

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

**MONTH 9 - SUMMARY**

| Service                        | Approved Budget<br>(£m) | Projected Outturn<br>(£m) | Annual Variance<br>(£m) | Impact of Covid-19<br>(£m) | Last Month Variance<br>(£m) | Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m  | Action Required |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Social Services</b>         |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |  |                 |
| <b>Older People</b>            |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |  |                 |
| Localities                     | 19.218                  | 18.656                    | -0.563                  |                            | -0.579                      | The net cost of residential care is £0.488m underspent. This includes the cost of residential care placements net of income received such as property charges and contributions from health. There is a decline in the demand for residential care placements due to Covid 19. Day care is £0.058m under budget, this service is currently closed and will be reopened only when it is safe to do so. Domiciliary and Direct Payments are reporting a combined overspend of £0.215m and are projected based on recent levels of care provision. The Localities Team staff budget is underspending by £0.161m due to a number of staff not yet on top of scale, some temporary reduced hours and in-year savings on travel costs. The minor adaptations budget is £0.058m underspent based on expected activity and there is a small underspend on service level agreements paid to the third sector of £0.008m.  |                 |
| Resources & Regulated Services | 8.027                   | 7.689                     | -0.337                  |                            | -0.298                      | The Councils in-house care provision is reporting an underspend of £0.337m. Day care is reporting an overspend of £0.003m, day centres are currently closed and assumed to be so until it is safe to reopen. The day centre staff are deployed to residential care to assist in delivering care, however the staff costs are still recorded against the day-care budget. Homecare is underspent by £0.018m. Staff costs are incurred as a result of the amount of homecare delivered and projected forward based on estimated activity. Residential care is overspent by £0.007m due to a number of small variances. Extra care is underspending by £0.330m. Plas Yr Ywern in Holywell has not yet opened an a full compliment of staff is yet to be recruited. Care staff already recruited to Plas Yr Ywern are currently redeployed to alternate in-house care services and this has meant significant costs due to Covid 19 have been avoided. It is anticipated that Plas Yr Ywern will open in March 2021. |                 |
| Minor Variances                | 1.228                   | 1.197                     | -0.031                  |                            | -0.030                      |  |                 |
| <b>Adults of Working Age</b>   |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |  |                 |
| Administrative Support         | 0.328                   | 0.255                     | -0.073                  |                            | -0.081                      | Not all staff are currently paid at top of grade and there are also some staff seconded from this service. There have also been in-year savings on staff travel costs.   |                 |

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| Residential Placements                            | 1.297                   | 2.090                     | 0.793                   |                            | 0.720                       | This outturn is the cost of social care for people within the Mental Health service. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary care and Direct Payments. Care needs for individuals within this service vary over time, sometimes suddenly, and corresponding costs are subject to the same changes.            |                 |
| Minor Variances                                   | 29.581                  | 29.281                    | -0.300                  |                            | -0.273                      |   |                 |
| <b>Children's Services</b>                        |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |   |                 |
| Family Placement                                  | 2.621                   | 2.786                     | 0.165                   |                            | 0.162                       | The overspend is due to current demands on the service from the number of fostering placements, which in some instances avoid making an Out of County placement which would be more expensive. The main pressure areas are payments for foster carers, foster agencies and special guardianship payments.                           |                 |
| Legal & Third Party                               | 0.225                   | 0.540                     | 0.316                   |                            | 0.321                       | Legal costs are overspent due to the number of cases going through the courts and the use of external legal professionals. Direct Payments have also increased in demand.   |                 |
| Professional Support                              | 5.293                   | 5.572                     | 0.279                   |                            | 0.283                       | 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 therefore minimised and additional temporary posts are sometimes required.   |                 |
| Minor Variances                                   | 1.482                   | 1.504                     | 0.022                   |                            | 0.017                       |   |                 |
| <b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>           |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |   |                 |
| Charging Policy income                            | -3.060                  | -2.595                    | 0.465                   |                            | -0.079                      | A misinterpretation of complex financial assessment rules has been detected. This has resulted in a number of service users being overcharged over a number of years. The overspend is due to the cost to reimburse service users of any overcharges. This is being partially offset by an estimated recoupment of Direct Payments. |                 |
| Business Support Service                          | 1.224                   | 1.162                     | -0.062                  |                            | -0.059                      | This variance is on salaries and due to some staff not yet paid top of scale and some staff opting out of the pension scheme.   |                 |
| Management & Support                              | -2.057                  | -2.192                    | -0.135                  |                            | -0.130                      | The underspend is due to not having to contribute to the Regional Collaboration unit in 2020/21.  |                 |
| Impact of Covid-19                                | 0.000                   | -0.360                    | -0.360                  |                            | 0.000                       | This underspend is due to hardship funding received from Welsh Government to support the Councils in-house care provision for homecare, residential care and supported living. Most additional costs incurred due to Covid are staff costs which have already been reported within their respective services areas.                 |                 |
| Minor Variances                                   | 3.058                   | 3.042                     | -0.016                  |                            | -0.008                      |   |                 |
| <b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b> | <b>68.465</b>           | <b>68.629</b>             | <b>0.164</b>            | <b>-0.000</b>              | <b>-0.036</b>               |   |                 |

