

MID WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Report Title: Report of the Section 151 Officer with regard to the Budget Requirement and Funding for 2024/25

Date of Meeting: Monday, 29th January 2024

Purpose of Report	To approve the Budget Requirement and funding in respect of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (“MWCJC”) for 2024/25
Report Author	Duncan Hall
Finance Officer	Duncan Hall
Legal Officer	Clive Pinney

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 This report details the proposed Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (MWCJC) Budget Requirement for the financial year 2024/25.
- 1.2 Funding of the Budget Requirement including the proportions contributed from Powys and Ceredigion County Councils and from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is reserved to that of the MWCJC members.
- 1.3 Regulations 16 and 17 of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 detail the process for calculating the Budget Requirement and the Funding of the Budget Requirement. This includes a requirement to carry out and agree the calculations by no later than 31st January. The regulations also provide for the ability to revise of the calculations during the course of the financial year in question, provided that they are formally agreed at a Mid Wales CJC meeting.

2. Budget 2024/25

- 3.1 The Budget for 2024/25 is included within Appendix A. The budget proposed totals £317,193 consisting of £144,370 for the General Budget, £100,000 for the Regional Transport Plan and £72,823 for the Strategic Planning Budget.
- 3.2 It is recommended that Powys and Ceredigion County Councils fund the General Budget equally. The basis for funding the MWCJC budget will be reviewed and agreed annually.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority fund 11.45% (per national park population projections – 2018 based – published May 2021) of the Strategic Planning Budget.
- 3.4 The MWCJC has been successful in being awarded grant funding from the Welsh Government to produce a Regional Transport Plan – there is a further paper which will be included on the agenda for this meeting. £125,000 has been awarded for 2023/24 with a further £100,000 being awarded for 2024/25.
- 3.5 Other Financial Matters:
 - i) Surpluses that accrue in any year will be contained and ring-fenced (Strategic Planning and General Budgets identified separately) within the MWCJC reserve account and will be utilised for future expenditure. If the proposed budgets are approved for 2024/25 the level of funds held in reserve as at the 31st of March 2025 are budgeted to be £43,658 for the General Budgets and £4,666 for Strategic Planning.
 - ii) The MWCJC does not have any liabilities outstanding in respect of any earlier financial year as a result it is not currently recommended that an amount is approved to be held for this purpose.
 - iii) The Strategic Planning budget for 2024/25 may need revising later in the year depending on recommendations from the

SDP sub committee on the submission of a Delivery Agreement.

4. Integrated Impact Assessment:

- 4.1 There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment for this report as the setting up of the CJC is underpinned by legislation and this report is to establish financial arrangements in accordance with legislation.

5. Workforce Impacts:

- 5.1 Currently any employment within the MWCJC will be undertaken by constituent authorities and recharged back to the MWCJC taking due account of any associated taxation issues.

6. Legal Impacts:

- 6.1 Part 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provides for the establishment, through regulations, of CJsCs and compliance will be had with this and other legislative obligations in the establishment of CJsCs. In particular the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations came into force on 1st April 2021 and set out that the CJC should be established and the timeframes for the discharging of specific functions.

7. Risk Management Impacts:

- 7.1 Failure to set a balanced budget would render the MWCJC in breach of its obligations exposing itself to legal challenge. In addition, suitable arrangements must be put in place to ensure that the constituent authorities and the national park authority are able to fulfil their legal obligations in establishing the MWCJC.

8. Consultation:

- 8.1 There is no requirement for public consultation in respect of this report.

9. Reasons for Proposed Decision:

- 9.1 To ensure the financial budget is set for the MWCJC in line with relevant legislative requirements applicable to CJsCs.

10. Recommendations

10.1 It is recommended that Ceredigion and Powys Council MWCJC Members approve the following with regard to the General Budget:

- (a) To approve the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2024/25 of £144,370 and £100,000 for the Regional Transport Plan Budget as outlined in Appendix A.
- (b) To approve if by the end of 2024/25 there is an underspend against the General Budget that the underspend will be held in an earmarked reserve specifically ring fenced for future years General Budget expenditure.
- (c) To approve a levy chargeable against Powys and Ceredigion County Councils of £72,185 each in respect of the General Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2024/25.
- (d) To approve an increase in the budget for 2023/24 of £125,000 expenditure in relation to the Regional Transport Plan which will be funded by a grant received from Welsh Government.

10.2 It is recommended that all MWCJC Members approve the following with regard to the Strategic Planning Budget:

- (e) To approve the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2024/25 of £72,823 as outlined in Appendix A.
- (f) To approve if by the end of 2024/25 there is an underspend against the Strategic Planning Budget that the underspend will be held in an earmarked reserve specifically ring fenced for future years Strategic Planning expenditure.

(g) To approve a levy chargeable against Powys and Ceredigion County Councils of £27,815 each and a levy of £7,193 chargeable against the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in respect of the Strategic Planning Expenditure Budget for the MWCJC for 2024/25.