

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 11 - SUMMARY

Service	Revised Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variance	Action Required
Social Services						
<i>Older People</i>						
Localities	15.992	15.239	(0.752)	(0.819)	Residential and Nursing Care shows a projected overspend of £0.198m due to the increase in the Residential Care capital limit from £24k to £30k which was not fully funded by Welsh Government, and other additional service user demand influences. Domiciliary Care reflects a projected underspend of £0.523m based on existing service users, this position improved significantly at Month 10 as a consequence of additional one-off grant funding by Welsh Government for managing Winter Pressures in the final quarter of this financial year. Other underspends include £0.108m on Intake/First Contact of which £0.077m is due to part year vacancy savings from within the Single Point of Access team. Locality Teams show an underspend of £0.269m due to short term vacancy savings for a number of posts. Overall minor variances amount to £0.050m.	Continue to lobby Welsh Government seeking regional support on the basis that the additional funding allocated by Welsh Government was inadequate to meet the full cost of additional service users.
Community Equipment Contribution	0.478	0.363	(0.115)	(0.113)	Following review and implementation of an updated Section 33 partnership agreement for the North East Wales Community Equipment Store (NEWCES), the contribution levels of partners have been updated resulting in a reduced level of contribution from FCC going forward. In the longer term this saving has been earmarked for funding of some of the revenue costs for the new extra care facilities.	These savings have been earmarked for future realignment to meet some of the revenue costs funding requirement for the new Flint Extra Care facility - Llys Raddington.
Resources & Regulated Services	5.983	5.602	(0.381)	(0.388)	The main influences on the projected underspend are short term vacancy savings within extra care schemes £0.206m due to recruitment and retention difficulties in the care sector. Additional residential client contributions amount to £0.205m, and other minor variances amount to £0.030m.	Continue to monitor and review.
Minor Variances	0.706	0.663	(0.043)	(0.070)		
<i>Disability Services</i>						
Resources & Regulated Services	19.744	19.798	0.054	0.126	The reduced projected overspend of £0.054m is mainly due to demand influences within externally provided Supported Living, there are some offsetting under and overspends within Work Opportunities/Day Centre and PDSI services are being reviewed with a view to corrective action being taken by way of budget realignment.	Following recent feedback from Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny committee, a full review is being undertaken of the reasons for this overspend and an action plan will be drawn up with a view to early remedial action.
Disability Services	0.716	0.622	(0.094)	(0.165)	Increased CHC Funding for two service users under Transition to Adulthood from BCUHB. In addition, the contribution the Council is required to make for four high cost Transition service users to Welsh Government for residential college placements has reduced.	Continue to monitor and review.
Administrative Support	0.168	0.027	(0.141)	(0.162)	The projected underspend is due mainly to short term vacancy savings.	Continue to monitor and review.
Minor Variances	0.693	0.706	0.013	0.035		
<i>Mental Health Services</i>						
Residential Placements	1.140	1.414	0.274	0.272	Ongoing pressure due to the numbers of long term residential placements, despite maximisation of opportunities to secure joint funding contributions from BCUHB	Following feedback from Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny committee, a full review is being undertaken of the reasons for this overspend and an action plan will be drawn up with a view to early remedial action.
Minor Variances	2.530	2.445	(0.085)	(0.087)		

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Children's Services						
Family Placement	2.464	2.677	0.213	0.207	The projected overspend is due to the number of children in care. There has been an increase in the number of children who are subject to Foster Care/Special Guardianship/Adoption who have moved through the age barriers. Other influences include new adoption and Special Guardianship Order (SGO) payments and new Foster Carers entering the system, foster carers progressing from Level 1, 2, 3 and 4. Travel costs and Christmas and birthday allowances.	Following feedback from Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny committee, a full review is being undertaken of the reasons for this overspend and an action plan will be drawn up with a view to early remedial action.
Family Support	0.296	0.382	0.085	0.075	There are pay pressures due to a combination of new contractual arrangements having been implemented for sessional workers and a number of the staff working significant additional hours.	Continue to monitor and review.
Prevention & Support	0.142	0.234	0.091	0.067	The projected overspend relates to additional costs of legal fees including costs of barristers, court costs and professional fees relating to medical examinations.	Continue to monitor and review
Professional Support	4.801	5.031	0.230	0.239	The projected overspend is due mainly to ongoing service pressures particularly within Prevention and Support, and is influenced by the need to support wider regional work on child protection issues	Following feedback from Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny committee, a full review is being undertaken of the reasons for this overspend and an action plan will be drawn up with a view to early remedial action.
Out of County Placements	3.641	5.042	1.401	1.433	This pressure is a continuation in the increase in the number of high cost placements which was partly influenced by interpretations of additional responsibilities under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.	Pressure included in 2018/19 budget as partial mitigation. A project group has been set up to more proactively respond to identified needs, better manage demand for placements and develop the market to be more responsive and affordable.
