



Meeting

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.00 am, FRIDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2023

Location

Virtual Meeting – Zoom

For public access to the meeting, please contact us.

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 05/01/2023)

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Council Members

Cllr. Jason McLellan - Denbighshire County Council
Cllr. Llinos Medi Huws - Isle of Anglesey County Council
Cllr. Charlie McCoubury - Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr. Mark Pritchard - Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr. Ian Roberts - Flintshire County Council
Cllr. Dyfrig L Siencyn - Cyngor Gwynedd

Snowdonia Member

Cllr. Annwen Hughes – Snowdonia National Park Authority

Chief Officers

Alwen Williams - Corporate Joint Committee Chief Executive
Dafydd Gibbard - Cyngor Gwynedd
Dylan Williams - Isle of Anglesey County Council
Rhun ap Gareth - Conwy County Borough Council
Neal Cockerton - Flintshire County Council
Graham Boase - Denbighshire County Council
Ian Bancroft - Wrexham County Borough Council
Emyr Williams – Snowdonia National Park Authority

Statutory Officers

Dewi Aeron Morgan – Chief Finance Officer
Iwan G Evans – Monitoring Officer

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of Personal Interest.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chair for consideration.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4 - 7

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 of October, 2022 be signed as a true record.

5. PENSIONS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) ADMINISTRATING AUTHORITY FOR THE NORTH WALES CJC

8 - 10

Alwen Williams, the CJC's Chief Executive to present the report.

6. NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE'S 2023/24 BUDGET AND LEVY ON CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES

11 - 19

Dewi A Morgan, CJC's Chief Finance Officer, Dafydd L Edwards, CJC's Project Lead Officer and Sian Pugh, CJC's Group Accountant to present the report.

7. NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2021/22.

20 - 24

Dewi A Morgan, CJC's Chief Finance Officer and Sian Pugh, CJC's Group Accountant to present the statutory Statement of Accounts for the 2021/22 financial year.

8. CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2023/24

25

To agree on the proposed dates for the North Wales corporate Joint Committee for 2023/24.

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE
07/10/2022

Present:

Voting Members - Councillors:- Jason McLellan (Denbighshire Council), Carwyn Elias Jones (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Charlie McCoubrey (Conwy County Borough Council), Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council) and Dyfrig Siencyn (Cyngor Gwynedd).

Snowdonia Member: Councillor Annwen Hughes (Snowdonia National Park Authority).

Chief Officers - Emyr Williams (Snowdonia National Park Authority), Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Iwan Davies (Conwy County Borough Council), Neal Cockerton (Flintshire Council), Ian Bancroft (Wrexham County Borough Council), Graham Boase (Denbighshire Council) and Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd).

Officers in attendance - Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Dewi Morgan (Section 151 Officer), Dafydd L. Edwards (Lead Officer Joint Committee Project), Sian Pugh (CJC Group Accountant) and Annes Sion (Democracy Team Leader).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Llinos Medi (Isle of Anglesey County Council) and Emyr Williams (Snowdonia National Park Chief Executive).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2022, as a true record.

5. NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE PROJECTED EXPENDITURE 2022/23

The report was presented by Sian Pugh (CJC Group Accountant).

DECISION

To note and accept the Corporate Joint Committee's projected expenditure for 2022/23 as submitted in Appendix 1. To agree that the underspend at the end of the financial year will be earmarked to a reserve fund to finance future one-off costs.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted noting that it was a financial review from September 2022. The main points were highlighted, whilst showing the budget and the estimated position until the end of the year. It was explained that they were estimating an underspend of £50k under the Employees heading. It was explained that the budget had been based on employing / seconding two employees in the field of Transportation from July 2022 and three employees in the Strategic Planning field from December 2022, no appointments had been made to date. Cyngor Gwynedd's Finance Service had also provided projections for the costs of the Portfolio Director from October onwards, and the Finance Service would work with the Ambition Board over the coming months on this.

A likely underspend of £2.5k was highlighted on the Travelling heading as well as a £45k underspend on the supplies and services heading. It was explained that there was a £1k underspend on the miscellaneous supplies heading, £4k on the engagement and meetings heading, and £40k on the external consultations heading.

It was expressed that the net underspend of £3.5k was anticipated on the Support Services heading. It was noted that there was an overspend of £10k on finance costs since the role of the Project Lead Officer had continued for longer than originally anticipated. An £11k of underspend was highlighted on the Corporate Support heading due to a reduction in the number of formal meetings.

