

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00008/23

Karl Lewis
County Councillor
Powys Council
carol.johnson@powys.gov.uk

25 January 2023

Dear Cllr Lewis,

Thank you for your letter dated 5 January on behalf of Powys County Council's Planning, Taxi Licensing and Rights of Way Committee, regarding funding for countryside access work.

I am pleased Powys CC are benefitting from the Access Improvement Grant and using it to make improvements to the public rights of way network. Unfortunately, there are no immediate plans to introduce additional revenue funding in this area.

Whilst I recognise the financial difficulties Powys CC is facing, local authorities receive a settlement each year to fund their services. This is un-hypothecated and as such it is for local authorities and their elected councils to determine how they fund each of their service areas. Core funding for Local Government for 2023-24 increased by 7.9% or £403 million on a like-for-like basis compared to the previous year. The funding increase for Powys was above the Wales average at 8.7% following an above average increase of 8.4% in 2022-23.

I recognise the Access Reform Programme may reduce some of the process related administrative burdens and my officials will explore this further as resources allow.

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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.