

HoftSW Joint Committee

Meeting date – 25th May 2018

HoftSW JOINT COMMITTEE DRAFT BUDGET AND COST SHARING AGREEMENT – 2018/19

Lead Officer: Pat Flaherty, Chief Executive, Somerset County Council

Author: Julian Gale, Strategic Manager – Partnerships Governance

Contact Details: 01823 359500

1. Summary

- 1.1.** This report summarises the Committee's draft Budget and Cost Sharing Agreement (B&CSA) 2018/19 for consideration. The Committee is asked to approve the Agreement and recommend it to the constituent authorities for approval. Members need to be aware that references to 'budget' in this report refer only to the Committee's operating and support budget. Considerations in relation to an *investment framework* to deliver the Committee's priorities will be a separate consideration and will be addressed in later meetings.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** **The Joint Committee is recommended to approve the B&CSA for 2018/19 for recommendation to the constituent authorities, subject to the Section 151 Officers of those authorities signing off the Agreement as acceptable and appropriate.**

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1** It is important that the Joint Committee is aware of its operating and support budget position and can be assured that the financial impact on individual authorities is made as clear as possible early in the year.
- 3.2** The draft B&CSA is a development of part of the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) agreed by the constituent authorities at the time the Committee was established. It is important that the Committee approves the B&CSA and recommends it to the constituent authorities for approval.

4. Background

4.1 The Joint Committee Budget

4.1.1 Pages 1 and 2 of the Appendix summarise the position on the operating and support budget of the Committee. It shows a variation of the income for 2018/19 expected at the time of the Committee's establishment. A significant part of the budget comprised the underspend carried forward from the work on devolution during the 2015 to 2018 period. At the time of the handover of the devolution budget from Plymouth City Council (who managed the devolution budget on behalf of the partnership since 2015) to Somerset County Council as the Administering Authority, the underspend was significantly higher than the £42k anticipated. This together with the contributions agreed by the constituent authorities have given the Committee a larger than anticipated budget for 2018/19.

4.1.2 In terms of anticipated spend for 2018/19 the plans outlined suggest that the Committee will be able to operate within the revised budget for 2018/19 although not all commitments have yet been identified. Therefore, at this stage it is not anticipated that there will be a need to ask the constituent authorities for additional sums beyond those already approved at the time of the Committee's establishment. Therefore, I propose to ask the constituent authorities for their agreed contributions in the immediate future. Any funds not spent in 2018/19 will be carried forward to 2019/20 to help reduce the budget requirement for that year.

4.2 B&CSA

4.2.1 At the time of the Committee's establishment the IAA made reference to the need for a B&CSA and included some headings to be included within it. Pages 3 and 4 cover the remaining detail of the Agreement. It is a relatively simple document proportionate to the small size of the budget and the limited financial risk to each constituent authority. It explains the key role played by the administering authority in managing the budget as well as the responsibilities of the constituent authorities.

4.2.2 If the Committee agrees to approve the B&CSA for recommendation to the constituent authorities then it is recommended that this is subject to the Section 151 Officers (Chief Finance Officers) being happy with the document.

8. Equalities Implications

8.1 There are no equalities implications associated with the recommendation.

9. Other Implications

9.1 Legal:

The B&CSA in addition to the IAA is part of the governance framework within which the Joint Committee is required to work and which ensures that all legal obligations are met.

- 9.2 Financial:
The report details the budget position.
- 9.3 HR
No implications.
- 9.4 Risk
As stated the CSA is proportionate to the level of risk carried by each authority.
- 9.5 Health and Well-being
No implications.
- 9.6 Health and Safety
No implications.
- 9.7 Sustainability
No implications.
- 9.8 Community Safety
No implications.
- 9.9 Privacy
No implications.
- 10. Background papers**
 - 10.1. None

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.