



## **BCPP Joint Committee**

**Date of Meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Report Title:** Joint Committee Budget

**Report Sponsor:** Ian Bainbridge, Chair Officer Operations Group

### **1.0 Recommendation**

1.1 The Joint Committee is asked to note

- the final spend in 2018/19 was £17,300 against a budget of £30,000
- the position for the 2019/20 budget

### **2.0 2018/19 Joint Committee Budget**

- 2.1 At the Joint Committee meeting in January 2018 a budget of £30,000 was approved to cover the nine month period from July 2018 to March 2019. Any costs incurred prior to July 2018 were all part of the set up costs of pooling.
- 2.2 This Budget of £30,000 is based on a basic cost estimate included in a report from Deloitte, obtained in May 2016, as part of the initial cost benefit analysis for the submission to Government. As previously noted it is difficult to determine whether this budget is set at the appropriate level. This will be monitored both in year and for future years and adjusted accordingly.
- 2.3 The budget is intended to cover costs incurred by the Joint Committee and the partner funds, including the secretarial services to convene and run meetings, and for collective advice and support (internal and external) which may be required from time to time by all partner funds.
- 2.4 It is also considered reasonable that this budget is used to cover travel costs and expenses for any members or officers who are attending meetings to represent all partner funds. This will include but will not be limited to meetings with MHCLG and Cross Pool meetings. This budget will not be used where members and officers are attending meetings to represent their own funds including Joint Committee meetings and Officer Operations Group Meetings.
- 2.5 The budget will also be used to cover travel expenses for scheme member representatives appointed as observers to the Joint Committee. This is
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because they will be deemed to be representing the scheme members from all twelve funds.

- 2.6 In line with the cost sharing principles these costs will be shared equally between the partner Funds.

### **3.0 Final Expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

- 3.1 In 2018/19 the total expenditure against the budget of £30,000 was £17,300. A breakdown of the expenditure incurred is shown below;

Secretariat Support to Joint Committee - £900

Catering and Room Hire for Joint Committee - £800

Legal Advice - £15,300

Travel and Subsistence - £300

- 3.2 As can be seen from the paragraph above the largest element of cost is in relation to the legal work. Of this £13,000 relates to legal work undertaken by Burness Paull, who has been appointed by the funds to provide advice on the alternatives structures and legal agreements.
- 3.3 The remainder of the cost of legal work relates to legal support provided by South Tyneside Council in relation to the alternatives structures and also a co-ordination of work on governance arrangements.

### **4.0 Budget for 2019/20**

- 4.1 At the Joint Committee Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a budget of £40,000 was approved for 2019/20. This is in line with the budget for the nine month period of 2018/19 which was set at £30,000.
- 4.2 It should be noted however, that it remains difficult to determine whether this level of budget is appropriate.
- 4.3 A forecast of expenditure against this budget head has not been provided due the fact it is still very early into the financial year. It should be noted however that the provision of legal advice in relation to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest within the meaning of s31 Localism Act 2011 and dispensations, will be charged against this budget. At the time of writing the cost of this advice is unknown.

#### **Report Author:**

Ian Bainbridge, [ian.bainbridge@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:ian.bainbridge@southtyneside.gov.uk)

#### **Further Information and Background Documents:**

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