

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 4 - SUMMARY

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						
Adult Social Care - Older People						
Localities	19.211	19.179	-0.032		The net cost of residential care is reporting an overspend of £0.043m. This includes the cost of residential care placements net of the income received for this service, such as property charges and contributions from health. Day care is £0.023m under budget and will not resume until safe to do so, this is currently assumed to be at the beginning of January 2022. Domiciliary and Direct Payments are reporting a combined overspend of £0.059m, this service is under considerable demand pressures.	
Resources & Regulated Services	8.627	8.450	-0.177		The Councils in-house care provision is projected to underspend by £0.312m. Day care is underspent by £0.013m, day centres are closed and will only be opened once it is safe to do so. The day centre staff are being deployed to residential care to assist in delivering the service, however the staff costs are still recorded against the day care budget. Homecare is £0.130m overspent and there is increasing demand for this service. Residential care is expected to underspend by £0.237m although there is an assumption that ICF slippage and Winter Pressure funding will occur this year and contributions from these are included within the financial projections. Extra care is underspent by £0.056m due to the level of demand.	
Minor Variances	1.263	1.240	-0.022			
Adult Social Care - Adults of Working Age						
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.503	0.450	-0.054		The underspend is due to the current costs of care packages for young people transferring into Adult Social Services, net of any contributions from Welsh Government and health.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.329	0.269	-0.060		Not all staff are currently paid at top of grade and there are also some staff who have been seconded from this service.	
Residential Placements	1.791	2.195	0.404		The overspend is the cost of social care for people within the Mental Health service. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary care and Direct Payments.	

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Minor Variances	30.474	30.476	0.001			
Children's Services						
Family Placement	2.700	2.853	0.153		The overspend is due to service demand from the number of foster placements. In some instances these avoid having to make expensive Out of County placements. The main pressures are payments to foster carers, foster agencies and special guardianship payments.	
Grants	0.268	0.213	-0.055		There is an assumption that the Welsh Government will allow for a flexible approach in the use of grants as occurred in 2020/21 which would result in some costs within this service to be grant funded.	
Family Support	0.368	0.422	0.054		Increased number of support worker hours are required due to current demand.	
Legal & Third Party	0.210	0.581	0.371		Legal costs are overspent due to the number of cases going through the courts and use of some external legal professionals. Direct Payments have also increased in demand.	
Residential Placements	0.599	0.449	-0.150		This is an in-year underspend associated with the opening of a registered Childrens Home within Flintshire, in-year grant funding from the Young People and Childrens Services Transformation Fund is being used to offset start up costs.	
Professional Support	5.387	5.963	0.576		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 therefore minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required. There are £0.110m agency adoption costs included within the projected spend, these costs are normally avoided as adoptions are made through the North Wales Adoption Agency, however due to a drop in the number of available adopters alternative agencies are required.	
Minor Variances	0.425	0.484	0.059			
Safeguarding & Commissioning						
Safeguarding Unit	0.953	1.014	0.061		There has been a requirement to appoint an additional Independent Reviewing Officer on a temporary fixed term basis to mitigate current service risks and pressures.	

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Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	Welsh Government is providing financial assistance through the hardship funding for the Councils in-house residential, supported living, homecare and extra care services. Most additional costs incurred due to Covid are staff costs which are reported within their respective service areas.	
Minor Variances	-2.523	-2.561	-0.038			
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	70.587	71.375	0.788	-0.300		
Out of County						
Children's Services	8.417	9.338	0.921		The pressure reflects the current cohort of placements - a significant number of new placements were made in the second half of 2020/21 resulting in full year impacts in 2021/22 -	
Education & Youth	4.504	4.480	-0.024		The current projected underspend on this element of the pooled budget reflects the current cohort of placements however this may reduce if further new placements are made in the remainder of the year	
Total Out of County	12.921	13.818	0.897	0.000		
Education & Youth						
Inclusion & Progression	4.462	4.390	-0.072		In year efficiencies have been identified in the MEAG (Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant) service £0.040m and Educational Psychologists service £0.020m. The MEAG service received £0.200m more in grant funding for 21-22. This funding has been used to recruit temporary posts, resulting in core budget being underspent. The Educational Psychologists service have recruited 3 Assistant EPs. The in year saving has arisen due to posts not being a full year cost.	
Integrated Youth Provision	1.018	0.959	-0.059		Due to savings on building cleaning at Youth Centres closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic	

