

Budget Monitoring Report
Council Fund Variances

MONTH 8 - 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	19.308	19.183	-0.125		-0.129	The net cost of residential care is reporting an overspend of £0.272m. 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 £0.029m under budget and will not resume until safe to do so. Domiciliary and Direct Payments are reporting an underspend of £0.206m. The Localities staff budget is underspent by £0.120m, significant recruitment and retention challenges mean that there are several temporary vacancies. The Minor Adaptations budget is £0.018m underspent based on current demand.	
Resources & Regulated Services	8.627	8.238	-0.389		-0.280	The Councils in-house care provision is projected to underspend by £0.421m. Day care is underspent by £0.010m, day centres are closed and will reopen once safe to do so. Homecare is £0.085m overspent, demand for the service is high but there are considerable challenges recruiting care staff. Residential care is expected to underspend by £0.421m. Extra care is underspend by £0.043m.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Minor Variances	1.235	1.203	-0.032		-0.030		
Adults of Working Age							
Resources & Regulated Services	26.880	27.209	0.329		0.219	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 Direct Payments which are required to meet their care needs.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.329	0.250	-0.080		-0.076	Not all staff are currently paid at top of grade and there are also some staff seconded from this service.	
Residential Placements	1.791	2.149	0.358		0.380	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	3.974	3.857	-0.117		-0.123		
Children's Services							
Family Placement	2.700	2.750	0.050		0.127	The overspend is due to service demand from the number of foster payments. 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		-0.063	Grant awards have allowed for some costs usually funded from revenue to be funded by grant instead.	

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Legal & Third Party	0.210	0.547	0.336		0.296	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	-0.174		-0.173	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	5.774	0.386		0.326	To support adequate levels of child protection, the established staffing structure needs to be at a sufficient level to meet mandatory safeguarding standards. Vacancies try to be minimised however current recruitment and retention challenges have meant vacancies are required to be covered in alternative ways.	
Minor Variances	0.843	0.867	0.024		0.031		
Safeguarding & Commissioning							
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	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	-1.478	-1.493	-0.015		-0.016		
Total Social Services (excl Out of County)	70.624	70.813	0.190	-0.303	0.189		
Out of County							
Children's Services	8.417	9.352	0.935		0.838	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 £0.650m of one-off grant income from the Welsh Government Social Care Recovery Fund.	
Education & Youth	4.504	4.481	-0.023		-0.051		
Total Out of County	12.921	13.834	0.913	0.000	0.787		
Education & Youth							
Inclusion & Progression	4.462	4.394	-0.068		-0.067	Reduction in underspend at Month 7 due to the current pressures within the EHE service. If demand continues to increase, some of the £0.060m in-year savings offered will need to be used to fund the demand.	
Integrated Youth Provision	1.018	1.018	0.000		-0.101	Due to savings on building cleaning charges at Youth Centres which have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic	

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School Improvement Systems	1.823	1.645	-0.179		-0.183	The underspend of £0.035m in School Improvement is as a result of maximising all grants. 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.	
Minor Variances	1.726	1.549	-0.177		-0.068		
Total Education & Youth	9.030	8.606	-0.423	0.000	-0.420		
Schools	101.937	101.937	-0.000		0.000		
Streetscene & Transportation							
Service Delivery	8.696	8.845	0.149		0.123	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 ageing 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	8.166	0.267		0.094	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. Fuel costs of £0.032m continue to rise above projections. Impact of Storm Arwen at the end of November and subsequent clean up costs totalling £0.150m.	
Transportation	9.750	9.802	0.052		0.063	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 £0.100m in School Transport due to 5 emergency routes at Maes Hyfryd and 4 new PRU routes. Overspend also from the increased number of school days, 7 days as opposed to budgeted 5 additional school days. The total additional costs have been largely offset by a projected underspend 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.	

