk Management Impacts

Co-opting members onto the CJC and its scrutiny and sub-committees will enable the views of the Authority to be considered when developing the work of the CJC.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

#### **Members agree to:**

- Co-opt the Chair (or their Deputy) onto the South West Wales CJC;
- Co-opt a Member onto the South West Wales CJC Scrutiny Committee;
- Co-opt a member onto the following sub-groups:
  - Regional Transport Planning
  - Regional Economic Development
  - Regional Energy Strategy

**If agreed, to nominate Members to the above.**

*Author: Tegryn Jones*

*Consultees: Sara Morris, Michael Kent, Martina Dunne, Janet Evans*



## Co Option Agreement

In accordance with the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 (as amended), the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee has agreed to appoint [ ] as a Co-Opted Member on the following terms:

### Committee/Sub-Committee:

The Co-Opted Member is appointed to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

### Term

The Co-Opted Member is appointed for a period of three (3) calendar year, commencing on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

This Co-option Agreement may be extended by the Corporate Joint Committee for a further period

### Functions:

The Co-Opted Member may act only in relation to the following function(s):

- (a) Economic well-being (section 76 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)
- (b) Regional Transportation Policies (section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000 and PART 2 of the Transport Act 2000)

### Purpose

The Co-Opted Member is appointed to strengthen the breadth of experience and skills available to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, to enable local input or to provide for local representation and to provide specialist expertise on specific issues.

### Voting Rights

The Co-Opted Member is not entitled to vote on those matters identified in the Functions

Declaration of Interests

The Co-Opted Member is required to abide by the CJC Members Code of Conduct

Approval

The terms of this Co-Option Agreement were agreed by the Members of the Corporate Joint Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Acceptance**

I agree to the terms of this Co-Option Agreement and to abide by the principles and obligations set out in the Members Code of Conduct for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

Signed: .....

Co-Opted Member name: .....

Date: .....

## Co Option Agreement

In accordance with the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 (as amended), the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee has agreed to appoint [ ] as a Co-Opted Member on the following terms:

### Committee/Sub-Committee:

The Co-Opted Member is appointed to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Term

The Co-Opted Member is appointed for a period of three (3) calendar year, commencing on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

This Co-option Agreement may be extended by the Corporate Joint Committee for a further period

### Functions:

The Co-Opted Member may act only in relation to the following function(s):

- (a) Economic well-being (section 76 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)
- (b) Regional Transportation Policies (section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000 and PART 2 of the Transport Act 2000)
- (c) Strategic Land Use Planning (Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004)

### Purpose

The Co-Opted Member is appointed to strengthen the breadth of experience and skills available to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, to enable local input or to provide for local representation and to provide specialist expertise on specific issues.

Voting Rights

The Co-Opted Member is not entitled to vote

Declaration of Interests

The Co-Opted Member is required to abide by the CJC Members Code of Conduct

Approval

The terms of this Co-Option Agreement were agreed by the Members of the Corporate Joint Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Acceptance**

I agree to the terms of this Co-Option Agreement and to abide by the principles and obligations set out in the Members Code of Conduct for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

Signed: .....

Co-Opted Member name: .....

Date: .....



## Co Option Agreement

In accordance with the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 (as amended), the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee has agreed to appoint [ ] as a Co-Opted Member on the following terms:

### Committee/Sub-Committee:

The Co-Opted Member is appointed to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee **INSERT NAME SUB COMMITTEE**

### Term

The Co-Opted Member is appointed for a period of three (3) calendar year, commencing on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

This Co-option Agreement may be extended by the Corporate Joint Committee for a further period

### Functions:

The Co-Opted Member may act only in relation to the following function(s):

***(a) Economic well-being (section 76 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)***

***or***

***(b) Regional Transportation Policies (section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000 and PART 2 of the Transport Act 2000)***

### Purpose

The Co-Opted Member is appointed to strengthen the breadth of experience and skills available to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, to enable local input or to provide for local representation and to provide specialist expertise on specific issues.

### Voting Rights

The Co-Opted Member is not entitled to vote on those matters identified in the Functions

Declaration of Interests

The Co-Opted Member is required to abide by the CJC Members Code of Conduct

Approval

The terms of this Co-Option Agreement were agreed by the Members of the Corporate Joint Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Acceptance**

I agree to the terms of this Co-Option Agreement and to abide by the principles and obligations set out in the Members Code of Conduct for the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

Signed: .....

Co-Opted Member name: .....

Date: .....