

TUESDAY 7TH MAY 2024

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A **MULTI LOCATION MEETING** OF THE **CABINET** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN, SA31 1JP AND REMOTELY AT 10.00 A.M. ON MONDAY, 13TH MAY, 2024** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Julie Owens
Telephone (direct line):	01267 224088
E-Mail:	JuOwens@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**This is a multi-location meeting.
Members can attend in person at the venue detailed above or remotely via the
Zoom link which is provided separately.**

**The meeting can be viewed on the authority's website via the following link:-
<https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>**

Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive*,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

CABINET

MEMBERSHIP – 10 MEMBERS

COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO
Councillor Darren Price	Leader
Councillor Linda Evans	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes
Councillor Glynog Davies	Education and Welsh Language
Councillor Ann Davies	Rural Affairs, Community Cohesion and Planning Policy
Councillor Hazel Evans	Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism
Councillor Philip Hughes	Organisation and Workforce
Councillor Alun Lenny	Resources
Councillor Edward Thomas	Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services
Councillor Jane Tremlett	Health and Social Services
Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen	Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

A G E N D A

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**
- 3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE 29TH APRIL 2024** 5 - 8
- 4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS**
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**
 - 5.1 QUESTION BY MR HAVARD HUGHES TO CLLR. DARREN PRICE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL:**

"What steps are you taking to avoid a potential conflict of interest between Carmarthenshire's pension fund investment in Bute Energy and the fact that aspects of Bute Energy's pylons projects including the sub-station at Llandyfaelog which will be determined locally by County Councillors and officers with pensions dependent on the success of Bute Energy's projects?"
- 6. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT** 9 - 42
- 7. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 UPDATE** 43 - 52
- 8. LEASE OF FORMER NEWCASTLE EMLYN COURTHOUSE TO NEWCASTLE EMLYN TOWN COUNCIL** 53 - 60
- 9. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972.**

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CABINET

MONDAY 29TH APRIL 2024

PRESENT: Councillor L.D. Evans (Vice-Chair in the Chair) (In Person)

Councillors (In Person):

C.A. Davies	G. Davies	H.A.L. Evans	P.M. Hughes
A. Lenny	E.G. Thomas	A. Vaughan-Owen	

The following officers were also in attendance (In Person):

W. Walters - Chief Executive
C. Moore - Director of Corporate Services
G. Morgans - Director of Education & Children's Services
J. Morgan - Director of Community Services
A. Williams - Director of Place & Infrastructure
P.R. Thomas - Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)
R. Griffiths - Head of Place & Sustainability
S. Murphy - Senior Solicitor
L. Jenkins - Cabinet Support Officer
C. Higginson - Media Manager
J. Owen - Democratic Services Officer
D. Hall-Jones - Members Support Officer

Also Present (Remotely):

L. Rees-Jones - Head of Administration and Law
E. Evans – Principal Democratic Services Officer
M. Evans Thomas - Principal Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen and remotely : 10.00 am - 10.18 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Price, Chair, who was engaged in alternative Council business and from Councillor J. Tremlett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interests.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE 15TH APRIL 2024

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 15th April, 2024 be signed as a correct record.

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that no questions on notice had been submitted by members.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

6. WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2024-2029

Cabinet considered the Workforce Strategy 2024-2029 which identifies the 5 Workforce Strategic Objectives (WSO) that set out how we plan to develop our current and future workforce to ensure they have the right skills, environment, and values to deliver our Corporate Strategy.

WSO 1: Attract, Recruit, and Retain Talent

WSO 2: Grow Outstanding Leaders and Managers

WSO 3: Improve Workforce Engagement

WSO 4: Develop a High Performance, Innovative and Achievement Culture

WSO 5: Develop and Maintain a Safe and Healthy Workplace

The review, development and implementation of a Workforce Strategy was identified as a priority within the Authority's Transformation Strategy.

Sitting alongside this strategy is a comprehensive 5-year delivery plan, which will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. In terms of measuring success, a performance management framework was in the process of being developed which will be used to monitor progress and will underpin a new Workforce Performance Management data suite / dashboard.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Workforce Strategy 2024-2029 be endorsed.

7. MID & WEST WALES SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS BOARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Cabinet considered the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards Annual Report 2022-23. This report outlines the progress that has been made against the outcomes set by CYSUR and CWMPAS as part of the joint Annual Strategic Plan for the year 2022-23.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards Annual Report 2022-23 be received.

