

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 7 - SUMMARY

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	23.046	22.971	-0.075	-0.194		The Older People residential care budget is projecting an underspend of £0.147m, due to client income from property recharges and expected reimbursements where we are waiting on decisions for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.093m overspent. Locality workforce and professional support budgets are overspent £0.001m and day care is underspending by £0.022m.	
Resources & Regulated Services	9.494	9.558	0.064	0.026		In-house residential care is expected to overspend by £0.180m due to staff and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.173m. The Extra Care budget is projecting an overspend of £0.158m due to staff costs and day care is underspent by £0.101m.	
Minor Variances	1.293	1.284	-0.009	-0.003			
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	33.469	33.393	-0.076	-0.145		The PDSI (physically disabled and sensory impaired) budget is reporting a £0.437m overspend due to the net costs of care packages. The in-house supported living service is £0.155m 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 disability services is £0.600m underspent. The learning disability service day provision is £0.068m underspent.	
Children to Adult Transition Services	1.001	0.834	-0.168	-0.109		This is the cost of care packages for young adults transferring from Childrens Services to Adult Social Care. Care packages are usually new to this financial year and often estimated in the first instance, meaning costs can change throughout the year as service costs are finalised.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.397	0.342	-0.055	-0.050		The underspend is due to in-year vacancies.	
Residential Placements	2.607	2.942	0.335	0.286		This is the overall cost of mental health care packages. This is a volatile service and additional service needs can be identified throughout the year leading to increased costs.	
Minor Variances	3.452	3.321	-0.131	-0.101			
Children's Services							
Family Group Meetings	0.122	0.182	0.061	0.053		Demand for this service is resulting in increased sessional worker hours	
Family Placement	3.175	2.972	-0.203	-0.164		The underspend is due to the number of in-house foster carers within the service being lower than those which we have historically had.	
Integrated Working	0.206	0.263	0.057	0.059		Pressures are due to contributions toward the Integrated Family Support Service and a shortfall in Supporting People Funding.	
Legal & Third Party	0.262	0.542	0.280	0.269		Legal costs are overspent by £0.146m 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 £0.124m. Direct Payments are overspending by £0.010m due to demand.	
Residential Placements	1.595	1.247	-0.348	-0.288		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	5.824	6.734	0.909	0.856		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 be able to meet the challenges and demands of Childrens Services, the resulting overspend from such arrangements is £0.113m. Two managed agency teams are currently being contracted to support the service, reserves are being used to mitigate most of these costs but there is a projected overspend of £0.523m as a result, cost will increase if there is a requirement to extend contracts further. The Leaving Care budget, which supports young people who were Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.114m due to increasing numbers of care leavers. The cost of some external contracts are £0.080m overspent due to inflationary pressures. Cost of Direct Payments to provide support to children with disabilities is £0.079m overspent due to service demand.	
Minor Variances	0.694	0.752	0.058	0.024			
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.937	1.025	0.089	0.089	-0.032	A new social services IT system is being implemented which requires additional project management and development costs	
Charging Policy income	-3.385	-3.542	-0.157	-0.155		This is the income from services users who are charged a contribution towards the care they receive	
Minor Variances	2.616	2.661	0.046	0.076			
Total Social Services	86.803	87.482	0.678	0.530	-0.032		
Out of County							
Children's Services	12.281	13.388	1.107	1.070		The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 34 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements.	
Education & Youth	5.004	5.234	0.230	0.223		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.	
Total Out of County	17.285	18.622	1.337	1.293	0.000		
Education & Youth							
Inclusion & Progression	5.298	5.266	-0.032	-0.024		Staff savings from vacant posts.	
Integrated Youth Provision	0.947	0.862	-0.085	-0.068	-0.017	Mainly due to staff vacancies	
School Improvement Systems	1.836	1.719	-0.118	-0.093		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. The School Improvement service have a reported underspend of £37k. This relates to the pressure budget of £0.028m for the Digital Advisor Post. This role was not appointed to until September 23, therefore creating a saving. Other underspends relate to income from several grants around ACL to offset manager time.	
Minor Variances	1.820	1.870	0.049	0.049			
Total Education & Youth	9.902	9.716	-0.186	-0.136	-0.017		

