



**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: 17th November 2017

Lead Member / Officer: Gareth O Williams

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon /Huw Rees

Title: Joint Committee Budget and Outturn 2017/18

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position for 2017/18.

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 2017/18.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the latest forecast financial outturn for 2017/18 (Appendix 1) and the progress against the agreed budget strategy.

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue budget for 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix 1. The AONB's gross expenditure budget is £458,600. The current forecast outturn is to show a net overspend of £3,218 predominantly on salary costs due to unpaid Bank Holiday payments.

The report also provides a copy of the signed Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (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 2017/18 was brought to the JC meeting in June and approved.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

This report outlines the latest forecast financial position for the AONB for 2017/18. Currently a small overspend is projected but there is scope within the budget to claw this back before the year end. If the overspend position remains at the end of the financial year then this will be funded from the AONB revenue reserve (opening balance at 1st April 2017 was £37,690).

In terms of the 2018/19 financial year the early indications are that Denbighshire CC is not proposing to make any reductions to the present funding levels for the AONB. However this will not be confirmed until the 30th January 2018 when Full Council is asked to formally approve its budget for the new financial year.

At this stage we are also awaiting confirmation from Flintshire and Wrexham as to their intentions for 2018/19. Equally awaiting confirmation from NRW on the level of grant that will be offered for 2018/19. Notwithstanding this however the period of public sector austerity is likely to continue and it must still be recognised that the budgets of all public sector bodies will continue to come under increasing pressure over the coming years.

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 3 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.