

WRS Board
29th June 2023

**WORCESTERSHIRE REGULATORY SERVICES REVENUE MONITORING APRIL –
MARCH 2023 & ANNUAL RETURN**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1.1 Note the final financial position for the period April – March 2023
- 1.2 Approve the 2022/23 refund of £52k to the participating Councils.

Council	Refund from 2022/23 £'000
Bromsgrove District Council	7
Malvern Hills District Council	7
Redditch Borough Council	9
Worcester City Council	9
Wychavon District Council	12
Wyre Forest District Council	8
Total	52

- 1.3 Approve the creation of a reserve of £120k to address the additional impact of the likely pay award for 2023/4, and to add £10k to the reserve for replacement dog warden vans to address cost increases due to procurement delays.

Contribution to Priorities

The robust financial management arrangements ensure the priorities of the service can be delivered effectively.

Introduction/Summary

This report presents the final financial position for Worcestershire Regulatory Services for the period April – March 2023. In addition, a number of financial statements are appended to this report.

Background

During the financial year, quarterly financial reports are presented for consideration by the Partners and the Joint Board.

Report

The following reports are included for Joint Board's Attention:

- Revenue Monitoring Statement 2022/23 - Appendix 1
- Annual Statement 2022/23 - Appendix 2
- Annual Statement Analysis 2022/23 – Appendix 3
- WRS Income Analysis 2022/23 – Appendix 4
- Reserve Statement – Appendix 5

Revenue Monitoring

The detailed revenue report is attached at Appendix 1. This shows a final outturn refund of £182k, this represents 5.2% of the actual budget and is mainly due to:

- The inability to recruit like for like numbers of employees to backfill capacity committed to grant funded or other income generated work.
 - The outturn underspend is £151k greater than that forecasted at qtr 3. This is due to additional income of £90k, £45k additional income in relation to Planning Enforcement, £28k for AQ Monitoring Station funded by Wychavon and an additional £10k for bereavements.
 - Any grant funded expenditure is shown separate to the core service costs as this is not funded by the participating Councils.
 - As requested by the Board Appendix 1 details explanations relating to the variances.
 - It is proposed that the £182k is allocated as follows:
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- i. To transfer to WRS Reserves:
 - £10k towards a stray dog van
 - £120k to fund 23-24 pay award

In 2022/3, the service had to ask partners for additional funding to address the pay award (£1,925 on each spinal point,) as the 2% uplift originally budgeted for was not sufficient. In November, it was not anticipated that employers would make a similar offer in 2023/4, so the budget increase was 2% again.

The service has been trying to buy its replacement dog vans via a government procurement framework that offers better prices than buying direct from suppliers. However, delivery dates have been pushed back on multiple occasions and we have now reached a point where we can wait no longer, so some additional funding is required to purchase directly from suppliers.

- i. The remaining £52k, is proposed to be refunded back to partners as per below:

Bromsgrove District Council	£7,562
Malvern Hills District Council	£6,772
Redditch Borough Council	£9,111
Worcester City Council	£8,597
Wychavon District Council	£12,079
Wyre Forest District Council	£7,853

The refund to partners takes into account the adjustment for the overspend on Pest Control and all other charges to partners.

All partners have been advised of all recharges and refunds for completion of their statement of accounts.

Financial Implications

None other than those stated in the report

Sustainability

None as a direct result of this report

Contact Points

Peter Carpenter –
peter.carpenter@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk