

**Budget Monitoring Report**  
**Council Fund Variances**

**MONTH 5 - SUMMARY**

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium related variances (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
<b>Social Services</b>							
<b>Older People</b>							
Localities	23.196	22.553	-0.643	-0.741		The older people residential care budget is projecting an underspend of £0.422m, due to client income from property recharges and expected reimbursements where we are waiting decisions for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.233m underspent caused by continued recruitment challenges to the care sector. Locality staffing and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.039m, the reason for this is increased legal costs and service level agreement costs. Day care is underspending by £0.027m. A £0.400m budget transfer is also reflected in the overall variance.	
Resources & Regulated Services	9.494	9.592	0.099	0.077		In-house residential care is expected to overspend by £0.272m due to staff and running costs, the in-house homecare service is estimated to underspend by £0.173m. The Extra Care budget is overspent by £0.094m due to staff costs and Day Care is underspent by £0.055m.	
Minor Variances	1.731	1.728	-0.003	-0.011			
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>							
Resources & Regulated Services	33.469	33.315	-0.154	-0.173		The PDSI (Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired) budget is reporting a £0.256m overspend due to net costs of care packages. The in-house Supported Living Service is £0.118m overspent due to care hours and agency costs, a £0.350m contribution from reserves is offsetting further costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disability services is £0.477m underspent. The learning disability day provision budget is £0.060m underspent.	
Children to Adult Transition Services	1.001	0.935	-0.066	0.037		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	
Residential Placements	2.607	3.291	0.684	0.588		This is the overall cost of care packages for service users with mental ill health. This can be a volatile service and additional services can be identified during the year leading to increased costs.	
Minor Variances	3.617	3.554	-0.063	-0.052			
<b>Children's Services</b>							
Family Group Meetings	0.122	0.174	0.053	0.050		Demand for this service is resulting in increased sessional worker hours	
Family Placement	3.175	3.027	-0.148	-0.270		The underspend is due to the number of in-house Foster Carers within the service being less than the number which we have historically had.	
Integrated Working	0.206	0.265	0.059	0.059		Cost pressures are due to contributions towards the Integrated Family Support Service and a shortfall from Supporting People Funding.	
Legal & Third Party	0.262	0.540	0.278	0.387		Legal costs are overspent by £0.139m 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 £0.119m. Direct Payments are overspending by £0.020m due to demand.	
Residential Placements	1.595	1.197	-0.398	-0.414		The in-house residential care provision continues to expand with an additional group home planned to open this financial year. Some in-year costs for the service are being offset by a significant Welsh Government grant. The grant has been confirmed for 2023/24 and 2024/25 but is not expected to be extended beyond this time.	

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Professional Support	5.824	6.646	0.821	0.813		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 meet the challenges and demands of the service, the resulting overspend from such arrangements is £0.156m Two managed agency teams are currently being contacted to support the service, reserves are being used to mitigate most of the costs but there is an overspend of £0.428m as a result, costs may change if there is a requirement to extend the contracts further. The Leaving Care budget, which supports young people who were Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.134m due to increasing numbers of care leavers The cost of some external service contracts are £0.102m overspent due to inflationary pressures	
Minor Variances	0.694	0.720	0.026	0.012			
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>							
Business Systems & Financial Assessments	0.937	1.015	0.078	0.060		A new social service IT system is being implemented which requires additional project management and development costs	
Charging Policy income	-3.309	-3.452	-0.143	-0.138		This is the income from service users who are charged a contribution towards the care they receive	
Minor Variances	2.201	2.234	0.033	0.027			
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>86.821</b>	<b>87.333</b>	<b>0.512</b>	<b>0.313</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Out of County</b>							
Children's Services	12.281	13.092	0.811	0.775		The service is facing continued high demand for placements together with supply market challenges and inflationary pressures with 21 new placements made in the year to date and contingency provision of £0.250m for new placements.	
Education & Youth	5.004	5.271	0.267	0.226		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.	
<b>Total Out of County</b>	<b>17.285</b>	<b>18.363</b>	<b>1.078</b>	<b>1.001</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>							
Inclusion & Progression	5.377	5.350	-0.027	-0.023			
Integrated Youth Provision	0.947	0.888	-0.059	-0.070		Mainly due to vacancy savings	
Youth Justice	0.311	0.305	-0.006	-0.015			
School Improvement Systems	1.836	1.753	-0.084	-0.080		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. There is also a reported £0.022m underspend within the School Improvement service. This is an underspend on the £0.028m pressure for the Digital Advisor post. The role has been appointed to, but is not starting until September 2023, creating a saving against the additional budget received.	
Business Change & Support	0.454	0.523	0.069	0.069		Overspend in the main relates to the cost of the annual Access System Licence fee £0.040m minor variances account for the remainder	
School Planning & Provision	0.626	0.614	-0.012	-0.003			
Archives	0.351	0.404	0.053	0.053		Overspend is due to increased recharge from Denbighshire CC towards costs of shared service	
Holding Accounts	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Minor Variances	6.314	6.269	-0.045	-0.041			

