

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 9

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	In-year Moratorium (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services							
Older People							
Localities	23.247	23.474	0.227	0.063	-0.111	The Older Peoples residential care budget is projecting an overspend of £0.056m due to service demand net of client income from property recharges and expencted reimbursements where we are waiting on decisions of deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.029m overspent. Locality workforce and professional support budgets are underspent by (£0.097m) due to vacancies, and day care is underspending by (£0.024m).	
Resources & Regulated Services	10.264	10.100	-0.164	-0.042	0.000	In-house residential care is expected to overspend by £0.087m due to staff and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.0260m due to vacancies. The Extra Care budget is projecting an overspend of £0.115m due to staff costs and day care is underspent by £0.106m.	
Minor Variances	1.360	1.326	-0.034	-0.042	0.000		
Adults of Working Age					0.000		
Children to Adult Transition Services	1.001	0.777	-0.224	-0.202	0.000	This is the cost of care packages for young adults transferring from Children's Services to Adult Social Care. Care packages are new this financial year and need to be estimated in the first instance, meaning costs can change throughout the year as service costs are finalised.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.468	0.370	-0.097	-0.086	-0.011	The impact of in-year vacancies is resulting in the service underspend.	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.818	0.757	-0.062	-0.054	-0.007	There are vacancies within this service and recruitment has been delayed resulting in the underspend.	
Residential Placements	2.607	2.856	0.250	0.314	0.000	This is the overall cost of care packages for mental health service users. This is a volatile service and additional service needs can be identified throughout the year leading to increased costs.	
Professional Support	0.859	0.801	-0.058	-0.058	-0.100	The underspend is due to in-year vacancies. Most of these have been filed now, with one vacancy remaining to be appointed to.	
Substance Misuse	0.385	0.331	-0.054	-0.036	0.000	There are currently three posts vacant within this service.	
Minor Variances	35.384	35.321	-0.063	-0.053	0.000		
Children's Services					0.000		
Family Group Meetings	0.126	0.217	0.091	0.072	-0.005	High demand is resulting in increased sessional workers hours and therefore increased costs.	
Family Placement	3.175	3.085	-0.090	-0.222	0.000	There are lower numbers of in-house foster carers than we have historically had	
Integrated Working	0.210	0.270	0.060	0.062	0.000	Pressures are due to contributions toward the Integrated Family Support Service and a shortfall in Supported People Funding	
Family Support	0.416	0.469	0.053	0.050	-0.020	Demand is high for this service which is resulting in additional sessional staff hours	
Legal & Third Party	0.262	0.602	0.340	0.336	0.000	Legal costs are overspent £0.206m due to the number of cases going through courts and some use of external legal professionals. Client support and Section 17 costs are overspent by £0.133m due to demand. Direct Payments are overspending by £0.001m.	
Residential Placements	1.669	1.331	-0.339	-0.343	0.000	The in-house residential care provision is in receipt of a significant Welsh Government grant which is offsetting in-year costs.	

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Professional Support	6.128	6.961	0.833	0.958	-0.020	To sport adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are minimised where possible and additional temporary posts are sometimes required to meet the challenges demands of Childrens Services. Two managed agency teams are currently contracted to support the service. Reserves are being used to mitigate costs as much as possible but there is an overspend of £0.705m as a result. These costs wil increase if contracts are extended. The Leaving Care budget, which supports young people who were looked after children, is overspending by £0.040m due to increased numbers of care leavers which includes young adults who were unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Cost of Direct Payments to provide support to children with disabilities is £0.126m overspent due to service demand. Smaller variances across the service are £0.122m underspent.	
Minor Variances	0.361	0.375	0.014	0.013	0.000		
Safeguarding & Commissioning					0.000		
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.988	1.081	0.092	0.089	-0.032	A new social services IT system is being implemented. This requires additional project management and development costs.	
Charging Policy income	-3.385	-3.539	-0.153	-0.150	0.000	This is the income from service users who are charged a contribution towards the care they receive.	
Minor Variances	2.892	2.867	-0.025	0.002	-0.007		
Total Social Services	89.235	89.833	0.598	0.670	-0.313		
Out of County Placements							
Children's Services	12.281	13.762	1.480	1.338	0.000	The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 44 new placements made in the year to date and no longer any remaining contingency provision for the final quarter of the year.	
Education & Youth	5.004	5.127	0.123	0.189	0.000	The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 25 new placements made in the year to date and a remaining contingency provision of £0.100m for the final quarter of the year.	
Total Out of County Placements	17.285	18.889	1.603	1.526	0.000		
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)							
Inclusion & Progression	5.577	5.435	-0.142	-0.142	-0.110	Further in-year savings were identified at Month 8 within the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) service and Travellers service. Previously committed expenditure of £0.050m to offset the Primary School ALN Band C overspend, has now been funded from the Local Authority Education Grant - ALN Learner Provision funding. A further £0.060m was identified within the Traveller service from the 2022-23 budget c/f of £0.095m. This was committed for Trauma training. One course has been run to date and the service have made the decision not to run any more courses in 2023-24, therefore releasing the balance of £0.060m as a saving.	
Integrated Youth Provision	0.959	0.860	-0.098	-0.106	-0.030	Savings from staff vacancies	

