

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet	
Date of meeting:	13th July 2021	
Title:	Regional Funding Arrangements	
Purpose of the report:	Cabinet approval of Regional Funding principles.	
For:	Approval	
Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:	Cllr Alun Williams Cabinet Member for Porth Cynnal	Cllr Catherine Hughes Cabinet Member for Porth Gofal, Early Intervention, Wellbeing Hubs and Culture

The West Wales Care Partnership (WWCP) has been established to oversee the continued transformation and integration of health, social care and wellbeing services in the West Wales area. The Partnership brings together the three local authorities in West Wales (Carmarthenshire County Council, Ceredigion Council and Pembrokeshire County Council), Hywel Dda University Health Board and representatives of the third and independent sector. A Regional Partnership Board has been established to meet the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Users of care and support services also sit on the Board, along with a carer representative.

Ceredigion is committed to regional working and values the work and projects that can be achieved by partnership working. The Welsh Government has utilised the WWCP as a mechanism for the management of regional funding to support both regional and local initiatives and service developments. These include the Healthier Wales Transformation funding and the Integrated Care Funding amongst others.

When allocation funding to partners historically there has been a funding formula based on the population of the 3 Local Authority areas. The 2018 population figures for each Local Authority are:

- Ceredigion – 72,992
- Pembrokeshire – 125,055
- Carmarthenshire – 187,568

This has translated into the following proportions of the total amount (100%) of funding available:

- Ceredigion – 20%
- Pembrokeshire – 30%
- Carmarthenshire – 50%

This can be challenging when considering where the areas of need and potential for development are presented and due to the amount of funding available can limit the impact on delivery.

There have also been recent circumstances where regional opportunities to work collaboratively have presented themselves which have not been funded by Welsh Government but require a financial commitment from each of the partners. In some circumstances these involved the three Local Authorities whilst in others they are multi agency opportunities (including Health Board and in some other cases other agencies such as the Police and Probation). A range of options are often discussed regarding how these initiatives are funded, sometimes the request to Ceredigion County Council is to apply the funding formula outlined above whilst others request to fund an equal split for these arrangements with no regard for population or local needs.

This provides a situation where the costs for regional projects are charged is different to the principle that is applied when regional money is distributed.

This paper seeks support to apply the regional formula funding based on the population of the three Local Authorities to all regional initiatives and projects that fall within the West Wales Care Partnership, Regional Partnership Board. A clear mandate for applying the formula for both income and expenditure will then be shared with the RPB and will ensure there is clarity on how Ceredigion will contribute and receive funding.

For clarity where there are projects involving multi agency contributions it would be expected that the formula would be applied to the total commitment of the three local authorities (Ceredigion, Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire) and not the total amount.

The National RPB Chairs Network have developed a framework paper (embedded for information) which proposes a number of principles that it is felt should underpin the next phase of RPB development and the ongoing interaction between the Government and the regions. The paper reinforces the need for RPBs to have ownership of regional and sub-regional decision making, moving away from short term grants, which have become prescriptive onerous and fragmented to a more sustainable model of funding and which is supported by appropriate regional flexibilities. A set of actions set out how the principles could be translated into action, including the development collaboratively of a refreshed National Outcomes Framework, a national integrated planning process, a regional funding formula for RPBs and a 5 year annual plan to be refreshed annually.

The paper aligns with core messages conveyed within the RPB response to the consultation on the 'Rebalancing Care and Support' White Paper.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:	Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?
	If, not, please state why
	Summary:
	Long term:
	Collaboration:
	Involvement:
	Prevention:
Integration:	

Recommendation(s): **Cabinet is requested to approve:**

a) the funding principles as outlined in the report for all regional working delivered through the RPB, as follows

(i) to apply the regional formula funding based on the population of the three Local Authorities to all regional initiatives and projects that fall within the West Wales Care Partnership, Regional Partnership Board for income and expenditure;

(ii) where there are projects involving multi agency contributions it would be expected that the formula would be applied to the total commitment of the three local authorities (Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire) and not the total amount; and

b) granting of delegated powers collectively to:

- the Cabinet Member for Porth Cynnal
- Cabinet Member for Porth Ceredigion, Early Intervention, Wellbeing Hubs and Culture, and
- Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Gofal to deviate from the model referenced in a) above, in exceptional circumstances, such deviation to be subsequently reported to Cabinet.

Reasons for decision: **To seek approval of the Regional funding principles to ensure equity of funding arrangements, both for income and expenditure purposes.**

Overview and Scrutiny: **and** None. Reports regarding the projects of the West Wales Care Partnership, Regional Partnership Board will be presented to the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Policy Framework:

- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health And Social Care

Corporate Priorities:

- Investing in People’s Futures
- Enabling Individual and Family Resilience

Finance and Procurement implications: **and** Proposal has been ratified by the Corporate Lead Officer – Finance and Procurement

Legal Implications: N/A

Staffing implications: N/A

Property / asset implications: N/A

Risk(s): Ceredigion County Council may be disadvantaged in relation to equity around funding availability within the Region.

Statutory Powers: N/A

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Corporate Lead Officer: Donna Pritchard, Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal

Reporting Officer: Donna Pritchard, Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal

Date: 8th June 2021