



NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

6 September, 2024

TITLE: North Wales Corporate Joint Committee projected expenditure 2024/25

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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 2024/25.
- 1.2. In order to work effectively, the joint committee must be aware of its financial position against its approved annual budget.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note and accept the Corporate Joint Committee's projected expenditure for 2024/25 as submitted in **Appendix 1**.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. To note a projected underspend of £203,923 against the budget in 2024/25 which is mainly due to an underspend on the staffing budget.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. At its meeting on 26 January, 2024 the Corporate Joint Committee approved its budget for 2024/25.
- 4.2. The budget will continue to be monitored and reviewed throughout the 2024/25 financial year, and the third quarter report will be submitted to the Corporate Joint Committee in January 2025.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. 2024/25 Projected Expenditure per Heading

- 5.1.1 **Appendix 1** provides a detailed breakdown of the expenditure projections per heading against its annual budget.
- 5.1.2 It is anticipated that the net out-turn position at the end of the 2024/25 financial year will be an underspend of £203,923.

Employees

- 5.1.3 An underspend of £289,614 is projected against the employees heading for 2024/25.
- 5.1.4 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 estimated forecasted expenditure to March 2025 includes the costs of an interim Chief Executive (2 days a week), Personal Assistant (1 day a week), secondment costs of the Implementation Programme Manager from Welsh Government, one planning post (estimated commencement start date of October 2024) as well as costs for a part-time Language Officer post.
- 5.1.5 The allowance cost of the lay members is based on three meetings being held for the Governance and Audit Committee and one meeting of the Standards Committee.

Travelling

- 5.1.6 The estimated cost of the essential travel allowance and staff subsistence costs until March 2025 is £1,500, which gives an underspend of £4,500 on the travelling heading in 2024/25.

Supplies and services

- 5.1.7 Although a net overspend of £54,590 is projected against the supplies and services heading for 2024/25, £80,517 of this overspend relates to the consultancy costs which are funded from the 2023/24 Transport Grant, and the income is shown as a surplus under the grant income. There is an underspend of £18,800 on the insurance costs and the remaining net underspend of £7,127 is spread across the remaining headings.

Support Services

- 5.1.8 An underspend of £20,044 is projected against the support services heading for 2024/25. The underspend on the corporate support heading is due to a reduced number of formal meetings during 2024/25. The underspend on the legal heading will be used to fund part of the overspend on the legal costs from external consultants shown under set-up costs.

Set-up costs

- 5.1.9 The £82,662 expenditure on legal include the costs for an external law firm as well as two legal consultants who have been commissioned to provide specialised advice and support on the establishment of the CJC.
- 5.1.10 The £103,500 on external consultants relates to project management costs associated with the CJC implementation.
- 5.1.11 It is hoped that the £100,000 expenditure on the Investment Zones will be funded from the administration allowance of the Government's Investment Zone grant, but without formal confirmation, both Wrexham and Flintshire County Councils have between them underwritten £50,000 of this expenditure with the remaining £50,000 funded from the CJC reserve.

5.2. Constituent Authority Contributions

5.2.1 The levy on the constituent authorities for 2024/25 were approved by the CJC in its meeting on 26 January, 2024.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The Interim CJC Chief Executive as well as the Monitoring Officer have contributed to this review.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: North Wales Corporate Joint Committee 2024/25 Revenue Budget
- August 2024 Review

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer:**

“No observations to add in relation to propriety.”

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

Report author.