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School Improvement Systems	1.866	1.691	-0.175	-0.163	0.000	The School Improvement service reported an underspend at Month 8, relating to the Digital Adviser post. This role has not been appointed until September 2023, therefore creating an in-year saving. Other savings within the service relate to unexpected income from several grants around ACL (Adult Community Learning) to offset manager time. A further £0.034m was identified from additional grants - £0.027m from the Shared Prosperity fund Multiply project, £0.003m from the Citizens Curriculum grant and £0.004m for the secondment work to Estyn. The saving within the Early Entitlement service has come from a reduction in the payments to settings due to demography. The top-up subsidy continuing and other Welsh Government grants is allowing core budget to be released within the service.	
Minor Variances	1.925	1.956	0.030	0.043	0.000		
Total Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	10.327	9.942	-0.385	-0.367	-0.140		
Schools	114.043	114.291	0.248	0.232		Redundancy costs £0.290m over budget after taking account of reserves carried forward, Free School Meals price increase and take up totalling £0.126m, mitigated by (£0.100m) underspend in pension added years and a number of minor variances totalling (£0.084m) but each below (£0.025m).	
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	10.843	11.068	0.225	0.236	-0.077	Service Delivery have implemented tight controls to the allocation of PPE, materials and receptacles through the in-house stores. Changes to the security provision in the Alltami Depot, Greenfield transfer station and HRC sites have generated savings in 2023/24, following a review of the service needs. Depot and HRC site cleaning costs have also been reviewed and reduced by £0.010m. The service is subject to increasing inflationary pressures and demand for temporary repairs on the road network, largely due to a lack of funding and investment in the highway network and fluctuating costs of tar and traffic management for repairs. Any overall overspend, is partly offset by performance of the in-house construction team delivering work such as 20mph scheme rather than contracting the work externally.	
Highways Network	8.594	9.927	1.333	1.266		The renewal of the fleet contract through contract extension from October, 2023 has realised an in-year overspend of £0.658m, of which £0.532m is Council Fund related within the centralised fleet budget. £0.170m is attributable to increases in both road fuel and streetlighting energy, increased insurance premiums and defective highway network infrastructure repairs. The projected costs in relation to the clean up and reinstatement works required following Storm Babet and Storm Ciaran have now increased by a further £0.500m to £1.5m. It is anticipated that some Emergency Financial Assistance Funding (EFAS) from WG can be claimed alongside the utilisation of the Severe Weather Reserve bringing the net cost down to a projected £0.579m.	Further increases on the Fleet Contract in 2024/25 are being considered within the MTFS.
Transportation	11.350	11.142	-0.208	-0.187	-0.190	Vacancies within Transport Strategy and moratorium on recruitment are contributing to the overall underspend.	
Regulatory Services	11.440	11.544	0.104	0.152	-0.120	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	-0.000	-0.075	-0.075	-0.000			
Total Streetscene & Transportation	42.227	43.681	1.454	1.467	-0.387		

