
NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

17 January, 2025

TITLE: CJC Governance: Economic Well-being Sub-Committee

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To propose a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Corporate Joint Committee's Economic Well-being Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee will lead and advise the CJC on matters relating to its statutory power to enhance or promote the economic well-being in North Wales. The ToR specifically focuses on the Growth Deal and its proposed transfer into the CJC.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. That the CJC approves the proposed ToR (*Appendix 1*) for the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.
- 2.2. That the CJC approves the commissioning of the Legal, Democratic, Finance, IT, HR, Learning and Development, Health and Safety, and Translation services by way of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Cyngor Gwynedd within the approved budgets.
- 2.3. That the CJC agrees to delegate authority to the CJC's Interim Chief Executive and in accordance with this report to agree and conclude an SLA for the services in 2.2 above with Cyngor Gwynedd.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) has proposed a Governance Structure as a foundation for discussions with Growth Deal partners regarding the transfer of the Growth Deal into the CJC's management. A key component of this proposed structure is the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee. Its Terms of Reference (ToR) outline the Sub-Committee's responsibilities, providing a clearer framework for engagement and facilitating more focused and meaningful discussions with stakeholders about its purpose and objectives.
- 3.2. The proposed SLA with Cyngor Gwynedd will set out the resources and costs associated with provision of corporate and statutory support services that enable the CJC to execute its duties and powers in accordance with the CJC Establishment Regulations. These services are listed in 2.2.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. Between December 2021 and January 2022, the Cabinets and Executives in each of the six Local Authorities, had agreed in principle that the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) should be transferred by way of a delegation agreement to the CJC. It was explained that the decision of this report allowed for the transfer to begin and be completed. It was explained that the statutory framework and the establishment of the CJC meant that the proposed transfer needed to be progressed.
- 4.2. The overall strategic impetus to transfer the Growth Deal into the CJC stemmed from the correlation in membership between the NWEAB and the CJC, the wish to avoid a multiplicity of regional bodies with similar functions, and the various legal and operational advantages and efficiencies of the CJC being its own corporate entity.
- 4.3. On 6th September, 2024 the CJC supported the suggested governance structure for Economic Well-being with the provision that Local Authority Leaders are the nominated members of the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee. **Appendix 2** illustrates the structure and proposed membership.
- 4.4. In the initial phase, post transfer, the Economic Well-Being Sub-Committee will be focused on driving forward the Growth Deal – hence the proposed ToR represents this focus. As understanding develops about the definition of Economic Well-Being at a regional level, the ToR will be updated to reflect this.
- 4.5. As the CJC develops and matures as its own legal entity it will require appropriate resources to undertake the statutory duties and powers on a permanent basis. To date, and while CJC resources are hosted by Cyngor Gwynedd, they have been secured on either a secondment or contract basis and by leveraging the existing host authority SLA.
- 4.6. In development of a dedicated SLA between Cyngor Gwynedd and the CJC, it is proposed that CJC resources as listed should be identified and provided to deliver the SLA.
 - (a) Democratic Service – 2 FTE
 - (b) Legal Service – 1 FTE (to include Deputy Monitoring Officer) plus Monitoring Officer 0.2 FTE
 - (c) Finance Service – Accountancy (1 FTE plus a proportion of other key Accountancy staff), Payroll, Treasury Management and Investments, Payments, Income, Systems, Internal Audit and Chief Finance Officer (Section 151) 0.2FTE
 - (d) Corporate Service – Human Resources, Learning and Development, Health and Safety, Translation (fee per meeting and per 1,000 words translated)
 - (e) Information Technology
- 4.7. There is an imperative to move forward with the SLA's in order to ensure support services are continued seamlessly and recruitment processes can start. This in particular for (a) to (c). As the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone develops the support requirements will need to be reviewed as part of that project. We will also continue to utilise specialist support from external legal firms on the key strategic projects. The provision of an SLA approach even on an initial basis enables the CJC to secure the services it requires with the additional assurance that this is provided from within a larger team which can provide depth and resilience. As the organisation develops there will be scope to review arrangements.

- 4.8. The CJC’s support is sought to apply this approach with an initial term of 3 years. The operational content of the SLA’s can be agreed by the Interim Chief Executive within the scope of this decision and the allocated budgets.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The SLA requirements listed in paragraph 4.6 will be funded within the approved Support Services budgets for the CJC (Item 12 of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, 17 January, 2025) as well as the Growth Deal budget that will be presented to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on the 14 February, 2025.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Under the Establishment Regulations the CJC has been granted the economic well-being function by which it may do anything it considers is likely to promote or improve the economic well-being of its area. The delivery of the Growth Deal is part of the exercise of this function. Members will be aware of the statutory duties and functions as well as the governance and democratic resources which these require. The CJC requires the necessary support services in order to meet its duties and commitments.

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1:** Economic Well-being Sub-Committee Terms of Reference
Appendix 2: Proposed CJC Governance Structure: Economic Well-being

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer:**

Joint author of the report.

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

“The financial information contained in this report has been subject to a detailed analysis by officers from the Finance service and I believe that they are an appropriate reflection of the requirements, and the resources that will be needed in moving forward. I am satisfied that the content of the report has been subject to detailed challenge from a governance, legal and financial perspective.

I am of the opinion that the proposed Terms of Reference for the Economic Well-being Sub Committee is reasonable and I support them.”