It was explained that there had been a further delay with legislating to give section 33 status to Corporate Joint Committees and that this was now unlikely to be in place until 1 March 2023. It was expressed as a result of this that it would not be possible to reclaim VAT on any financial transactions attributed to the previous period and based on the projected overspend during that period, it was estimated that around £41k of VAT could not be reclaimed.

It was expressed that this would leave a projected position for 2022/23 as an underspend of approximately £60k that would be transferred to a reserve fund.

Observations arising from the discussion

- Enquiries were made about the budget and levy of the CJC for 2023/24, noting that serious consideration should be given to all 2023/24 levies, including the Corporate Joint Committee, because the financial projections for next year looked so poor. It was noted that a discussion would be held on the budget when the budget would be created. It was noted that this report referred to this year's money and that it was difficult to find savings this year since the budget was the least possible but the need to discuss the next budget was acknowledged.
- It was asked why the money was being earmarked to a reserve fund and it was explained that the Joint Committee only had one reserve fund and therefore the money would be earmarked for one-off costs in the future.

6. STANDING ORDERS AND CONSTITUTION

The report was presented by Iwan G Evans (Monitoring Officer).

DECISION

1. To agree to adopt
 - a) Standing Orders for the Sub-committees
 - b) Terms of Reference for the following Sub-committees;
 - Strategic Transportation
 - Strategic Planning

- Governance and Audit.
2. To delegate the power to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer to complete co-option agreements with Transportation and Strategic Planning Sub-committee Members and to arrange through the Proper Officer to call initial meetings of the Sub-committees.
 3. To agree on the principles of appointment to the Governance and Audit Sub-committee and to authorise the Chief Executive to seek expressions of interest and to report to the December meeting of the CJC to appoint.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented and it was noted that this report followed the report that had been submitted back in June. It was explained that the first half of the report noted adopting the Standing Orders and Terms of Reference of the Sub-committees. It was explained that only three of the sub-committees were being highlighted since the Statutory Officer was still waiting for the regulations for the Standards Committee. It was also noted that it was premature to discuss the Ambition Board.

It was expressed that the second aspect of the decision related to co-opting to the Sub-committees. It was noted in accordance with the act that there was a need to create and complete co-opting agreements with the members of the Organisation and Statutory Planning Sub-committees in order to commit them to being members before a meeting was convened. The need to establish a Strategic Transportation and Strategic Planning sub-committee calendar was highlighted.

It was noted that the regulations noted the need for the Sub-committee to create a Governance and Audit Sub-board. The need to proceed to establish them was explained, and that the membership as Local Authorities was 1/3 lay members and 2/3 Councillors. It was expressed in terms of the recommendation regarding the procedure that the membership would come from amongst the Councils' Governance and Audit committees, and a request was made for expressions of interest from amongst the lay members. It was explained that the nominations needed to be a representation from amongst the region, with a balance of skills. The Monitoring Officer believed that this was the most pragmatic way of securing the membership.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted that the numbers for Audit Committees were 9 members, 6 elected members and 3 lay members and the procedure for this. It was explained that there would be a need to ask for nominations for the lay members and that a selection process would be needed via the Joint Committee, ensuring a cross-section and a balance.

7. SECONDMENT TO THE CJC CHIEF EXECUTIVE ROLE

The report was presented by Dafydd Gibbard (CJC Chief Executive).

DECISION

To appoint Alwen Williams as the CJC's part-time Chief Executive, on a temporary secondment basis, until the position is reviewed again by the CJC at the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

To delegate power to the Chief Executive of Cyngor Gwynedd to confirm formal arrangements for the secondment.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted, noting that this item had been discussed back in July, when it was agreed to make a request to the Ambition Board to release Alwen Williams to be a part-time Chief Executive until the end of the financial year. It was explained that the item had been discussed at the Ambition Board last week and had supported the request to second her on a part-time basis and her time had been released for two days a week.

It was explained that this report confirmed the appointment of Alwen Williams and explained that a paper about the post to the future would be submitted to the Joint Committee soon.

