



**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: 21st June 2024

Lead Member / Officer: Steve Gadd

Report Author: Paula O'Hanlon

Title: Joint Committee Outturn and Accounts 2023/24 & Draft budget 2024/25

1. What is the report about?

The report gives details of the AONB's revenue budget outturn position as of 31st March 2024 alongside the draft budget for 2024/25.

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 of 31st March 2024 and to seek approval of the budget for 2024/25.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Members are asked to note the financial outturn for 2023/24 (Appendix 1) and the Reserve Balances as of 31st March 2024 (Appendix 4). Members are asked to formally approve the 2024/25 draft budget (appendix 2) and review and sign the Annual Return for 2023/24 (Appendix 3).

4. Report details.

The report provides a summary of the AONB's revenue outturn for 2023/24 detailed in Appendix 1. The final outturn position shows an overall overspend of £26,439 which has been funded from 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 2024 (Appendix 3) for consideration and approval.

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 2023/24 & 2024/25.

The approval and signing of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024 (Appendix 3) is a statutory requirement prior to Audit Wales carrying out an audit of the accounts.

Provisional funding from NRW has been obtained until 31/03/2027.

As of the 31st of March 2024, the balance in the AONB Reserve (appendix 4) stood at £1,341,030. Of this, £1,270,780 is earmarked for specific projects which will progress during the 2024/25 financial year. The balance of £70,250 is available to support the 2024/25 revenue budget, it is expected that £53,854 will be required in 2024/25.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The AONB budget is dependent on income from NRW, Welsh Government and the three Local Authorities. There is a risk of there being insufficient funding to cover the cost of the AONB in future years unless additional resources are found, posing a risk to the future delivery of projects and the 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.