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Regulatory Services	5.173	5.179	0.007		0.024	Car parking income currently reflects a loss of £0.235m, through maximising eligible funding from the WG Income Loss fund. The service has also incurred savings in recruitment and maintenance costs of parking machines. The overall overspend has been largely offset by favourable market rates for the sale of recyclable materials, but the markets remain volatile.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.315	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.	Maximise WG Hardship Funding opportunities
Other Minor Variances	0.000	0.004	0.004		0.000		
Total Streetscene & Transportation	31.517	32.322	0.804	0.326	0.620		
Planning, Environment & Economy							
Community	0.878	0.970	0.091		0.113	Adverse variance due to the shortfall in Fee Income in both Licensing and Pest Control Services	
Development	0.019	-0.200	-0.219		-0.045	Favourable variance at Month 8 following a receipt of a large one-off Planning Fee and higher than anticipated fee income in Land Charges.	
Regeneration	0.721	0.664	-0.056		-0.017	Favourable variance due to commitment challenge across the Service and higher than anticipated fee income for Markets	
Management & Strategy	1.311	1.172	-0.139		-0.130	Staff savings due to vacant posts	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.143	-0.000		
Minor Variances	3.232	3.257	0.025		-0.013		
Total Planning & Environment	6.160	5.863	-0.298	0.143	-0.092		
People & Resources							
HR & OD	2.465	2.300	-0.164	0.013	-0.151	Favourable variance is due to the projected income from the agreed recharge for overheads claimed for the Test, Trace, Protect Project for hosting the service on behalf of the region to March, 2022.	
Corporate Finance	2.166	2.077	-0.089		-0.083	Staff savings due to vacant posts	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000		
Total People & Resources	4.631	4.377	-0.253	0.013	-0.234		

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Governance							
Democratic Services	2.125	2.046	-0.079	0.003	-0.084	The majority of the variance relates to 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	0.940	-0.090	0.009	-0.088	Favourable variance is due to higher than anticipated fee income levels resulting from the resumption of Ceremonies following the relaxation of COVID restrictions.	Impact of any new COVID restrictions will be monitored closely.
Revenues	0.475	0.067	-0.409		-0.371	Favourable variance is in the main, due to the projected potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.0260m), Welsh Government Lockdown Admin Grant and minor variances across the service.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.000		
Minor Variances	6.603	6.505	-0.098		-0.096		
Total Governance	10.233	9.558	-0.675	0.040	-0.639		
Strategic Programmes							
Minor Variances	4.648	4.612	-0.035		-0.031		
Total Strategic Programmes	4.648	4.612	-0.035	0.000	-0.031		
Housing & Assets							
Caretaking & Security	0.262	0.200	-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	
Benefits	12.850	12.909	0.058		0.030	Net pressure within the overall service due to bad debts re. overpayments not being fully offset by savings elsewhere within the service including additional staffing costs which are being supported by the WG COVID-19 Hardship fund	
Housing Solutions	1.049	0.963	-0.086		-0.024	Underspend on Bed and Breakfast costs due to demand pressures in this area currently being funded by the WG COVID-19 Hardship fund	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000		
Minor Variances	1.455	1.557	0.102		0.097	Cumulative minor variances across the portfolio	
Total Housing & Assets	14.380	14.164	-0.216	0.001	-0.188		
Chief Executive's							
Chief Executive's	2.354	2.184	-0.170		-0.157	Staff savings due to vacant posts	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000		
Central & Corporate Finance	26.241	26.006	-0.235		-0.203	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recoupment against actuarial projections based on the current level of contributions received during the year. Projected outturn on Matrix Rebates and inflation pressures anticipated but not required to date.	

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Centralised Costs	2.783	2.466	-0.317		-0.286	Favourable variance due to the fixed electricity rate being set lower than current market levels and an overall reduction in consumption levels	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.000	-0.000	-0.000	0.000		
Grand Total	297.457	296.741	-0.716	0.220	-0.655		