Observations arising from the discussion

- It was noted in terms of the wording of the decision that it needed to be adapted to note that the post was being reviewed before the end of the financial year since the original wording suggested that no discussion would be held until the end of March 2023.
- It was asked why there was a need to delegate powers to the Cyngor Gwynedd Chief Executive to confirm the formal arrangements for the secondment, surely the decision on the secondment should return to the Joint Committee. It was explained that the Human Resources element only was being done in order to secure employment, since Cyngor Gwynedd as the lead body was the legal employer. It was emphasised that the Chief Executive only authorised the administrative element of employment, to confirm that Alwen Williams was being appointed, and it did not commit the Joint Committee beyond March 2023.
- It was expressed that this decision attempted to identify a solution to the problem and that it was a pragmatic answer to be able to move on and commence the work.

The meeting commenced at 12.00pm and concluded at 12:35pm.

Agenda Item 5

MEETING: **North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the CJC)**

DATE: **13 January 2023**

SUBJECT: **Pensions: Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administrating authority for the North Wales CJC**

CONTACT OFFICER: **Alwen Williams, the CJC's Chief Executive**

No decision sought, for information only

1. Introduction / Background

On 14 December 2022, the Welsh Government notified CJC officers that they were optimistic regarding the proposed timetable for changes to UK legislation, meaning the CJC's issues regarding corporation tax, income tax and borrowing powers will be resolved by the end of this financial year through implementing a 'Section 150 Order'.

2. LGPS administrating authority for the North Wales CJC

The same message sought an urgent response from each region notifying the Welsh Government which Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administrating authority we wish to choose for our CJC.

A response was required by Thursday 22 December – a short deadline to enable the UK Government to quickly progress the development of the 'Section 150 Order'.

In the absence of an indication to the Government, the administering authority would be determined by the statutory process, with no practical means of subsequently reviewing the position.

3. Options Considered

The options for us (LGPS administrating authorities in north Wales) were Flintshire Council (Clwyd Pension Fund) and Gwynedd Council (Gwynedd Pension Fund).

Insofar as pension benefits for prospective CJC employees are concerned, it makes no difference which administrating authority is chosen - the schemes are identical.

4. Relevant Factors

Current Ambition North Wales employees within the regional Portfolio Management Office are members of the Gwynedd Pension Fund. If/when Ambition North Wales and the CJC merge to deliver on promotion of economic well-being, then transferring existing Gwynedd pension members to the Clwyd Pension Fund (Flintshire) would create an unnecessary administrative burden.

Given that Ambition North Wales and the regional Portfolio Management Office team lead on regional economic well-being initiatives, such as delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal, it is assumed that future arrangements could see employees transfer into the CJC, therefore maintaining the same pension arrangements is logical. It is not possible, at this time, to predict where Planning and Transport officers will be recruited from.

5. Urgent Consultation and Decision

CJC officers sought views from the Chair, Vice-Chair and CEO of the CJC, who unanimously agreed that Gwynedd Council should be the LGPS administrating authority for the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

Officers also consulted with the Head of Clwyd Pension Fund and with the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151) at Flintshire County Council. Both confirmed, on behalf of the Clwyd Fund / Flintshire Council, that it makes sense for the CJC to use Gwynedd Pension Fund.

6. Response sent to the Welsh Government

Ideally, this would have been the subject of a Joint Committee decision, but the Welsh Government required an urgent response, and obviously we didn't want to give the UK Government any excuse to defer the 'Section 150 Order' again, as there is a real VAT cost associated with delaying.

Consequently, CJC officers responded to the Welsh Government on 21 December officially confirming that our region has chosen to use the Gwynedd Pension Fund, i.e. Gwynedd Council will be the LGPS administrating authority for the CJC.

This report is submitted for information to the CJC meeting on 13th January, noting that this was decided and acted upon within the Welsh Government's deadline.

RECOMMENDATION

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee is asked to note this report's contents, for information.

VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer

I can confirm that the circumstances outlined in the report reflect the narrow window which was provided to give an indication of the preferred administering authority to Welsh Government.

We can expect that this wish will be reflected in the "Section 150 Order" (Government of Wales Act 2006) to follow.

Statutory Finance Officer

I have worked with the author to prepare this report and confirm the contents.

REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13/01/2023

Title: North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's 2023/24 Budget and Levy on Constituent Authorities

Authors: Dewi A Morgan, CJC's Chief Finance Officer
Dafydd L Edwards, CJC's Project Lead Officer
Sian Pugh, CJC's Group Accountant

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 It is a statutory requirement for the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) to approve its budget at a meeting of the CJC by 31 January annually.
- 1.2 The budget which is included in the appendices, has been divided to reflect the structure of the CJC, namely the Strategic Planning, Transport and corporate functions, and has been analysed per expenditure heading. This allows the constituent authorities' contributions to be levied separately for 'Planning' and 'Other' functions.
- 1.3 Two options are presented for the 2023/24 budget:-
 - Option A – an optimal position that reflects the transport and planning professionals' estimate of their requirement to deliver the two strategic plans (Regional Transport Plan (RTP) and Strategic Development Plan (SDP)).
 - Option B - realistic minimum budget, including full year effect of current year estimates, reduced by an estimate of 2022/23 surplus (one-off use of reserves).
- 1.4 Both budget options enable the CJC to respond to the statutory responsibilities, with Option A representing the optimal budget required to deliver the Regional Transport Plan and Strategic Development Plan. Welsh Government are expected to announce

delivery timescales for the Regional Transport Plan imminently, but the deadline is anticipated to be March 2024.

- 1.5 Timescales for delivery of the Strategic Development Plan are not yet known, but this piece of work will require close consultation and co-development with local authorities over the years ahead. Setting a realistic budget for delivery of these key strategies will support and facilitate the region to lead and determine the strategic priorities. Setting an optimal or realistic minimum budget also avoids potential increased cost uncertainty associated with further delaying the work required.

2. DECISIONS SOUGHT

- 2.1 **Decide on Option A or B for the 2023/24 Budget for the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) as presented in the appendices. To approve the budget as noted below:-**

- **Strategic Planning (6 Leaders and Chair of the Park - simple majority, quorum = 5)**
- **Other Functions of the CJC including Transport (6 Leaders - simple majority, quorum = 5).**

	Strategic Planning	Transport	Corporate Joint Committee	Budget Total
	£	£	£	£
Option A	503,750	280,570	238,410	1,022,730
Option B	371,250	250,570	143,000	764,820

2.2 To approve the levy on the constituent authorities, as noted below:

- **Strategic Planning (Unanimity, quorum = 7)**
- **Other Functions (Unanimity, quorum = 6)**

Option A	Strategic Planning	Other Functions	Total Levy
	£	£	£
Conwy County Borough Council	(81,860)	(87,550)	(169,410)
Denbighshire County Council	(68,910)	(71,000)	(139,910)
Flintshire County Council	(112,940)	(116,350)	(229,290)
Cyngor Gwynedd	(75,170)	(92,700)	(167,870)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(50,020)	(51,530)	(101,550)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(96,920)	(99,850)	(196,770)
Snowdonia National Park	(17,930)		(17,930)
Total Levy	(503,750)	(518,980)	(1,022,730)

Option B	Strategic Planning	Other Functions	Total Levy
	£	£	£
Conwy County Borough Council	(60,330)	(66,400)	(126,730)
Denbighshire County Council	(50,790)	(53,840)	(104,630)
Flintshire County Council	(83,220)	(88,240)	(171,460)
Cyngor Gwynedd	(55,390)	(70,290)	(125,680)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(36,870)	(39,080)	(75,950)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(71,430)	(75,720)	(147,150)
Snowdonia National Park	(13,220)		(13,220)
Total Levy	(371,250)	(393,570)	(764,820)

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1 Regulations 16 and 17 of The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 set out the details of the process to be used to agree and fund the costs.
- 3.2 These options have been set for different levels of operations by the CJC, to fulfil its statutory functions in the fields of Planning and Transport and to ensure that the CJC is administered appropriately.
- 3.3 For 2023/24, it is recommended that the budget set in Appendix A or B is funded by means of a levy apportioned between the constituent authorities on the basis of the population relevant to the field of work.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The budget is based on the CJC's 'initial functions', namely preparing, monitoring, reviewing and amending the Strategic Development Plan and developing a Regional Transport Plan.
- 4.2 Although the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) could be within the economic well-being power of the CJC, a separate budget will be established for it at present as several regulatory matters are yet to be resolved and further clarification needed regarding the CJC's rights to borrow, invest and operate commercially, tax and VAT status.
- 4.3 When the planning and transport duties are operational, regular budget monitoring reports will be presented to the CJC and any issues will be highlighted and appropriate steps taken.

