

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 8

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	23.919	26.001	2.082	2.237		Residential care costs for older people are projecting an overspend of £1.263m for this service. This amount is net of client income from property recharges and reimbursements for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.729m overspent due to high demand, included within this amount is grant income of £0.429m. Locality workforce and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.066m and day care is overspent by £0.020m. There is a significant risk that costs will continue to escalate as pressure to minimise stays in hospital continues. This risk increases as we enter 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	10.475	10.332	-0.142	-0.143		In-house residential care is projecting an overspend of £0.377m due to employee and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.505m, demand is high but recruitment challenges mean that demand cannot be fully met. The Extra Care budget is expected to overspend by £0.096m from employee costs and day care will underspend by (£0.110m).	
Minor Variances	1.555	1.588	0.033	0.019			
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	36.138	36.841	0.703	0.529		The Physical Disability and Sensory Impaired (PDSI) budget is reporting a £0.118m overspend due to costs of care packages. The in-house Supported Living service is £0.454m overspent due to care hours and agency costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disabilities services is a £0.257m overspend. The Learning Disability and Work Provision service is (£0.127m) 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 is provided.
Children to Adult Transition Services	0.848	1.086	0.238	0.203		This is the cost of care packages for young adults transferring from Childrens 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 this estimate. This year some confirmed care packages have already been confirmed as higher than the initial estimate.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.467	0.345	-0.123	-0.101	-0.123	The underspend is due to staff vacancies	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.929	0.866	-0.063	-0.052	-0.063	In-year vacancies are causing the underspend	
Supporting People	-0.386	-0.487	-0.101	-0.101	-0.101	Additional Supporting People funded is expected this year	
Residential Placements	2.729	2.605	-0.124	-0.111		This is the underspend relates to mental health care packages.	
Minor Variances	3.273	3.202	-0.071	-0.043			
Children's Services							
Early Years & Family Support	0.352	0.207	-0.146	-0.146		Service balances have been drawn upon to offset eligible spend and reduce the overall projected outturn	
Legal & Third Party	0.283	0.738	0.455	0.450		Legal costs are overspent by £0.253m 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 £0.130m and Direct Payments are overspent by £0.072m.	

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Professional Support	6.408	8.129	1.721	1.656		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, recruitment challenges will mean once these teams stop there will still be a need for some agency workers. Associated costs of these are £0.931m. The net projected costs across the rest of the teams are projecting an overspend of £0.029m. This is due to additional agency costs and are being partly mitigated by underspends, mostly vacancies and assumed external funding. The Leaving Care budget which supports young people who are Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.563m due to increased care leavers which include 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 £0.182m overspent because of demand.	Alternative accommodation for UASC is being explored and cheaper rates have been negotiated with an alternative accommodation provider.
Minor Variances	5.878	5.947	0.069	0.078			
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Charging Policy income	-2.503	-2.747	-0.244	-0.210		This is income from service users who financially contribute towards their care	
Vacancy Management	-0.611	-0.521	0.091	0.071		This budget holds in-year portfolio efficiencies achieved through vacancy savings and grant maximisation. There is a target set for these efficiencies which is unlikely to be achieved this year.	
Minor Variances	3.812	3.851	0.039	0.036			
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	93.567	97.984	4.417	4.372	-0.287		
Out of County Placements							
Children's Services	13.795	15.648	1.853	1.795		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	5.661	0.158	-0.068		A number of additional Education Day placements have been added to the current placement caseload.	
Total Out of County Placements	19.299	21.309	2.010	1.726			
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)							
Inclusion & Progression	5.752	5.981	0.229	0.231		Variance is due to an in year pressure 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, which was previously £0.252m. The remaining variance relates to Canolfan Enfys. This is due to an increase in staff as a response to an increase in pupil numbers at the setting. There has also been a reliance on agency staff due to long term staff sickness.	
Integrated Youth Provision	0.927	0.860	-0.066	-0.062	-0.066	Recruitment delays, enabling grant utilisation against trainee costs. Income generation increases on room hire.	
School Planning & Provision	0.638	0.544	-0.094	-0.090	-0.094	Reduction in expenditure from transition budget due to delayed Capital Projects and reduction in the number of mobile classrooms	
Minor Variances	3.192	3.210	0.018	0.000	-0.010		
Total Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	10.509	10.595	0.086	0.079	-0.170		

