

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 6 - SUMMARY

Service	Approved Budget (£m)	Projected Outturn (£m)	Annual Variance (£m)	Impact of Covid-19 (£m)	Last Month Variance (£m)	Cause of Major Variances greater than £0.050m	Action Required
Social Services							
Older People							
Localities	19.316	19.175	-0.142		-0.138	The net cost of residential care is reporting an overspend of £0.077m. This includes the cost of residential care placements net of the income received for this service, such as property charges and contributions from health. Day care is £0.025m under budget and will not resume until safe to do so, this is currently assumed to be at the beginning of January 2022. Domiciliary and Direct Payments are reporting a combined underspend of £0.078m. The Localities staff budget is underspent by £0.075m due to temporary vacancies and not all staff being paid top of grade. The Minor Adaptations budget is £0.030m underspent based on current demand.	
Resources & Regulated Services	8.627	8.355	-0.272		-0.330	The Councils in-house care provision is projected to underspend by £0.272m. Day care is underspent by £0.010m, day centres are closed and will only reopen once safe to do so. Homecare is £0.066m overspent and there continues to be a growing demand for this service. Residential care is expected to underspend by £0.259m although there is an assumption that ICF slippage and Winter Pressure funding will occur this year and contributions from these are included within the financial projections. Extra care is underspent by £0.069m due to service demand.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Minor Variances	1.235	1.205	-0.029		-0.011		
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	26.875	27.058	0.183		0.104	The overspend is the cost of social care for people with learning disabilities or physical disabilities. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary care and Direct Payments which are required to meet their care needs.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.339	0.267	-0.072		-0.062	Not all staff are currently paid at top of grade and there are also some staff who are seconded from this service.	
Residential Placements	1.791	2.139	0.349		0.353	The overspend 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.	
Minor Variances	4.038	3.954	-0.084		-0.077		
Children's Services							
Family Placement	2.700	2.826	0.126		0.129	The overspend is due to service demand from the number of foster placements. In some instances these avoid having to make expensive Out of County placements. The main pressures are payments to foster carers, foster agencies and special guardianship payments.	

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Grants	0.268	0.210	-0.059		-0.059	There is an assumption that the Welsh Government will allow for a flexible approach in the use of grants, similar to that which occurred in 2020/21, which would result in some costs within this service to be funded from grant.	
Legal & Third Party	0.210	0.563	0.353		0.349	Legal costs are overspent due to the number of cases going through the courts and use of some external legal professionals. Direct Payments have also increased in demand.	
Residential Placements	0.549	0.443	-0.106		-0.104	This is an in-year underspend associated with the opening of a registered Childrens Home within Flintshire, in-year grant funding from the Young People and Childrens Services Transformation Fund is being used to offset start-up costs.	
Professional Support	5.387	5.723	0.335		0.325	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	0.843	0.864	0.021		0.013		
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.309	-0.309	-0.309	-0.300	Welsh Government is providing financial assistance, through the hardship funding, for the Councils in-house residential, supported living, homecare and extra care services. Most additional costs incurred due to Covid are staff costs which are reported within their respective service areas.	
Minor Variances	-1.552	-1.551	0.001		0.009		
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	70.627	70.922	0.295	-0.309	0.197		
Out of County							
Children's Services	8.417	9.284	0.868		0.695	The projected overspend reflects the costs of the current cohort of placements with the budget pressure being influenced by the full year impacts in 2021/22 of significant numbers of new placements made in the latter part of 2020/21. This has continued during 2021/22 with a further influx of new placements. The true pressure level has been partly mitigated by an allocation of one-off grant income of £0.500m from the WG Social Care Recovery Fund.	
Education & Youth	4.504	4.488	-0.016		-0.015		
Total Out of County	12.921	13.772	0.851	0.000	0.680		
Education & Youth							

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Inclusion & Progression	4.462	4.386	-0.076		-0.071	Favourable variance due to in year efficiencies identified within the MEAG (Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant) service and Education Psychology service. The MEAG service received £200k more in WG funding for 2021-22, which has been used to recruit temporary posts, resulting in core budget being underspent. The Education Psychology service have recruited 3 Assistant EPs. The saving here has arisen due to posts not being at full year cost. Underspend also due to minor variances across all services within Inclusion.	
Integrated Youth Provision	1.018	1.018	0.000		-0.059	Due to savings on building cleaning at Youth Centres closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic	
School Improvement Systems	1.823	1.671	-0.152		-0.155	The underspend in Early Entitlement includes the maximisation of the Early Years Pupil Deprivation Grant (EYPDG) by allocating existing staff against the grant - £18,500. An efficiency of £0.100m has been identified in relation to WG top-up funding for non-maintained settings, releasing core budget of £0.095m and resources mitigated by utilising EYPDG £0.005m. £0.050m contingency remains within the budget to cover any increased Spring Term 22 costs.	
Minor Variances	1.726	1.573	-0.153		-0.044		
Total Education & Youth	9.030	8.649	-0.381	0.000	-0.328		
Schools	101.937	101.937	-0.000		0.000		
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	8.696	8.792	0.096		0.013	The service has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.050m for security costs following vandalism at the Household Recycling Centres. Plant hire and repairs incurring additional costs of £0.050m, which is attributable to aging plant and equipment. Street lighting is also incurring a £0.120m revenue pressure on the Community Council Income Budget. However, this has largely been offset by workforce agency costs, which have been recovered through Covid Hardship funding claims.	
Highways Network	7.847	7.939	0.091		0.101	Highways service area incurred overspend in excess of £0.050m in staff costs relating to flooding and drainage costs. There are also cumulative minor variances totalling £0.037m across the service, including some additional staff recharges.	