5. BUDGET HEADINGS

Employees

- 5.1 To date, there has been no decision on the employment/secondment of employees or the commissioning of work in the Transport or the Strategic Planning fields. For the purpose of setting a budget for 2023/24, both options assume that human resources will be required, equivalent to two employees in the Transport field and three employees in the Strategic Planning field. In addition, it includes the Chief Executive's time for two days a week together with the support of the Executive Assistant and Project Leaders. They are set based on the actual 2022/23 inflation increase and an estimate of 6% for 2023/24.
- 5.2 The cost of allowance for lay members of the CJC's Audit and Governance Sub-Committee is based on the corresponding payments to lay members in constituent authorities.

Travel

- 5.3 The staff travel budget is based on an estimate of essential travel allowance and subsistence allowances.

Supplies and services

- 5.4 This heading includes budgets for tools and equipment, various supplies, engagement and meetings, audit fees, external consultants and insurance.
- 5.5 The insurance budget is an initial estimate that we have received from the insurance company based on the CJC's risk level in its initial years.

Support Services

- 5.6 Support services are needed to facilitate the work of the Joint Committee, and the budget for 2023/24 includes the support of Finance, Legal (including the Monitoring Officer and legal input to Planning and Transport), Corporate Support (Committees, Translation and Human Resources) and Information Technology (one-off costs as well as support and licences) services.

5.7 The range of services and the cost estimates will be discussed again as the Service Level Agreements are formed.

6. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

6.1 Partners' contributions have been divided based on 2023 population estimates which have been published officially by StatsCymru. In accordance with the legislation, the CJC's general budget and the Transport budget will be funded by the six North Wales authorities, while the Snowdonia National Park Authority will also contribute towards the Strategic Planning budget (where they will have a vote).

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 The Corporate Joint Committee is subject to duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

7.2 In accordance with the legal duties under the Equality Act 2010, when making decision, the Corporate Joint Committee must give due attention to the need (1) to eliminate unlawful discrimination (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) encourage good relations based on the protected characteristics. As setting a budget falls within the decisions which can be considered strategically, there is a duty to give due attention to operating in a way which is designed to minimise inequalities which stem from socio-economic disadvantage. As the Corporate Joint Committee is still in its early years, it is not considered that any specific impacts stem from the decisions submitted.

7.3 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 involves improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The act places a well-being duty on public bodies which is aimed at delivering the seven well-being goals, namely a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal Wales with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture with a thriving Welsh language and which is globally responsible. Given the context, the recommendations are in accordance with these duties.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Regulations 16 and 17 of The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 set out the details of the process to be used to agree and fund the costs. These regulations place specific requirements regarding the calculation and approval of the budget requirement (Regulation 16) and then, as a second step, agreeing the levy contributions of the constituent authorities (Regulation 17). According to statute, the Corporate Joint Committee must adopt the Budget by 31 January 2023. **If the Corporate Joint Committee fails to agree on the contributions, Welsh Ministers have statutory powers to instruct the distribution of contributions.**
- 8.2 It is noted in the decisions sought that there are specific requirements regarding quorum and voting in relation to these decisions. Therefore, it must be ensured that voting is arranged in a way which reflects on the one hand the specific voting rights involved with setting the budget and on the other hand the need for unanimity on the decisions on the levy, again while separating both elements.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – North Wales Corporate Joint Committee’s 2023/24 Revenue Budget (Option A)

Appendix B – North Wales Corporate Joint Committee’s 2023/24 Revenue Budget (Option B)

RESPONSE OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS:

i. Monitoring Officer:

The recommendation acknowledges that the Corporate Joint Committee (“CJC”) is moving from an establishing period to an operative period which requires a start on implementing its functions. The report notes that the Welsh Government is moving in this direction. It is important therefore that the necessary resources are in place to support achievement of the requirements which will be placed on the CJC.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

Author of this report.

	Strategic Planning	Transport	Corporate Joint Committee	Total Budget
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Employees				
Employee expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	205,290	140,980	133,900	480,170
Lay members allowance	0	0	5,090	5,090
Employees Total	205,290	140,980	138,990	485,260
Travel				
Travel and subsistence	3,000	2,000	1,000	6,000
Travel Total	3,000	2,000	1,000	6,000
Supplies and services				
Tools and equipment	4,500	3,000	0	7,500
Miscellaneous supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
Engagement and meetings	770	770	3,830	5,370
Audit Wales' fees	0	0	21,100	21,100
External consultants	265,000	110,000	10,000	385,000
Insurance	7,500	7,500	0	15,000
Supplies and services Total	278,770	122,270	35,930	436,970
Support Services				
Finance Services Support	0	0	26,610	26,610
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	7,500	7,500	15,000	30,000
Corporate Support	6,880	6,280	17,760	30,920
Information Technology	2,310	1,540	3,120	6,970
Support Services Total	16,690	15,320	62,490	94,500
Total Expenditure Budget	503,750	280,570	238,410	1,022,730
Total Net Expenditure Budget	503,750	280,570	238,410	1,022,730

