

Report of: Head of Finance & Fundraising

Subject: Authorise and approve the issue of a levy of £1,137,195 to Pembrokeshire County Council for the financial year 2025-2026.

Decision Required: Yes

Recommendation:

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Approve the calculation of the levy for 2025-2026.
- b. Authorise the issue of the Levy letter to Pembrokeshire County Council for a sum of £1,137,195.
- c. That the National Park Authority continue with the current arrangement of 12 equal monthly instalments receivable on or before the 12th of each calendar month, such payments to be received by bank transfer.

1. Key Messages

- 1.1.1 Members are advised that the official levy requirement must be notified to Pembrokeshire County Council by 15th February 2025.
- 1.1.2 Section 71 of the Environment Act 1995, Sub-Section 3, defines the way in which the levy is to be issued, and the statement below complies with the required format.
- 1.1.3 Members are required to note the levy has increased by £53,866 over that of 2024-2025 due to the increase in Welsh Government National Park Grant on which the calculation is based.

2. Background

- 2.1 The final budget for 2025-2026 is under review and scrutiny. It is therefore not yet available for approval. For this reason, Members are presented with the Levy letter for approval at this stage.
- 2.2 Welsh Government funding for 2025-2026 is expected to £3,411,926. This will be confirmed once the Welsh Government budget has been agreed in March. This enables the calculation of the levy.

- 2.3 The sum required 'to meet expenditure for the Authority in the revenue account' is based on a current draft budget and is subject to change. However, this does not impact on the Levy calculation/requirement.

3. Levy Requirement

The Authority must authorise the making of a levy of £1,137,195 from Pembrokeshire County Council, in accordance with Section 71 of the Environment Act 1995 and the National Park Authorities Levies) (Wales) (Regulations) 1995 SI 1995 No.3019 as amended by the National Park Authorities (Levies)(Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 1996:

• the sum required to meet expenditure for the Authority which will fall to be charged for that year in the Revenue account is estimated at		£10,177,829
• making such provision as is appropriate for meeting Contingencies, the expenditure on which would fall to be charged in the Revenue Account		£Nil
• the sum required to secure the availability to the authority of adequate working balances on its Revenue Account		£Nil
• the sum required to provide the Authority with other requirements for covering any deficit brought forward from the previous financial year		£Nil
Sub-total		£10,177,829
LESS		
• Section 72, Grant (NPG)	£3,411,926	
• Income credited to the Revenue Account	£5,628,708	
• other sums not covered above which are likely to be available in the year	-	
		£9,040,634
Levy requirement		<u>£1,137,195</u>

4. Conclusion

4.1 That Members **AUTHORISE** a levy of £1,137,195 *from* Pembrokeshire County Council for the year 2025-26.

5. List Background Documentation:

None

*(For further information please contact Catrin Evans at
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