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Schools	117.424	117.258	-0.166	-0.164		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 £0.058m.	
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	9.228	10.278	1.050	1.018		Significant variance of £0.400m in highways maintenance costs, £0.240m 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	11.713	12.498	0.785	0.508		Worsening position reported due to the impact of weather events £0.150m. Winter Maintenance costs of £0.470m are anticipated to escalate for the provision of equipment, labour and salt, which have seen significant year-on-year inflation, plus the first prolonged snow event of the season, higher fleet costs for gritter hire, which is more than the previous purchased model. We continue to investigate options to reduce operational costs and ensure appropriate income/funding. Method statements are being completed for the projected overspend. Public Conveniences reporting £0.034m overspend due to increased maintenance costs. Street-lighting energy cost of £0.131m forecasts continue to rise, and this has been projected for in budget monitoring	Cost analysis statements are being prepared following the significant impacts on the highway network from Storm Ashley, Storm Bert and Storm Darragh.
Transportation	11.119	11.280	0.161	0.162	-0.140	School transport significant variances due to transport contractor costs increasing driven by inflation and cost of living (fuel, energy, insurance, wages and NI). 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, which is currently being challenged and public health burials increasing year on year	
Regulatory Services	11.510	11.640	0.130	0.109	-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	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000		
Total Streetscene & Transportation	43.570	45.696	2.125	1.799	-0.249		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Business	2.399	2.206	-0.193	-0.179	-0.179	Part year vacancy savings	
Development	-0.143	0.146	0.289	0.239		Fee income estimated shortfall in Building Control, Land Charges and Planning	
Access	1.638	1.776	0.138	0.138		Commitment for the cost Ash Die Back tree works £0.120m projected to March, 2025	
Regeneration	0.731	0.647	-0.084	-0.071		Maximisation of Grant Funding - re-allocating staff costs against the eligible grant	
Management & Strategy	1.955	1.837	-0.117	-0.105	-0.105	Part year vacancy savings	
Minor Variances	1.419	1.437	0.018	0.022	-0.015		

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Total Planning & Environment	7.998	8.049	0.050	0.044	-0.299		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.308	2.359	0.050	0.047		Historic efficiency target for DBS checks not realised	
Corporate Finance	2.199	2.060	-0.139	-0.136	-0.104	Part year vacancy savings	
Total People & Resources	4.507	4.419	-0.088	-0.089	-0.104		
Governance							
ICT	6.074	6.022	-0.052	-0.029	-0.030	Minor variances across the Service	
Customer Services	1.046	1.045	-0.001	-0.126	-0.035	Part year vacancy savings and fee income over recovery in Registrars and impact of £0.125m Carry Forward Request at Month 8.	
Revenues	0.430	0.262	-0.168	-0.168	0.000	Potential Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund	
Minor Variances	4.826	4.743	-0.083	-0.059	-0.065	Variances below -£0.050m in Legal Services and Democratic Services	
Total Governance	12.375	12.072	-0.303	-0.382	-0.130		
Assets							
Total Assets	11.471	11.452	-0.020	-0.037			
Housing and Communities							
Benefits	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			
Housing Solutions	4.379	6.721	2.342	2.291		Temporary accommodation net costs anticipated to be £2.196m overspent, with £0.146m minor variances across the service.	
Minor Variances	13.975	13.973	-0.002	-0.002	-0.002		
Total Housing and Communities	18.354	20.694	2.340	2.289	-0.002		
Chief Executive's	1.674	1.654	-0.020	-0.022	-0.020		
Central & Corporate Finance	27.357	20.785	-6.572	-3.241		The Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) for the 2024/25 indicates an increased underspend of (£0.660m) 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. Additional funding to support pay pressures has been confirmed by Welsh Government totalling (£3.255m) including the 2024-25 Teachers Pay Deal.	
Grand Total	368.106	371.966	3.860	6.375	-1.261		