



15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Report of the Chief Finance Officer**

**Report Title: Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring 2024/25**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To provide the Members of the South West Wales Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee with the Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring for year ended 2024/25.
<b>Recommendation</b>	That the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) receive the Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring for year ended 2024/25.
<b>Report Author</b>	Chris Moore
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Chris Moore
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Craig Griffiths

**1.0 Background:**

- 1.1 The SWWCJC was formally constituted on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Carmarthenshire County Council is acting as the Accountable Body responsible for discharging the councils' obligations in relation to the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC).
- 1.2 On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 the SWWCJC approved the 2024/25 budget which was set at £615,049 with a levy from each of the constituent authorities, reduced by 10% through the utilisation of reserves.

**2.0 Forecast Outturn 2024/25:**

- 2.1 The forecast outturn in **Appendix A** shows a total surplus of £128.2k
- 2.2 The main variances are:
- 2.2.1 The Accountable Body is expected to be overspent by £2.2k due to in External Audit work incorporating a performance audit within their scope.
- 2.2.2 Support Services are predicting an underspend of £43.6k which is due to the budgeted Senior Accountant post remaining vacant as not yet required due to the level of activity.



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
 Neath Port Talbot Council



Bannau  
 Brycheiniog



Parc Cenedlaethol  
 Arfordir Penfro  
 Pembrokeshire Coast  
 National Park



2.2.3 The Sub-Committee expenditure shows a forecast underspend of £86.7k, in respect of underspend on Planning and Programme management expenditure.

2.2.4 The Regional Management Office shows an underspend of £59.3k with the main differences being £52.7k Consultancy and Specialist Adviser work not being commissioned, £2.9k Printing & Copying, £1k Office consumables and £1.3k ICT and computer hardware budgets not currently being needed.

2.2.5 No provision has been made for any Contingency/Reserves due to the surplus position.

2.3 A reserve was set up for the underspends in 2022/23 of £384.8k and 2023/24 of £458.7k, and any further underspend in 2024/25 would increase the balance of this reserve.

2.4 The CJC is funded by the 4 local authorities, with the total budgeted amount split by population size (mid-year 2020 – Statswales.gov.uk) shown below:

<b><u>Local Authority Levy 2024/25</u></b>	<b><u>£</u></b>
City and County of Swansea Council (Levy)	191,188
Carmarthenshire County Council (Levy)	151,281
Neath Port Talbot CBC (Levy)	114,094
Pembrokeshire County Council (Levy)	99,414
	<b>555,978</b>

Under the current legislation the National Park Authorities (NPAs) are only financially obligated to support the strategic planning aspects of the CJC. Given that there is likely to be limited activity in terms of the Strategic Development Plan in 2024/2025 (with a budget of £20,600 allocated to the strategic planning sub-committee), it is not considered appropriate to raise a levy upon the NPA's in 2024/2025.

### **3.0 Financial Impact:**

3.1 The Quarter 3 Forecast Outturn for 2024/25 shows a surplus of £128.2k.

### **4.0 Integrated Impact Assessment:**

4.1 The CJC is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals.'

4.3 There is no requirement for an Integrated Impact Assessment for this report as the setting up of the CJC is underpinned by legislation and this report is to establish financial arrangements in accordance with legislation.

## **5.0 Workforce Impacts:**

5.1 There are no workforce impacts for this report.

## **6.0 Legal Impacts:**

6.1 The SWWCJC is responsible for undertaking periodic financial monitoring against approved budget in accordance with legislation and failure to do so would render the SWWCJC in breach of its obligations.

## **7.0 Risk Management Impacts:**

7.1 The SWWCJC is responsible for putting appropriate Governance arrangements in place for the management of risk and portfolio delivery. Failure to prepare Annual Return, on this occasion, would result in a breach of legal obligation.