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Schools	114.081	114.313	0.232	0.193	0.000	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 each below (£0.0250m).	
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	9.808	10.039	0.231	0.220	-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 as per MTFS 2023/24, following a review of the service needs. Cleaning costs have also been reviewed and reduced. 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	8.514	9.754	1.239	0.734		The renewal of the fleet contract through contract extension from October 2023 has realised an in-year overspend of £0.658m. The remaining variance of £0.170m is attributable to increases in energy costs in both road fuel and streetlighting energy, increased insurance premiums, and defective highway network infrastructure repairs. Additional costs of £1m are projected in relation to the clean up and reinstatement works required following Storm Babet and more recently Storm Ciaran. It is anticipated that some Emergency Financial Assistance Funding (EFAS) from WG can be claimed alongside utilisation of the Severe Weather Reserve, bringing the net cost down to a projected £0.500m.	Further increases on the Fleet Contract in 2024/25 are being considered within the MTFS.
Transportation	11.118	11.020	-0.098	-0.018	-0.080	Vacancies within Transport Strategy and moratorium on recruitment are contributing to the overall underspend	
Regulatory Services	11.305	11.530	0.225	0.220		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.	
Total Streetscene & Transportation	40.745	42.343	1.597	1.155	-0.157		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Development	0.024	-0.291	-0.314	-0.328		Receipt of a one-off high value Planning Fee (£0.300m for Northern Gateway)	
Access	1.544	1.666	0.122	0.162	-0.040	Projected cost of Ash Die Back works to March, 2024 mitigated by savings from vacant posts	
Climate Change	0.165	0.102	-0.062	-0.062		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Regeneration	0.846	0.736	-0.109	-0.050	-0.020	Staff savings from vacant posts; Wales Rally GB budget saving; maximisation of Grant Income.	
Management & Strategy	1.354	1.151	-0.203	-0.206		Staff savings from vacant posts together with at Month 7 confirmation of the Welsh Government Flood Risk Management Grant allocation for Flintshire at £0.225m.	
Minor Variances	3.125	3.167	0.043	0.072	-0.024		
Total Planning & Environment	7.057	6.533	-0.524	-0.412	-0.084		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.257	2.170	-0.087	-0.058	-0.029	Staff savings from vacant posts	

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Corporate Finance	2.082	2.014	-0.068	-0.014	-0.063	Revised projection for Feasibility Study costs and staff savings from vacant posts	
Total People & Resources	4.339	4.184	-0.155	-0.072	-0.092		
Governance							
Legal Services	0.942	1.147	0.206	0.201		Additional costs for locum services covering vacant posts	
Democratic Services	2.411	2.480	0.069	0.069		Backdated Superannuation costs and current level of Members Allowances	
ICT	5.168	5.117	-0.051	0.067	-0.108	Estimated cost for packaged software application(Flare) lower than previously anticipated £0.076m, commitment challenge and minor favourable movements.	
Customer Services	1.040	0.873	-0.167	-0.143	-0.020	Staff savings from vacant posts and higher than anticipated fee income levels	
Revenues	0.566	0.393	-0.173	-0.192		Projected surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	1.333	1.311	-0.022	-0.012	-0.005		
Total Governance	11.460	11.322	-0.139	-0.011	-0.133		
Assets							
CPM & Design Services	0.674	0.581	-0.093	-0.093		Due to increased fee income	
Minor Variances	-0.674	-0.581	0.093	0.093	-0.005		
Total Assets	11.045	10.836	-0.210	-0.208	-0.005		
Housing and Communities							
Housing Solutions	2.232	4.882	2.649	2.748		The Housing Solutions service is currently reflecting a net projected overspend of £2.649m. This is mainly due to a projected overspend of £3.503m on temporary accommodation within Hotels and B and B provision, which is being offset by additional Housing Benefit income of (£0.444m). There are also other projected underspends and mitigation impacts within the wider Housing Solutions service amounting to a net figure of £0.410m, 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 exploring a number of mitigation measures, some of which may have operational impacts on other parts of the wider Housing service, which when approved will be incorporated within an action plan to reduce the current level of projected overspend within the Homelessness service.	
Minor Variances	13.466	13.490	0.024	0.022	-0.010		
Total Housing and Communities	15.698	18.371	2.673	2.770	-0.010		
Chief Executive's	1.608	1.618	0.009	0.008			
Central & Corporate Finance	32.096	30.453	-1.643	-1.551		The projection on the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) is an underspend of (£1.550m) due to the Council having not taken out any 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 bank interest rates. The favourable variance increased further following the benefit of a £0.048m NDR windfall at Month 6. The variance has improved further following a review of the CLIA forecast underspend, with an improvement of £0.100m for October.	
Grand Total	352.121	355.792	3.671	3.559	-0.530		