



## **Border to Coast Joint Committee**

**Date of Meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**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 current budget position for 2019/20
- Agree a budget for 2020/21 of £40,000

### **2.0 2019/20 Joint Committee Budget**

2.1 At the Joint Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 a budget of £40,000 was approved for 2019/20.

2.2 This Budget of £40,000 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 may be 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 from partner funds and external sources) 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 because they will be deemed to be representing the scheme members from all partner funds.

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

2.7 To the end of February 2020 total expenditure committed against the budget of £40,000 was £14,900. A breakdown of the expenditure incurred and committed is shown below;

Secretariat Support to Joint Committee - £1,600

Catering and Room Hire for Joint Committee - £2,700

Legal Advice - £10,000

Travel and Subsistence - £600

2.8 As can be seen from the paragraph above the largest element of cost is in relation to legal work. This relates to two pieces of legal work.

- Advice from Counsel in connection with the appointment of a Partner Fund Nominated Non Executive Director.
- External legal advice in connection with the Border to Coast Compensation Policy, following an error. This was discussed at the informal meeting of shareholders on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The advice is being taken on behalf of the Shareholders and will relate to a supplemental agreement to the main shareholder agreement. It has estimated this advice should cost around £5,000 and this is included in the figures above.

2.9 No other significant items of expenditure are forecast before the year end.

### **3.0 Proposed Budget for 2020/21**

3.1 It is proposed that the budget for 2020/21 should be retained £40,000.

3.2 Whilst the current spending in 2019/20 would suggest a cut in the budget could be considered, the Joint Committee is still in its early days of operation and future spending requirements may still be identified.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

4.1 The current expenditure is within the Joint Committee Budget.

4.2 It is proposed that the budget for 2020/21 is retained at the current level of £40,000.

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

N/A