



**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: 27th November 2015

Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon /Huw Rees

Title: Joint Committee Budget and Outturn 2015/16

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position 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 2015/16.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2015/16 (Appendix 1) and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

Members approve the transfer of the projected underspend to the AONB reserve account for use by the Joint Committee in future years.

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue budget for 2015/16 and Reserve balances as detailed in Appendix 1. The AONB's gross expenditure budget is £418,219. The position is a forecast underspend of £9k.

The report also provides a copy of the signed Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2015 (Appendix 2).

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?

The proposed budget for 2015/16 was brought to the JC meeting in June and approved.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report outlines the financial position for the AONB for 2015/16. Currently a £9k underspend is projected. If the position remains as an underspend it is recommended that this is transferred to the AONB reserve account for use by the JC in future years.

The financial position for 2015/16 is secure, 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 current budget is dependent on income from NRW and the three Local Authorities. NRW have confirmed their funding level for the AONB Programme 2016-2018.

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.