## **8.0 Consultation:**

8.1 There is no requirement for formal consultation.

## **9.0 Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

9.1 To receive the Quarter 3 Financial monitoring for financial year 2024/25.

## **10.0 Implementation of Decision:**

10.1 This decision is proposed for implementation following a three-day call-in period.

## **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring 2024/25

**List of Background Papers:** None

Description		South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee				Notes
		Actual 2023/24 (£)	Budget 2024/25 (£)	Q3 Predicted Outturn 2024/25 (£)	Variance (£)	
<b>Expenditure</b>						
<b>Joint Committee</b>						
<b>Democratic Services</b>						
Democratic, Scrutiny and Legal Support Costs	87,800	76,648	76,648	-	Provided by NPT	
<b>Democratic Services Total</b>	<b>87,800</b>	<b>76,648</b>	<b>76,648</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Legal and Governance</b>						
Monitoring Officer and Service Support	17,000	19,448	19,448	-	Provided by NPT	
<b>Legal and Governance Total</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>19,448</b>	<b>19,448</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Accountable Body</b>						
Audit Wales Financial Audit	4,104	1,877	4,104	2,227		
Section 151 Officer Recharge	20,693	21,521	21,521	-	Provided by CCC	
<b>Accountable Body Total</b>	<b>24,797</b>	<b>23,398</b>	<b>25,625</b>	<b>2,227</b>		
<b>Governance &amp; Internal Audit</b>						
Internal Audit	14,600	23,170	23,170	-	Provided by Pembs	
Sub-Committee Support Costs & Expenses	5,000	18,150	18,150	-	Provided by Pembs	
<b>Governance &amp; Internal Audit Total</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>41,320</b>	<b>41,320</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Support Services</b>						
ICT & Data Protection Services	20,000	22,880	22,880	-	Provided by NPT	
Financial Services	5,000	59,289	15,702	- 43,588	Provided by CCC	
HR Services	-	11,440	11,440	-	Provided by NPT	
<b>Support Services Total</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>93,609</b>	<b>50,022</b>	<b>- 43,588</b>		
<b>Joint Committee Total</b>	<b>174,197</b>	<b>254,423</b>	<b>213,062</b>	<b>- 41,361</b>		
<b>Joint Scrutiny Committee</b>						
Room Hire	-	-	-	-	Included within Democratic Service costs	
Subsistence & Meeting Expenses	-	-	-	-	Included within Democratic Service costs	
Travel	-	-	-	-	Included within Democratic Service costs	
Democratic, Scrutiny and Legal Support Costs	-	-	-	-	Included within Democratic Service costs	
<b>Joint Scrutiny Committee Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>SWWCJC - Sub Committees</b>						
Economic Development SC	-	20,600	20,600	-		
Planning SC	-	20,600	20,600	-		
Transport SC	-	51,500	51,500	-		
Transport SC WG grant funded	124,106	100,000	100,000	-		
Energy SC	-	20,600	20,600	-		
Planning & Programme management	-	106,700	20,000	- 86,700		
<b>SWWCJC - Sub Committees Total</b>	<b>124,106</b>	<b>320,000</b>	<b>233,300</b>	<b>- 86,700</b>		
<b>SWWCJC - Regional Management Office</b>						
Salary (Inc. On-costs)	27,077	64,390	63,518	- 872		
Training of Staff	-	1,030	750	- 280		
Public Transport - Staff	-	258	200	- 58		
Staff Travelling Expenses	-	834	350	- 484		
Admin, Office & Operational Consumables	75	1,030	100	- 930		
Consultancy and Specialist Adviser Fees	-	52,742	-	- 52,742	Update of Website	
ICTs & Computer Hardware	-	1,288	-	- 1,288		
Subsistence & Meetings Expenses	1,272	1,030	1,000	- 30	4 proposed meetings	
Conferences, Marketing & Advertising	-	-	-	-		
Projects & Activities Expenditure	-	-	-	-		
Translation/Interpret Services	498	15,450	15,450	-	As of end of October the SWWCJC will fully adopt the Welsh Language Standards	
Printing & Copying	-	2,575	-	- 2,575		
<b>Regional Management Office Total</b>	<b>28,922</b>	<b>140,626</b>	<b>81,368</b>	<b>- 59,258</b>		
<b>Contingency/Reserves</b>						
Provision for Contingency/Reserves	-	-	-	-		
<b>Contingency/Reserves Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Total SWWCJC Expenditure</b>	<b>327,225</b>	<b>715,049</b>	<b>527,730</b>	<b>- 187,319</b>		
<b>Funding Contributions</b>						
<b>Partner &amp; Other Contribution</b>						
Brecon Beacons NPA	-	-	-	-		
Pembrokeshire Coast NPA	-	-	-	-		
Co-Opt Partners	-	-	-	-		
Welsh Government Revenue Grant	124,106	100,000	100,000	-	Award of Funding in relation to SWWCJC to develop Regional Transport Plan	
Interest	44,101	-	-	-		
<b>Partner &amp; Other Contribution Total</b>	<b>168,207</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Local Authority Levy</b>						
City and County of Swansea Council (Levy)	212,431	191,188	191,188	-	Levy charged to local authorities based on Population Size	
Carmarthenshire County Council (Levy)	168,090	151,281	151,281	-	Levy charged to local authorities based on Population Size	
Neath Port Talbot CBC (Levy)	126,771	114,094	114,094	-	Levy charged to local authorities based on Population Size	
Pembrokeshire County Council (Levy)	110,460	99,414	99,414	-	Levy charged to local authorities based on Population Size	
<b>Total Local Authority Levy</b>	<b>617,753</b>	<b>555,978</b>	<b>555,978</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Total SWWCJC Income</b>	<b>785,960</b>	<b>655,978</b>	<b>655,978</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Provision of Service - Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>458,735</b>	<b>(59,072)</b>	<b>128,247</b>	<b>187,319</b>		
<b>Movement to Reserves (Contingency)</b>						
<b>Description</b>						
Balance Brought Forward from previous year	384,824	843,559	843,559	-		
Net Provision of Service - Surplus / (Deficit)	458,735	- 59,072	128,247	187,319		
<b>Balance Carry Forward</b>	<b>843,559</b>	<b>784,488</b>	<b>971,806</b>	<b>187,319</b>		