

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 7

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Moratorium Month 7 (£m)	Moratorium related Savings (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services								
Older People								
Localities	23.879	26.116	2.237	1.619			Residential care costs for older people are projecting an overspend of £1.196m for this service. This amount is net of client income from property recharges and reimbursements for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.958m overspent due to high demand. Locality workforce and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.062m and day care is overspent by £0.021m. There is a significant risk that costs will continue to escalate as pressure to minimise stays in hospital 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	9.857	-0.143	-0.091			In-house residential care is projecting an overspend of £0.361m due to employee and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by (£0.498m), demand is high but recruitment challenges mean the demand cannot be fully met. The Extra Care budget is expected to overspend by £0.104m from employee costs and day care will underspend by (£0.109m).	
Minor Variances	1.511	1.529	0.019	0.018				
Adults of Working Age								
Resources & Regulated Services	36.005	36.535	0.529	0.167			The Physical Disability and Sensory Impaired (PDSI) budget is reporting a £0.080m overspend due to costs of care packages. The in-house Supported Living service is £0.424m overspent due to care hours and agency costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disabilities services is a £0.033m overspend. The Learning Disability 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	1.051	0.203	0.209			This is the cost 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 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	0.423	0.322	-0.101	-0.100	-0.012	-0.101	The underspend is due to in-year staff vacancies.	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.894	0.842	-0.052	-0.045	-0.052	-0.052	Vacancies are the cause of the projected underspend.	
Supporting People	-0.386	-0.487	-0.101	-0.101		-0.100	Additional Supporting People funding is expected this year.	
Residential Placements	2.729	2.618	-0.111	-0.013			This is the underspend for mental health care packages. Care packages are being reviewed more frequently and some costs have reduced as a result.	
Minor Variances	3.153	3.110	-0.043	-0.048				
Children's Services								
Early Years & Family Support	0.338	0.192	-0.146	-0.001			Some service balances have been drawn upon to offset eligible spend and reduce the overall projected outturn.	
Legal & Third Party	0.283	0.733	0.450	0.460			Legal costs are overspent by £0.235m 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 £0.138m and Direct Payments are overspent by £0.077m.	

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Professional Support	6.228	7.884	1.656	1.487			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 £0.931m. This is being partly mitigated by underspends, mostly vacancies and assumed external funding, of (£0.027m). The Leaving Care budget which supports young people who are Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.5360m 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 £0.118m overspent because of demand.	Alternative accommodation for UASC is being explored and cheaper rates have been negotiated with an alternative accommodation provider.
Minor Variances	5.796	5.874	0.078	0.091				
Safeguarding & Commissioning								
Charging Policy income	-2.650	-2.860	-0.210	-0.140			This is income from service users who financially contribute towards their care	
Vacancy Management	-0.622	-0.552	0.071	0.066			This budget holds in-year portfolio efficiency targets for vacancy savings and grant maximisation. There is a target set for these efficiencies and this target is not currently being achieved this financial year.	
Minor Variances	3.619	3.655	0.036	0.031				
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	92.047	96.418	4.372	3.610	-0.064	-0.252		
Out of County Placements								
Children's Services	13.795	15.590	1.795	1.240			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	5.436	-0.068	0.178			Positive movement at Month 7 as a number of ending Education Day placements have been removed from the current placement caseload	
Total Out of County Placements	19.299	21.025	1.726	1.418		0.000		
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)								
Inclusion & Progression	5.650	5.881	0.231	0.257			Previous in-year pressure of £0.252m against the EOTAS (Education Other than at School) service has reduced by £0.018m due to the calculation of funding to claw back budget from schools as a result of permanent exclusions. The service have also used £0.100m from the ALN grant to mitigate some of this pressure. This now leaves the service with an in year pressure of £0.134m. The remaining variance relates to Canolfan Enfys. Pupil numbers have increased which has led to the need for an increase in staff.	
Integrated Youth Provision	0.918	0.856	-0.062	-0.059	-0.007	-0.062	Recruitment delays, enabling grant utilisation against trainee costs. Income generation increases on room hire.	
School Planning & Provision	0.625	0.535	-0.090	-0.075	-0.015	-0.090	Reduction in expenditure from transition budget due to delayed Capital Projects and reduction in the number of mobile classrooms.	
Minor Variances	2.956	2.956	0.000	0.026		-0.010		