8. CARER'S LEAVE POLICY

Cabinet considered the Carer's Leave Policy which sets out the Authority's commitment to supporting carers and the procedure for managing a request from an employee for carer's leave, in line with the Carer's Leave Act 2023.

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

Whilst the Carer's Leave Act 2023 became law on 24th May 2023, it required regulations to set out how the entitlement would work. These have now been enacted by parliament and came into force on 6th April 2024 and from this date employees will have a statutory right to a week's unpaid leave to care for a dependent.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Carer's Leave Policy be adopted.

9. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG) - REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2033

Cabinet considered the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033.

As part of implementing the content of the Revised LDP, it is often necessary for policies to be supported by supplementary guidance. This guidance is intended to support the interpretation and use of policies and proposals in the Plan. These are produced in the form of SPG which are required to undergo a formal consultation on their content prior to adoption.

The Draft SPG follows the publication of the 2nd Deposit Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) for public consultation. It sets out a strategy, vision, strategic and specific policies, proposals and development allocations as well as areas where policies have been designed to protect and enhance the environment from inappropriate development.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- 9.1 that the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance, as set out in the report, be approved for publication for formal public consultation;**
- 9.2 that delegated authority be granted to officers to update or amend any factual, typographical or grammatical errors.**

10. PROPOSAL TO FEDERATE YSGOL RHYS PRITCHARD AND YSGOL LLANGADOG

Cabinet considered a report detailing initial feedback and a proposal to discontinue the current consultation on federating Ysgol Rhys Pritchard and Ysgol Llangadog.

In line with the agreed policy and process officers formally consulted on federating Ysgol Rhys Pritchard and Ysgol Llangadog with the aim of creating a sustainable learning community in this area of Carmarthenshire. The proposal is to federate the schools under the management of one Governing Body and appointing one Headteacher to lead both schools. The formal consultation commenced on April 9th and is planned to close on the 20th of May.

The consultation focuses on gathering the views of governors, school staff, parents, pupils, local councillors, community councillors, Estyn, unions and other stakeholders. Correspondence and feedback has been received from governors

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

and staff noting that they feel that there has been insufficient informal discussions with them directly prior to launching the formal consultation.

Having considered the relevant guidance and feedback from key stakeholders, it was proposed to discontinue the current consultation to enable further work to be undertaken with both schools at the Exploration and Preparation Phases.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 10.1 to discontinue the current consultation to federate Ysgol Rhys Pritchard and Ysgol Llangadog to allow further informal discussion with the Governors and school staff;**
 - 10.2 that the Federation Strategy be updated and the process for Local Authority led federations be reviewed.**
- 11. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972**

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business.

CHAIR

DATE

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

CABINET 13TH MAY 2024

Council's Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Recommendations / key decisions required:

That the Cabinet receives the Budget Monitoring report and considers the budgetary position and appropriate corrective action.

In respect of significant overspends on specific budget areas, Chief Officers and Heads of Service to critically review options available to them to address the ongoing impact.

Reasons:

To provide the Cabinet with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 29th February 2024, in respect of 2023/24.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr. Alun Lenny

Directorate: Corporate Services

Name of Director:
Chris Moore

Report Author:
Randal Hemingway

Designations:

Director of Corporate Services

Head of Financial Services

Tel No. 01267 224886
E Mail Addresses:

CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

RHemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The revenue budget monitoring reports as at 29th February 2024 are attached and indicate that:

COUNCIL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT (Appendix A)

Overall, the monitoring report forecasts an overspend for the year at departmental level of £8,472k, with a forecast overspend on the Authority's net revenue budget of £4,394k.

At a high level this is due to a combination of:

- Increased expenditure in adult social care to meet pent up demand as recruitment pressures have begun to ease a little across the sector.
- Persistent overspends in service areas where budget reductions have been implemented, but challenges in delivery have made it impossible to keep pace with the level of savings required. Monitoring indicates £3.4m of savings undelivered for 2023/24 and a further £0.6m carried forward from the previous year.
- Significant overspends in Childrens Services, driven by increased levels of demand combined with complexity, not seen before the pandemic. There has been a higher number an increased cost of residential placements, increased agency costs and increased support for children with disabilities.

In addition to the departmental overspends, schools are expecting to spend £6.8m more than delegated budgets, meaning balances currently standing at £11.1m would reduce to £4.3m.

The capital financing underspend forecast at £3.5m is due to scheme delays, a reduced need to borrow and increased interest earned on positive cash balances, partially offset by in year direct revenue funding for a small number of projects.

