



**Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy**
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley

Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

**JOINT COMMITTEE
Of the
CLWYDIAN RANGE & DEE VALLEY
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY**

Held on: 13th February 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon /Huw Rees

Title: Joint Committee Budget Monitoring 2014/15 & Proposed Budget 2015/16

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget monitoring position for 2014/15 as well as the proposed budget for 2015/16.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the AONB's current financial position.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members note the progress against the agreed budget strategy this financial year (Appendix 1). Also, to formally approve the proposed budget for 2015/16.

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue budget for 2014/15 detailed in Appendix 1. The AONB's gross expenditure budget is £406K. The position is a forecast under spend of £3k.

The report also provides a summary of the proposed revenue budget for 2015/16 in Appendix 2, which proposes a gross expenditure budget of £403K.

The budget is presented as 2 parts; Core and Area. The Core budget relates to those functions that are the current minimum amount required to operate the AONB activities during the current year. This budget *may* vary from year to year depending on external and internal funding. The Area budget relates to expenditure to deliver projects in the various LA areas of the AONB. The budget could include non-core

staff working on particular projects in the AONB during this year. This budget *will* vary from year to year and even within year depending on project progress and funding sources.

5. How does it contribute to the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Management Plans Priorities?

Effective management of the AONB's revenue budgets will help the delivery of the agreed management plan priorities for the current year and underpins activity in all areas, particularly our relationships with funding partners and our joint priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

We are currently projecting that the income contributions remain at the level agreed in the budget for this year.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

N/A

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

This is the first opportunity to consult the JC regarding the 2015/16 budget. The 2014/15 budget was agreed at the last meeting of the JC held on 14th November 2014.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report outlines the financial position for the AONB for 2014/15. If the position remains as a small under spend it is recommended that this is carried forward for use by the JC in 2015/16. The proposed budget for 2015/16 will ensure the financial stability for the JC over the next 12 months. However it must be recognised that the budgets of all public sector bodies are coming under increasing pressure due to the economic climate and that future funding levels may not be relied upon (see also section 10).

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The proposed budget is dependent on income from NRW, Welsh Government and the three Local Authorities. Any changes to these income levels will pose a risk to the future delivery of projects and our ability to deliver against the priorities in the AONB Management Plan.

11. Power to make the Decision

Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.