

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

**MONTH 9 - 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
<b>Social Services</b>							
<b>Older People</b>							
Localities	19.310	19.171	-0.139		-0.125	The net cost of residential care is reporting an overspend of £0.361m. 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 £0.29m under budget and will not resume until safe to do so. Domiciliary and Direct Payments are reporting an underspend of £0.297m. The Localities workforce budget is underspent by £0.136m, significant recruitment and retention challenges mean that there are several vacancies which currently unable to be recruited to. The Minor Adaptation budget is £0.013m underspent based on current demand.	
Resources & Regulated Services	8.627	8.190	-0.437		-0.389	The Councils in-house care provision is projected to underspend by £0.433m. Day care is underspent by £0.018m, day centres are closed and will reopen once safe to do so, but it is unlikely to be this financial year. Homecare is £0.069m overspent, demand for the service is high but there are also considerable challenges recruiting staff. Residential care is expected to underspend by £0.429m. Extra care is underspent by £0.056m.	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.000		
Minor Variances	1.235	1.204	-0.030		-0.032		
<b>Adults of Working Age</b>							
Resources & Regulated Services	26.894	27.247	0.353		0.329	The overspend is the cost of social care packages for people with learning or physical impairments. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary care and Direct Payments, which are required to meet their assessed care needs.	
Professional and Administrative Support	0.329	0.237	-0.093		-0.080	Not all staff are paid top of grade and there are also some staff seconded from this service	
Residential Placements	1.791	2.170	0.379		0.358	The overspend is due to the cost of social care for people supported by the Mental Health service. These costs include nursing and residential care, domiciliary and Direct Payments.	
Minor Variances	3.974	3.834	-0.140		-0.117		
<b>Children's Services</b>							
Grants	0.268	0.209	-0.060		-0.063	In-year grant awards have allowed for some costs usually funded from revenue budget to be funded by grant instead.	
Legal & Third Party	0.210	0.509	0.299		0.336	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	0.375	-0.175		-0.174	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.	

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Professional Support	5.387	5.793	0.406		0.386	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. Welsh Government have allowed for more flexible use of grants this year and use of these grants has helped to minimise this overspend. Further opportunities for the use of Welsh Government Grants continue to be explored to further minimise the overspend.	
Minor Variances	3.543	3.559	0.016		0.074		
<b>Safeguarding &amp; Commissioning</b>							
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	Welsh Government is providing financial assistance, through the hardship fund, 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	-1.456	0.022		-0.012		
<b>Total Social Services (excl Out of County)</b>	<b>70.640</b>	<b>70.746</b>	<b>0.107</b>	<b>-0.295</b>	<b>0.190</b>		
<b>Out of County</b>							
Children's Services	8.417	9.319	0.902		0.935	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	4.461	-0.042		-0.023		
<b>Total Out of County</b>	<b>12.921</b>	<b>13.781</b>	<b>0.860</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.913</b>		
<b>Education &amp; Youth</b>							
Inclusion & Progression	4.462	4.391	-0.071		-0.068	Underspend due to in year savings identified within the MEAG service and Education Psychology service. The MEAG grant for 2021-22 was double the amount in the previous year. This additional grant has been used to recruit temporary posts, resulting in core budget being underspent. The Ed Psych service underspend has arisen from in year salary savings as 3 posts have been recruited to part year. Due to the demand within the EHE service, there is significant financial pressure within the service. This overspend is currently being offset by utilising grants within the service. This area is being monitored closely and if costs increase, will need to use in year efficiencies to offset against the expenditure within this service.	
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	1.628	-0.195		-0.179	The underspend of £35k within the School Improvement service is as a result of maximising the Post 16 grant. The underspend in the Early Entitlement service includes the maximisation of the EYPDG by badging already existing staff against the grant £18,500. An efficiency of £100k has been identified in relation to the WG top-up funding for non-maintained settings, releasing core budget £95k and setting resources mitigated by using EYPDG/RRRS £5k. £50k contingency left within the budget to cover any increased Spring Term 22 costs.	
Business Change & Support	0.442	0.392	-0.050		-0.043	Savings on salaries and software costs	
Minor Variances	1.299	1.146	-0.153		-0.032		
<b>Total Education &amp; Youth</b>	<b>9.045</b>	<b>8.575</b>	<b>-0.469</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.423</b>		
<b>Schools</b>	<b>101.937</b>	<b>101.937</b>	<b>0.000</b>		<b>-0.000</b>		
<b>Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>							
Service Delivery	8.696	8.941	0.245		0.149	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 £0.095m revenue pressure on the Community Council Income Budget. Remaining £0.050m is attributable to high sickness levels.	
Highways Network	7.899	8.099	0.200		0.267	There has been significant costs in the region of £0.115m following Storm Arwen and Barra for the clean-up and making the highways network safe. Highways service area also 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.	
Transportation	9.750	9.780	0.030		0.052	Local bus services incurred a revenue pressure of: £0.100m as a result of the Service 5 procurement 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 contributed by 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 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.	
Regulatory Services	5.173	5.167	-0.006		0.007	Car parking income currently reflects a loss of £0.229m, 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.	

