

Budget Monitoring Report 2024/25 - Month 5

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium related Savings (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services							
Older People							
Localities	24.534	25.591	1.057	0.662		Residential care costs for older people are projecting an overspend of £0.603m due to demands for this service. This amount is net of client income from property recharges and reimbursements for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.391m overspent. Localities workforce and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.038m and day care is overspending by £0.015m. There is a real risk that cost will escalate as pressure to minimise stays in hospitals continues. This risk will increase as we enter the winter period.	To mitigate expected escalating costs and number policies are being reviewed and amended to maximise financial benefit and reduce costs
Resources & Regulated Services	10.010	9.900	-0.110	-0.118		In-house residential care is projecting an overspend by £0.328m due to employee and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.435m, although demand is high it cannot be met due to recruitment challenges. The Extra Care budget is expected to overspend by £0.108m due to employee costs and day care will underspend by £0.111m.	
Minor Variances	1.511	1.513	0.002	0.002			
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	36.195	36.300	0.105	0.454		The PDSI (physical disability and sensory impaired) budget is reporting a £0.106m underspend due to costs of care packages. The in-house supported living service is £0.348m overspent due to care hours and agency costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for learning disability services is £0.042m underspent. The learning disability day and work provision service is £0.096m underspent.	Any requests for increases to care packages are reviewed by a panel. Current care packages are being reviewed to ensure the right level of care is provided
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.848	1.021	0.173	0.259		This is the costs of care packages for young adults transferring from Childrens Services to Adult Social Care services. Care packages are usually new within the financial year and initial estimates are made for the costs. When the care packages are agreed there can be variances against the initial estimate. This year some confirmed care packages have already been confirmed as higher than the initial estimate.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.458	0.369	-0.089	-0.082	-0.089	This underspend is due to staff vacancies.	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.984	0.932	-0.052	-0.053		Additional funding has been recieved	
Supporting People	-0.386	-0.487	-0.101	-0.101	-0.100	Additional Supporting People funding is expected this year	
Residential Placements	2.729	2.801	0.072	0.001		This is due to care placements and packages for people with mental ill health	
Minor Variances	3.299	3.257	-0.042	-0.031			
Children's Services							
Integrated Working	0.200	0.252	0.053	0.058		There are increased costs this year, mostly for advocacy costs	
Family Support	0.412	0.462	0.050	0.043		This is a demand led service which is currently high	
Legal & Third Party	0.283	0.755	0.471	0.461		Legal costs are overspent by £0.209m 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 £0.163m and Direct Payments are overspent by £0.099m.	
Residential Placements	1.856	1.699	-0.157	-0.374		The Childrens Services in-house residential care provision continues to expand and is in receipt of a Welsh Government grant which is offsetting costs.	

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Professional Support	6.228	7.483	1.255	0.960		To support adequate levels of child protection the established structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies are to be minimised where possible and temporary posts are sometimes required to be able to continue meeting the challenges and demands of Childrens Services. Two managed agency teams were contracted to support the service, one of these teams has ceased and the other is planned to finish later this year. The associated costs are £0.934m. This is being partially mitigated from underspends mostly from vacancies of £0.264m. The Leaving Care budget which supports young people who are Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.400m due to increased care leavers which includes unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). The costs of some external contracts are £0.074m overpent due to inflationary pressures. Costs of Direct Payments to provide suport to children with disabilities are £0.111m overspent due to demand.	Alternative accomodation for UASC is being explored and cheaper rates have been negotiated with a current accomodation provider
Minor Variances	3.665	3.655	-0.010	-0.013			
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Charging Policy income	-3.505	-3.595	-0.090	-0.090		This is income from service users who are charged a contribution to their care.	
Minor Variances	2.726	2.842	0.116	0.112			
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	92.047	94.749	2.702	2.150	-0.189		
Out of County Placements							
Children's Services	13.795	15.065	1.270	0.898		Detailed projections show a significant overspend within the Out of County pooled budget as a result of the following:- an increase in the number of new placements agreed in-year and fees incurred to external providers. The overspend includes no further contingency and is projected based on current caseload only.	
Education & Youth	5.504	5.605	0.101	0.196		Detailed projections show a significant overspend within the Out of County pooled budget as a result of the following:- an increase in the number of new placements agreed in-year and fees incurred to external providers. The overspend includes no further contingency and is projected based on current caseload only.	
Total Out of County Placements	19.299	20.671	1.372	1.094	0.000		
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)							
Inclusion & Progression	5.650	5.910	0.260	0.313		Previous in year pressure of £0.247m against Creative In Excellence costs, has now been reduced by £0.100m by maximising the Additional Learning Needs grant. The balance of the pressure relates to Canolfan Enfys of £0.117m. This is due to an increase in staff due to increased pupil numbers. There has also been a reliance on agency staff due to long term sickness.	
Integrated Youth Provision	0.918	0.864	-0.053	-0.035	-0.050	Recruitment delays, enabling grant utilisation against trainee costs. Income generation increases on room hire.	
School Planning & Provision	0.625	0.565	-0.060	-0.040	-0.060	Reduction in expenditure from transition budget due to delayed Capital Projects and reduction in the number of mobile classrooms	
Minor Variances	2.956	2.946	-0.010	-0.005	-0.010		
Total Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	10.148	10.285	0.137	0.233	-0.120		
Schools	117.302	117.120	-0.182	-0.183		The variance primarily relates to the following:- Free School Meals (FSM) budget - (£0.114m) underspend, due to meal take up and levels of eligible FSM children. The Unallocated budget containing Added Years and Copyright Licenses indicates a (£0.124m) underspend. The above underspends are offset by a number of insignificant adverse variances within Primary and Secondary non-delegated, totalling £0.055m.	
Streetscene & Transportation							

