

No.

SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Special Meeting held on 9th February 2023.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present:

Representing Bridgend County Borough Council – Councillors R. Goode (Vice-Chair) and M. Lewis.

Representing Cardiff City and County Council – Councillor M. Michael.

Representing the Vale of Glamorgan Council – Councillors R. Sivagnanam (Chair) and P. Drake.

(a) Announcement –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee the Chair reminded all present that the meeting would be live streamed, as well as recorded, via the internet and the recording archived for future viewing.

(b) Declarations of Interest –

No declarations of interest were received.

(c) Shared Regulatory Services Draft Budget Proposal 2023/24 (DEH) –

The purpose of the report was to gain the Joint Committee's approval of the Proposed Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Budget in respect of financial year 2023/24.

The Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan began by advising that as a consequence of the announcement in respect of the Welsh Government Settlement being received late on 16th December, 2022, after the Committee's meeting of 13th December, 2022, it was considered that it would be helpful for Partner Authorities to have clarity on their funding of the 2023/24 settlements for decision making. It was therefore agreed by Committee that the 2023/24 budget decision would be deferred until January 2023.

The effect of the 2023/24 budget adjustments related to a 3% saving being taken from Core, plus pay assumptions which were presented in the Draft Proposed 2023/24 Budget of £8.645m which was a net increase of £314k. This was set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report. The Officer added that £178k of savings were taken from Core through the deletion of vacant posts plus the identification of a new

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income stream. £492k aggregate of increased budget to fund the shortfall in the 2022/23 pay award, plus the 5% anticipated 2023/24 pay award.

The proposed SRS Gross Expenditure Budget 2023/24 is illustrated within the table as below:

	2022/23	2023/24	2023/24
	Current	Proposed	Increase/
	Budget	Budget	Decrease in
			Contribution
Gross Expenditure Budget	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Bridgend	1,777	1,914	137
Cardiff	4,811	5,009	198
Vale	1,743	1,722	(21)
Total Budget	8,331	8,645	314

In conclusion, the Officer drew Members' attention to an item of risk in relation to the 2023/24 Pay Awards. The general guidance that the Vale of Glamorgan Authority received in December 2022 suggested that a 5% pay award was an appropriate level to forecast for 2023/24 however, more recently as a result of work undertaken by the LGA on national employers' negotiations, there was some suggestion that 6% was a more likely level for the period as well as a flat rate settlement similar to that seen in 2022/23. Therefore, the budget as proposed would carry a small amount of risk in relation to pay awards and would potentially need to be managed throughout the course of the forthcoming year.

Following the Officer's presentation, Councillor Goode sought clarity in relation to the reason for movement of contributions for each Partner Authority, as per the table above, which saw an increase in contributions for both Bridgend and Cardiff but a decrease for the Vale. In response, the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer for the Vale advised that the population figures used within the Core Budget section of the report reflected the data used by Welsh Government in the calculation of the 2023/24 budget settlements awarded to Councils. Therefore, the changes in contribution were due to population figures for each Authority area as set out in table 2.5 of the report.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Proposed Shared Regulatory Services Budget in respect of 2023/24 be approved.

(2) T H A T each individual Partner Authority be requested to approve in writing the Proposed Budget for 2023/24 by 10th March, 2023.

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Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the content of the report to seek the agreement of the Joint Committee in line with the Joint Working Agreement.
- (2) In accordance with the requirement of the Joint Working Agreement to allow the budget to be finalised prior to the start of the 2023/24 financial year.