Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Corporate Joint Committee

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

20 November 2026

TITLE:	Strategic Equalities Plan
AUTHOR:	Alwen Williams, Chief Executive David Hole, Corporate Joint Committee Implementation Programme Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is brought to the CJC for members to consider the draft Strategic Equalities Plan.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

That the Corporate Joint Committee **approves** the draft Strategic Equalities Plan set out at Appendix A for consultation, with the final draft to be brought back to the CJC for decision in March 2027.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

The CJC is required by legislation to adopt certain policies, including a Strategic Equalities Plan. The CJC itself remains the decision maker, unless it chooses to delegate a decision in respect of a policy.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

CJC's established under Part 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 are subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty under s149 of the Equality Act 2010. Officers have prepared a draft Strategic Equalities Plan as set out at Appendix A and are ready to consult on this with constituent councils, people with protected characteristics or their representatives and relevant stakeholders. Members are asked to approve the draft for consultation, following which the final version will be brought back to the CJC for agreement at its meeting in March 2027.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There is no significant resource implication to the decision sought in this report. Officer time will be incurred in progressing the plan, but this can be undertaken as business as usual.

6. CONSULTATION

There will be consultation with constituent authorities in respect of the draft Strategic Equalities Plan.

The specific duties that apply in Wales, as listed in the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 includes 'engagement provisions', which means Ambition North Wales must involve people with protected characteristics or their representatives who have an interest in the way you carry out your functions while setting equality objectives and drafting a strategic equality plan.

Engagement with Ambition North Wales team members and partners has informed the current draft plan.

Ambition North Wales has recently joined the North Wales Public Sector Equality Network to collaborate with regional partners to advance the equality agenda and to tackle issues on inequality that cut across the public sector throughout North Wales.

An Equality page has been published on the website which includes an engagement form to gather insight and evidence from individuals and groups about the barriers facing people with protected characteristics in relation to Ambition North Wales's functions and potential opportunities to further promote equality throughout our work.

A summary of consultation and engagement around setting equality objectives and creating a strategic equality plan will be included in the final draft of the Plan.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The CJC has a statutory responsibility to adopt a Strategic Equalities Plan. The decision sought in this report is compliant with the CJC's legal obligations. The Strategic Equality Plan will set out how Ambition North Wales will have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty while carrying out its functions, as well as the specific duties that apply in Wales, as listed in the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific financial implications arising from the decisions sought in this report.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Draft Strategic Equality Plan

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Equality page on Ambition North Wales website:
https://ambitionnorth.wales/governance/policies/equality/

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

The preparation and consultation on a Strategic Equality Plan forms part of the CJC's statutory responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011.

The proposed consultation process provides an appropriate opportunity to obtain evidence and views from constituent authorities, people with protected characteristics and other relevant stakeholders before the Plan and equality objectives are finalised. The outcome of that engagement should inform the final Plan brought back to the CJC for adoption.

ii. Section 151 Officer:

I am satisfied that approving the Strategic Equality Plan for consultation will not create additional spending commitments. I support the report, and I do not have further comments from the perspective of financial propriety.