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| <b>Out of County</b>                    |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |   |   |
| Children's Services                     | 7.437                   | 8.223                     | 0.787                   |                            | 0.697                       | The pressure reflects the current cohort of placements with significant numbers of new placements in recent months together with a number of placement changes at higher cost due to breakdowns of placements   | Continue to robustly challenge placement proposals presented to the Out of County panel and explore opportunities for cost reductions across the whole of the current cohort. |
| Education & Youth                       | 4.504                   | 4.348                     | -0.156                  |                            | -0.131                      | The projected underspend reflects the current cohort of Education placements with demand for new placements still being maintained  | Continue to robustly challenge placement proposals presented to the Out of County panel and explore opportunities for cost reductions across the whole of the current cohort. |
| <b>Total Out of County</b>              | <b>11.940</b>           | <b>12.571</b>             | <b>0.631</b>            | <b>0.000</b>               | <b>0.566</b>                |   |   |
| <b>Education &amp; Youth</b>            |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |   |   |
| Integrated Youth Provision              | 1.347                   | 1.099                     | -0.248                  | -0.135                     | -0.228                      | Includes a projected underspend of -£0.135 on Youth Centres due to closures arising from COVID-19 safety measures producing savings on building cleaning and some relief staffing costs. Also includes a total saving of -£0.111m on the Youth Justice Service mainly due to a delay in recruitment to a new post and savings on equipment purchase and training. |   |
| School Improvement Systems              | 1.709                   | 1.504                     | -0.205                  |                            | -0.181                      | Savings arising from the challenge of non-essential spend. Early Entitlement savings due to demography and reduced number of settings requiring funding. COVID-19 has caused a significant reduction of non-maintained settings requiring funding.  |   |
| School Planning & Provision             | 0.676                   | 0.618                     | -0.058                  |                            | -0.065                      | Mainly a saving against the provision for third party/public liability insurance claims   |   |
| Minor Variances                         | 5.038                   | 4.953                     | -0.086                  |                            | -0.051                      |   |   |
| <b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>      | <b>8.770</b>            | <b>8.174</b>              | <b>-0.596</b>           | <b>-0.135</b>              | <b>-0.524</b>               |   |   |
| <b>Schools</b>                          | <b>98.728</b>           | <b>98.728</b>             | <b>0.000</b>            |                            | <b>0.000</b>                |   |   |
| <b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b> |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |   |   |

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| Service Delivery    | 8.911                   | 9.271                     | 0.360                   |                            | 0.230                       | The service has incurred additional revenue pressures from responding to and resolving previously reported security measures and remedial actions following vandalism at the Household Recycling Centres. This matter was widely reported during 2019-20 and has not abated. The monthly costs are now running at over £0.006m per month, mainly due to the introduction of a night time presence on the sites. This has resulted in a forecast pressure in the sum of £0.072m for the year. Further impacts for hire of transport, additional stores recharges and HRC site costs are reflected at Month 9.   |                 |
| Highways Network    | 7.764                   | 7.724                     | -0.040                  |                            | -0.061                      | Following a stringent review of fuel costs and advice from market advisors, the fuel cost forecast for fleet vehicles has been reduced accordingly. In addition, updated projections on a number of services across Highways Network has resulted in reduced commitments.  |                 |
| Transportation      | 9.366                   | 8.915                     | -0.452                  |                            | -0.246                      | Operators have been supported during school closures by receiving 75% of their contracted values, in addition a number of routes have been re-procured to reflect current arrangements for operation in the new school year. The forecast position for this service has now been clarified and accommodates both matters. It should be noted however that this improvement will only impact during 2020-21 and the underlying impact of the current circumstances. There are also risks around this position in that the updated forecast is based on the assumption that Colleges will honour their agreement to support Post 16 transport in the sum of £0.600m. However, if this income is not realised in full, the position will be impacted accordingly. Impact of 75% payable to School Transport providers from January due to school closures into February and reflects the projected 25% saving has been recognised at Month 9. |                 |
| Regulatory Services | 4.609                   | 4.815                     | 0.206                   |                            | 0.208                       | This service has experienced a downturn in the levels of income generated by sales of Electricity and this is currently anticipated to reach a level of some £0.120m during the year. There has also been a downturn in the rebate for co-mingled waste due to a considerable drop in the value of approximately £70-£80 per ton. The variance reflects the projected loss of car park income in Quarter 2 and 3 following amendments to WG Income Loss Funding eligibility criteria, with further car park income loss risks shown under the COVID-19 variances.  |                 |