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Transportation	9.750	9.854	0.104		0.132	Local bus services incurred a revenue pressure of: £0.100m as a result of the Service 5 reprourement and £0.115m implementation of the Deeside Shuttle Bus Service at the new DIP Park and Ride. Also, additional costs incurred of £0.049m due to the increased number of school days, 7 days as opposed to budgeted 5 additional school days. The total additional costs have been partially offset by projected Underspend of (£0.149) in Social Services Transport has offset some of the overspend as not all services have returned to full operation following the pandemic. However, this underspend could significantly reduce, once services start to resume.	Risk that the cost of the reprourement of Service 5 could increase further.
Regulatory Services	5.173	5.173	0.001		0.073	Car parking income currently reflects a loss of £0.239m, through maximising eligible funding from the WG Income Loss fund. There has been a positive movement of (£0.073m) due to improving market rates for the sale of recyclable materials. The service has been largely offset by savings in recruitment and maintenance costs of parking machines.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	Service Delivery has a recurring revenue pressure of £0.050m for additional cleaning and maintenance costs in Alltami depot as a result of the pandemic. Waste operations are showing additional costs of £0.090m in receptacles due to higher demand in waste collections as an impact of people working from home. This service area is also experiencing additional an revenue pressure of £0.090m in plant hire, maintenance and repairs. Additional costs of £0.090m incurred in contractors spend and Traffic Management, as the service was unable to provide the required training and has also faced recruitment delays during the Covid-19 Pandemic.	
Total Streetscene & Transportation	31.466	32.078	0.612	0.320	0.639		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Community	0.883	0.993	0.110		0.093	Adverse variance due to the shortfall in Fee Income in Licensing and Pest Control Services	
Development	0.019	-0.037	-0.056		-0.033	Favourable variance following higher than anticipated Fee Income for Development Management and Land Charges	
Management & Strategy	1.311	1.188	-0.123		-0.111	Staff savings due to vacant posts	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	0.116	0.000		
Minor Variances	3.947	3.955	0.008		0.009		
Total Planning & Environment	6.160	6.100	-0.061	0.116	-0.041		
People & Resources							

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HR & OD	2.465	2.315	-0.149		-0.126	Favourable variance is due to the projected income from the agreed recharge for overheads claimed for the Test, Trace, Project Project for hosting the service on behalf of the region to March, 2022	
Corporate Finance	2.166	2.080	-0.086		-0.090		
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Total People & Resources	4.631	4.395	-0.235	0.000	-0.216		
Governance							
Democratic Services	2.125	2.033	-0.092		-0.098	The majority of the favourable variance follows the reduced take up of Members Allowances and savings from travel expenses due to remote meetings, together with commitment challenge across the service	
Customer Services	1.030	0.943	-0.087		-0.063	Favourable variance is due to higher than anticipated fee income levels resulting from the resumption of Ceremonies following the relaxation of COVID restrictions	
Revenues	0.475	0.127	-0.348		-0.277	Favourable variance is in the main due to the projected potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.193m), Welsh Government Lockdown Admin Grant and minor variances across the service	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.038	0.000		
Minor Variances	6.593	6.483	-0.110		-0.103	Cumulative minor variances across the portfolio	
Total Governance	10.223	9.586	-0.637	0.038	-0.541		
Strategic Programmes							
ADM's & CAT's	4.648	4.641	-0.007		-0.006		
Total Strategic Programmes	4.648	4.641	-0.007	0.000	-0.006		
Housing & Assets							
Caretaking & Security	0.262	0.200	-0.062		-0.057	Projected underspend is due to salary savings on vacant posts	
Industrial Units	-1.237	-1.467	-0.230		-0.230	Additional unbudgeted income from new power generation lease	
Centralised Costs	2.783	2.585	-0.197		-0.125	Underspend on Gas and Electric due to continued reduced consumption	
Minor Variances	15.364	15.472	0.107		0.125		
Total Housing & Assets	17.172	16.790	-0.382	0.000	-0.287		
Chief Executive's							
Staff savings due to vacant posts	2.350	2.257	-0.093		-0.087		
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000		

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Central & Corporate Finance	26.292	26.103	-0.189		-0.192	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recouped against actuarial projections based on the level of contributions received during the year. Projected outturn on Matrix rebates and inflation pressures anticipated, but not required to date.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Grand Total	297.457	297.230	-0.227	0.165	-0.182		