

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 10 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services							
Older People							
Localities	19.310	19.078	-0.232		-0.139	The net cost of residential care is reporting an overspend of £0.318m. 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 provision is £0.033m under budget and is not resuming until safe to do so. Domiciliary and Direct Payments are reporting an underspend of £0.323m. The Localities workforce budget is underspent by £0.147m, significant recruitment and retention challenges mean that there are several vacancies which are currently unable to be recruited to. The Minor Adaptation budget is £0.023 below budget based on current demand and the Sensory Service Level Agreement budget is £0.025m underspent.	
Resources & Regulated Services	8.627	8.124	-0.503		-0.437	The Councils in-house care provision is projected to underspend by £0.446m. Day care is underspent by £0.029m, day centres are closed and will only reopen once safe to do so. Homecare is £0.049m overspent, demand for the service is high, but there are also challenges recruiting staff. Residential care is expected to underspend by £0.429m. Extra Care is underspent by £0.073m.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004		
Minor Variances	1.235	1.204	-0.031		-0.030		
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	26.894	27.339	0.445		0.353	The overspend is the cost of social care packages for people with learning or physical impairments. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary care and Direct Payments, which are required to meet their assessed needs.	
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.503	0.437	-0.067		-0.040	This represents the costs of care packages for young people who have transferred from Children's Services to Adult Social Care. Care packages can comprise of homecare, supported living, residential care and Direct Payments.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.329	0.234	-0.096		-0.093	Not all staff are paid top of grade and some staff are seconded from this service.	
Supporting People	-0.323	-0.378	-0.055		-0.020	Additional in-year grant has been received this year.	
Residential Placements	1.791	2.067	0.276		0.379	The overspend is due to the cost of social care for people supported by the Mental Health service. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary and Direct Payments.	
Minor Variances	3.766	3.710	-0.056		-0.080		
Children's Services							
Grants	0.268	0.209	-0.059		-0.060	In-year grant awards have allowed for some costs usually funded from revenue budget to be funded from grant instead.	
Legal & Third Party	0.210	0.496	0.286		0.299	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.	

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Residential Placements	0.549	0.376	-0.173		-0.175	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 Children's Services Transformation Fund is being used to offset start-up costs.	
Professional Support	5.387	5.501	0.114		0.406	To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies try to be minimised, however current recruitment and retention challenges have meant vacancies are required to be covered in alternative ways. Welsh Government have allowed for more flexible use of grants this year and use of these grants has helped to minimise this overspend.	
Minor Variances	3.543	3.539	-0.004		0.016		
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Charging Policy income	-3.104	-3.345	-0.241		0.012	In 2020/21 a provision was set up to refund some historic over charges. The refunding of the overpayments has almost been completed and it is expected that £0.258m will not be required from the provision set aside and this will be drawn down into the revenue budget before the end of the financial year.	
Management & Support	-2.502	-4.656	-2.155		0.007	There has been an additional grant for £2.167m provided to Flintshire for Winter Pressures and Social Care Overspend. Due to the timing of this grant it is unlikely that this grant will be able to spent on additional services and will instead offset costs already incurred, which reduces the overall spend of the portfolio significantly.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300		
Minor Variances	4.155	4.151	-0.004		0.004		
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	70.640	67.788	-2.851	-0.294	0.107		
Out of County							
Children's Services	8.417	9.293	0.876		0.902	The projected overspend reflects the costs of the current cohort of placements with the budget pressure being influenced by the full year impacts in 2021/22 of a number of new placements made in the second half of 2020/21. This has continued in 2021/22 with a further influx of new placements. The true pressure level has also been partly mitigated by an allocation of £0.650m of one-off grant income from the Welsh Government Social Care recovery fund.	
Education & Youth	4.504	4.516	0.012		-0.042		
Total Out of County	12.921	13.809	0.888	0.000	0.860		
Education & Youth							

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Inclusion & Progression	4.475	4.385	-0.090		-0.071	Underspend due to in year savings identified within the MEAG service, £0.040m. The grant for 2021-22 was double the amount than the previous year. This additional funding has been used to recruit temporary posts, resulting in the core budget being underspent. The Education Psychology service underspend of £0.020m relates to in year salary savings. The additional £0.030m underspend has arisen from reducing projected spend by offsetting against late grants being confirmed.	
Integrated Youth Provision	1.018	1.018	0.000		-0.121	Due to savings on building cleaning charges at Youth Centres which have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic	
School Improvement Systems	1.823	1.596	-0.228		-0.195	The underspend within the School Improvement service is as a result of maximising the Post 16 grant and reducing projected spend. The underspend in the Early Entitlement service includes the maximisation of the EYPDG by allocating existing staff against the grant of £18,500. An efficiency of £0.100m has been identified in relation to the WG top-up funding for non-maintained settings, releasing core budget of £0.095m and setting resources mitigated by using the RRRS grant. A £0.050m contingency has been left within the budget to cover any increased Spring Term 2022 costs.	
Business Change & Support	0.442	0.391	-0.051		-0.050	Savings on salaries and software costs	
Minor Variances	1.299	1.138	-0.161		-0.032	Cumulative variances across the portfolio	
Total Education & Youth	9.058	8.527	-0.531	0.000	-0.469		
Schools	101.923	101.923	0.000		0.000		
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	8.696	8.955	0.259		0.245	The service has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.050m for security costs following vandalism at the Household Recycling Centres. Plant hire and repairs incurring additional costs of £0.050m, which is attributable to aging plant and equipment. Street lighting is also incurring a £0.095m revenue pressure on the Community/Town Council Income Budget. Remaining £0.060m is related to high sickness levels.	
Highways Network	7.899	8.084	0.185		0.200	There have been significant costs in the region of £0.115m following Storms Arwen and Barra for the clean-up and for making the highways network safe. The highways service area has also incurred an overspend in excess of £0.050m in staffing costs relating to flooding and drainage costs. There are also cumulative minor variances totalling £0.037m across the service, including some additional staff recharges.	

