



**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: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd**

**Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon /Huw Rees**

**Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2014/15 & Proposed Budget  
2015/16**

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**1. What is the report about?**

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn 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 financial position for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2014/15 (Appendix 1) and also to formally approve the Accounting Statement for 2014/15 and review the Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 2). Members are also asked to formally approve the proposed budget for 2015/16 which has been amended to reflect the changes in funding streams.

**4. Report details.**

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2014/15 detailed in Appendix 1. The overall outturn position is an underspend of £16,268 which has been placed in a reserve for use in 2015/16. The increase in the underspend from

the projected outturn reported to the February JC Meeting is mainly due to the increase in funding announced by WCBC.

The report also provides a copy of the Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2015 (Appendix 2) for consideration and approval. A final copy will be brought to the meeting which will include the review carried out by DCC's Internal Audit Section (see Section 4).

The report also provides a summary of the proposed revenue budget for 2015/16 in Appendix 3, which proposes a gross expenditure budget of £420K.

**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?**

There are no direct costs associated with this report.

**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?**

A draft budget for 2015/16 was brought to the JC meeting February, this has now been amended to reflect changes in funding streams. The financial position is a standing item at each meeting of the Joint Committee.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

This report outlines the financial position for the AONB for 2014/15 and 2015/16. As recommended in the last Finance Report the underspend has been carried forward to be utilised in 2015/16.

The approval and signing of the formal Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2015 (Appendix 2) is a statutory requirement prior to External Audit carrying out an audit of the accounts. The return is currently with DCC Internal Audit Section who will provide the Joint Committee with a completed 'Annual internal audit report' (Section 4). This completed form will be presented to the meeting as well as any verbal update required prior to approval of the accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement by the JC.

The proposed budget for 2015/16 will ensure the financial stability for the JC over the next 12 months. However it must still 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.

#### **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.