

Dear Senedd Committees,

Further to a recent motion passed by Aberystwyth Town Council, we write to you as the relevant Senedd Committees regarding the formula for the funding of local authorities in Wales. We note with concern that the current funding formula used by the Welsh Government to allocate financial resources to local authorities is disproportionately affecting Ceredigion County & Ceredigion County Council. The formula, as it stands, has resulted in a significantly lower percentage of funding for our county, which is detrimental to the economic, cultural, and educational wellbeing of our communities.

We further note:

1. The unique demographic and geographic characteristics of Ceredigion, which require a funding model that adequately reflects the challenges faced by rural and less densely populated areas.
2. The potential long-term impacts on Ceredigion's economy, culture, and education system if the current funding formula remains unchanged, including the risk of declining public services and infrastructure.
3. The importance of ensuring that Ceredigion receives a fair share of funding that is commensurate with its needs, allowing the county to thrive and continue to offer high-quality services to its residents.

We are therefore writing to seek and urge for your assistance in advocating for a change in the funding formula that will benefit Ceredigion.

We look forward to your response and support.

# Motion to Support and Encourage Ceredigion County Council's Lobbying Efforts for a Fairer Funding Formula from the Welsh Government

**Proposed by:** Cllr Kerry Ferguson

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

## **Motion:**

This Council notes with concern that the current funding formula used by the Welsh Government to allocate financial resources to local authorities is disproportionately affecting Ceredigion County & Ceredigion County Council. The formula, as it stands, has resulted in a significantly lower percentage of funding for our county, which is detrimental to the economic, cultural, and educational wellbeing of our communities.

## **This Council further notes:**

1. The unique demographic and geographic characteristics of Ceredigion, which require a funding model that adequately reflects the challenges faced by rural and less densely populated areas.
2. The potential long-term impacts on Ceredigion's economy, culture, and education system if the current funding formula remains unchanged, including the risk of declining public services and infrastructure.
3. The importance of ensuring that Ceredigion receives a fair share of funding that is commensurate with its needs, allowing the county to thrive and continue to offer high-quality services to its residents.

## **This Council resolves to:**

1. Express its full support for Ceredigion County Council's ongoing efforts to lobby the Welsh Government for a review and revision of the current funding formula.
2. Urge the Welsh Government to take immediate steps to engage with Ceredigion County Council and other relevant stakeholders in a meaningful dialogue aimed at establishing a more equitable funding model.
3. Encourage other town and community councils within Ceredigion to also support and amplify the call for a fairer funding allocation that better reflects the needs and circumstances of our county.
4. Request that the Town Clerk writes to the relevant Welsh Government ministers, local Assembly Members, and Members of Parliament, conveying this Council's position and urging them to advocate for a change in the funding formula that will benefit Ceredigion.
5. Continue to monitor the situation and collaborate with Ceredigion County Council to ensure that the interests of Aberystwyth and the wider county are represented in all discussions regarding funding allocations.

## **Outcome:**

This motion, if passed, will be forwarded to Ceredigion County Council, the Welsh Government, and relevant stakeholders as part of Aberystwyth Town Council's commitment to supporting our county's financial stability and future prosperity.