

Heart of the South West Joint Committee Budget 2021/22 outturn and draft budget for 2022/23

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1. Summary

- 1.1.** This report provides an update for the Constituent Authorities on the outturn of the Joint Committee's pooled budget for 2021/22 and proposals for the 2022/23 budget.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that:

(a) the outturn for 2021/22 is received and in particular the residual budget available for 2022/23 (see section 4.4);

(b) the Joint Committee agrees to extend Somerset County Council's role as the Administering Authority until the next Annual General Meeting in June 2023 (see 4.5.4) ; and

(c) the revised draft 2021/22 Budget is endorsed (see section 4.5).

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1** It is essential that the Joint Committee remains fit for purpose, represents a sustainable way of working into the future; and delivers value for the resources committed to it by the Constituent Authorities. To that end it is important that the Committee reviews its funding allocations, support arrangements and proposed future funding commitments and makes any appropriate adjustments in order to support the delivery of its priorities.

4. Background

4.1 The Joint Committee has previously agreed its focus into the following areas:

- Strategic policy development
- Influencing Government / key agencies to achieve direct intervention, support, funding and powers
- Designing and delivering strategic HotSW responses to 'Government' offers
- Designing and delivering public sector reform where this will deliver improved productivity, eg in health and education
- Delivering at scale –(beyond what individual councils can achieve)
- Oversight of the Delivery Plan – working with the HotSW LEP to ensure delivery of the HotSW Productivity Strategy.

4.2 In January 2021, the Committee reviewed and approved a series of funding allocations and a proposed budget for 2021/22, within the envelope of budget contributions from Constituent Authorities and carry over funding from previous financial years.

4.3 Officers maintain a regular review of budget allocations and funding commitments to ensure that the budget is used efficiently and to recommend any appropriate adjustments as a result of changing circumstances or other external factors e.g. Government policy changes, Levelling Up, Covid 19 pandemic, etc.

4.4 Joint Committee 2021/22 Budget Outturn

4.4.1 The Joint Committee remains completely reliant on the Constituent Authorities for its budget and there are no obvious sources of additional funding to support running costs or delivery of its work programme. Joint Committee members' costs and expenses are funded and administered by each respective Constituent Authority.

The outturn position for the 2021/22 Joint Committee budget is as follows:

	£
Income	
Carry-over from 2020/21	(£50,996)
2020/21 Contributions	
County Council x2	(£42,000)
Unitaries x 2	(£16,000)
Districts / National Park Authorities x 14	(£39,200)

Total contributions	(£97,200)
Total 2020/21 budget (including carry over)	(£148,196)
Expenditure	
Administering Authority and meeting support	£28,273
Plymouth City Council (PMO support)	£20,000
Somerset West & Taunton (HEROG support)	£10,658
Housing Task Force support	£ 16,359
Devolution projects & lobbying	£ 0
2021/22 Residual Budget unallocated	(£72,906)

4.5 Joint Committee 2022/23 Draft Budget

4.5.1 Each year the Joint Committee needs to consider and approve a draft budget. The Joint Committee budget covers the costs of running the Committee and funding priority projects within its work programme.

4.5.2 There are significant variables in 2022/23 and 2023/24 for the Joint Committee in terms of the Government's Levelling Up and Devolution proposals and opportunities for the Heart of the South West Constituent Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnership Integration and Devon's County Deal arrangements. At this stage it is therefore proposed that no additional contributions for 2022/23 are sought from Constituent Authorities and instead any funding allocations are funded initially from the £ 72,906 carry over funding from 2021/22.

4.5.3 The proposed funding allocations for 2022/23 are as follows:

	£
Projected Income	
Carry-over from 2021/22	(£72,906)
2022/23 Contributions	
County Council x2	(£0)
Unitaries x 2	(£0)

Districts / National Park Authorities x 15	(£0)
Total contributions	(£0)
Total 2022/23 budget (including carry over)	(£72,906)
Forecast Expenditure	
<u>Allocated funding</u>	
Administering Authority and meeting support	£15,000 (based on support for just two meetings)
2022/23 Residual Budget unallocated (assuming recommended funding allocations are approved)	(£57,906)

- 4.5.4** The above draft budget projection assumes that partners continue to provide most of the staffing resource support in kind. In September 2019 the Joint Committee reappointed Somerset County Council as the Administering Authority to the Joint Committee and allocated specific funding allocated for that role. The Joint Committee needs to agree its Administering Authority for 2022/23 and it is proposed that Somerset County Council continues in this role until the Annual General Meeting in June 2023.
- 4.5.5** At this stage there is a lot of uncertainty regarding the scope and scale of activity requiring funding in and beyond 2022/23 and whilst the above assumptions may appear prudent there is a risk that the ambitions of the Joint Committee may subsequently require additional funding to be made available from constituent authorities and / or other sources.
- 4.5.6** The assumptions set out above would leave a residual unallocated budget of £57,906 to be allocated in due course to specific projects that the Joint Committee wants to support or alternatively to carry over into 2023/24 as a contingency / reserve.

5. Equalities Implications

- 5.1** There are no equalities implications associated with the recommendations.

6. Other Implications

- 6.1** Legal:
The review of the role and functions of the Joint Committee have taken account of the legal framework within which the Joint Committee operates.
- 6.2** Financial:
As stated in the report.
- 6.3** HR
As stated in the report.
- 6.4** Risk
The key risk to the Constituent Authorities is potentially the need for additional partner contributions during 2021/22 and/or future years in order to the delivery of the Committee's ambitions and plans.
- 6.5** Other Implications: Health and Well-being; Health and Safety; Sustainability; Community Safety; Privacy
No implications.

7. Background papers

- 7.1** Heart of the South West Joint Committee Governance Arrangements – 27 September 2019 and Budget Update report in October 2020

Heart of the South West Joint Committee Budget Update 2020/21 and draft budget for 2021/22

Heart of the South West Constitution

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