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| Impact of Covid-19                            | 0.000                   | 0.721                     | 0.721                   | 0.721                      | 0.975                       | Following a full reconciliation and review of Streetscene expenditure and income loss relating to the Coronavirus Pandemic, all relevant details have now been consolidated to one code. This has been done in order to facilitate enhanced reporting and monitoring of the impact. All risks identified are now recorded in this forecast and at month 9 they include; £0.450m car parking income loss, £0.099m in relation to potential PCN and FPN revenues, £0.040m in relation to additional vehicles and fuel and £0.075m in relation to additional private contractors and plant hire. A level of additional disposal expenditure as a result of increased kerbside waste collections due to people working and remaining at or close to home up to October totalling £0.133m was approved by WG. A further £0.057m for the November to March period is now reflected in the Month 9 variance position. | It should also be noted that Welsh Government has approved 50% funding of the Grass Cutting contract, let due to all operatives being diverted to waste routes. An application has been made for the release of part of the £3m COVID-19 Contingency Reserve Funding to fund the other 50%. In addition, there has only been part funding approved of the free school meal transport provided to homes and hubs and submitted as a part of the COVID claim; the balance of funding will also need to be met from the £3m COVID-19 Contingency Reserve. |
| Holding Accounts                              | 0.000                   | 0.000                     | 0.000                   |                            | 0.000                       |  |  |
| <b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b> | <b>30.650</b>           | <b>31.446</b>             | <b>0.796</b>            | <b>0.721</b>               | <b>1.106</b>                |  | <b>-0.310</b>  |
| <b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>    |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |  |  |
| Development                                   | 0.023                   | 0.175                     | 0.153                   | 0.228                      | 0.190                       | Pressure within the Building Control service is due in the main, to delays sourcing core materials meaning that the construction industry is operating at a low level of capacity. This results in a projected reduced Building Control fee income. The current economic conditions are having an adverse effect on the Planning Applications, the projection is dependant on the number and value of applications received, resulting in a changeable outturn to ensure an accurate reflection. The overall variance is mitigated by the Fee Increase for planning and related applications of approx 20% that came into effect August 2020   |  |
| Regeneration                                  | 0.511                   | 0.559                     | 0.048                   |                            | 0.064                       | There has been a significant impact on income levels following the closure of the markets in the first half of the financial year. Market rents remain suspended as a result of the ongoing pandemic. The overspend has been mitigated in part due to the receipt of a proportion of Welsh Government Admin Grants for COVID funding for business Grants   |  |
| Impact of Covid-19                            | 0.000                   | 0.000                     | 0.000                   | 0.044                      | 0.000                       |  |  |
| Minor Variances                               | 5.228                   | 5.337                     | 0.109                   |                            | 0.102                       |  |  |
| <b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>       | <b>5.762</b>            | <b>6.071</b>              | <b>0.310</b>            | <b>0.272</b>               | <b>0.356</b>                |  |  |
| <b>People &amp; Resources</b>                 |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |  |  |