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School Improvement Systems	1.823	1.669	-0.155		The underspend in Early Entitlement includes the maximisation of the Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grant (EYPDG) by allocating existing staff against the grant - £18,500. An efficiency of £0.100m has been identified in relation to WG top-up funding for non-maintained settings, releasing core budget of £0.095m and resources mitigated by utilising EYPDG £0.005m. £0.050m contingency remains within the budget to cover any increased Spring Term 22 costs.	
Minor Variances	1.727	1.674	-0.052			
Total Education & Youth	9.030	8.692	-0.338	0.000		
Schools	101.937	101.937	-0.000			
Streetscene & Transportation						
Service Delivery	8.696	8.654	-0.042		The service has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.050m security costs following vandalism at the Household Recycling Centres from prior years. Street-lighting is also incurring a £0.120m pressure on the Community Council Income Budget target. This has been largely offset by Workforce Agency costs in excess of £0.200m which have been recovered through Covid Claims.	
Highways Network	7.847	7.911	0.064		Additional overspend of £0.050m in staff costs related to flooding and drainage costs.	
Transportation	9.750	9.879	0.129		Local Bus transport incurred a revenue pressure of: £0.100m in Service 5 local Bus re-procurement and £0.100m implementation of the Deeside shuttle bus Park and Ride. Also additional costs of £0.049m due to increased number of 7 school days opposed to budgeted 5 school days. The total additional costs have been partially offset by projected underspend of (£0.144m) in local bus services contributed by the global pandemic as not all services have returned. However this underspend could significantly reduce once the service recovers from the pandemic.	
Regulatory Services	5.173	5.258	0.085		Car parking income currently reflects the projected loss of £0.100m, in line with the WG Income Loss funding eligibility criteria.	

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Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.320	0.320	0.320	Service Delivery has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.050m for additional cleaning/maintenance costs in Alltami depot as a result of the Pandemic. Waste operations are showing additional costs of £0.090m in receptacles due to higher demand in waste collections as an effect of people working form home. This service area is also experiencing additional revenue pressure of £0.090m in Hired Plant maintenance and repairs. Additional costs of £0.090m incurred in Contractors spend and Traffic Management. The service was unable to provide required training and recruitment delays during the Covid-19 Pandemic.	The eligibility of these costs will continue to be discussed and challenged with WG.
Total Streetscene & Transportation	31.466	32.022	0.556	0.320		
Planning, Environment & Economy						
Community	0.883	0.978	0.095		Overspend is as a result of fee income shortfalls in both Licensing and Pest Control.	This may improve following the second quarter of the year as the Welsh Government COVID Fee Income Loss grant panel will assess delayed income and may address the shortfall.
Management & Strategy	1.311	1.188	-0.123		Vacant posts across the service	
Minor Variances	3.966	3.939	-0.027			
Total Planning & Environment	6.160	6.106	-0.055	-0.000		
People & Resources						
HR & OD	2.465	2.455	-0.009			
Corporate Finance	2.166	2.082	-0.084			
Total People & Resources	4.631	4.537	-0.093	0.000		
Governance						
Democratic Services	2.121	2.028	-0.092	0.001	The underspend in the main follows the reduced take up of Members Allowances and savings from travelling expenses due to remote meetings, together with commitment challenge across the service	
ICT	4.445	4.395	-0.050	0.019	Reduced expenditure on Records Management and minor variances across the service. Revised contribution to Denbighshire CC for Procurement Contract	

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Customer Services	0.998	0.935	-0.063		Favourable variance is due to higher than anticipated fee income levels resulting from the resumption of Ceremonies following the relaxation of the majority of COVID restrictions.	
Revenues	0.476	0.200	-0.275		Favourable variance as a result of the potential projected surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.193m), Welsh Government Lockdown Grant Admin grant and minor variances across the service	
Minor Variances	2.157	2.100	-0.057			
Total Governance	10.196	9.659	-0.538	0.020		
Strategic Programmes						
ADM's & CAT's	4.648	4.657	0.010			
Total Strategic Programmes	4.648	4.658	0.010	0.000		
Housing & Assets						
Caretaking & Security	0.262	0.199	-0.063		Projected underspend is due to salary savings on vacant posts	
Industrial Units	-1.237	-1.467	-0.230		Additional unbudgeted income from new power generation lease	
Benefits	12.850	12.949	0.099		Pressures arising from bad debt provision increase in respect of overpayments - there is a potential however for an improvement in the overall position for the service if WG confirm ongoing support from COVID-19 Hardship Fund for additional staffing costs beyond September	
Minor Variances	5.296	5.320	0.024			
Total Housing & Assets	17.172	17.001	-0.171	0.000		
Chief Executive's	2.417	2.287	-0.130		Vacant Posts across the Service	
Central & Corporate Finance	26.292	26.104	-0.188		Over recovery of planned pension contributions recoupment against actuarial projections based on the level of contributions received during the year. Final outturn on Matrix rebates, and inflation pressures anticipated but not required	
Grand Total	297.457	298.195	0.738	0.040		