

Report 03/26

National Park Authority

Report of: Head of Finance & Fundraising

Subject: Authorise and approve the issue of a levy of £1,183,000 to Pembrokeshire County Council for the financial year 2026-2027.

Decision Required: Yes

Recommendation:

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Approve the calculation of the levy for 2026-2027.
- b. Authorise the issue of the Levy letter to Pembrokeshire County Council for a sum of £1,183,000.
- 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 2026.
- 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 £45,805 over that of 2025-2026 due to the increase in Welsh Government National Park Grant on which the calculation is based.

2. Background

- 2.1 The final budget for 2026-2027 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.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 No consultation has taken place.

4. Strategic Policy Context

- 4.1 The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic policy context.

5. Financial Considerations

- 5.1 Welsh Government funding for 2026-2027 is expected to be £3,549,000. This will be confirmed once the Welsh Government budget has been agreed in March. This enables the calculation of the levy.
- 5.2 The sum required 'to meet expenditure for the Authority in the revenue account' is based on a draft budget and is subject to change. However, this does not impact on the Levy calculation/requirement.

6. Risk and Compliance Considerations

The Authority must authorise the making of a levy of £1,183,000 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		£10,929,119
• 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		£10,929,119
LESS		
• Section 72, Grant (NPG)	£3,549,000	
• Income credited to the Revenue Account	£6,197,119	
• other sums not covered above which are likely to be available in the year	-	
		£ 9,746,119
Levy requirement		<u>£ 1,183,000</u>

7. Impact on our Public Sector Duties

7.1 Integrated Assessment Completed: No

7.2 Equality, Socio-Economic, Health and Human Rights Impacts

- 7.2.1 Authorisation of a Levy is a technical process. The Authorisation of the Levy will support the Authority to fulfil its Public Sector Equality Duty and elements of wider activities that contribute to supporting people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and that produce positive health impacts.

7.3 Welsh Language Impacts

- 7.3.1 Authorisation of a Levy is a technical process and has no impacts on the number of Welsh speakers or compliance with Welsh Language standards, but enables the Authority to fulfil its duties under the Welsh Language Measure.

7.4 Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and Carbon Emission Impacts

- 7.4.1 Authorisation of a Levy is a technical process that will support the Authority to fulfil its Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and elements of wider activities that support decarbonisation. The technical process has no impacts on Carbon Emissions.

7.5 Well-being Goals for Wales and 5 Ways of Working (Sustainable Development Principles) Impacts

- 7.5.1 Authorisation of a Levy is a technical process that supports the Authority to carry out its strategic priorities in support of the Well-being Goals for Wales and the Sustainable Development Principles.

8. Conclusion

- 4.1 That Members **AUTHORISE** a levy of £1,183,000 *from* Pembrokeshire County Council for the year 2026-27.