

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 6

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	23.879	25.499	1.619	1.057		Residential care costs for older people are projecting an overspend of £0.908m 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 £0.639m overspent and due to the high demand. Locality workforce and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.054m and day care is overspent by £0.019m. There is a significant risk that costs will continue to escalate as pressure to minimise stays in hospitals continues. This risk will increase over the winter period.	To mitigate expected escalating costs a number of policies are being reviewed and amended to maximise financial benefit and reduce costs.
Resources & Regulated Services	9.999	9.909	-0.091	-0.110		In-house residential care is projecting an overspend by £0.338m due to employee and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.444m, although demand is high it cannot be met due to recruitment challenges. The Extra Care budget is expected to overspend by £0.126m from employee costs and day care will underspend by £0.111m.	
Minor Variances	1.511	1.529	0.018	0.002			
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	36.005	36.173	0.167	0.105		The PDSI (physical disability and sensory impaired) budget is reporting a £0.080m underspend due to costs of care packages. The in-house supported living service is £0.394m overspent due to care hours and agency costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for learning disability services is £0.033m underspent. The learning disability day and work provision service is £0.114m 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	1.057	0.209	0.173		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 around the costs. When 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	0.358	-0.100	-0.089	-0.089	The underspend is due to in-year staff vacancies.	
Supporting People	-0.386	-0.487	-0.101	-0.101	-0.100	Additional Supporting People funding is expected this year.	
Minor Variances	7.012	6.906	-0.106	-0.022		Positive movement of -£0.085m in Residential Placements at Month 6. A reduction in care package costs for people with mental ill health.	
Children's Services							
Family Support	0.412	0.461	0.050	0.050		This is a demand led service and demand is currently high	

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Legal & Third Party	0.283	0.744	0.460	0.471		Legal costs are overspent by £0.234m 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 £0.143m and Direct Payment are overspent by £0.083m.	
Professional Support	6.228	7.715	1.487	1.255		To support adequate levels of child protection the established structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies try 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 £0.939m. This is being partially mitigated from underspends, mostly vacancies, of £0.211m. The Leaving Care budget which supports young people who are Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.563m due to increased care leavers which includes unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). The costs of some external contracts are £0.074m overspent due to inflationary pressures. Costs of Direct Payments to provide support to children with disabilities are £0.122m overspent due to demand.	Alternative accomodation for UASC is being explored and cheaper rates have been negotiated with a current accomodation provider.
Minor Variances	5.721	5.762	0.040	-0.115			
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Charging Policy income	-2.650	-2.790	-0.140	-0.090		This is income from service users who financially contribute to their care.	
Vacancy Management	-0.893	-0.828	0.066	0.046		This budget holds in-year portfolio efficiencies achieved through vacancy savings and grant maximisation. There is a target set for these efficiencies, this target will currently not be achieved this financial year.	
Minor Variances	3.619	3.650	0.031	0.071			
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	92.047	95.657	3.610	2.702	-0.189		
Out of County							
Children's Services	13.795	15.035	1.240	1.270		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	5.682	0.178	0.101			
Total Out of County	19.299	20.717	1.418	1.372			
Education & Youth							

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Inclusion & Progression	5.650	5.907	0.257	0.260		Variance due to an in year pressure of £0.152m against the Home Tuition service due to an increase in pupil numbers accessing Creative In Excellence (an external education provider) We have used £0.100m from the ALN grant to mitigate some of this pressure - previously £0.252m. The remaining variance of £0.106m relates to Canolfan Enfys. This is due to an increase in staff as a response to an increase in pupil numbers. There has also been a reliance on agency staff due to long term sickness.	
Integrated Youth Provision	0.918	0.859	-0.059	-0.053	-0.055	Recruitment delays, enabling grant utilisation against trainee costs. Income generation increases on room hire.	
School Planning & Provision	0.625	0.550	-0.075	-0.060	-0.075	Reduction in expenditure from transition budget due to delayed Capital Projects and reduction in the number of mobile classrooms	
Minor Variances	2.956	2.982	0.026	-0.010	-0.010		
Total Education & Youth	10.148	10.297	0.149	0.137	-0.140		
Schools	117.302	117.136	-0.166	-0.182		The variance primarily relates to the following:- Free School Meals (FSM) budget - (£0.098m) 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							
Service Delivery	8.617	9.617	1.000	1.000		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 Regs legislative changes lower than anticipated.	
Highways Network	11.624	12.093	0.470	0.467		Winter Maintenance costs of £0.300m are anticipated to escalate for the provision of equipment, labour and salt, which have seen significant year-on-year inflation, plus fleet hire costs for gritters are higher than the previous purchased model. We continue to investigate options to reduce procurement costs and ensure appropriate income/funding in preparation for the start of the season. Street-lighting energy cost of £0.100m forecasts continue to rise, and this has been accommodated in budget monitoring.	A report was presented to Cabinet in September 2024, which approved the delivery of efficiencies relating to decision making for marginal forecasts for Winter Maintenance.

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Transportation	11.023	11.237	0.214	0.161	-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 ALN transport is also having an impact. Social Services Transport costs increased due to recent procurement and additional adult social services and childrens services requests for transport, which has been raised with the client portfolio. Bereavement Services reporting a pressure of £0.057m, plus public health burials increasing year on year.	
Regulatory Services	11.432	11.601	0.169	0.396	-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.	
Total Streetscene & Transportation	42.695	44.548	1.853	2.024	-0.172		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Business	2.327	2.153	-0.175	-0.171	-0.171	Part year vacancy savings, the recruitment process has commenced	
Development	-0.200	0.008	0.208	0.209		Fee income estimated shortfall in Building Control, Land Charges and Planning	
Access	1.591	1.720	0.129	0.127		Commitment for the cost Ash Die Back tree works £0.120m projected to March, 2025	
Management & Strategy	1.897	1.799	-0.098	-0.096	-0.096	Part year vacancy savings	
Minor Variances	2.066	2.047	-0.020	-0.028	-0.015		
Total Planning & Environment	7.682	7.727	0.045	0.040	-0.282		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.211	2.276	0.065	0.054		Historic Business Efficiency for DBS Checks unrealised together with additional legal fees paid.	
Corporate Finance	2.080	1.915	-0.164	-0.154	-0.104	Part year vacancy savings	
Total People & Resources	4.290	4.191	-0.099	-0.100	-0.104		
Governance							
Customer Services	0.985	0.869	-0.116	-0.116	-0.030	Part year vacancy savings and fee income over recovery in Registrars	
Revenues	0.371	0.212	-0.159	-0.159		Potential Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	10.710	10.672	-0.039	-0.045	-0.040		
Total Governance	12.066	11.753	-0.313	-0.319	-0.070		
Assets							
Minor Variances	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Total Assets	11.403	11.414	0.010	-0.000			
Housing and Community							

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Housing Solutions	4.309	6.755	2.446	2.563		Anticipated £2.446m overspend for the service. Temporary accommodation costs anticipated to be £3.288m overspent, offset with an increase in the HB Income collected (£0.573m) and NOLO Grant of (£0.423m).	
Minor Variances	13.852	13.851	-0.002	-0.002			
Total Housing and Community	18.161	20.606	2.445	2.562			
Chief Executive's	1.641	1.625	-0.016	-0.016	-0.016		
Central & Corporate Finance	31.372	28.246	-3.126	-2.257		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. Flintshires 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. At Month 6 a further £0.100m favourable variance has been identified. The 2024 Pay Award has now been agreed at a level that has resulted in a favourable movement of £0.765m compared to what was originally budgeted for.	
Grand Total	368.106	373.915	5.809	5.963	-0.973		