
NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13 June, 2025

TITLE: Co-option of membership onto the Corporate Joint Committee

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1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1. That the Corporate Joint Committee agree as follows:

- (i) That the Monitoring Officer review the principles of co-option onto the Corporate Joint Committee and its sub committees as set out in the Establishment Regulations (as amended) and statutory guidance.
- (ii) That the review includes consultation with the four Higher and Further Education providers in relation to their membership on the Economic Well-Being sub-committee to be reported to a future meeting of the Corporate Joint Committee.
- (iii) That in relation to the future governance of the Corporate Joint Committee consideration be given to options around creating advisory membership or stakeholder liaison groups with representatives of the Trade Unions, Third Sector, Housing Associations, private sector and health, the terms of which to provide for the exchange of information and collaboration in supporting the decision making of the Corporate Joint Committee.
- (iv) That the review be undertaken in consultation with the Members of the Corporate Joint Committee and Chief Executives of the Constituent Authorities with the intention of presenting a report to the Corporate Joint Committee with a recommendation as to the model for co-option.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1. The membership of the Corporate joint Committee is made up of the six Council Members, the Eryri Member and any co-opted member. The 6 leaders of the constituent councils and the Eryri Chairman currently make up the membership of the Corporate Joint Committee. Further to Regulation 9 of the Establishment Regulations the Corporate Joint Committee may co-opt individuals as members of the Corporate Joint Committee on such terms as it determines.
- 2.2. The Further and Higher Education partners have requested that the Corporate Joint Committee review the position on any entitlement to vote in relation to their co-option onto the Economic Well-Being sub-committee.

3. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. The Establishment Regulations provide that the membership of the Corporate Joint Committee is comprised of the six Council members, the Eryri Member and any co-opted member. Currently the membership consists of the Leaders of each Council and the Chairman of Eryri National Park, who acts as a member in relation to the strategic planning function and those functions ancillary or incidental to those functions. The Corporate Joint Committee has power to co-opt individuals as members of the Corporate Joint Committee on such terms as it determines. To date the Corporate Joint Committee has co-opted members onto its strategic transport and planning sub-committees, Governance and Audit sub-committee and Economic Well-Being sub-committee.

3.2. Statutory guidance states that:

“4.1 In order to fulfil their responsibilities and duties effectively, CJs will need to, and be expected to, actively involve others in their work. It will be important that each CJC creates an inclusive and collaborative culture to ensure a wider perspective and approach to its work. Each CJC will wish to give thought to how this can best be achieved taking into account its own unique circumstances.

4.2 The regulations establishing CJs provide the flexibility for them to engage and involve others in their work through co-option (see Regulation 9 of the Establishment Regulations). Who is co-opted and how they are co-opted (the terms of the co-option) will be for the CJC to decide. In some cases members may also enable co-opted members to vote on such matters. In most cases this will be for the council members to decide unless it is in relation to the exercise of the functions in Regulation 13 of the Establishment Regulations, in which case such decisions will include the NPA member.

4.3 The benefits of co-opting to the CJC are:

- to strengthen the breadth of experience and skills available to the CJC
- to enable local input or to provide for local representation
- to provide specialist expertise on specific issues

4.4 CJs will want to give thought to the type and range of organisations they wish to be represented by co-opted members, based on the skills and experience that will be beneficial and relevant to its work – for example representatives of:

- Further and Higher Education Institutions
- Third sector representatives
- Business or Sector specific organisations
- Trade Unions

4.5 They could equally be private individuals with expertise that may be useful to the CJC.”

3.3. The guidance confirms that it is a discretionary matter for the Corporate Joint Committee to make decisions in relation to who can be co-opted, how long and the purpose of that co-option, or if members are co-opted with or without voting rights, as long as the co-option agreement is clear as to the terms of the co-option. It is important that when exercising this discretion that Members are clear that the co-option is as a Member of the Corporate Joint Committee on those terms and for those purposes and functions as agreed in the co-option agreements; and equally that those being co-opted to represent organisations are doing so on the basis of the skills and experience they bring to benefit the work of the Corporate Joint Committee. Co-

option onto the sub-committees is on terms specific to those functions to be exercised by each sub-committee.

- 3.4. The regulatory position provides Members of the Corporate Joint Committee with an entitlement to vote subject to whatever agreed terms they have been appointed on as set out in their co-option agreement which will specify the function. This entitlement must however be read in conjunction with the requirement that the number of co-opted members entitled to vote may not exceed the number of other members entitled to vote in relation to any matter to be decided.
- 3.5. The composition of the transport, planning and Governance & Audit sub-committees is currently entirely co-opted membership. Membership and tenure of each is specified in the terms of their co-option agreements, including the entitlement to vote. The Council leaders make up the membership of the Economic Well-being sub-committee, with the following representatives currently being co-opted – Eryri National Park, the Regional Skills Partnership and four representatives from the Further and Higher Education partners. As the review of the Business Board and its membership is underway the model for the participation of the Chair in the Economic Wellbeing subcommittee will be considered as part of that process.
- 3.6. Currently the composition and function of the Economic Well-Being sub-committee reflects that as established under Economic Ambition Board, and as part of the Growth Deal transfer the membership and function was a direct lift and shift into the sub-committee. Following the establishment of the Economic Well-Being sub-committee those partners representing the four Further and Higher Education key providers have requested that they have a right to vote on the Economic Well-Being sub-committee. It is only right that in modelling a way forward that an open dialogue is commenced to include modelling around options for partnership engagement. The intention would be that a protocol for co-option is created that would be brought back to the Corporate Joint Committee for approval.
- 3.7. There is the option also that appointments onto the sub-committees may include or indeed be entirely comprised of members who are not members of the Corporate Joint Committee. The appointment of such members, numbers and term of office would be a matter to be decided by the Corporate Joint Committee. There is the opportunity to support the work of the Corporate Joint Committee by also looking to develop different engagement options. This could include consultative groups and options around co-production and collaboration with stakeholders. This could be developed as part of the work around co-option.
- 3.8. It is important that the Corporate Joint Committee listens carefully to its partners and develops its governance in order that it can support its future functions, especially around economic well-being. The Economic Well-Being sub-committee will need to regularly review its membership and function as it develops and establishes its economic well-being powers. Its governance will also need to encompass the Investment Zone which will also have governance requirements to be agreed and adopted. Subject to its direction of travel different skills and expertise will be needed in order to inform and promote economic growth in a sustainable and collaborative way. The progressive work around the development of the Investment Zone with accountability resting with the Corporate Joint Committee will also need to be factored into the governance profile.

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

Author of the report.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“No comments from the perspective of financial propriety.”