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<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>9.902</b>	<b>9.837</b>	<b>-0.065</b>	<b>-0.070</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Schools</b>	<b>114.081</b>	<b>114.081</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>							
Service Delivery	9.808	10.105	0.297	0.381		A variance of £0.190m relates to Alltami Depot costs. The overspend is a combination of cleaning price increases from Newydd, security (new tender costs increased) and repair and maintenance costs. An additional £0.190m is mainly due to highway network repairs backlog over the last 6 months resulting in increased costs within 2023/24. The overall overspend is partly offset by the performance of the in-house construction team delivering traffic related schemes more cost effectively rather than contracting the work externally.	
Highways Network	8.514	9.224	0.710	0.084		The renewal of the fleet contract through contract extension from October 2023 has realised an in-year overspend of £0.532m. The remaining variance of £0.170m is attributable to increases in costs to both road fuel and streetlighting energy, increased insurance premiums, and defective highway network infrastructure repairs.	Further year increases on the Fleet Contract are being considered within the MTFS and 2024/25 budget.
Transportation	11.118	11.094	-0.025	0.004			
Regulatory Services	11.305	11.504	0.199	0.167		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.	
Other Minor Variances	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004			
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>40.745</b>	<b>41.927</b>	<b>1.181</b>	<b>0.637</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>							
Business	2.047	2.062	0.016	0.014			
Community	0.943	0.942	-0.001	-0.008			
Development	0.024	-0.285	-0.308	-0.290		Receipt of a one-off high value Planning Fee (£0.300m for Northern Gateway)	
Access	1.544	1.687	0.142	0.145		Variance relates to estimated costs for Ash Die Back works	
Climate Change	0.165	0.102	-0.062	-0.063		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Shared Services	0.135	0.183	0.048	0.011			
Regeneration	0.846	0.796	-0.050	-0.028			
Management & Strategy	1.354	1.134	-0.220	-0.266		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Minor Variances	3.971	3.983	0.013	-0.010			
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>7.057</b>	<b>6.622</b>	<b>-0.435</b>	<b>-0.484</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>							
HR & OD	2.239	2.192	-0.048	-0.053		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Corporate Finance	2.082	2.063	-0.019	0.012			
Holding Accounts	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>4.321</b>	<b>4.254</b>	<b>-0.067</b>	<b>-0.041</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Governance</b>							
Legal Services	0.942	1.142	0.200	0.178		Additional costs for locum services covering vacant posts	
Democratic Services	2.411	2.480	0.069	0.067		Backdated Superannuation costs and current level of Members Allowances	

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Internal Audit	1.013	1.026	0.012	0.013			
Procurement	0.320	0.298	-0.022	-0.022			
ICT	5.168	5.232	0.064	0.050		In year pressure following the delay in Agile Apps Project requiring additional funding	
Customer Services	1.040	0.912	-0.128	-0.129		Staff savings from vacant posts and higher than anticipated fee income levels	
Revenues	0.566	0.372	-0.194	-0.183		Projected surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Minor Variances	1.333	1.324	-0.010	-0.009			
<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>11.460</b>	<b>11.463</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>-0.025</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Assets</b>							
CPM & Design Services	0.674	0.581	-0.093	-0.087		Staff savings from vacant posts	
Minor Variances	-0.674	10.336	11.010	0.087			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>11.045</b>	<b>10.917</b>	<b>-0.128</b>	<b>-0.128</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Housing and Community</b>							
Benefits	13.211	13.211	-0.000	-0.000			
Housing Solutions	2.232	4.996	2.763	2.407		The Housing Solutions service is currently reflecting a net projected overspend of £2.763m. This is mainly due to a projected overspend of £3.635m on temporary accommodation within Hotels and B and B provision, which is being offset by additional Housing Benefit income of -£0.465m. There are also other projected underspends and mitigation impacts within the wider Housing Solutions service amounting to a net figure of £0.407m, including 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.	
Housing Programmes	0.052	0.056	0.004	-0.004			
Travellers and Refugees	0.034	0.038	0.004	0.000			
Council Fund Housing	0.169	0.179	0.010	0.002			
Minor Variances	13.466	13.484	0.018	-0.002			
<b>Total Housing and Community</b>	<b>15.698</b>	<b>18.480</b>	<b>2.782</b>	<b>2.405</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>1.608</b>	<b>1.607</b>	<b>-0.001</b>	<b>0.006</b>	<b>0.000</b>		
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>32.096</b>	<b>30.898</b>	<b>-1.198</b>	<b>-0.970</b>		The projection on the Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) at Month 4 was an underspend of (£1m) which has further increased by £0.250m at Month 5 where the Council has 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.	
Soft Loan Mitigation	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>352.121</b>	<b>355.781</b>	<b>3.660</b>	<b>2.644</b>	<b>0.000</b>		