



**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: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd**

**Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon**

**Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2020/21 & Draft budget 2021/22**

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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 2021 alongside the draft budget for 2021/22.

**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 2021 and to seek approval of the budget for 2021/22.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2020/21 (Appendix 1) and the Reserve Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 (Appendix 4). Members are asked to formally approve the 2021/22 draft budget (appendix 2) and review and sign the Annual Return for 2020/21 (Appendix 3).

**4. Report details.**

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2020/21 detailed in Appendix 1. The final outturn position shows an overall underspend of £9,431 which has been placed into the revenue Reserve.

The report also provides a copy of the Annual Return for smaller local government bodies in Wales for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Appendix 3) for consideration and approval. The return has been audited by Denbighshire Internal Audit.

**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 2020/21 & 2021/22.

The approval and signing of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Appendix 3) is a statutory requirement prior to Audit Wales carrying out an audit of the accounts.

The draft budget for 2021/22 assumes that there will be no change to the contributions from either FCC or WCBC. The level of grant from NRW remains consistent with 2020/21.

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the balance in the AONB Reserve (appendix 4) stood at £653,659. Of this, £596,818 is earmarked for specific projects which will progress during the 2021/22 financial year. The balance of £56,841 is available to support the 2021/22 revenue budget (£25,690 required) and any future funding pressures.

The agreed budget for 2021/22 will ensure the financial stability for the JC over the next 12 months.

**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.