



**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: 22nd June 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Gareth Williams

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon

Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2017/18 & Budget 2018/19

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position as at 31st March 2018 alongside the draft budget figures for 2018/19.

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 as at 31st March 2018 and to seek approval of the budget for 2018/19.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2017/18 (Appendix 1) and formally approve the 2018/19 budget (appendix 2). Members are also asked to review and sign, the Annual Return for 2017/18 (Appendix 3) and note the Reserve Balances as at 31st March 2018 (Appendix 4).

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2017/18 detailed in Appendix 1. The final outturn position shows an overall overspend of £6,486 (Core £4,675 and Area £1,811), which has been funded from the revenue reserve. Funds of £23,647 have been drawn down from the project reserve to fund project activity in 2017/18. A further £48,421 has been placed in the project reserve and earmarked for specific projects in 2018/19.

The report also provides a copy of the Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for smaller local government bodies in Wales for the year ended 31 March 2018 (Appendix 3) for consideration and approval. The return has been reviewed, audited and signed by DCC's Internal Audit Section.

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 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 2017/18.

The approval and signing of the formal Welsh Audit Office Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2018 (Appendix 3) is a statutory requirement prior to External Audit carrying out an audit of the accounts.

Denbighshire has maintained its level of contribution for the 2018/19 financial year. The draft budget for 18/19 assumes that there will be no change to the contributions from either FCC or WCBC. The level of grant awarded from NRW for 2018/19 has reduced by £6.6k.

As at the 31st March 2018 the balance in the AONB Reserve stood at £119,632 but £88,428 of this figure is earmarked for specific projects which will progress during the 18/19 financial year. The balance of £31,204 is available to help offset any future funding pressures or to be utilised as the Joint Committee recommends.

The agreed budget for 2018/19 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

the uncertainties surrounding Brexit, which means 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.