

Budget Monitoring Report - Month 9

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	23.749	26.207	2.458	2.082		Residential care costs for older people are projecting an overspend of £1.543m for this service. This amount is net of client income from property recharges and reimbursements for deputyships and assets held in trust. Homecare is £0.872m overspent due to demand, included in this amount is income from two grants of £0.429m and £0.113m. Locality workforce and professional support budgets are overspent by £0.0032m, day care is overspent by £0.006m and the minor adaptations budget is £0.005m overspent. There is a significant risk that costs will continue to escalate as pressures to minimise stays in hospital continues. The risk increases as we enter the winter months.	To attempt 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	10.328	-0.147	-0.142		In-house residential care is projecting an overspend of £0.373m due to employee and running costs. Homecare is predicted to underspend by £0.495m, demand is high but recruitment challenges mean that demand cannot be fully met. The Extra Care budget is expected to overspend by £0.085m from employee costs and day care will underspend by £0.110m.	
Minor Variances	1.560	1.593	0.033	0.033			
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	36.133	37.188	1.055	0.703		The PDSI (Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired) budget is reporting a £0.064m overspend due to net costs of care packages. The in-house Supported Living service is £0.494m overspent due to care hours and agency costs. The care package costs for independently provided care for Learning Disability service is a £0.638m overspend. There is an underspend of £0.141m for Day Services.	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	1.086	0.238	0.238		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	0.342	-0.126	-0.123	-0.126	This underspend is due to staff vacancies.	
Transition & Disability Services Team	0.929	0.866	-0.063	-0.063	-0.063	In-year vacancies are causing this underspend.	
Intensive Support	0.505	0.443	-0.062	-0.036		There are in-year vacancies and additional income expected.	
Community Living	0.565	0.510	-0.055	-0.048	-0.055	The underspend is due to vacant posts.	
Supporting People	-0.386	-0.487	-0.101	-0.101	-0.101	Additional Supporting People funding is expected this financial year.	
Residential Placements	2.729	2.660	-0.069	-0.124		This is the underspend on care packages for people with a mental health illness.	
Minor Variances	2.203	2.192	-0.012	0.014			
Children's Services							
Early Years & Family Support	0.352	0.205	-0.147	-0.146		Service balances have been drawn upon to offset eligible spend to reduce the overall projected outturn.	
Legal & Third Party	0.283	0.757	0.473	0.455		Legal costs are overspent by £0.274m 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 £0.120m and Direct Payments are overspent by £0.079m.	
Residential Placements	1.906	1.845	-0.061	-0.019		An in-house childrens residential facility for short term care has shut due to challenges with recruitment of staff and cost of agency staff.	
Professional Support	6.408	8.446	2.038	1.721		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, both have now ended and there is an overspend of £0.903m as a result. Other team costs are overspending by £0.273m which is due to agency but are slightly mitigated by vacancies and grant funding. The Leaving Care budget, which supports young people who are Looked After Children, is overspending by £0.560m due to increased numbers of care leavers which includes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who have become young adults. The costs for some external contracts are £0.074m overspent due to inflationary pressures. Costs for Direct Payments to provide support to children with disabilities are £0.288m overspent because of demand.	Alternative accommodation for UASC is being explored and cheaper rates have been negotiated with an alternative accommodation provider.
Minor Variances	3.973	4.056	0.083	0.088			
Safeguarding & Commissioning							

