

REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

27/10/2023

Title: North Wales Corporate Joint Committee projected expenditure 2023/24

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the projected expenditure of the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) for 2023/24.
- 1.2 In order to work effectively, the joint committee must be aware of its financial position against its approved annual budget.

2. DECISIONS SOUGHT

- 2.1 **To note and accept the Corporate Joint Committee's projected expenditure for 2023/24 as submitted in Appendix 1.**

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1 To note a projected underspend of £422,846 against the budget in 2023/24 which is mainly due to the delay in appointing staff to the CJC. It is aimed that the replacement project management resource that has been identified (on a secondment basis) be in place in November.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At its meeting on 13 January 2023, the Corporate Joint Committee approved its budget for 2023/24.
- 4.2 A further report on “Resourcing of Statutory Functions” was presented to the CJC in its meeting on 24 March 2023. This included a revised staffing structure for the CJC with the remaining transport staffing budget transferred to the External Consultants heading to cover the costs associated with the consultative requirements of the Regional Transport Planning process. These virements have been incorporated to the 2023/24 budget that is shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The budget will continue to be monitored and reviewed throughout the 2023/24 financial year, and the third quarter report will be submitted to the Corporate Joint Committee in January 2024.

5. 2023/24 PROJECTED EXPENDITURE PER HEADING

- 5.1 Appendix 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the expenditure projections per heading against its annual budget.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that the net out-turn position at the end of the 2023/24 financial year will be an underspend of £422,846.

Employees

- 5.3 An underspend of £309,573 is projected against the employees heading for 2023/24.
- 5.4 The employee budget includes an interim Chief Executive (2 days a week), Personal Assistant (1 day a week), Manager (Statutory Functions), Project Manager (1 day a week), three Planning posts and one Transport post. The forecasted expenditure to March 2024 includes Ambition North Wales Portfolio Director's time to fulfil the Chief Executive's role on a temporary basis until March 2024 as well as the support of the Executive Assistant for one day a week. No further appointments have been made to date, but the out-turn position for 2023/24 reflects the secondment of a Project Manager that is likely to commence from November 2023.

- 5.5 The allowance cost of the lay members of the CJC's Audit and Governance Subcommittee is based on two committees being held by the end of the financial year.

Travelling

- 5.6 The estimated cost of £1,000 is based on an estimate of the essential travel allowance and staff subsistence needed over the next six months, which gives an underspend of £5,000 on the travelling heading in 2023/24.

Supplies and services

- 5.7 An underspend of £168,060 is projected against the supplies and services heading for 2023/24. £137,585 of this underspend is on external consultants, £15,990 on Audit Wales fees and the remaining £14,485 underspend is spread across the other headings.

Support Services

- 5.8 An underspend of £20,213 is projected against the support services heading for 2023/24. The underspend is due to a reduced number of formal meetings as well as reduced staff associated costs with the CJC not likely to employ staff until the next financial year.

Reserve

- 5.9 As part of the 2022/23 out-turn report, the CJC approved for the underspend of £238k to be transferred to the reserve to fund future one-off costs. £80k of this reserve was included as part of the CJC's 2023/24 budget, but due to the current financial position of the CJC, this allocation will not be needed this year.

Welsh Government Grant

- 5.10 The Chief Executive in consultation with the transport officers in north Wales are currently working on an implementation plan to be presented to Welsh Government to apply for funding to deliver the Regional Transport Plan (RTP). This plan will set out how the RTP will be achieved and the resources and budget required to support this work. If this grant is awarded, it will contribute towards both staff and consultancy costs, but as the grant offer letter has not yet been received, it has not been included in the projected figures in this review.

6. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

- 6.1 The levy on the constituent authorities for 2023/24 were approved by the CJC in its meeting on 13 January 2023. The levy remains unpaid from three authorities with one authority still having the 2022/23 levy outstanding.

7. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

- 7.1 The Interim CJC Chief Executive as well as the Monitoring Officer have had input to this review.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - North Wales Corporate Joint Committee 2023/24 Revenue Budget – September 2023 Review

RESPONSE OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS:

i. Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

Author of this report.