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Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.281	0.281	0.281	0.326	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 £0.045m 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	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.004		
<b>Total Streetscene &amp; Transportation</b>	<b>31.517</b>	<b>32.268</b>	<b>0.751</b>	<b>0.281</b>	<b>0.804</b>		
<b>Planning, Environment &amp; Economy</b>							
Community	0.878	0.977	0.099		0.091	Adverse variance due to the shortfall in Fee Income in both Licensing and Pest Control Services	
Development	0.019	-0.280	-0.299		-0.219	Favourable variance due to higher than anticipated fee income in Planning and Land Charges.	
Regeneration	0.721	0.659	-0.062		-0.056	Minor favourable variances across the service, however at Month 9 received £0.015m contribution to We Mind the Gap from Housing and Assets agreed	
Management & Strategy	1.311	1.143	-0.168		-0.139	Staff savings due to vacant posts	
Minor Variances	3.232	3.236	0.004		0.025		
<b>Total Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>6.160</b>	<b>5.735</b>	<b>-0.426</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.298</b>		
<b>People &amp; Resources</b>							
HR & OD	2.465	2.326	-0.139		-0.164	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	2.106	2.021	-0.085		-0.089	Staff savings due to vacant posts	
<b>Total People &amp; Resources</b>	<b>4.571</b>	<b>4.347</b>	<b>-0.224</b>	<b>-0.000</b>	<b>-0.253</b>		
<b>Governance</b>							
Democratic Services	2.125	2.050	-0.075		-0.079	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.	
Internal Audit	1.002	0.947	-0.055		-0.049	The majority of the favourable variance relates to staff savings from Vacant Post in Internal Audit together with reduced postage and printing costs within Central Despatch Service	
Customer Services	1.020	0.925	-0.095		-0.090	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	0.053	-0.422		-0.409	Favourable variance is in the main, due to the projected potential surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund (£0.0270m), Welsh Government Lockdown Admin Grant and minor variances across the service.	
Minor Variances	5.601	5.555	-0.045		-0.049		

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<b>Total Governance</b>	<b>10.223</b>	<b>9.530</b>	<b>-0.693</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.675</b>		
<b>Strategic Programmes</b>							
Minor Variances	4.648	4.607	-0.041		-0.035		
<b>Total Strategic Programmes</b>	<b>4.648</b>	<b>4.607</b>	<b>-0.041</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-0.035</b>		
<b>Housing &amp; Assets</b>							
Caretaking & Security	0.262	0.191	-0.072		-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	12.582	-0.268		0.058	Due to an underspend on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme with expected ncrease in uptake following ending of UK Government furlough scheme not yet materialising	
Housing Solutions	1.049	0.897	-0.152		-0.086	Mostly due to underspends on staffing due to vacancy savings and increase Housing Support grant internal allocations	
Impact of Covid-19	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001		
Minor Variances	1.485	1.590	0.105		0.102		
<b>Total Housing &amp; Assets</b>	<b>14.410</b>	<b>13.793</b>	<b>-0.617</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>-0.216</b>		
<b>Chief Executive's</b>	<b>2.353</b>	<b>2.189</b>	<b>-0.164</b>		<b>-0.170</b>	Staff savings due to vacant posts	
<b>Central &amp; Corporate Finance</b>	<b>26.251</b>	<b>25.983</b>	<b>-0.268</b>		<b>-0.235</b>	Over recovery of planned pension contributions recouperment 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.	
Centralised Costs	2.783	2.430	-0.352		-0.317	Favourable variance due to the fixed electricity rate being set lower than current market levels and an overall reduction in consumption levels	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>297.457</b>	<b>295.920</b>	<b>-1.537</b>	<b>-0.013</b>	<b>-0.716</b>		