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Transportation	9.750	9.768	0.018		0.030	Local bus service subsidy incurred a revenue pressure of: £0.100m as a result of the Service 5 reprocurement following withdrawal by the commercial operator and £0.100m for the implementation of the Deeside Shuttle Bus Service at the new DIP Park and Ride. Also, additional costs incurred of £0.100m in School Transport due to 5 emergency routes at Maes Hyfryd and 4 new PRU routes. The overspend is also attributable to the increased number of school days, 7 days as opposed to budgeted 5 additional school days. The total additional costs have been largely offset by a projected underspend in Social Services Transport as not all services have returned to full operation following the pandemic. However, this underspend could significantly reduce once services start to resume.	
Regulatory Services	5.173	5.159	-0.014		-0.006	Car parking income currently reflects a loss of £0.229m, through maximising eligible funding from the WG Income Loss fund. The service has also incurred savings in recruitment and maintenance costs of parking machines. The overall overspend has been largely offset by favourable market rates for the sale of recyclable materials, but the markets remain volatile and uncertain.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.281	0.281	0.281	0.281	Service Delivery has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.050m for additional cleaning and maintenance costs in Altami depot as a result of the pandemic. Waste operations are showing additional costs of £0.045m in receptacles due to higher demand in waste collections as an effect of people working from home. This service area is also experiencing an additional revenue pressure of £0.090m in plant hire, maintenance and repairs. Additional costs of £0.090m incurred in contractors spend and Traffic Management, as the service was unable to provide the required training and has also faced recruitment delays during the Covid-19 Pandemic.	Continue to maximise WG Hardship Funding to 31/03/2022.
Total Streetscene & Transportation	31.517	32.247	0.729	0.281	0.751		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Business	1.793	1.716	-0.077		-0.044	Staff savings from vacant posts and commitment challenge across the Service.	
Community	0.878	0.978	0.100		0.099	Adverse variance due to the shortfall in Fee Income in both Licensing and Pest Control Services	
Development	0.019	-0.293	-0.312		-0.299	Favourable variance due to higher than anticipated fee income in Planning and Land Charges.	
Access	1.309	1.362	0.053		0.033	The adverse variance results from historic income targets not able to be met currently; additional staff time and minor variances across the service each less than £0.010m	
Regeneration	0.721	0.635	-0.085		-0.062	Minor favourable variances across the service	
Management & Strategy	1.311	1.112	-0.199		-0.168	Staff savings due to vacant posts	
Minor Variances	0.130	0.140	0.010		0.014		
Total Planning & Environment	6.160	5.650	-0.510	-0.000	-0.426		

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People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.465	2.318	-0.147		-0.139	Favourable variance is due to the projected income from the agreed recharge for overheads claimed for the Test, Trace & Protect Project for hosting the service on behalf of the region to March, 2022.	
Corporate Finance	2.106	2.022	-0.085		-0.085	Staff savings due to vacant posts	
Total People & Resources	4.571	4.339	-0.231	-0.000	-0.224		
Governance							
Democratic Services	2.125	2.065	-0.059		-0.075	The majority of the variance relates to the reduced take up of Members Allowances and savings from travel expenses due to remote meetings, together with commitment challenge across the service.	
Customer Services	1.020	0.940	-0.080		-0.095	Favourable variance is due to higher than anticipated fee income levels resulting from the resumption of Ceremonies following the relaxation of COVID restrictions.	
Revenues	0.475	0.217	-0.259		-0.422	Favourable variance is in the main, due to the projected potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.265m), Welsh Government Lockdown Admin Grant and minor variances across the service - reduced by Carry Forward Request £0.334m at period 10.	
Minor Variances	6.603	6.463	-0.140		-0.101		
Total Governance	10.223	9.685	-0.538	0.000	-0.693		
Strategic Programmes							
Minor Variances	4.648	4.609	-0.039		-0.041		
Total Strategic Programmes	4.648	4.609	-0.039	0.000	-0.041		
Housing & Assets							
Caretaking & Security	0.242	0.174	-0.068		-0.072	Savings on staffing due to vacancies	
Industrial Units	-1.237	-1.467	-0.230		-0.230	Due to unbudgeted income received from a new lease at power generation site	
Benefits	12.850	12.564	-0.287		-0.268	Due to an underspend on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme with expected increase in uptake following ending of UK Government furlough scheme not yet materialising	
Housing Solutions	1.049	0.867	-0.182		-0.152	Mostly due to underspends on staffing due to vacancy savings and increase Housing Support grant internal allocations	
Minor Variances	1.505	1.540	0.036		0.105		
Total Housing & Assets	14.410	13.678	-0.731	0.000	-0.617		
Chief Executive's	2.353	2.210	-0.142		-0.164	Staff savings due to vacant posts	

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Central & Corporate Finance	26.251	25.957	-0.294		-0.268	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recouped against actuarial projections based on the current level of contributions received during the year. Projected outturn on Matrix Rebates and inflation pressures anticipated, but not required to date.	
Centralised Costs	2.783	2.430	-0.352		-0.352	Favourable variance due to the fixed electricity rate being set lower than current market levels and an overall reduction in consumption levels	
Grand Total	297.457	292.853	-4.604	-0.014	-1.537		