



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

20th December 2021

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to: The Corporate Joint Committee (General) (Wales) Regulations 2022

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 27,000 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. While we note the focus of this consultation is primarily finance, legal issues, records and workforce matters in relation to the Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs), it is equally vital that the proper resourcing of the function, as a whole, is recognised and delivered from the very outset.

The RTPI supports a strategic regional planning approach as considers and plans for larger than local issues which cut across a number of local authorities in an integrated and comprehensive way.

CJCs must be sufficiently resourced alongside individual constituent Local Authorities. If CJCs 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 CJCs. CJCs should not be funded at the expense of Local Authorities if they are to add real value, as this would further exacerbate the existing problem of under-resourced Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

CJCs 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 will take time to reach consensus etc. Although having strong governance arrangements in place will assist in reducing the time take to take decisions. There is also a need to ensure that LPAs are properly resourced to accommodate the implications of SDPs, if their objectives are to be achieved.

There will be several challenges that will arise including resourcing, logistics, governance, engagement etc that working across a region presents. There will be a particular challenge around securing public engagement, political commitment and collaborative working at this level. Adequate support and resources are vital in delivering this agenda.

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

There is already excellent cross boundary work taking place across Wales and this must be built on, learnt from and properly resourced to deliver outcomes.

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