

COUNCIL – 19 MARCH 2024

ITEM 4 - MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

In response to a question from Councillor Jerry Roodhouse, Councillor Martin Watson provided the following written response:

The C&W Growth Hub's total income last year from all sources (including central government grant, local authority contributions and contracts) was £798,024, against costs of £732,640, thus creating a surplus of £65,384. The forecasts for 2024/25 and 2025/26 are for income of £790,560 and £776,560 respectively, which should allow the Growth Hub to have a balanced budget with a small surplus.

If we look specifically at funding for Warwickshire (recognising that funding provided is often ring-fenced geographically, including the grant from central Government), the level of funding has actually increased significantly. In 2022/23 the funding available for delivery in Warwickshire was £383,500. In 2023/24, this increased to £496,500 (a 29% increase), and for 2024/25 and 2025/26 will be £481,000 and £451,000 respectively. The funding for delivery in Warwickshire at the end of the current business plan period is 18% above that which was available in 2022/23.

It is of course important that this funding generates effective and appropriate outputs and outcomes, and we work closely with the Growth Hub to review and manage performance against a set of Key Performance Indicators (focused on business engagement and effective referrals into appropriate business support programmes), and provision of funding is linked to this performance.

In response to a question from Councillor Jonathan Chilvers, Councillor Izzi Seccombe provided the following written response:

Any decision on the whip is for me to consider reflecting of course on all evidence available.