

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00136/23

Cllr. Jake Berriman
Cabinet Member
Powys County Council

melanie.hardwick@powys.gov.uk

07 February 2023

Dear Cllr. Jake Berriman,

Thank you for your letter of 18th January in relation to potential support in the preparation of the Mid Wales Region Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

The cost of preparing SDPs was carefully considered as part of the Local Government Election (Wales) Act 2021 and associated regulations. The relevant information can be accessed on the following links:

Corporate Joint Committee Regulations Regulatory Impact Assessment 2021 -
<https://senedd.wales/media/blab2mmp/sub-ld14134-em-e.pdf>

Explanatory Memorandum to the Town and Country Planning Strategic Development Plan Regulations (Wales) Regulations 2021 -
<https://senedd.wales/media/uwlhrwmq/sub-ld14263-em-e.pdf>

In summary, and in specific reference to the preparation of the SDP, the cost analysis concluded that due to the elevation of strategic issues from Local Development Plans (LDP) to the SDP, there would be a consequential slimming of the LDP through a more 'light touch LDP'. In the longer term, the new system of regional and lighter touch development plans will result in cost savings.

I, of course, do not underestimate the challenges partners face given the challenging economic and fiscal position, or the implications this has for the preparation of the SDP. The ongoing support to Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) budgets through the contributions made by constituent local authorities is one of the key factors considered in determining the overall quantum of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in budget considerations. On this basis, the cost of preparing SDPs should be met from within Local Authority budgets.

Welsh Government officials organised a well-attended event with senior officers from across all four Corporate Joint Committees on 17 January to set out our expectations in relation to the duties to produce Regional Transport Plans and Strategic Development Plans. I hope this session was helpful and I understand it provided an opportunity for many of your concerns to be discussed.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Ministerial colleagues and I intend to meet with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the four CJsCs in the coming weeks to further discuss regional planning duties.

My officials will of course also continue to provide guidance and technical expertise to support the preparation the SDP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

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