

REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

26/05/2023

Title: 2022/23 Out-turn Report and Annual Return

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) with the final out-turn position for 2022/23 and to obtain approval of the Official Annual Return for 2022/23.

2. DECISIONS SOUGHT

2.1 To note and accept the Corporate Joint Committee's actual expenditure and income for 2022/23 as submitted in Appendix 1.

2.2 To obtain the Corporate Joint Committee's approval for the underspend in 2022/23 to be transferred to an earmarked reserve to fund future one-off costs.

2.3 To approve the Corporate Joint Committee's Annual Return for 2022/23 (subject to External Audit), in line with the statutory deadline of 31 May 2023. It has been duly completed and certified by Cyngor Gwynedd's Head of Finance, as the Statutory Finance Officer for the Corporate Joint Committee (Appendix 2).

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3.1 To inform the Corporate Joint Committee of its financial position for 2022/23, and to comply with the statutory requirements regarding completing the Annual Return.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The accounts and return will be subject to audit, by Audit Wales, who have been appointed by the Auditor General for Wales. Should any amendment be necessary then a revised version will be presented to the Corporate Joint Committee in due course.
- 4.2 After audit and following any required amendments, the Auditor General's representative will certify the return.

5. EXPENDITURE AND INCOME 2022/23

- 5.1 Appendix 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the expenditure and income per heading against its annual budget for 2022/23, and these correspond to the figures in the Annual Return shown in Appendix 2.
- 5.2 There was a forecasted underspend of £59,777 in the September review and the Corporate Joint Committee approved for the underspend to be transferred to an earmarked reserve to fund future one-off costs.
- 5.3 The final net out-turn position for 2022/23, shows a further underspend of £178,321, to give a final underspend of £238,098 for 2022/23, and approval is sought to transferred this to the earmarked reserve. The Corporate Joint Committee in its meeting on 13 January 2023 has already approved for £80,000 of this reserve to be used as part of the 2023/24 budget.

Employees

- 5.4 The final underspend on this heading is £106,926. The expenditure on the CJC sub-heading includes the secondment costs for the Ambition North Wales' Chief Executive for two days a week, together with the support of the Executive Assistant for one day a week. The employment costs on the Transport heading includes the secondment of the Transport Lead from Ambition North Wales.

Travelling

- 5.5 The travelling and subsistence budget has not been used in 2022/23 which leaves an underspend of £4,000 for the year.

Supplies and services

- 5.6 The final underspend on this heading is £105,507 with expenditure on only three of the headings which includes Audit Wales fees, external consultants who were used to set up the financial ledger and insurance costs.

Support Services

- 5.7 The final underspend on this heading is £21,665. The Finance Services Support costs shows an overspend of £4,262 and this is due to the CJC Project Lead Officer's support lasting longer than originally anticipated. There is an overspend of £3,808 on the Legal costs as an external legal advisor was commissioned to do part of the work. There is an underspend on the Corporate Support heading due to the reduced number of formal meetings than anticipated originally, and no expenditure on the Information Technology heading as officers haven't been appointed.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

- 5.8 Since 9 February 2023, the Corporate Joint Committee has a "Section 33" status, which means that they can now reclaim VAT on their financial transactions. Originally, it was envisaged that the CJC would not be able to recover VAT which related to the period prior to 9 February 2023, but since they did not receive or pay any invoices prior to this date, it will be possible to recover the VAT on all expenditure included in the 2022/23 accounts.

6. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

- 6.1 The partners' contributions via a levy remained at the budget level for 2022/23.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As defined in the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended), the Corporate Joint Committee, due to its turnover not exceeding £2.5m in 2022/23 is required to prepare an annual return, and this must be prepared in accordance with proper practices as stipulated by legislation.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 - North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's 2022/23 Revenue Out-turn position.

Appendix 2 - Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023.

STATUTORY OFFICERS' RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

Author of this report.