The April NJC pay award has been settled, with costs of this now been built into departmental projections. Additionally, as agreed by Cabinet in March, funding has been allocated from the corporate contingency budget to provide for the additional costs of the award in Schools.

In line with our existing policies, forecast departmental overspends are met out of departmental reserves, where available.

Chief Executive's Department

The Chief Executive Department is anticipating an underspend of £778k for the year. There are overspends on Land Charges income, Provision Markets income and some efficiencies within People Management that have yet to be achieved. This is offset by net underspends on Member pay and travelling, Property Design projected income, Industrial Premises and Commercial Property income, utilities costs and staffing savings from vacant posts across the department.

Operational budgets

The Chief Executive's section has an anticipated underspend of £241k, primarily due to staff savings as a result of vacancies and maternity leave in the section, along with a saving in Central Mailing on franking machine leasing costs.

There is a £127k overspend expected in the People Management section. This consists of a £82k overspend in People Services HR due to £108k of salary efficiencies not yet being met along with an overspend of £75k for unfunded posts to implement a new recruitment system. This is partially offset by savings on vacant posts during the year. There is also an overspend of £65k in payroll due to £80k of current and past year efficiencies not yet being met and agency staff costs to deal with the backlog in recruitment of £41k. This is partially offset by vacant posts during the year. There is an overspend of £94k within the TIC team due to additional support for office downsizing (£59k) and a £35k income efficiency target not currently being met. There is an overspend of £19k in Organisational Development due to a prior year efficiency not currently being met. This is offset by an underspend on Employee Wellbeing of £60k primarily due to vacant posts, along with an underspend on Business and Projects support of £35k due to a saving on supplies and services and a staff member working reduced hours. There is also an underspend on DBS of £25k, due to fewer checks being undertaken than budgeted for along with a few very small other underspends in the division.

Admin and Law are showing an estimated underspend of £105k. Members pay, and travelling are underspent by £77k, and there is an additional £27k of income for work undertaken on behalf of the HRA along with smaller underspends on supplies and services. Democratic Services support is also expecting to be underspent by £55k because of a saving on supplies and services, some additional income and staff vacancies. There is also a £17k underspend on Civic Ceremonial as a result of savings on expenses along with a reduction in vehicle hire costs. Legal is underspent by £42k as a result of staff vacancies and maternity leave. This is offset by an overspend on Land Charges of £119k due to a reduction in income, following a fall in demand for the service.

The Marketing and Media section are anticipating a £307k net underspend for the year, mainly due to staff vacancies during the year of £410k. This is offset by an overspend on set up and configuration of communications software within the contact centre of £74k and a reduction in income achieved from renting out office space at Llanelli Hwb due to a fall in demand of £29k.

Statutory Services are predicting an underspend of £5k. This is made up of a £49k estimated overspend within Coroners. This is as a result of a significant increase in the number of cases being referred to the coroner along with a large increase in charges for toxicology and histology reports, postmortems, undertakers' fees and mortuary costs. This is offset by a

saving of £57k for a vacant post within Elections which is unlikely to be filled in this financial year. There are other smaller overspends within the division.

The Regeneration, Digital and Policy division is anticipating an underspend of £247k for the year. There is an overspend of £43k on Provision Markets due to a shortfall in income as a result of low occupancy levels, an overspend of £47k on Regeneration Management due to cessation of staff time being able to be recharged to projects and a £30k overspend on Livestock Markets due to a shortfall in income being generated at Carmarthen and Llandovery marts. County Farms are also overspent by £36k as a result of additional works being undertaken. There is also an £78k shortfall on budgeted income within the corporate property section. Property Maintenance are reporting a £126k overspend mainly due to the Housing Disaggregation, a review of recharges will be undertaken in the new financial year to take account of revised operating costs.

These overspends are offset by a £136k underspend on the vacant Property division Head of Service post, £186k saving on Property Design following a review of projected income and Industrial Premises and Commercial Properties anticipating an underspend of £27k and £20k respectively, both as a result of high occupancy rates, along with large savings across the division due to vacant posts during the year.

Communities

The Communities Department is projecting an overspend of £3,207k for the year.

The forecast assumes that vacant posts will remain vacant in line with the current recruitment freeze.

There are significant variances as the department continues to recover and respond to the post-pandemic phase.