	Strategic Planning	Other functions	Total Levy	2022/23 Levy	% increase
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)		
Partners Contributions through a levy					
Conwy County Borough Council	(81,860)	(87,550)	(169,410)	(60,490)	180.1
Denbighshire County Council	(68,910)	(71,000)	(139,910)	(49,560)	182.3
Flintshire County Council	(112,940)	(116,350)	(229,290)	(81,150)	182.6
Cyngor Gwynedd	(75,170)	(92,700)	(167,870)	(62,000)	170.8
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(50,020)	(51,530)	(101,550)	(36,040)	181.8
Wrexham County Borough Council	(96,920)	(99,850)	(196,770)	(69,880)	181.6
Snowdonia National Park Authority	(17,930)		(17,930)	(3,140)	471.0
Total Income Budget	(503,750)	(518,980)	(1,022,730)	(362,260)	

Relevant population	2023 population estimates	
Conwy County Borough Council	114,195	118,624
Denbighshire County Council	96,198	96,198
Flintshire County Council	157,626	157,626
Cyngor Gwynedd	104,917	125,539
Isle of Anglesey County Council	69,842	69,842
Wrexham County Borough Council	135,279	135,279
Snowdonia National Park Authority	25,051	
Total population	703,108	703,108

	Strategic Planning	Transport	Corporate Joint Committee	Total Budget
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Employees				
Employee expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	205,290	140,980	118,490	464,760
Lay members allowance	0	0	5,090	5,090
Employees Total	205,290	140,980	123,580	469,850
Travel				
Travel and subsistence	3,000	2,000	1,000	6,000
Travel Total	3,000	2,000	1,000	6,000
Supplies and services				
Tools and equipment	4,500	3,000	0	7,500
Miscellaneous supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
Engagement and meetings	770	770	3,830	5,370
Audit Wales' fees	0	0	21,100	21,100
External consultants	132,500	80,000	10,000	222,500
Insurance	7,500	7,500	0	15,000
Supplies and services Total	146,270	92,270	35,930	274,470
Support Services				
Finance Services Support	0	0	26,610	26,610
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	7,500	7,500	15,000	30,000
Corporate Support	6,880	6,280	17,760	30,920
Information Technology	2,310	1,540	3,120	6,970
Support Services Total	16,690	15,320	62,490	94,500
Total Expenditure Budget	371,250	250,570	223,000	844,820
Contribution from reserve			(80,000)	(80,000)
Total Net Expenditure Budget	371,250	250,570	143,000	764,820

	Strategic Planning	Other functions	Total Levy	2022/23 Levy	% increase
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)		
Partners Contributions through a levy					
Conwy County Borough Council	(60,330)	(66,400)	(126,730)	(60,490)	109.5
Denbighshire County Council	(50,790)	(53,840)	(104,630)	(49,560)	111.1
Flintshire County Council	(83,220)	(88,240)	(171,460)	(81,150)	111.3
Cyngor Gwynedd	(55,390)	(70,290)	(125,680)	(62,000)	102.7
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(36,870)	(39,080)	(75,950)	(36,040)	110.7
Wrexham County Borough Council	(71,430)	(75,720)	(147,150)	(69,880)	110.6
Snowdonia National Park Authority	(13,220)		(13,220)	(3,140)	321.0
Total Income Budget	(371,250)	(393,570)	(764,820)	(362,260)	

Relevant population	2023 population estimates	
Conwy County Borough Council	114,195	118,624
Denbighshire County Council	96,198	96,198
Flintshire County Council	157,626	157,626
Cyngor Gwynedd	104,917	125,539
Isle of Anglesey County Council	69,842	69,842
Wrexham County Borough Council	135,279	135,279
Snowdonia National Park Authority	25,051	
Total population	703,108	703,108

Agenda Item 7

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee: 13/01/2023

REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13/01/2023

Title: North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.

Authors: Dewi A Morgan, CJC's Chief Finance Officer

Sian Pugh, CJC's Group Accountant

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report presents the statutory Statement of Accounts for the 2021/22 financial year, which provides details of the Joint Committee's financial activities during the year which ended on 31 March 2022.

