

Budget Monitoring Report

| Service | Approved Budget (£m) | Projected Outturn (£m) | Annual Variance (£m) | Impact of Covid-19 (£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m | Action Required |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Social Services | | | | | | |
| Older People | | | | | | |
| Localities | 20.679 | 20.066 | -0.612 | | The commissioned Older Peoples domiciliary and Direct Payment budget is expected to underspend by £0.747m based on recent months activity. There are recruitment and retention challenges within this service which is limiting the amount of care purchased. The residential care budget is projecting a £0.286m overspend due to the cost of placements net of income such as Free Nursing Care, Regional Integration Fund contributions and property income. The Localities staffing budget is expected to underspend by £0.056m as not all staff are currently top of grade and some costs are to be recharged. There are also underspends on the Minor Adaptation budget of £0.020m, the Day Care budget of £0.033m and the Sensory service level agreements of £0.042m. | |
| Resources & Regulated Services | 8.921 | 9.170 | 0.249 | | In-house residential care is expected to overspend by £0.286m due to staff and running costs. In-house homecare is estimated to underspend by £0.003m, the Extra Care budget by £0.005m, and Day Care by £0.029m. There is an assumption that we will receive £0.185m in Winter Pressures funding and this is built into these projections. | |
| Impact of Covid-19 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | | |
| Minor Variances | 1.269 | 1.248 | -0.021 | | | |
| Adults of Working Age | | | | | | |
| Resources & Regulated Services | 29.525 | 29.624 | 0.098 | | The Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired (PDSI) budget is showing a £0.108m overspend due to net costs of care packages. The in-house supported living service is £0.039m overspent but will likely increase if required recruitment is successful. The Learning Disability and Work Scheme budget is £0.067m overspent due in part to recent inflationary pressures. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disability services is a £0.116m underspend. | |
| Children to Adult Transition Services | 0.951 | 1.036 | 0.084 | | These are the estimated costs of young adults who have, in this financial year, transferred from Childrens Services. | |
| Residential Placements | 1.956 | 2.309 | 0.353 | | This is based on the net costs of current commissioned care packages within the Mental Health service. | |
| Minor Variances | 3.989 | 3.945 | -0.044 | | | |
| Children's Services | | | | | | |
| Family Support | 0.375 | 0.514 | 0.139 | | Costs are based upon the current activity levels over the last few months and projected forward for the year. Workforce costs, a large proportion of which are sessional staff, are the primary cost for this service. | |
| Legal & Third Party | 0.232 | 0.748 | 0.516 | | Legal costs are overspent due to the number of cases going through the courts and some use of external legal professionals. Direct Payments also continue to increase in demand. | |
| Residential Placements | 1.312 | 0.907 | -0.406 | | The in-year opening of some Childrens Residential care settings will mean that there will be one off cost savings, in addition it is expected that one off, non-recurring grant from Welsh Government will be received for start-up costs. | |

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| Professional Support | 6.173 | 6.351 | 0.178 | | To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to meet the challenges and demands of Children's Services. There is an assumption the Welsh Government will allow for flexible use of Children's Services grants which will allow for some cost pressures to be offset. | |
| Minor Variances | 3.537 | 3.577 | 0.040 | | | |
| Safeguarding & Commissioning | | | | | | |
| Safeguarding Unit | 1.291 | 1.081 | -0.210 | | A consultation for the updated Liberty Protection Safeguard legislation continues to be undertaken. Due to the delay in implementing the legislation there will be an in-year saving. | |
| Impact of Covid-19 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | | |
| Minor Variances | -2.242 | -2.283 | -0.040 | | | |
| Total Social Services (excl Out of County) | 77.969 | 78.292 | 0.323 | 0.000 | | |
| Out of County | | | | | | |
| Children's Services | 10.097 | 11.286 | 1.189 | | The projected overspend reflects significant additional demands on the service in the year to date with 24 new placements having been made in the year to date - most of which are high cost residential placements - there is provision for a contingency sum of £0.250m, for net impacts of further new placements and other placement changes but this may not prove to be enough. | |
| Education & Youth | 5.004 | 4.640 | -0.364 | | The underspend reflects the current cohort of placements and there have been 16 new placements in the year to date with further new placements also likely to emerge as the year progresses. | |
| Total Out of County | 15.101 | 15.926 | 0.825 | 0.000 | | |
| Education & Youth | | | | | | |
| Inclusion & Progression | 5.233 | 5.211 | -0.021 | | Minor net savings mainly within the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) service with some offsetting the pressure at Canolfan Enfys. | |
| School Improvement Systems | 1.889 | 1.757 | -0.132 | | Payments to Non-Maintained Settings (NMS) and Maintained Settings (MS) are projected similar to those of 2021/22. WG have announced continuation of top-up funding to £5/hr so provides the Early Entitlement (EE) budget increasing financial capacity. Alongside this, Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards (RRRS) Grant and Early Years pupil Development Grant (EYPDG) have had increases announced, allowing core budget to be released. Proposed efficiency savings currently under review. | |
| Minor Variances | 2.813 | 2.676 | -0.137 | | Cumulative minor variances of less than £0.050m across Youth Justice, Business Change & Support, School Planning & Provision and Archives. | |
| Total Education & Youth | 9.935 | 9.644 | -0.290 | 0.000 | | |
| Schools | 108.420 | 108.420 | -0.000 | | | |
| Streetscene & Transportation | | | | | | |

