

Worcestershire Regulatory Services

Supporting and protecting you

Joint Committee 21st November 2013

WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES BUDGET 2014/15

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Joint Committee:

- 1.1 Approve the Revenue Budget allocations for 2014/15 for the District Councils of;

Bromsgrove	£492,193
Malvern	£415,639
Redditch	£581,474
Worcester City	£600,755
Wychavon	£754,516
Wyre Forest	£574,347
	£3,418,924

- 1.2 and note that the Worcestershire County Council budget of £1,560,766 is subject to variation following discussions in relation to the proposed reduction for 2014/15.

Contribution to Priorities

The production of a robust budget position enables partners and the service to manage the financial position of the organisation.

Introduction/Summary

This report presents the revenue budget for 2014/15 in relation to Worcestershire Regulatory Services

Background

Members are aware that the proposed budget for 2014/15 has been discussed at the last meeting of the Joint Committee. This report presents the budget over the subjective areas of expenditure and proposes an approach to consider future savings plans from the County Council.

Report

Revenue Budget 2014/15

At the meeting of the Joint Committee in September 2013 a report was presented that detailed the revised cost allocation for the participating Councils. The aim of the review was to reallocate the costs associated with the delivery of Regulatory Services functions using a demand led rationale of resources deployed to each partner.

As part of the exercise to measure demand, officers have also undertaken a zero based budgeting review to ensure that the budgets reflect the true cost of the service for 2014/15. The initial saving realised was £489k. This saving is reasonable considering the value of underspends that the service has delivered over the last 3 years. Members should also note that there will be severance costs resulting from the reduction in establishment to realise the projected savings.

Further to the zero based budget exercise, officers reviewed the costs associated with the Health and Well Being service as these services are duplicated across the County. It was therefore agreed that a recommendation would be presented to participating Councils to enable the reduction of a further £157k from the WRS budget. The total saving for 2014/15 is therefore £646k.

As members are aware the County Council have recently presented a number of reductions to their budget over the next 3 years. Included within the proposals is a significant reduction to the Regulatory Services (mainly Trading Standards) funding of £1.5m. This cut has not been factored into the current budget position. Due to the a number of issues that this raises for WRS the Management Board has requested that a small working group comprising of Financial and Operational officers be tasked to examine the budget requirements and the financial costs associated with the delivery of such savings.

The budget presented at Appendix 1 is the position excluding any reduction from any Council. It is proposed that this is used as the basis for discussion with the County with the aim to plan the required savings level for 2014/15. Therefore there may be a variation to this budget, as a result of these discussions and it will then be necessary to hold a special Joint Committee in December to approve the revised 2014/15 budget.

The allocation of the 2014/15 Budget across the participating Councils is also included in Appendix 1. The partnership agreement that was agreed when WRS was set up protects the Districts from any financial consequence of the County

Council changes. Therefore the allocation at Appendix 1 shows the final Budget for the 6 District Councils to include the savings reported above.

Financial Implications

None other than those stated in the report

Sustainability

None as a direct result of this report

Contact Points

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Background Papers

Detailed financial business case