2. Decision Sought

- 2.1 **Members are asked to approve the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's (CJC) Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.**

3. Reasons for the Decision

- 3.1 Originally, as there were no transactions for the North Wales CJC in the financial year 2021/22, no accounts or audit appeared to be necessary. It recently became clear that a formal annual statement would be required. Hence, as a 'formality', this report confirms that no transactions were incurred within the financial year 2021/22 in respect of the North Wales CJC, and the annual statement is attached for the Joint Committee's approval, in order to comply with the relevant statutory requirements. A related audit fee is not expected.

4. Background and Relevant Considerations

- 4.1 The North Wales CJC was formally constituted on 14 January 2022, and on 28 January 2022 the North Wales CJC confirmed a budget of no expenditure for 2021/22.
- 4.2 In 2021/22, Cyngor Gwynedd received a grant of £250k from Welsh Government to support the North Wales Region with the establishment and implementation of the North Wales CJC.
- 4.3 The statement attached confirms that the North Wales CJC incurred no transactions during 2021/22.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) 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.

6. Appendix

Appendix 1 – CJC’s Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.

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.

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.

Introduction

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 ("the LGE Act") created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). The LGE Act provides for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations (CJC Establishment Regulations).

The North Wales CJC was formally constituted on 14 January 2022. The CJC comprises six Constituent Councils: Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council, Cyngor Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council. Snowdonia National Park Authority is also a member of the CJC in relation to the exercise of strategic planning functions.

The North Wales CJC's duties are:

- Strategic development planning (Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004)
- Regional transport planning (section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000)

The North Wales CJC's functions may also include:

- Economic well-being (section 76 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)

The CJC operated in limited form and incurred no expenditure during the 2021/22 financial year.

Accounting Statement for the year ended 31 March 2022

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee incurred no transactions during the financial year ending 31 March 2022 and held no assets and liabilities at 31 March 2022. As such, no return or financial statement were produced.

The Head of Finance's Responsibilities

The Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* ("the Code").

Certification of Accounts

I certify that no transactions were incurred within the financial year 2021/22 in respect of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee.



Dewi Aeron Morgan CPFA
Head of Finance, Cyngor Gwynedd

December 2022

The Joint Committee Responsibilities

The Joint Committee is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of the financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of these affairs. In this Authority, that "Section 151 Officer" is the Head of Finance.
- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- To approve the Statement of Accounts.

Joint Committee approval

Approval of Statement of Accounts.

Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Chair of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee
Leader of Cyngor Gwynedd

January 2023

Annual Governance Statement

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended), the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring a sound system of internal control and financial management. During 2021/22 the internal controls and governance arrangements were being developed, in preparation for full implementation in 2022/23.

Audit opinion

I am satisfied that the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee had no financial transactions during the year and that the Accounting Statement properly presents its £nil financial transactions and balances for the financial year ending 31 March 2022.

Certificate of completion of the audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
January 2023

Audit Wales
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

MEETING: **North Wales Corporate Joint Committee**
DATE: **13 January 2023**
SUBJECT: **Meeting dates for 2023/24**

DECISIONS SOUGHT:

To agree on the following dates for the North Wales Corporate Joint Committees for 2023/24.

In order to make the arrangements for the Corporate Joint Committee meetings for the 2023/24 financial year, the Members are asked to accept the following dates for the meetings:

- 26 May (pm)
- 14 July (pm)
- 29 September (pm)
- 24 November (pm)
- 26 January 2024 (pm)
- 22 March 2024 (pm)

Please note that these are the dates we are currently scheduling; however, situations could arise where additional meetings will need to be arranged in order to meet the needs of the Joint Committee.

Adaptation to the Current Calendar

Along with the above, we believe it will be necessary to make an adjustment to the current Calendar which was adopted at the 22 July 2022 meeting of the Joint Committee. It has come to our attention that the meeting scheduled for the morning of 31 March, 2023 conflicts with the WLGA meeting.

As a result it is recommended to change the date to 24 March 2023 (afternoon). Please note that the meeting of the Economic Ambition Board is scheduled in the morning. The Joint Committee's consent will be required to make this adjustment.

COMMENTS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

Statutory Finance Officer

In relation to financial matters, the proposed dates for the relevant meetings allow the Corporate Joint Committee to comply with statutory timetable wherever possible.