Minor Variances	1.149	1.061	(0.088)	(0.038)		
Development & Resources						
Charging Policy income	(2.641)	(2.753)	(0.113)	(0.118)	The projected underspend is due to surplus income which is mainly caused by the full year impact of changes to disregard rules on financial assessments which came into effect from August 2016	Continue to monitor and review.
Safeguarding Unit	0.810	0.913	0.102	0.103	There are continued significant demand influenced pressures on this service particularly within Adults safeguarding due to a significant increase in the numbers of referrals and the ongoing impact of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DoLS) assessments.	Following feedback from Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny committee, a full review is being undertaken of the reasons for this overspend and an action plan will be drawn up with a view to early remedial action. A pressure for DoLS has been approved as part of the 2018/19 budget.
Good Health	0.941	0.806	(0.135)	(0.122)	The projected underspend is due to a number of short term vacancy savings and from recouping an overpayment from a Voluntary Organisation.	
Minor Variances	2.718	2.725	0.008	0.009		
Total Social Services	62.472	62.996	0.524	0.483		
Community & Enterprise						
Customer And Housing Services	1.570	1.621	0.051	0.038	Additional expenditure projected on Temporary Homeless Accommodation of £0.045m resulting from a reduction in HB income due to UC roll out. Other variances across the service £0.006m.	Continue to monitor increased expenditure in the Homelessness Service and report on any significant variances.
Council Fund Housing	(0.371)	(0.343)	0.028	0.033	There has been a one-off increase in Telecare costs due to a delay in implementing a new Alarm Monitoring contract, however, this is being offset by Vacancy savings within the Accommodation Support service. Purchase of carelink equipment of £0.042m. Other minor variances across the service (£0.014m).	The increased telecare costs are one-off and will not recur in 18/19 and beyond. We will continue to monitor all other income and expenditure in 17/18 and into 18/19.
Regeneration	0.412	0.508	0.097	0.103	Variance relates to Markets income review £0.060m and unachieved framework income for Energy Efficiency projects within 2017/18 £0.050m. Other minor variances within the service (£0.013m).	Continue to closely monitor income levels.
Revenues & Benefits	10.795	9.743	(1.052)	(1.054)	Projected underspend on the budgeted provision for Council Tax Reduction Scheme (£0.609m). Anticipated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund following the conclusion of the Single Person Discount review work (£0.381m). Increase in Enforcement Fee income in In House Bailiff team (£0.080m). Other minor variances within the service £0.027m.	Continue to monitor closely as these areas are highly volatile and projections are likely to change throughout the year.
Housing Programmes	0.140	0.141	0.001	0.005	Minor variances.	Continue to monitor and review.
Total Community & Enterprise	12.546	11.670	(0.876)	(0.876)		

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Streetscene & Transportation						
Ancillary Services & Performance						
Waste Collection	7.118	7.623	0.505	0.502	Adverse variance of £0.200m relating to lower than anticipated energy production at the Landfill sites and reduced electricity sales from reducing levels of gas extraction. Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) grant pressure £0.111m due to the reduction of the grant in 17/18 of 3.7%. Delay in the development of the new Rockcliffe Household Recycling Centre site resulting in additional running costs of two existing sites continuing to operate £0.100m. Increase in CPI apply to the waste treatment contract of 2.8% above the 1% built into the monitoring, 0.030m. £0.020m pressure from additional NNDR costs due to the reassessment of two HRC sites. Potential risk around plastic recycling prices. Its expected in 6 months time prices will drop due to external market factors.	Energy production income levels being monitored monthly and contracts being prepared for the service to be outsourced. Reported in Programme Board Efficiency Tracker Keep under review as part of MTFS Indicative reduction in ESD grant for 18/19 - £0.299m
Parking & Enforcement	(0.084)	0.017	0.101	0.102	Shortfall of income from Flint Car Parking £0.100m. Pressure due to the town centre re-development being ongoing and impacting on the rollout of changes across the town.	Keep under review as part of MTFS Reported in Programme Board Efficiency Tracker
Other Minor Variances	0.796	0.766	(0.030)	(0.001)		
Highways Network						
Highways Strategy	7.527	7.935	0.408	0.370	Due to ongoing discussions on Community Asset Transfers (CATs), the maintenance liability being transferred for Cemeteries to Town/Community Councils totalling £0.050m has not yet been implemented. Street lighting energy prices above the 2% standard with an increase of 16% resulting in a pressure of £0.131m. Public conveniences at Holywell and Mold (New Street) were due to close in April this year, however they will not close until March 2018 resulting in a pressure of £0.063m. The Winter Maintenance budget will be overspent estimated a figure of £0.250m due to the number of multiple snow events in the late part of the year, resulting in the use of winter maintenance reserves. An average winter consists of 70 turnouts and 5 snow days. The service has currently had 184 turnouts to date and 9,827 tonnes of salt was spread. The balance a cumulative amount of minor variances eg hire of plant.	Keep under review as part of MTFS. Reported in Programme Board Efficiency Tracker. Continue to monitor street lighting energy prices.