Leisure and Culture are currently forecasting an overspend of £292k due in the main to set up costs and delayed opening of the new Attractor site which has resulted in a projected shortfall of income to budget in the Caban and car parking, along with unforeseen costs associated with the operators at Burry Port Harbour going into administration. In addition, a shortfall in Pay Validation of £234k has been mostly offset with savings in Employee costs due to in year vacancies across the Division.

The forecast out-turn for Social Care services is an overspend of £2,797k.

Underspends are largely due to difficulty in the recruitment of staff. Several initiatives have been launched to address this albeit success in recruitment to meet assessed need is likely to worsen the financial position. Overspends are due to increased demand for services e.g. LA/Private Homes and in areas where budget savings proposals remain difficult to deliver as Social Work teams have prioritised the safe delivery of key services, meaning that the department has been unable to progress some of the planned savings' proposals.

Older People's budgets are forecasting an overspend of £1,626k. Overspends are due to the utilisation of alternative methods of meeting increased demands and dependencies in LA/Private Homes (e.g. use of agency staff) (£1,199k); increased volume of care packages due to increased demand and numbers on Home Care waiting lists reducing (£606k) and pressures relating to the increased demand for Direct Payments (£173k). These are offset by on-going staff vacancies (-£321k) and reduced demand for Day Services (-£155k).

Physical Disabilities services are forecasting an underspend of £7k. Demand for residential placements (-£246k) remains lower than pre-pandemic levels. These are offset by financial pressures relating to an increased demand for Direct Payments in previous years as an alternative to other service provision (£326k).

In Learning Disability services, there is an overspend of £452k. Budgetary pressure remains on Residential (£508k) and Group Homes / Supported Living (£1,057k). These pressures have been partially offset with savings due to the reduction of Day Services and Community Support (-£1,253k).

The overspend in Mental Health of £681k. Budgetary pressure remains on Residential (£460k) and Group Homes / Supported Living (£376k). These are partly offset with savings due to the reduction of Community Support (-£58k) and on-going staff recruitment difficulties (-£92k).

Support Services is forecasting an overspend of £45k.

Council Funded Housing and Public Protection Services are reporting a £118k overspend.

Underachievement of income due reduction in licensable properties and ability to amend fees due to statutory guidance £219k, delays in courts processing of financial prosecutions £65k offset by savings on vacant posts/supplies -£183k. The continued pressure on homeless/temporary accommodation services circa £230k may be mitigated by additional targeted grant income and savings on expenditure for supplies (-£213k)

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Department is anticipating a £999k underspend for the year.

There is a £439k underspend on pre LGR pension costs along with a £244k underspend on Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and a £96k underspend on Rates Relief due to lower than budgeted take up of both schemes.

There are also underspends on salaries due to vacancies across the department.

This is offset by an overspend in Revenues, primarily due to an increase in bank charges as a result of a rise in card payments, and also an overspend in Local Taxation due to an increase in postage costs in recent years.

Department for Education and Children

The Department for Education and Children is forecasting a net overspend of £6,107k at year end which includes £370k net cost of pay awards in excess of budget. The Director budget still currently retains £296k growth budget in relation to part year impact in 2023/24. The Department's Business Support team are forecasting a £74k underspend in relation to part year vacant posts, with a review of service to be progressed having relocated to Spilman St.

The Education Services division is reporting a net underspend of £478k. Early years provision for 3 year olds in non-maintained settings is reporting an underspend of £328k as WG are providing grant for this provision. There are also net underspends being reported within School Improvement £61k, Additional Learning Needs £60k and Education Other Than at

School (EOTAS) £34k due mainly to a mixture of vacant posts and using grants to fund what would have otherwise utilised core budget.

The Access to Education division is reporting a net overspend of £539k which is mainly within the School Meals service being £306k for primary schools lunch provision and £147k primary free breakfast provisions. Workforce pressures, pay award impact, increased food costs & UPFSM rollout across primary schools contribute to the challenges of providing the service within the meal price across all schools, ranging from providing 15 to 600 meals per site. Ongoing costs of closed school premises forecasts a £190k overspend. This is partially reduced by a £104k underspend within School Admissions due to part year vacant posts, some of which have recently been recruited to and others currently being recruited to.

Strategy and Learner Support division reports a net underspend of £310k due to utilisation of grant funding and part year vacant posts which will contribute to funding pressures across other areas of the department.

Children's Services division forecast a net overspend of £6,725k with pressures across a number of areas. Commissioning and Social Work £1,100k overspend is a mix of increased agency cover costs £974k and increased demand for assistance for clients £394k, partially offset by grant income.

