

## Budget Monitoring Report

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
<b>Social Services</b>						
<b>Older People</b>						
Localities	23.596	22.855	-0.741		The Older Peoples residential care budget is projecting an underspend of £0.527m, due to client income from property recharges and expected reimbursements where we are waiting on decisions for deputyships and assets held in trust. Commissioned homecare is £0.257m underspent caused by continued recruitment challenges to the care sector, although an improvement has been seen since last year. Locality staffing and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.072m due to a few reasons including loss of Health Inequalities Funding for £0.030m, increased legal costs £0.029m and increases to Service Level Agreements of £0.014m. Day care is underspent by £0.029m.	
Resources & Regulated Services	9.399	9.477	0.077		In-house residential care is expected to overspend by £0.274m due to staff and running costs. In-house homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.184m due to vacancies as recruitment of home carers continues to be challenging. The Extra Care budget is overspent by £0.082m due to staff costs and Day Care is underspent by £0.095m as most day settings are not open.	
Minor Variances	1.299	1.288	-0.011			
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>						
Resources & Regulated Services	33.469	33.296	-0.173		The Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired (PDSI) budget is reporting a £0.244m overspend due to the costs of care packages. The in-house supported living service is £0.102m overspent due to care hours and agency costs, a £0.350m contribution from reserves is currently offsetting further costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for learning disabilities is a £0.475m underspend due to placement demand. The learning disability day service is £0.044m underspent.	
Residential Placements	2.207	2.794	0.588		This is the overall cost of care packages for mental health service users. This can be a volatile service and additional service needs can be identified during the year leading to increased costs.	
Minor Variances	5.019	5.003	-0.015			
<b>Children's Services</b>						
Family Group Meetings	0.122	0.172	0.050		Demand for the service is resulting in an increase in sessional worker hours	
Family Placement	3.175	2.906	-0.270		This is due to the current number of in-house Foster Carers within the service being less than the number which we have historically had.	
Integrated Working	0.206	0.265	0.059		Cost pressures are due to contributions towards the Integrated Family Support Service and a shortfall from Supporting People Funding	
Legal & Third Party	0.262	0.649	0.387		Legal costs are overspent by £0.137m due to the number of cases going through the courts and some use of external professionals. Client Support and Section 17 costs are overspent by £0.232m. Direct payments are overspending by £0.019m due to demand.	
Residential Placements	1.595	1.181	-0.414		The in-house residential care provision continues to expand with an additional group home planned to open this financial year, in year costs for the service are being offset by a significant Welsh Government grant. The grant has been confirmed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 but is not expected to be extended beyond this time	

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Professional Support	5.951	6.765	0.813		To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be 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 the service, the overspend resulting from such arrangements is £0.228m. Two managed agency teams are currently being contracted to support the service, reserves are being utilised to mitigate most of the costs but there is an overspend of £0.341m as a result, costs may change if there is a requirement to extend the contracts further. The Leaving Care budget, which supports young people who were LAC (looked after children), is overspending by £0.143m due to increasing number of care leavers. The cost of some external service contracts are £0.102m overspent due to inflationary pressures.	
Minor Variances	0.694	0.706	0.012			
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>						
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.937	0.996	0.060		A new Social Services IT system is being implemented which requires additional project management and development costs	
Charging Policy income	-3.265	-3.402	-0.138		This is the income from service users who are charged a contribution towards the care they receive	
Minor Variances	2.157	2.184	0.027			
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>86.821</b>	<b>87.134</b>	<b>0.313</b>			
<b>Out of County</b>						
Children's Services	12.281	13.056	0.775		The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 21 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements.	
Education & Youth	5.004	5.230	0.226		The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 17 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements.	
<b>Total Out of County</b>	<b>17.285</b>	<b>18.286</b>	<b>1.001</b>			
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>						
Integrated Youth Provision	0.947	0.877	-0.070		Mainly due to vacancy savings	
School Improvement Systems	1.836	1.756	-0.080		There has been a projected reduction in the Early Entitlement service in payments to settings due to demography. Top-up subsidy continuing and other Welsh Government grants, allowing core budget to be released within the service. There is also a reported £0.022m underspend within the School Improvement service. This is an underspend on the £0.028m pressure for the Digital Advisor post. The role has been appointed to, but is not starting until September 2023, creating a saving against the additional budget received.	
Business Change & Support	0.454	0.523	0.069		Overspend in the main relates to the cost of the annual Access System Licence fee £0.040m minor variances account for the remainder	
Archives	0.351	0.404	0.053		Overspend is due to increased recharge from Denbighshire CC towards costs of shared service	
Minor Variances	6.314	6.272	-0.041			
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>9.902</b>	<b>9.832</b>	<b>-0.070</b>			