Transportation & Logistics						
Logistics & Resource Services	4.532	4.686	0.154	0.198	Shared specialist plant with neighbouring Authorities has not materialised from 16/17 business planning proposal £0.050m. Increase in Fleet insurance premium for 17/18 £0.100m	Keep under review as part of MTFS
School Transport	4.734	4.920	0.186	0.185	Ongoing additional subsidy costs following re-procurement for covering various school transport routes £0.185m	Reported in Programme Board Efficiency Tracker
Transportation	1.598	2.441	0.843	0.842	Ongoing additional subsidy costs following re-procurement for covering various public transport routes following the previous operator going into liquidation and the delay in introducing the Bus Subsidy efficiency in 17/18 £0.840m	Keep under review as part of MTFS. Reported in Programme Board Efficiency Tracker
Other Minor Variances	1.432	1.460	0.028	0.001		
Total Streetscene & Transportation	27.652	29.847	2.194	2.200		

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Planning & Environment						
Business						
Pollution Control	0.477	0.526	0.049	0.033	An increase in prosecutions for unlicensed and unsafe residential properties has resulted in two temporary Environmental Health Officers being recruited to deal with this increase in demand.	For 2018/19 Invest to Save funding for the 2 EHO posts for one financial year.
Minor Variances	1.085	1.062	(0.024)	(0.013)		Continue to monitor committed expenditure and reduce/remove expenditure where possible
Community						
Pest Control	0.004	0.066	0.062	0.061	Despite the fact that the service has seen an increase in referrals during 2016/17 and onwards into 2017/18, the income target is unlikely to be achieved, based on current projections.	
Minor Variances	0.897	0.826	(0.071)	(0.058)		Continue to monitor committed expenditure and reduce/remove expenditure where possible
Development						
Development Management	(0.384)	(0.179)	0.205	0.241	The projected Planning Fee Income shortfall has decreased in February due to a high number of planning fees received and is now currently projected at £0.230m as the economy has not continued to recover to the extent which the 3 year Business Plan forecast but the number of applications has increased. The annual income target for non-statutory Pre-Application Fees was met in Q1 and income has continued to remain at consistent levels.	Continue to monitor Planning Fee levels and adjust outturn accordingly
Minor Variances	0.158	0.152	(0.006)	(0.048)	Minor variances	Continue to monitor committed expenditure and reduce/remove expenditure where possible
Access						
Greenfield Valley	0.326	0.295	(0.031)	(0.034)	Vacancy savings and reduced zero hours contracts	Service review within Countryside is currently being undertaken
Minor Variances	1.015	1.002	(0.013)	(0.007)	Minor variances	Continue to monitor committed expenditure and reduce/remove expenditure where possible
Shared Services						
Minor Variances	0.177	0.169	(0.009)	0.000	Minor variances	Continue to monitor committed expenditure and reduce/remove expenditure where possible
Strategy						
Minor Variances	0.833	0.819	(0.013)	(0.013)	Minor variances	Continue to monitor committed expenditure and reduce/remove expenditure where possible
Management Strategy	0.343	0.449	0.106	0.119	Balance of Business Planning Efficiencies for Staffing	Continue to monitor committed expenditure and reduce/remove expenditure where possible
Minor Variances						
Total Planning & Environment	4.932	5.188	0.256	0.281		
Education & Youth						
Inclusion & Progression	6.843	7.162	0.320	0.298	Variance largely relates to Out of County placements £0.369m. Includes other minor variances from across the service area (£0.049m).	Continue close monitoring arrangements and updates following moderation meetings.
Integrated Youth Provision	1.338	1.269	(0.069)	(0.059)	Cumulative minor variances from across the service area.	
School Improvement Systems	1.807	1.742	(0.066)	(0.063)	Cumulative minor variances from across the service area.	