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Service Delivery	8.567	9.567	1.000	0.859		Significant variance of £0.400m in highways maintenance costs, £0.200m Alltami depot running costs increased. Method Statements have been submitted for both budget pressures above. Budget efficiency pressure of £0.400m in total related to HRCs (charging and trade waste) implementation date later than initially planned. Income from Workplace Recycling Regulations legislative changes is lower than anticipated.	
Highways Network	11.674	12.141	0.467	0.440		Winter Maintenance costs of £0.300m are forecast to escalate for the provision of equipment, labour and salt usage, which have seen significant year-on-year inflation, plus fleet hire costs have increased compared to the previous contract arrangement. A report is to be presented to Cabinet to consider the delivery of efficiencies relating to decision making on marginal weather forecasts. Street-lighting energy cost increases of £0.100m.	We continue to investigate options to reduce Winter Maintenance procurement costs and ensure appropriate income/funding in preparation for the start of the 2024/25 winter season.
Transportation	11.023	11.183	0.161	0.287	-0.120	School Transport significant variances due to transport contractor costs increasing driven by inflation and cost of living (fuel, energy, insurance, wages). Additional routes for increased demand for SEN/ALN transport is also having an impact. Social Services Transport costs increased due to recent procurement and additional adult social services requests for transport. Bereavement Services reporting an income pressure of £0.057m, compared to increased income targets. Public transport subsidies also increased following re-procurement. Variance reduced at Month 5 due to Maximising 20mph scheme grant funding income by recharging Officer Time and Staff Costs.	
Regulatory Services	11.432	11.828	0.396	0.448	-0.052	The overspend variance is mainly due to increasing volumes of residual waste being collected along with gate fee indexation inflation, increased tipping and gate fees for some recyclable waste, together with the reduction in income levels for both recyclable materials and electricity generation from gas and solar at the former landfill sites. Variance reduced at Month 5 due to vacancy savings and Staff cost Recharges.	
Other Minor Variances	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Total Streetscene & Transportation	42.695	44.719	2.024	2.035	-0.172		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Business	2.327	2.156	-0.171	-0.144	-0.171	Part year vacancy savings, the recruitment process has commenced	
Development	-0.200	0.009	0.209	0.207		Fee income estimated shortfall in Building Control, Land Charges and Planning	
Access	1.591	1.718	0.127	0.126		Commitment for the cost Ash Die Back tree works £0.120m projected to March, 2025	
Regeneration	0.711	0.650	-0.061	-0.053		Part year savings from Grant Maximisation in reallocating staff costs to numerous Grant schemes	
Management & Strategy	1.897	1.801	-0.096	-0.005	-0.096	Part year vacancy savings which with delays in the recruitment process have manifested reduced expenditure	
Minor Variances	1.355	1.388	0.033	0.036			
Total Planning & Environment	7.682	7.722	0.040	0.168	-0.267		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.211	2.265	0.054	0.046		Historic Business Efficiency for DBS Checks unrealised	
Corporate Finance	2.080	1.925	-0.154	-0.096	-0.104	Part year vacancy savings	
Total People & Resources	4.290	4.190	-0.100	-0.050	-0.104		
Governance							
Customer Services	0.985	0.869	-0.116	-0.113		Part year vacancy savings and fee income over recovery in Registrars	
Revenues	0.371	0.212	-0.159	-0.138		Potential Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	10.710	10.666	-0.045	-0.044	-0.040		
Total Governance	12.066	11.747	-0.319	-0.295	-0.040		
Assets							

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Minor Variances	11.403	11.402	-0.001	0.041			
Total Assets	11.403	11.402	-0.001	0.041	0.000		
Housing and Communities							
Housing Solutions	4.309	6.872	2.563	2.741		Anticipated £2.563m overspend for the service. Temporary accommodation costs anticipated to be £3.538m overspent, offset with an increase in the HB Income collected (£0.635m) and NOLO Grant of (£0.423m). £0.075m overspend on the Homeless Hub	
Minor Variances	13.852	13.851	-0.002	-0.002			
Total Housing and Communities	18.161	20.723	2.562	2.739	0.000		
Chief Executive's							
	1.641	1.625	-0.016	-0.023	-0.016		
Central & Corporate Finance							
	31.372	29.115	-2.257	-2.156		The initial projection on the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) for the 2024/25 indicates an underspend of (£0.250m) as the trend from previous years continues with reduced short term borrowing costs and income from investments in line with current bank interest rates. This is mitigated by potential shortfalls in Corporate windfall income targets based on actual receipts to date. As a result of the refinancing of Enfinium Group Ltd into Enfinium Parc Adfer Ltd, there is a gainshare benefit to all partner authorities within the North Wales Residual Waste Partnership. Flintshire's estimated gainshare from this undertaking is £2.108m, net of fees. A commitment has been included to fund the on-going clean-up from the impact of fly tipping at land adjacent to the Riverside Site, Queensferry at a current cost of £0.091m that includes the machine hire, transport and manpower related to the necessary works. At Month 5 following a review on the CLIA a further £0.120m favourable variance has been identified.	
Grand Total	368.106	374.068	5.962	5.754	-0.908		