The Commissioned Residential placements budget is sufficient to cover the expected level of provision but there are currently a number of highly complex placements creating an overspend of £3,353k.

£625k of the fostering & other looked after services overspend of £1,345k relates to specialist support packages for 2 children with the remaining £720k funding an increased number of foster placements and additional payments in excess of the existing budget.

Adoption Services £125k overspend is due to increased staffing costs £75k and costs in relation to Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs in line with ongoing service demands.

Residential units £249k overspend is due to ongoing challenges around LHB contribution and staffing pressures generating significant agency expenditure. The new setting additional costs of £554k are forecasted to be grant funded for this year. Short breaks and direct payments are both meeting an increase in demand generating an overspend of £722k.

There is also an overspend of £336k forecast in relation to an increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children as part of the UK sponsor scheme resulting in more expensive placement costs in excess of fixed income received.

These pressures are partially offset by forecast underspends of £577k in relation to maximisation of grant income and part year vacant posts in other service areas.

Schools Delegated Budgets

After applying the £2m budget reduction, schools working budgets are forecasting a net overspend in year of £6.8m, with a mix of supporting their formula funding to enable

appropriate provision, continued covid recovery/catch up and some schools utilising their balances for additional maintenance or initiatives that they would not otherwise have had resources to fund. The net overspend has reduced in relation to £809k NJC pay award funding & late WG grant award £607k.

This level of utilisation of school reserves will reduce the brought forward balance of £11.1m net surplus to £4.3m by year end.

Place and Infrastructure

The Place & Infrastructure Department is forecasting an overspend of £936k for the financial year, which includes a £716k deficit in pay budgets due to the pay award.

The Service Improvement and Transformation division is forecasting an overspend of £160k which is mainly due to the deficit in pay budgets as a result of the pay award in Building Cleaning (£180k).

The Waste and Environmental Services division is forecasting an overspend of £720k which is due to a £862k pressure from the delivery of the interim phase of the waste strategy having increased costs as a result of contingency measures put in place. Grounds and Cleansing are reporting a £175k overspend mainly due to the deficit in budgets following the pay award and efficiencies not being met. These pressures are offset by a £252k underspend on staff vacancies with a realignment review ongoing and part year savings from the Head of Service post. There is also a £69k underspend on Green Waste Collection as a result of an increased customer base.

Highways and Transportation are forecasting a £299k overspend for the year. The main variance is a £842k overspend on School Transport which is due to increased transport costs for operators which subsequently escalate the tendered contract prices for the statutory provision of home to school transport. Transport operators are continuing to experience driver shortages, global supply chain shortages for vehicles and parts and a period of very high fuel prices which make for a challenging operating environment. These overspends are partly offset by a £212k underspend on Traffic Management due to staff vacancies during the year, staff time recharged to grants and a net increase in Traffic Regulation orders income. The Transport departmental account is underspent by £153k due to vacant posts, other areas such as Transport Strategic Planning (£28k), Road Safety (£54k), School Crossing Patrols (£36k) and Highway Lighting (£47k) are underspent due to time recharged to grants and staff vacancies during the year.

The Place and Sustainability Division is forecasting a £243k underspend, largely due to vacant posts within the team.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (Appendix B)

The HRA is predicting to be overspent by £46k for 2023/24. This will be reviewed as the significant issues identified become clearer from a financial perspective.

Variances in Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) costs £1.944m reflect the managers current position that there is increased demand on allocated resources, there will continue to be upwards pressure if demand continues at current levels.

Supervision and Management cost will be over by approximately £1.531m primarily due to additional investment in physical works on estates £509k, impact of increased energy costs £604k and the rental costs associated with providing Temporary Accommodation £200k. There is increased pressure on housing management costs including legal £184k, compensation costs £350k and other items detailed in the report. There will be savings due to vacant posts and utilisation of grants on employee costs -£678k.

Reduced expenditure on the capital programme for HRA and the weighted average debt rate will result in a decrease in capital charges -£407k. The revised funding of the capital programme will also reduce the requirement for direct revenue funding by -£1m.

Rental/service charge income will be -£707k better off due to a reduction in void loss.

There is a variance in additional income/insurance income of -£273k primarily reflecting activity related to Temporary Accommodation (-£400k) and other costs recoverable (-£44k) offset by reduction in insurance (+£171k).

Additional Housing Support Grant will provide savings of -£375k.

HRA balances/reserves will benefit from significantly higher interest rates than predicted resulting in additional income of £663k.

