



RTPI Cymru

Royal Town Planning Institute
Sefydliad Cynllunio Trefol Brenhinol

Royal Town Planning Institute
Cymru (RTPI Cymru)
Studio 107
Creative Quarter
8a Morgan Arcade
Cardiff
CF10 1AF
Tel +44 (0)20 7929 8197
email walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk
www.rtpi.org.uk/wales

18 December 2020

e-mail response sent to: LGPartnerships@gov.wales

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to: Regulations to Establish Corporate Joint Committees

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 25,000 spatial planners. RTPI Cymru represents the RTPI in Wales, with 1,300 members. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of planning, working for the long-term common good and well-being of current and future generations. The RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation. Our response to a selection of the consultation questions is set out below. You might also be interested in our response to the Establishing the Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021 <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/find-your-rtpi/rtpi-nations/rtpi-cymru/policy-and-research/>

If you require further assistance, please contact RTPI Cymru on 020 7929 8197 or e-mail Roisin Willmott at walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Dr Roisin Willmott OBE FRTPI
Director
RTPI Cymru

Consultation Question One:

What are your views on CJsCs being subject to broadly the same powers and duties as principal councils?

Do you agree that CJsCs should have broadly the same governance and administrative framework as a principal council provided that this is proportionate? Please give your reasons.

Do you agree that members of CJsCs should have appropriate discretion on the detail of constitutional and operational arrangements? Please give your reasons.

Corporate Joint Committees (CJsCs) should be bound by the same regulations and standards as other public bodies. This will add to their legitimacy, as a public body of similar standing to principal councils and demonstrates the status that they will have as decision-making bodies.

While we broadly agree with the geography and functions proposed, we note that Local Authorities all have different population sizes; perspectives and different geographies, socio-economic characteristics etc. We therefore think it is important to discuss and be clear on how parties might work positively to resolve any issues that may arise. There should be clear governance arrangements in place as it is always preferred to move forward on the basis of consensus.

A good example to reflect on is the [Glasgow City Region](#) where good arrangements have been put in place to the benefit of the whole Region.

CJsCs must be sufficiently resourced alongside individual constituent Local Authorities. If CJsCs are to deliver on a strategic scale and be successful in transforming regions, they must have adequate capacity and funding. This must be recognised in budgets at all tiers and Welsh Government must recognise this when seeking to contribute and fund the set up costs of CJsCs. CJsCs should not be funded at the expense of Local Authorities if they are to add real value.

CJsCs and Local Authorities must be given adequate time to achieve their regional goals, especially in the context of Covid-19, Brexit etc. There must be a recognition that doing things at a regional level, such as preparing a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) will take time to reach consensus etc. Although having strong governance arrangements in place will assist in reducing the time take to take decisions.

Consultation Question Two:

These CJC areas have been agreed by local government Leaders as the most appropriate to reflect the functions being given to CJsCs by these Establishment Regulations. Do you have any comments or observations on these CJC areas in relation to these functions or the future development of CJsCs?

We note that the regional boundaries align with those recommended in the report 'Identification of Regional Areas for the National Development Framework'. The report identified that these regions outlined balance, sub-regional variation with wider regional patterns, equity considerations, and institutional factors. (Page 33, figure 23 - <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-08/identification-of-regional-areas-for-the-national-development-framework-final-report.pdf>).

Regional partnerships will take time to establish themselves. Establishing early partnerships and collaboration will help them form cohesive regions over time.

Consultation Question Four:

Do you agree with the proposed approach to membership of CJsCs including co-opting of additional members? Please give your reasons.

What are your views on the role proposed for National Park Authorities on CJsCs, as described above?

National Park Authorities should have a role to play in the CJsCs where SDPs are concerned.

Consultation Question Fourteen:

Is it clear what functions the CJsCs will exercise as a result of these establishment regulations? If not, why?

Do the establishment regulations need to say more on concurrence, if so what else is needed, or should that be left to local determination?

In your view are there any functions which might be appropriate to add to these CJsCs in the future? If yes, what?

The economic well-being function requires further detail. Will City and Growth Deals evolve into the CJC structure? This would have logic and provide a coherent decision making structure and also assist in bonding the Region. Without their incorporation into the CJC structure there is a risk that conflicting strategies may be pursued.

Further clarification would be useful in understanding why the economy is given precedent, given the spirit of well-being legislation which suggests all aspects of well-being should be treated equally. For example, regional tiers of governance provide a useful opportunity to think about ecological functions of areas and

therefore greater than local environmental responsibilities may be an appropriate function to add to the CJs in the future.