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Total Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	10.148	10.227	0.079	0.149	-0.022	-0.162		
Schools	117.302	117.138	-0.164	-0.166			Free School Meals (FSM) budget - (£0.096m) 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	9.635	1.018	1.000			Significant variance of £0.400m in highways maintenance costs, £0.200m Alltarni depot running costs increased. 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 lower than anticipated.	
Highways Network	11.671	12.179	0.508	0.470			Winter Maintenance costs of £0.370m 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 contract arrangements. We continue to investigate options to reduce procurement costs and ensure appropriate income/funding in preparation for the start of the season. A report was presented to Cabinet in September 2024, which approved the delivery of efficiencies relating to decision making for marginal weather forecasts. Additional Street-lighting energy costs of £0.131m are forecast as prices continue to rise.	
Transportation	10.976	11.138	0.162	0.214	-0.020	-0.140	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, with public health burials increasing year on year	
Regulatory Services	11.432	11.541	0.109	0.169	-0.057	-0.109	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.	
Other Minor Variances	0.000	0.002	0.002	0.000				
Total Streetscene & Transportation	42.695	44.495	1.799	1.853	-0.077	-0.249		
Planning, Environment & Economy								
Business	2.327	2.149	-0.179	-0.175	-0.008	-0.179	Part year vacancy savings as the recruitment process has commenced	
Development	-0.200	0.040	0.239	0.208			Fee income estimated shortfall in Building Control, Land Charges and Planning	
Access	1.591	1.729	0.138	0.129			Commitment for the cost Ash Die Back tree works £0.120m projected to March, 2025	
Regeneration	0.711	0.640	-0.071	-0.046			Maximisation of Grant Funding - reallocating staff costs against the eligible grant	
Management & Strategy	1.897	1.792	-0.105	-0.098	-0.009	-0.105	Part year vacancy savings	

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Minor Variances	1.355	1.377	0.022	0.026		-0.015		
Total Planning & Environment	7.682	7.726	0.044	0.045	-0.017	-0.299		
People & Resources								
HR & OD	2.211	2.258	0.047	0.065			Historic Efficiency for DBS Checks unrealised together with additional legal fees paid.	
Corporate Finance	2.080	1.944	-0.136	-0.164		-0.104	Part year vacancy savings	
Total People & Resources	4.290	4.202	-0.089	-0.099	0.000	-0.104		
Governance								
Customer Services	0.985	0.859	-0.126	-0.116	-0.005	-0.035	Part year vacancy savings and fee income over recovery in Registrars	
Revenues	0.371	0.203	-0.168	-0.159			Potential Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	10.710	10.622	-0.088	-0.039	-0.015	-0.055		
Total Governance	12.066	11.684	-0.382	-0.313	-0.020	-0.090		
Assets								
Minor Variances	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000				
Total Assets	11.403	11.366	-0.037	0.010		0.000		
Housing and Communities								
Housing Solutions	4.309	6.600	2.291	2.446			Temporary accommodation net costs anticipated to be £2.136m overspent, with £0.155m minor variances across the service.	
Minor Variances	13.852	13.851	-0.002	-0.002	-0.002	-0.004		
Total Housing and Communities	18.161	20.451	2.289	2.445	-0.002	-0.004		
Chief Executive's	1.641	1.619	-0.022	-0.016	-0.006	-0.022		
Central & Corporate Finance	31.372	28.131	-3.241	-3.126			The Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) for the 2024/25 indicates an increased underspend of (£0.510m) 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. The 2024 Pay Award has now been agreed at a level that has resulted in a favourable movement of £0.755m compared to what was originally budgeted for. A previous commitment of (£0.091m) to fund the on-going clean-up from the impact of illegal tipping at land adjacent to the Riverside Site, Queensferry at a cost of £0.091m has now been removed as the overall cost has increased and it is recommended all of this expenditure is funded from Contingency Reserve.	
Grand Total	368.106	374.481	6.375	5.809	-0.208	-1.182		