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Charging Policy income	-2.333	-2.652	-0.319	-0.244		This is income from service users who financially contribute towards their care.	
Vacancy Management	-0.611	-0.521	0.091	0.091		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	3.855	0.043	0.039			
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	93.567	98.917	5.350	4.417	-0.345		
Out of County Placements							
Children's Services	13.795	15.420	1.625	1.853		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 a £0.200m contingency for future new placements exceeding current caseload	
Education & Youth	5.504	5.714	0.210	0.158			
Total Out of County Placements	19.299	21.134	1.835	2.010	0.000		
Education & Youth (Non-Schools)							
Inclusion & Progression	5.752	5.746	-0.006	0.229		In year additional grant variation relating to the Local Authority Education Grant - Additional Learning Needs Provision of £0.500m has been used to offset the service overspend in line with the grant terms and conditions.	
Integrated Youth Provision	0.927	0.861	-0.065	-0.066	-0.066	Recruitment delays, enabling grant utilisation against trainee costs. Income generation increases on room hire.	
School Planning & Provision	0.638	0.533	-0.105	-0.094	-0.105	Reduction in expenditure from transition budget due to delayed Capital Projects and reduction in the number of mobile classrooms.	
Minor Variances	3.192	3.193	0.001	0.018	-0.010		
Total Education & Youth (Non-Schools)	10.509	10.333	-0.175	0.086	-0.181		
Schools							
	117.424	117.234	-0.190	-0.166		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 (£0.153m) underspend. The above underspends are offset by a number of insignificant adverse variances within Primary and Secondary non-delegated, totalling £0.061m.	
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	9.228	10.258	1.030	1.050		Significant variance of £0.400m in highways maintenance costs, £0.240m Alltami 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.	Method Statements have been submitted for ongoing budget pressures into 2025/26.
Highways Network	11.707	12.041	0.335	0.785		Projected impact of weather events to date of £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. Public Conveniences reporting £0.034m overspend due to increased maintenance costs. Street-lighting energy cost increases of £0.131m are forecast and built into the projections. Estimated costings are being collated following the significant impacts on the highway network from Storms Ashley, Bert and Darragh, together with Storm Eowyn in January. Fleet Services underspend of (£0.450m) reported at Month 9 from sales of replaced vehicles in recent months.	A method statement has been completed for the projected overspend on Winter Maintenance and severe storm events as a 2025/26 budget consideration.
Transportation	11.125	11.434	0.309	0.161	-0.140	School transport significant variances increasing 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 with public health burials increasing year on year.	

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Regulatory Services	11.510	11.693	0.183	0.130	-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	0.000			
Total Streetscene & Transportation	43.570	45.427	1.856	2.125	-0.249		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Business	2.399	2.151	-0.248	-0.193	-0.234	Part year vacancy savings	
Development	-0.143	0.474	0.617	0.289		Estimated fee income shortfall in Building Control, Land Charges and Planning Fees	
Access	1.638	1.736	0.098	0.138		Commitment for the cost Ash Die Back tree works £0.140m projected to March, 2025 mitigated in part by maximisation of grant income	
Regeneration	0.731	0.527	-0.204	-0.084		Maximisation of Grant Funding - re-allocating staff costs against the eligible grant	
Management & Strategy	1.955	1.811	-0.144	-0.117	-0.105	Part year vacancy savings	
Minor Variances	1.419	1.427	0.008	0.018	-0.015		
Total Planning, Environment & Economy	7.998	8.126	0.128	0.050	-0.354		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.308	2.368	0.060	0.050		Historic efficiency target for DBS checks not realised	
Corporate Finance	2.199	2.052	-0.147	-0.139	-0.104	Part year vacancy savings	
Total People & Resources	4.507	4.421	-0.087	-0.088	-0.104		
Governance							
Legal Services	1.025	0.972	-0.053	-0.048	-0.040	Minor variances across the Service	
Revenues	0.430	0.191	-0.238	-0.168	0.000	Anticipated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund which has increased at Month 9	
Minor Variances	10.920	10.839	-0.081	-0.087	-0.065		
Total Governance	12.375	12.002	-0.372	-0.303	-0.140		
Assets							
Policy	0.754	0.713	-0.041	-0.024	-0.041	Favourable variance of (£0.041m) due to Salary Savings	
Minor Variances	10.717	10.726	0.009	0.004			
Total Assets	11.471	11.439	-0.032	-0.020	-0.041		
Housing and Communities							
Housing Solutions	4.379	6.721	2.342	2.342		Adverse variance to the Housing Solutions budget of £2.342m, £2.326m attributed to Homelessness costs with £0.016m on minor variances.	
Minor Variances	13.975	13.973	-0.002	-0.002	-0.002		
Total Housing and Communities	18.354	20.694	2.340	2.340	-0.002		
Chief Executive's	1.674	1.653	-0.022	-0.020	-0.020		
Central & Corporate Finance	27.357	20.114	-7.242	-6.572		The Central Loans and Investment Account (CLIA) for the 2024/25 indicates an increased underspend of (£0.770m) at Month 9 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 was 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. At Month 9 the actual figure is revised to (£3.333m) with an increase in funding from Schools. There is also the full annual saving of the annual service agreement from Mynydd Isa school of (£0.495m) due to delays in opening.	
Grand Total	368.106	371.495	3.389	3.860	-1.436		