



**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: 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020**

**Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd**

**Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon**

**Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2019/20 & Draft budget 2020/21**

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

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 alongside the draft budget for 2020/21.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and to seek approval of the budget for 2020/21.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2019/20 (Appendix 1) and formally approve the 2020/21 draft budget (appendix 2). Members are also asked to review and sign, the Annual Return for 2019/20 (Appendix 3) and note the Reserve Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (Appendix 4).

**4. Report details.**

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2019/20 detailed in Appendix 1. The final outturn position shows a contribution from the reserve in total of £50,153. Of which £8,045 was to support the revenue budget, the remaining £42,108 was funding project activity (covered in the main by grant received).

Additional SDF grant funding of £88,000 was received during 19/20, the balance of which has been placed in the project reserve for SDF projects in 2020/21.

The report also provides a copy of the Annual Return for smaller local government bodies in Wales for the year ended 31 March 2020 (Appendix 3) for consideration and approval. The return is currently being audited by Audit Wales. Please note that a separate copy of the report attached has been signed by the RFO as at 15/06/2020.

**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 2019/20.

The approval and signing of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2020 (Appendix 3) is a statutory requirement prior to Audit Wales carrying out an audit of the accounts. However due to the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic this return is currently already with Audit Wales.

The draft budget for 2020/21 assumes that there will be no change to the contributions from either FCC or WCBC. The level of grant from NRW remains consistent with 2019/20.

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 the balance in the AONB Reserve (appendix 4) stood at £314,864. £267,454 of this is earmarked for specific projects which will progress during the 2020/21 financial year. The balance of £47,410 is available to support the 2020/21 budget (£17,288) and offset any future funding pressures or to be utilised as the Joint Committee recommends.

The agreed budget for 2020/21 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, the uncertainties surrounding Brexit and the more recent pandemic, 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.