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| Service Delivery | 9.047 | 9.294 | 0.247 | | The service has a recurring pressure of £0.100m for security costs due to vandalism at the Household Recycling Centres. Street lighting is also incurring a £0.070m shortfall on the Community Council Income Budget. The remaining £0.080m is attributable to high sickness levels. | |
| Highways Network | 8.096 | 8.583 | 0.487 | | Highways is incurring a pressure of £0.400m in Fleet services as a result of rising fuel costs. Also an additional £0.050m cost increase for weed spraying following a recommendation from Environment Scrutiny, which is not covered by the existing service budget. | |
| Transportation | 10.031 | 10.195 | 0.164 | | Local Bus Service Budget is incurring additional overspend of £0.100m due to the Park and Ride Service and Service 5 re-procurement. School Transport is incurring a pressure of £0.090m, due to additional pressure on the budget for 3 school days because of Easter timelines in this financial year. Minor positive variances account for the remainder. | |
| Impact of Covid-19 | 0.000 | 0.190 | 0.190 | 0.190 | Service Delivery has a recurring pressure of £0.100m for additional contractors spend and Traffic Management, as the service has been unable to provide the required training and has also faced recruitment delays during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Workforce is also incurring an additional £0.090m of costs due to COVID related sickness levels. | Quarter 1 claim to be submitted for consideration from the Emergency Hardship Fund Contingency Reserve. |
| Other Minor Variances | 11.292 | 11.269 | -0.023 | | | |
| Total Streetscene & Transportation | 38.466 | 39.531 | 1.064 | 0.190 | | |
| Planning, Environment & Economy | | | | | | |
| Community | 0.890 | 0.967 | 0.077 | | Fee income shortfalls in Licensing and Pest Control and historic business planning efficiency £0.024m not realised | |
| Development | 0.146 | -0.100 | -0.246 | | Favourable variance following receipt of a 'one off' Planning Fee £0.300m | |
| Regeneration | 0.807 | 0.765 | -0.042 | | Staff savings following continuation of Grant Funding secured for the Social Enterprise Post, minor variances across the Service | |
| Management & Strategy | 1.385 | 1.269 | -0.116 | | Staff savings due to vacant posts | |
| Impact of Covid-19 | 0.000 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0.036 | COVID-19 related additional cleaning costs for Countryside Service and Environmental Health Officer costs | |
| Minor Variances | 3.569 | 3.581 | 0.012 | | | |
| Total Planning & Environment | 6.797 | 6.562 | -0.236 | 0.036 | | |
| People & Resources | | | | | | |
| HR & OD | 2.284 | 2.151 | -0.133 | | Staff savings due to vacant posts in Occupational Health Service plus commitment challenge across the Service | |
| Corporate Finance | 2.041 | 2.014 | -0.027 | | | |
| Total People & Resources | 4.324 | 4.164 | -0.160 | 0.000 | | |
| Governance | | | | | | |
| Democratic Services | 2.374 | 2.284 | -0.089 | | Variance as a result of the Members Allowances new rate not being implemented until May, 2022 and lower than anticipated take up of both Broadband and Pension Allowances (£0.108m) ; plus minor variances across Service | |
| Customer Services | 1.018 | 0.902 | -0.116 | | Registrars Fee Income higher than anticipated and savings from vacant posts | |

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| Revenues | 0.201 | 0.088 | -0.113 | | The variance results from the projected potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.117m) based on current information; minor variances across the Service account for the remainder | |
| Impact of Covid-19 | 0.000 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0.001 | | |
| Minor Variances | 7.180 | 7.168 | -0.012 | | | |
| Total Governance | 10.772 | 10.442 | -0.330 | 0.001 | | |
| Strategic Programmes | | | | | | |
| Minor Variances | 6.116 | 6.096 | -0.020 | | | |
| Total Strategic Programmes | 6.116 | 6.096 | -0.020 | 0.000 | | |
| Assets | | | | | | |
| Caretaking & Security | 0.264 | 0.182 | -0.082 | | Savings on salaries due to vacancies | |
| Minor Variances | 0.048 | 0.084 | 0.036 | 0.000 | | |
| Total Assets | 0.312 | 0.266 | -0.046 | 0.000 | | |
| Housing and Community | | | | | | |
| Benefits | 13.260 | 12.910 | -0.350 | | Projected underspend of -£0.640m on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) which is offset by pressures on recovery of overpayments including a shortfall against the income budget target which has previously been compensated by the WG COVID-19 Hardship Fund and also due to the need to increase the bad debt provision for recovery of overpayments | |
| Housing Solutions | 1.154 | 0.990 | -0.163 | | Mostly due to savings on salaries due to vacancies and ongoing recruitment challenges | |
| Minor Variances | 0.248 | 0.244 | -0.004 | | | |
| Total Housing and Community | 14.662 | 14.145 | -0.518 | 0.000 | | |
| Chief Executive's | | | | | | |
| | 2.256 | 2.186 | -0.071 | | Variance due to vacant post and not all staff at top of scale, together with commitment challenge across the Services | |
| Central & Corporate Finance | | | | | | |
| | 28.769 | 28.543 | -0.226 | | Over recovery of planned pension contributions recoupement against actuarial projections based on the current level of contributions | |
| Centralised Costs | 2.783 | 2.752 | -0.030 | | | |
| Grand Total | 326.682 | 326.967 | 0.285 | 0.226 | | |