

# Powys PSB Climate Well-being Update

Powys PSB Board meeting 4 October 2023

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27 September 2023

## Introduction

After a pause to starting work on the Climate Well-being step, SPF funding has been confirmed and work is underway to commence the project.

This paper:

- Provides an update about the Sustainable Places Fund grant
- Provides an update about project initiation
- Highlights risks and mitigation
- Flags an opportunity to work with Mid Wales CJC on regional climate action

## SPF funding

The full £199, 931 requested was awarded to Powys PSB for the Climate Wellbeing work.

There was a delay in the funding decision meaning the work will need to be achieved in a shorter time scale.

A revised budget has been drafted (attached) with input from some PSB members. The budget changes the timescale but not roles or projects.

We are waiting for confirmation of the revised budget.

## Project initiation

### Project planning

A revised project plan has been drafted (attached). This will be discussed at an in-person Powys PSB Climate Working Group workshop in November. The date/venue is being scheduled.

**Action needed:** Please ensure your organisation is represented at the workshop.

### Recruitment

Recruitment for the climate officer and administrative assistant is very urgent if they are to be one-year contracts, maximising the attractiveness of the roles.

Securing highly skilled staff as soon as possible is critical to project success.

Recruitment is being organised by Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (BBNPA). A recruitment pack is being finalised.

The jobs will be advertised as fixed term contracts and as secondment opportunities.

**Action needed:** Please consider whether these roles would be useful professional development opportunities for staff in your organisation. (The admin role is at the upper end with a need to support complex project management)

**Action needed:** Please promote the job adverts as soon as they are circulated.

### Convening

The SPF funding covers two days a week for a Climate Convenor. Liz Hutchins will start this formally as soon as the funding is finalised, but has in any case been leading the work.

## Risks and mitigation

There are risks to delivering an already ambitious project in a shorter timescale.

The below table sets out the risks presented to SPF. It will be discussed at the November workshop.

In future the PSB Board will receive a RAG-rated risk analysis.

Issue	Risk	Mitigation
<b>Recruitment</b>	Not able to secure appropriate skills.  Not able to recruit in the timescale wanted.	Climate Well-being Officer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start recruitment promptly on securing a grant.</li><li>• Structure role to be attractive to appropriate applicants.</li><li>• Actively promote through extensive existing specialist networks.</li></ul> Administrative Assistant: secure time of PSB member officer rather than new recruit.  Communications Officer: secure time of PSB member officer rather than new recruit.
<b>Commissioning consultants</b>	Not able to secure appropriate expertise in the timescale needed.	Scope consultancy options and start procurement processes early.  Draw on extensive existing networks of practice to identify appropriate consultant.

<b>Data from PSB members</b>	Not able to secure timely information from PSB members to contribute to analysis and feasibility.	Minimise demands on PSB members.  Relationship management with PSB members, and clear communications about why their input is important, what is needed, in what form, and by when.
<b>Feasibility studies</b>	Unable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the scale of climate impact</li> <li>• Determine technical feasibility</li> <li>• Make informed cost estimate</li> <li>• Identify skills and jobs demands of and availability for the projects</li> </ul>	Draw on extensive existing networks of expertise including the Race to Zero and Welsh Local Government Association networks, and specialists in each field.  Identify as early as possible which projects or parts of projects will need feasibility studies and prioritise stakeholder relationship building to source the relevant insights.  Fundraise for additional Stage 2 feasibility study phases if needed.
<b>Engaging stakeholders</b>	Developing more relationships than we can easily manage.  Not reaching the full diversity of people in Powys – especially people facing socio-economic disadvantage and people with protected characteristics.	Develop a stakeholder engagement plan and protocols that include clear communications and expectation management.  Proactively plan diversity and inclusion into engagement from the start, and use a networked approach to engage people through existing organisations and communities where appropriate.
<b>Impact assessment</b>	Not able to assess the individual and cumulative impact of projects as a result of our analysis – including on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local economy.</li> <li>• People facing socio-economic disadvantage.</li> <li>• People with protected characteristics.</li> <li>• Welsh language.</li> </ul>	An academic symposium is one way to draw on the expertise of academics to help with the complexity of analysis needed.

## Mid Wales CJC

As the Mid Wales CJC embarks on strategic work in relation to transport, the economy and planning it is vital that this work is informed and shaped by an understanding of:

### Decarbonisation

- The carbon footprint of the region
- A regional science-based (fair share) target to reach net zero
- A Decarbonisation Action Plan for the region to reach net zero

### Sequestration

- Regional carbon sequestration opportunities
- A regional Sequestration Action Plan

#### Adaptation

- A climate risk and vulnerability assessment (for people and nature)
- A regional Climate Resilience Action Plan (for people and nature)

This is the work Powys PSB is about to embark on.

There is a window of opportunity before the Powys PSB project commences to explore the work being coordinated across Mid Wales. This would require some match funding from Ceredigion, but efficiencies of scale could be utilised.

An equivalent evidence-led strategic approach is happening in Cardiff Capital Region which will enable the region to join the UN-backed Race to Zero.

If this regional approach is one PSB Board members think would be useful, further briefings and proposals could be developed ahead of the Mid Wales CJC Workshop on 12 October.

**Action needed:** Powys PSB Board indicate whether they want to be part of coordinated climate work across Mid Wales.