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<b>Schools</b>	<b>114.081</b>	<b>114.081</b>	<b>0.000</b>			
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>						
Service Delivery	9.808	10.190	0.382		A variance of £0.200m relates to Alltami Depot costs. The overspend is a combination of Cleaning Price increases from Newydd, Security (new tender costs increased) and Repair Contractors costs. An additional £0.182m is mainly due to a pot holes repairs backlog over the last 6 months resulting in increased costs within 2023/24	
Highways Network	8.514	8.598	0.084		This is due to increased Streetlighting Energy costs following the annual renewal of the contract being higher than projections.	
Regulatory Services	11.305	11.472	0.167		The overspend variance is due to sustained high volumes of residual black waste being collected, together with the reduction in income levels for both recyclable materials and a reducing return on electricity generation from gas and solar at the former landfill sites.	
Other Minor Variances	11.118	11.122	0.004			
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>40.745</b>	<b>41.382</b>	<b>0.637</b>			
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>						
Development	0.024	-0.267	-0.290		Receipt of a one off high value Planning Fee (£0.300m for Northern Gateway)	
Access	1.544	1.689	0.145		Variance relates to estimated costs for Ash Die Back works	
Climate Change	0.165	0.102	-0.063		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Management & Strategy	1.354	1.088	-0.266		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Minor Variances	3.971	3.961	-0.010			
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>7.057</b>	<b>6.573</b>	<b>-0.484</b>			
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>						
HR & OD	2.239	2.187	-0.053		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Corporate Finance	2.082	2.094	0.012			
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>4.321</b>	<b>4.281</b>	<b>-0.041</b>			
<b>Governance</b>						
Legal Services	0.942	1.120	0.178		Additional costs for locum services covering vacant posts	
Democratic Services	2.411	2.478	0.067		Backdated Superannuation costs and current level of Members Allowances	
ICT	5.143	5.193	0.050		In year pressure following the delay in Agile Apps Project requiring additional funding	
Customer Services	1.040	0.911	-0.129		Staff savings from vacant posts and higher than anticipated fee income levels	
Revenues	0.566	0.383	-0.183		Projected surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	1.333	1.324	-0.009			
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>11.435</b>	<b>11.410</b>	<b>-0.025</b>			
<b>Assets</b>						
CPM & Design Services	0.674	0.587	-0.087		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Minor Variances	10.371	10.330	-0.041			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>11.045</b>	<b>10.916</b>	<b>-0.128</b>			
<b>Housing and Community</b>						

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Housing Solutions	2.233	4.640	2.407		The Housing Solutions service is currently reflecting a net projected overspend of £2.407m. This is mainly due to a projected overspend of £3.413m on temporary accommodation within Hotels and B and B provision, which is being offset by additional Housing Benefit income of -£0.562m. There are also other projected underspends and mitigation impacts within the wider Housing Solutions service amounting to a net figure of £0.444m, including use of reserves, minor salary savings due to vacancies and use of WG grant income	
Minor Variances	13.466	13.463	-0.002			
<b>Total Housing and Community</b>	<b>15.698</b>	<b>18.103</b>	<b>2.405</b>			
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>1.608</b>	<b>1.614</b>	<b>0.006</b>			
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>32.121</b>	<b>31.151</b>	<b>-0.970</b>		The projection on the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) at Month 4 is an underspend of (£1.000m) where the Council has not taken out new short or long term borrowing and continues to invest a significant amount of funds. This pattern has continued from the previous financial year resulting in no short term borrowing costs being incurred and the Council generating increased income from investments, which have increased in line with rising bank interest rates.	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>352.121</b>	<b>354.765</b>	<b>2.644</b>			