All the above will result in the HRA being over the budgeted net expenditure of £4.598m by a further £46k.

Lists of the main variances are attached to this report.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Chris Moore**

Director of Corporate Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Biodiversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

3. Finance

Council Fund

Overall, the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £4,394k at this point in time.

HRA

The HRA is predicting to be overspent by £46k for 2023/24.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Chris Moore

Director of Corporate Services

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	Not applicable
If yes include the following information: -	
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered:	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:	

2. Local Member(s) – Not applicable

3. Community / Town Council – Not applicable

4. Relevant Partners – Not applicable

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Not applicable

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED NO	Include any observations here
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Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2023/24 Budget		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

COUNCIL'S BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24

Director and Designation	Author & Designation	Telephone No	Directorate
C Moore, Director of Corporate Services	R Hemingway, Head of Financial Services	01267 224886	Corporate Services

Table 1

Forecasted for year to 31st March 2024

Department	Working Budget				Forecasted				Feb 2024 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non Controllable	Total Net	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non Controllable	Total Net		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Chief Executive	60,914	-35,759	-4,515	20,640	62,509	-38,132	-4,515	19,862	-778	-681
Communities	210,852	-94,376	14,691	131,166	223,134	-103,452	14,691	134,373	3,207	3,607
Corporate Services	73,035	-39,833	-1,681	31,520	71,141	-38,940	-1,681	30,520	-999	-969
Education & Children (incl. Schools)	226,100	-48,296	25,009	202,813	245,226	-61,316	25,009	208,919	6,107	6,510
Place and Infrastructure	100,529	-44,104	12,446	68,871	108,960	-51,599	12,446	69,807	936	1,716
Departmental Expenditure	671,428	-262,368	45,949	455,010	710,970	-293,438	45,949	463,482	8,472	10,183
Corporate Contingency				1,510	979			979	-531	-1,510
Capital Charges/Interest/Corporate				-19,513				-23,013	-3,500	-3,000
Levies and Contributions:										
Brecon Beacons National Park				152				152	0	0
Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Authority				13,014				13,014	0	0
West Wales Corporate Joint Committee				168				168	0	0
Net Expenditure				450,341				454,782	4,441	5,673
Transfers to/from Departmental Reserves										
- Chief Executive				0				389	389	340
- Communities				0				0	0	0
- Corporate Services				0				500	500	484
- Education & Children (incl Schools)				0				0	0	0
- Place and Infrastructure				0				-936	-936	-1,716
Net Budget				450,341				454,735	4,394	4,782

Chief Executive Department
Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Feb 2024 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Chief Executive	1,000	-4	-844	152	760	-5	-844	-89	-241	-241
People Management	4,759	-1,714	-2,619	426	5,728	-2,556	-2,619	553	127	147
Admin and Law	5,045	-871	710	4,884	4,925	-857	710	4,778	-105	-90
Marketing & Media	2,743	-604	-1,432	707	2,384	-551	-1,432	400	-307	-318
Statutory Services	1,541	-418	281	1,404	1,856	-738	281	1,398	-5	1
Regeneration, Digital & Policy	45,826	-32,147	-612	13,067	46,856	-33,424	-612	12,820	-247	-181
GRAND TOTAL	60,914	-35,759	-4,515	20,640	62,509	-38,132	-4,515	19,862	-778	-681

Chief Executive Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Chief Executive							
Chief Executive Business Support Unit	709	-4	493	0	-212	Underspend on salaries due to one staff member being on maternity leave, three vacant posts, no commitment due to recruitment freeze.	-210
Central Mailing	49	0	28	-5	-26	Saving on franking machine leasing costs	-26
Other variances					-3		-5
People Management							
TIC Team	246	-101	303	-64	94	Additional support for office downsizing, funding to be confirmed (£59k). Income efficiency target (£35k) not likely to be delivered in 2023-24.	98
Social Care Workforce Development Programme	725	-446	843	-577	-12	Underspend on training courses unable to be delivered before the end of the financial year.	-0
Business & Projects Support	262	0	227	0	-35	£18k salary efficiency target not met. Offset by savings on Supplies and Services and staff member working reduced hours.	-34
Payroll	913	-386	966	-374	65	Salary efficiency targets not met (£80k) along with £41k in year overspend on agency staff to deal with volume of recruitment work being undertaken. This is partially offset by vacant posts during the year.	63
People Services – HR	913	-291	1,011	-306	82	£108k salary efficiency savings not met. £75k temp unfunded posts to implement new recruitment system. This is partially offset by vacant posts during the year.	92
Employee Well-being	833	-381	760	-368	-60	In year savings from vacant posts that have not been filled offset by a £13k shortfall in external income.	-65
Organisational Development	467	-42	505	-61	19	£30k Income efficiency target not achieved. Partially offset by savings on supplies and services expenditure.	18
DBS Checks	143	0	123	-4	-25	Underspend based on this and past year's expected volume of checks required.	-25
Other variances					-2		0

