



north wales economic ambition board
bwrdd uchelgais economaidd gogledd cymru

REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

12/06/2020

Title: 2019/20 Out-turn Report and Annual Return

Author: Dafydd L Edwards, Host Authority Statutory Finance Officer

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report intends to provide the North Wales Economic Ambition Board with the final out-turn position for 2019/20 and to obtain approval of the Official Annual Return for 2019/20.

2. Decision Sought

2.1 To note and accept the Joint Committee's Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2019/20 (Appendix 1).

2.2 To approve the Joint Committee's Official Annual Return for 2019/20 (subject to External Audit), in line with the statutory deadline of 15 June 2020. It has been duly completed and certified, by the Responsible Financial Officer, namely Gwynedd Council's Head of Finance as the Statutory Finance Officer for the Joint Committee (Appendix 2).

3. Reasons for the Decision

3.1 To inform the Joint Committee of their financial position for 2019/20, and to comply with the statutory requirements with regard to completing the Annual Return.

4. Background and Relevant Considerations

- 4.1 The accounts and return will be subject to audit by Deloitte, Gwynedd Council's external auditor appointed by the Auditor General for Wales. Should any amendment be necessary then a revised version will be presented to the Joint Committee meeting on 31 July 2020.
- 4.2 Following audit and following any required amendments, the Auditor General's representative will certify the return prior to 15 September 2020.

5. Expenditure and income in 2019/20

- 5.1 Appendix 1 shows the Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2019/2020, and this corresponds to the figures in the Annual Return shown in Appendix 2.

Programme Management Office

- 5.2 The final underspend on this heading is £143,486. There's an increase in underspend from the third quarter review, due to expenditure on the preparation of the programme business cases not commencing until 2020/21.

Accountable Body Support Services

- 5.3 The final underspend on this heading is £32,804 as result of the reduced expenditure on the Accountable Body (host authority) support services.

Joint Committee

- 5.4 The final underspend on this heading is £16,703, mainly due to reduced expenditure on the External Audit Fee and the Business Delivery Board.

Funding Contributions

- 5.5 The European Social Fund (ESF) Priority 5 approval letter has been received during May 2020. As it was not obtained prior to 31 March 2020, the ESF grant income is not shown in the 2019/20 accounts. It will therefore be claimed retrospectively during 2020/21 and back-dated to 1 July 2018.

5.6 The financial position at 31 March 2020 showed an underspend of £161,316 and this has been transferred to an earmarked reserve to give a balance of £497,529 that will be available to fund one-off costs in future years.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 states that a joint committee of two or more (local) authorities is a local government body, and Section 13 of the Act requires such bodies to maintain accounts subject to audit by an external auditor approved by the Auditor General for Wales.

6.2 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 require all Joint Committees to prepare year-end accounts. Where the turnover is less than £2.5m the joint committee is deemed to be a “small joint committee” and an annual return must be prepared in accordance with proper practices as stipulated by legislation.

7. Consultations Undertaken

7.1 The underspend position was reported to the Executive Group on 15 May 2020.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2019/20.

Appendix 2 – Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2020 (subject to External Audit), but includes Internal Audit’s comments.

STATUTORY OFFICERS’ RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – Accountable Body:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer – Accountable Body:

Author of this report.