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| HR & OD                             | 2.398                   | 2.299                     | -0.098                  |                            | -0.090                      | Favourable variance due to the agreed recharge for overheads claimed for the TTP project for hosting the service on behalf of the region   |                 |
| Corporate Finance                   | 2.094                   | 2.051                     | -0.043                  |                            | -0.036                      |  |                 |
| <b>Total People &amp; Resources</b> | <b>4.491</b>            | <b>4.350</b>              | <b>-0.141</b>           | <b>0.000</b>               | <b>-0.126</b>               |  |                 |
| <b>Governance</b>                   |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |  |                 |
| Legal Services                      | 0.736                   | 0.893                     | 0.157                   |                            | 0.161                       | Overspend as a result of employing locums covering absence to ensure continuing client service delivery in the area of child protection £0.193m. Historical efficiency target that was dependant on demand reduction in another service that has not occurred, thereby preventing the consequent achievement of the efficiency £0.091m. Total overspend is mitigated by vacant posts, expected fee income and commitment challenge across the service. |                 |
| Democratic Services                 | 2.098                   | 2.018                     | -0.080                  | 0.004                      | -0.074                      | Favourable variance following reduced take up of Members Allowances £0.024m, saving from non requirement to resource Electoral Canvassers £0.022m Commitment challenge and minor variances across the service.   |                 |
| ICT                                 | 4.445                   | 4.394                     | -0.051                  |                            | -0.038                      | Minor variances across the service each less than £0.025m  |                 |
| Revenues                            | 0.037                   | -0.035                    | -0.071                  | 0.293                      | 0.055                       | Favourable variance at Month 9 following review of Council Tax Collection Fund potential surplus, committed spend against Welsh Government Admin Grants received for COVID business grants; potential fee income for fines anticipated by March, 2021  |                 |
| Impact of Covid-19                  | 0.000                   | -0.000                    | -0.000                  | 0.030                      | -0.000                      |  |                 |
| Minor Variances                     | 1.878                   | 1.842                     | -0.036                  |                            | -0.032                      |  |                 |
| <b>Total Governance</b>             | <b>9.193</b>            | <b>9.112</b>              | <b>-0.081</b>           | <b>0.327</b>               | <b>0.071</b>                |  |                 |
| <b>Strategic Programmes</b>         |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |  |                 |
| Minor Variances                     | 4.943                   | 4.677                     | -0.266                  |                            | -0.307                      |  |                 |
| <b>Total Strategic Programmes</b>   | <b>4.943</b>            | <b>4.677</b>              | <b>-0.266</b>           | <b>0.000</b>               | <b>-0.307</b>               |  |                 |
| <b>Housing &amp; Assets</b>         |                         |                           |                         |                            |                             |  |                 |
| Enterprise Centres                  | -0.217                  | -0.109                    | 0.107                   |                            | 0.108                       | Pressure due to loss of income in respect of void units  |                 |
| Property Asset And Development      | 0.444                   | 0.368                     | -0.076                  |                            | -0.076                      | Mainly staffing cost savings pending completion of restructure   |                 |
| Caretaking & Security               | 0.262                   | 0.201                     | -0.062                  |                            | -0.061                      | Mainly staffing cost savings due to vacancies  |                 |
| Centralised Costs                   | 3.353                   | 2.409                     | -0.943                  |                            | -0.931                      | Favourable variance of £(0.943)m for utilities. £(0.570)m NDR savings predominantly due to the demolition of Phases 3&4 . £(0.228)m savings on electricity, £(0.085)m savings on gas, and £(0.059)m savings on water.  |                 |

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| Benefits                               | 11.665                  | 11.839                    | 0.174                   | 0.119                      | 0.173                       | Potential net pressure of up to £0.750m on the Council Tax reduction scheme due to additional take up arising from the COVID-19 pandemic impact on employment. This figure takes account of £0.147m of WG emergency funding support in respect of the April to September element of the overall pressure but the £0.750m is not included in the variance figures. Variance includes pressure of £0.119m on staffing costs due the additional demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and overpayments. |                 |
| Housing Solutions                      | 1.091                   | 1.031                     | -0.060                  |                            | -0.100                      | Savings on Bed and Breakfast accommodation due to managing demand through use of temporary accommodation  |                 |
| Council Fund Housing                   | -0.324                  | -0.202                    | 0.122                   |                            | 0.120                       | Reduction of internal Housing Support grant allocation due to eligibility issues and pressure arising from new service contract for Carelink  |                 |
| Impact of Covid-19                     | 0.000                   | -0.040                    | -0.040                  | -0.040                     | 0.000                       |   |                 |
| Minor Variances                        | -0.126                  | -0.071                    | 0.055                   |                            | 0.050                       |   |                 |
| <b>Total Housing &amp; Assets</b>      | <b>16.149</b>           | <b>15.426</b>             | <b>-0.723</b>           | <b>0.079</b>               | <b>-0.718</b>               |   |                 |
| <b>Chief Executive's</b>               | <b>2.748</b>            | <b>2.429</b>              | <b>-0.319</b>           | 0.004                      | <b>-0.308</b>               | Vacant Posts across the service; commitment challenge   |                 |
| <b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b> | <b>24.147</b>           | <b>24.002</b>             | <b>-0.145</b>           |                            | <b>-0.351</b>               | Over recovery of planned pension contributions recoupment against actuarial projections based on the level of contributions received to date and forecast to the end of the financial year. At Month 9 committed £0.250m against a revised Bad Debt Provision following re-evaluation of aged debt and the current economic climate and COVID conditions.   |                 |
| Impact of Covid-19                     | 0.000                   | 0.000                     | 0.000                   | 0.000                      | -0.000                      |   |                 |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                     | <b>285.986</b>          | <b>285.615</b>            | <b>-0.372</b>           | <b>1.268</b>               | <b>-0.270</b>               |   |                 |