Business Change & Support	0.377	0.381	0.005	0.005	Minor variances	
School Planning & Provision	0.619	0.628	0.009	0.008	Minor variances	
Total Education & Youth	10.983	11.182	0.199	0.188		
Schools	88.933	88.933	0.000	(0.000)		
People & Resources						
HR & OD	2.029	2.241	0.212	0.198	Due to partial achievement of business planning efficiency and loss of income contribution from Wrexham Occupational Health Services	Service delivery options are being considered for the Occupational Health Service and a pressure to reflect this has been included in the 2018/19 budget
Corporate Finance	2.082	2.299	0.217	0.221	This is due to the roll-out of manager self service and the operating model review taking longer than planned	Continue to look for income maximisation and progress the structural review
Total People & Resources	4.111	4.540	0.429	0.419		
Governance						
Legal Services	0.688	0.713	0.026	0.023	Minor variances	Continue to monitor and review
Democratic Services	1.972	1.979	0.008	0.012	Minor variances	Continue to monitor and review
Internal Audit	0.443	0.372	(0.072)	(0.069)	Underspend due to in-year vacancies	Continue to monitor and review
Procurement	0.168	0.275	0.107	0.106	Due to a conscious decision to no longer pursue supplier income for registration onto the Councils payment portal	Pressure included in 2018/19 budget
ICT	4.432	4.460	0.028	0.058	Minor variance	Continue to monitor and review
Total Governance	7.703	7.800	0.096	0.130		

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Organisational Change 1						
Public Libraries & Arts, Culture & Events	0.763	0.755	(0.008)	(0.010)	Minor variances.	Continue to monitor and report on any significant variances.
Museums	0.028	0.028	(0.000)	(0.000)	Minor variances.	Continue to monitor and report on any significant variances.
County Archives	0.286	0.287	0.000	0.002	Minor variances.	Continue to monitor and report on any significant variances.
Leisure	4.460	4.546	0.087	0.087	Aura Leisure and Libraries Ltd was established on 1st September. This was delayed by 2 months due to a range of queries in 3 separate responses from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in registering the company. These issues are now resolved.	Continue to monitor and report on any significant variances.
Total Organisational Change 1	5.537	5.615	0.078	0.079		
Organisational Change 2						
Administrative Buildings	1.241	1.150	(0.091)	(0.112)	£(0.091)m estimated efficiencies predominantly from the rationalisation of County Hall.	
Property Asset And Development	0.446	0.357	(0.089)	(0.080)	£(0.066)m in year salary savings. Other minor variances	
Caretaking & Security	0.302	0.245	(0.057)	(0.053)	£(0.018)m contractor savings. Other minor variances	
CPM & Design Services	0.691	0.578	(0.113)	(0.125)	£(0.045)m projected additional income above target. £(0.070)m in year salary savings. Other minor variances.	
Industrial Units	(1.153)	(1.089)	0.065	0.073	£0.065m as a result of unachieved rental income, to be offset against office efficiencies.	
Minor Variances	0.813	0.814	0.001	0.035		
Total Organisational Change 2	2.339	2.055	(0.284)	(0.261)		
Chief Executive	2.926	2.797	(0.128)	(0.130)	In-year vacancy savings and underspend on specialist budgets such as sustainable development, Your Community/Your Council and public relations	Continue to monitor and review
Central and Corporate Finance	25.023	21.002	(4.021)	(3.561)	<p>An underachievement on the income target of £0.407m, though work is continuing to identify areas of opportunity.</p> <p>Support Services recharge, has resulted in a shortfall of £0.131m due to a reduction in overall operating costs.</p> <p>County Hall car parking income shortfall of £0.065m.</p> <p>Reduced audit fees, underspend of £0.106m.</p> <p>Social Services one off in year underspend of £1.608m held centrally to mitigate any in year overspend; £0.513m resulting from remaining pressure budgeted in 17/18 no longer required, £0.500m due to funding being secured from the Regional Integrated Care Fund, a revenue grant allocated on a one off basis. An additional £0.595m of Welsh Government funding for Social Care has recently been confirmed.</p> <p>Projected Pension fund variance £0.508m due to surplus of budget required for increase in contributions in 2017/18.</p> <p>Apprentice Tax Levy underspend of £0.079m, increased data has enabled a more accurate projection.</p> <p>Auto Enrolment of employees to the scheme became effective in October 2017. Early analysis indicates that the actual numbers are less than estimated which gives a favourable in year variance of £0.488m.</p> <p>Windfall income an underachievement of £0.085m.</p> <p>Centrally held inflation £0.254m, one off in year underspend.</p> <p>£1.422m underspend due to a change in the Minimum Revenue Provision policy.</p> <p>£0.242m underspend on the Central Loans and Investment Account.</p> <p>Minor variances £0.002m.</p>	<p>Work is continuing to identify areas of opportunity to generate income. A pressure has been included in the 2018/19 budget which will partially mitigate this. Budget pressures and efficiencies have been included to address these within the 2018/19 budget.</p> <p>Social services issues which have been included within 2018/19 budget.</p> <p>Pension Fund / Apprentice Tax Levy - Keep under review in year to consider potential for mitigation of 18/19 pressure.</p> <p>Auto enrolment - further analysis is required to assess the impact on 2018/19.</p> <p>Efficiency for pension fund contribution has been included as part of 2018/19 budget.</p> <p>Continue to monitor and review.</p>
Grand Total	255.156	253.626	(1.531)	(1.047)		