Chief Executive Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Admin and Law							
Democratic Services	2,237	-304	2,153	-331	-111	Underspend on members pay & allowances (£77k), computer hardware (£7k) along with additional income from the HRA (£27k)	-104
Democratic Services - Support	550	-8	523	-36	-55	Underspend on supplies & services (£14k), short term vacant posts during the year (£36k), additional income for work undertaken by Partneriaeth (£5k)	-54
Civic Ceremonial	28	0	11	0	-17	Underspend on members hospitality/expenses, & transport cost savings following reducing from two vehicles to one.	-15
Land Charges	92	-274	126	-189	119	Shortfall in income due to low demand for searches due to downturn in the housing market	102
Legal Services	2,139	-285	2,085	-274	-42	Underspend on salaries due to vacant post during the year & maternity for majority of year	-19
Marketing & Media							
Marketing and Media	790	-69	683	-63	-101	Underspend due to three vacant posts not being filled due to recruitment freeze	-95
Translation	576	-56	492	-66	-94	Underspend on salaries, one staff member on maternity leave, one vacant post that will not be filled in the financial year, along with smaller underspends on supplies & services	-98
Customer Services Centres	1,267	-380	1,122	-376	-141	Underspend on salaries due to short term vacant posts (£215k), offset by an overspend on set up and configuration of new communications software.	-152
Yr Hwb, Rhydaman a Llanelli	110	-99	87	-46	29	Shortfall in income mainly due to decreased demand for desk space rental	27
Statutory Services							
Coroners	366	0	415	0	49	Large increase in number of cases being referred to the Coroner in general. Corresponding increase in volume and cost of toxicology and histology reports. Post mortem fees have doubled in the last 2 years due to increase in rates charged. Undertakers fees increased by 11.5%, Mortuary Fees increased by 5%.	47
Electoral Services - Staff	281	0	224	0	-57	Vacant post. Not being filled in current year.	-54
Other variances					2		8

Chief Executive Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Regeneration, Digital & Policy							
Regeneration Management	311	0	358	0	47	Overspend due to cessation of staff time that we are able to charge to grants	37
Information Technology	5,786	-970	5,956	-1,156	-16	Vacant posts which will not be filled in this financial year as a result of the recruitment freeze.	-44
Welsh Language	141	-11	96	-11	-45	Part year vacant post not currently being filled due to recruitment freeze	-37
Chief Executive-Policy	737	-33	772	-56	13	Temporary post to complete CCTV project	17
Property	1,016	-95	909	-17	-29	Shortfall of £78k in external income offset by £90k staffing savings due to 3 vacant posts in early part of the year. 1 post currently vacant not currently being replaced due to recruitment freeze. £17k underspend on non salary budgets.	-52
Commercial Properties	54	-486	147	-599	-20	Reasonably high occupancy rates currently	-19
Provision Markets	719	-584	673	-495	43	is offset by savings made in premises related costs.	32
Operational Depots	490	0	472	0	-19	Underspend on utilities costs	7
Administrative Buildings	4,647	-888	4,632	-906	-34	savings estimated on premises related running costs.	-34
Industrial Premises	613	-1,638	559	-1,611	-27	Relatively High occupancy rates currently	-76
The Beacon	252	-151	244	-156	-13	Underspend on utilities costs	6
County Farms	83	-368	119	-368	36	Reimbursement for additional works undertaken	32
Livestock Markets	65	-120	13	-38	30	turnover figures from the respective operators	30
Property Division Business Unit	136	0	0	0	-136	Vacant HOS post awaiting further review of new divisional structure	-136
Property Maintenance Operational	12,151	-12,507	15,364	-15,594	126	£18k deficit due to pay award. A review of recharges will be undertaken in the new financial year following the Housing disaggregation.	163
Property Design - Business Unit	2,634	-3,010	2,807	-3,370	-186	Review of projected income based on current vacancies	-105
Other variances					-16		-0
Grand Total					-778		-681