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Planning, Environment & Economy							
Development	0.138	-0.189	-0.327	-0.336	-0.021	Receipt of a one off high value Planning Fee (£0.300m for Northern Gateway)	
Access	1.618	1.699	0.081	0.065	-0.047	Projected cost of Ash Die Back works projected to March, 2024 mitigated by savings from vacant posts and Countryside grant maximisation	
Climate Change	0.183	0.113	-0.070	-0.070	-0.007	Staff savings from vacant posts	
Regeneration	0.813	0.677	-0.136	-0.109	-0.020	Staff savings from vacant posts, Wales Rally GB budget saving, maximisation of grant income	
Management & Strategy	1.409	1.161	-0.248	-0.206	-0.046	Staff savings from vacant posts ; commitment review	
Minor Variances	3.396	3.350	-0.046	-0.022	-0.082		
Total Planning & Environment	7.557	6.811	-0.746	-0.678	-0.223		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.419	2.342	-0.077	-0.104	-0.046	Staff savings from vacant posts	
Corporate Finance	2.277	2.176	-0.101	-0.092	-0.097	Staff savings from vacant posts; feasibility studies projected expenditure lower than previously anticipated	
Total People & Resources	4.697	4.518	-0.179	-0.195	-0.143		
Governance							
Legal Services	0.992	1.194	0.202	0.205		Additional costs for locum services covering vacant posts	
Democratic Services	2.468	2.503	0.035	0.049		Backdated Superannuation costs and current level of Members Allowances	
Internal Audit	1.051	0.978	-0.074	-0.031	-0.043	Staff savings from vacant post, moratorium deferred expenditure on Agency/Consultation, revised outturn on postage costs	
Procurement	0.320	0.271	-0.049	-0.022	-0.027	Revised contribution to Denbighshire County Council for the Service	
ICT	5.328	5.265	-0.063	-0.074	-0.147	Estimated cost for packaged software application (Flare) lower than previously anticipated (£0.076m), delayed project savings £0.030m Moratorium, minor variances across the Service	
Customer Services	1.129	0.918	-0.211	-0.210	-0.060	Staff savings from previous vacancies, higher than anticipated fee income in Registrars, commitment challenge across the Service impact of the moratorium	
Revenues	0.655	0.412	-0.243	-0.142		Projected surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.005		
Total Governance	11.943	11.540	-0.403	-0.225	-0.282		
Assets							
Administrative Buildings	0.353	0.354	0.000	-0.000			
CPM & Design Services	0.713	0.522	-0.191	-0.191		Due to increased fee income	
Industrial Units	-1.527	-1.586	-0.059	-0.038		Additional rent income	
Minor Variances	11.955	11.836	-0.120	-0.095	-0.020	Caretaking & Security (£0.045m), Policy (£0.036m).	
Total Assets	11.141	10.771	-0.370	-0.324	-0.020		
Housing and Communities							

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Housing Solutions	2.334	5.022	2.687	2.719		The Housing Solutions service is currently reflecting a net projected overspend of £2.687m. This is mainly due to a projected overspend of £3.583m on temporary accommodation within Hotels and B and B provision, which is being offset by additional Housing Benefit income of (£0.441m). There are also other projected underspends and mitigation impacts within the wider Housing Solutions service amounting to a net figure of £0.455m, including additional internal allocation of HSG to fund salary costs, use of reserves, minor salary savings due to vacancies and use of WG grant income. The service are actively implementing a number of mitigation measures, some of which may have operational impacts on other parts of the wider Housing service, which will be incorporated within an action plan to reduce the current level of projected overspend within the Homelessness service.	
Minor Variances	13.656	13.651	-0.004	0.005	-0.030		
Total Housing and Communities	15.990	18.673	2.683	2.724	-0.030		
Chief Executive's	1.672	1.656	-0.016	-0.005	-0.010		
Central & Corporate Finance	26.003	24.018	-1.985	-1.882			
Soft Loan Mitigation	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		The initial projection on the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) was reported as an underspend of (£1.550m) due to the Council having not taken out any new short or long term borrowing and continuing 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 bank interest rates. The favourable variances improved further following the receipt of an NDR Windfall (£0.048m) at Month 6. Further reviews on the CLIA during October (£0.100m), November (£0.250m) and December (£0.100m).have positively increased the variance further up to the (£2.000m).	
Grand Total	352.121	354.624	2.502	2.942	-1.548		