

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 7 - 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	19.187	-0.129		-0.142	The net cost of residential care is reporting an overspend of £0.127m. 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. Domiciliary and Direct Payments are reporting an underspend of £0.133m. The Localities staff budget is underspent by £0.065m due to temporary vacancies and not all staff being paid to of grade. The Minor Adaptations budget is £0.029m underspent based on current demand.	
Resources & Regulated Services	8.627	8.347	-0.280		-0.272	The Councils in-house care provision is projected to underspend by £0.280m. Day care is underspent by £0.010m, day centres are closed and will only reopen once safe to do so. Homecare is £0.069m overspent and there continues to be a growing demand for this service. Residential care is expected to underspend by £0.262m. Extra care is underspent by £0.077m due to service demand.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Minor Variances	1.235	1.204	-0.030		-0.029		
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	26.875	27.094	0.219		0.183	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	0.263	-0.076		-0.072	Not all staff are currently paid at top of grade and there are also some staff seconded from this service	
Residential Placements	1.791	2.171	0.380		0.349	The overspend is the cost of social care for people within the Mental Health service. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary and Direct Payments.	
Minor Variances	4.038	3.915	-0.123		-0.085		
Children's Services							
Family Placement	2.700	2.827	0.127		0.126	The overspend is due to service demand from the number of foster placements. In some instances these avoid having to make expensive residential placements. The main pressures are payments to foster carers, foster agencies and special guardianship payments.	
Grants	0.268	0.205	-0.063		-0.059	Grant awards have allowed for some costs usually funded from revenue budget to be funded from grants.	

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Legal & Third Party	0.210	0.507	0.296		0.353	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	0.376	-0.173		-0.106	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	5.713	0.326		0.335	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	0.874	0.031		0.021		
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	-0.309	Welsh Government is providing financial assistance, through the hardship funding for the Councils in-house care services. Most additional costs incurred due to Covid are staff costs which are reported within their respective service areas.	
Minor Variances	-1.552	-1.566	-0.014		0.003		
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	70.627	70.816	0.189	-0.300	0.295		
Out of County							
Children's Services	8.417	9.255	0.838		0.868	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 a number of new placements made in the second half of 2020/21. This has continued in 2021/22 with a further influx of new placements. The true pressure level has also been partly mitigated by an allocation of £0.500m of one-off grant income from the Welsh Government Social Care recovery fund.	
Education & Youth	4.504	4.453	-0.051		-0.016	The current projected underspend reflects costs of the current cohort of placements but there remains a high need and demand for Out of County Education provision	
Total Out of County	12.921	13.708	0.787	0.000	0.851		
Education & Youth							

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Inclusion & Progression	4.462	4.394	-0.067		-0.076	Reduction in underspend due to the current pressures within the EHE service. There has been a significant increase in the demand for the service resulting in an overspend. The majority of the underspend has been offset by maximising grants such as 14-19 and ALP, with the shortfall being met by reported underspends within the service. This needs to be highlighted as a risk as demand could increase further, which would then reduce the £0.060m in-year efficiencies.	
Integrated Youth Provision	1.018	0.917	-0.101		-0.091	Due to savings on building cleaning charges at Youth Centres which have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic	
School Improvement Systems	1.823	1.640	-0.183		-0.152	Increase in Post-16 funding of £0.020m applied to School Improvement Senior Manager post 0.2 fte. The underspend in Early Entitlement includes the maximisation of the 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 setting resources mitigated by using EYPDG/RRRS £0.005m. A £0.050m contingency remains within the budget to cover any increased Spring Term 2022 costs.	
Total Education & Youth	9.030	8.610	-0.420	0.000	-0.381		
Schools	101.937	101.937	0.000		-0.000		
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	8.696	8.819	0.123		0.096	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	7.899	7.993	0.094		0.091	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	9.813	0.063		0.104	Local bus services incurred a revenue pressure of: £0.100m as a result of the Service 5 reprocurement and £0.100m implementation of the Deeside Shuttle Bus Service at the new DIP Park and Ride. Also, additional costs incurred of £0.046m due to the increased number of school days, 7 days as opposed to budgeted 5 additional school days. The Service has benefited this month in Childrens Transport due to reduced routes for Out of County placements, which is offsetting by the pressure in response to the Arriva strike commitment. The total additional costs have been partially offset by projected underspend of (£0.149) in Social Services Transport as not all services have returned to full operation following the pandemic. However, this underspend could significantly reduce once services start to resume.	
Regulatory Services	5.173	5.197	0.024		0.001	Car parking income currently reflects a loss of £0.239m, through maximising eligible funding from the WG Income Loss fund. The service has also incurred savings in recruitment and maintenance costs of cash machines. The overall overspend has been largely offset by favourable market rates for the sale of recyclable materials.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.315	0.315	0.315	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 effect 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.	
Other Minor Variances	31.517	32.137	0.620		0.612		
Total Streetscene & Transportation	31.517	32.137	0.620	0.315	0.612		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Community	0.883	0.996	0.113		0.110	Adverse variance due to the shortfall in Fee Income in Licensing and Pest Control Services	
Development	0.019	-0.026	-0.045		-0.056	Favourable variance following higher than anticipated Fee Income for Development Management and Land Charges	
Management & Strategy	1.311	1.181	-0.130		-0.123	Staff savings from vacant posts	

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Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000		
Minor Variances	3.947	3.917	-0.030		0.008		
Total Planning & Environment	6.160	6.068	-0.092	-0.000	-0.061		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.465	2.314	-0.151		-0.149	Favourable variance is due to the projected income from the agreed recharge for overheads claimed for the Test, Trace & Protect (TTP) Project for hosting the service on behalf of the region to March, 2022	
Corporate Finance	2.166	2.083	-0.083		-0.086	Staff savings from vacant posts	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Total People & Resources	4.631	4.397	-0.234	0.000	-0.235		
Governance							
Democratic Services	2.125	2.041	-0.084		-0.092	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	0.942	-0.088		-0.087	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	0.105	-0.371		-0.348	Favourable variance is in the main due to the projected potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.250m), Welsh Government Lockdown Admin Grant and minor variances across the service	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Minor Variances	6.603	6.507	-0.096		-0.110		
Total Governance	10.233	9.594	-0.639	0.000	-0.637		
Strategic Programmes							
ADM's & CAT's	4.648	4.617	-0.031		-0.007		
Total Strategic Programmes	4.648	4.617	-0.031	0.000	-0.007		
Housing & Assets							

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Caretaking & Security	0.262	0.201	-0.062		-0.062	Savings on staffing due to vacancies	
Industrial Units	-1.237	-1.467	-0.230		-0.230	Due to unbudgeted income from new lease at power generation site	
Centralised Costs	2.783	2.496	-0.286		-0.197	Positive variance of (£0.286)m. Electric rate less than anticipated and an overall reduction in consumption.	
Minor Variances	15.354	15.458	0.104		0.107		
Total Housing & Assets	17.162	16.688	-0.474	0.000	-0.382		
Chief Executive's	2.350	2.193	-0.157		-0.093	Favourable variance is due in the main to staff savings from vacant posts. At Month 7, the 50% recharge of Chief Officer salary to Housing Revenue Account is confirmed.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000		
Central & Corporate Finance	26.241	26.038	-0.203		-0.189	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recouperment 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	296.802	-0.655	0.015	-0.227		