Department for Communities
Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Feb 2024 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Adult Services										
Older People	76,961	-26,538	3,701	54,125	78,189	-26,140	3,701	55,750	1,626	1,865
Physical Disabilities	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	10,081	-2,874	276	7,482	-7	-54
Learning Disabilities	48,371	-11,921	1,475	37,925	48,746	-11,844	1,475	38,377	452	617
Mental Health	12,097	-4,497	234	7,834	12,695	-4,414	234	8,515	681	683
Support	11,204	-7,631	1,114	4,688	11,118	-7,500	1,114	4,732	45	108
Homes & Safer Communities										
Public Protection	3,651	-1,417	532	2,766	3,524	-1,189	532	2,867	101	171
Council Fund Housing	28,678	-28,745	978	911	38,264	-38,314	978	928	17	-134
Leisure & Recreation										
Leisure & Recreation	20,766	-11,717	6,380	15,429	20,517	-11,177	6,380	15,721	292	350
GRAND TOTAL	210,852	-94,376	14,691	131,166	223,134	-103,452	14,691	134,373	3,207	3,607

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Adult Services							
Older People							
Older People - Residential Care Homes (Local Authority Provision)	10,354	-4,554	10,943	-4,390	752	The overspend is the result of external staff agency costs, increased overtime, pay award costs and the setting up of deputy managers in some of the Care Homes to ensure appropriate cover and capacity as a result higher dependency of residents. Some of the overspend has been mitigated by increased income through higher occupancy rates and lower than anticipated premises costs. Moving forward the budget will be adjusted accordingly for 2024/25. In the coming months we will also be developing an in-house agency pilot for the Llanelli based homes that will deliver a more flexible pool of casual staff. It is hoped that this will be rolled out in April 2024 with a view, if successful, of deploying across the County in the summer of 2024. This will reduce on-going agency and overtime costs. We will continue to monitor sickness closely and consistently as well as being more efficient in the way we recruit	960
Older People - Residential Care Homes	31,792	-14,062	32,239	-14,062	447	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	450
Older People - Direct Payments	1,349	-313	1,523	-313	173	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	190
Older People - Private Home Care	10,038	-2,638	10,692	-2,638	654	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	745
Older People - Reablement	2,225	-527	1,992	-527	-233	Staffing vacancies	-274
Older People - Other variances					-168	Underspend relates primarily to a reduced provision of day services when compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-206
Physical Disabilities							
Phys Dis - Residential Care Homes	1,652	-314	1,406	-314	-246	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at February 2024	-210
Phys Dis - Direct Payments	3,164	-603	3,490	-603	326	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	311
Phys Dis - Other variances					-87		-155

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Learning Disabilities							
Learn Dis - Employment & Training	2,144	-359	1,719	-246	-312	Provision of LD day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-344
Learn Dis - Residential Care Homes	13,970	-4,524	14,478	-4,524	508	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability and children transitioning through from Children's Services. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	407
Learn Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	11,515	-2,295	12,572	-2,295	1,057	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability and children transitioning through from Children's Services. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	1,227
Learn Dis - Community Support	3,568	-162	3,112	-162	-456	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at February 2024	-440
Learn Dis - Adult Placement/Shared Lives	3,095	-2,104	3,027	-2,381	-344	Provision of respite care is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels and part-year vacant posts	-277
Learn Dis - Other variances					-1		44
Mental Health							
M Health - Residential Care Homes	6,986	-3,394	7,446	-3,394	460	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and developing alternatives to residential care is a priority for 2024/25. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a mental health issue and children transitioning from Children's Services. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	510
M Health - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,677	-446	2,053	-446	376	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and developing alternatives to residential care is a priority for 2024/25. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a mental health issue and children transitioning from Children's Services. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	423
M Health - Other variances					-155	Staff vacancies in the Care Management Teams and Substance Misuse teams account for £92k of this variance along with a forecasted underspend of £58k relating to reduced Community Support demand	-250

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Support							
Other Variances - Support	11,204	-7,631	11,118	-7,500	45		108
Homes & Safer Communities							
Public Protection							
Animal Welfare	90	-87	82	-40	39	Under achievement of Licenses income due to reduced activity. The income target does not reflect the number of licensable businesses in the county, with licensing fees calculated in accordance with statutory guidance.	51
Public Health Services Management	116	-121	86	-139	-47	Saving in vacant manager post (£16k) Underspend on supplies & services (£31k)	-6
Licensing	378	-358	402	-303	79	Under achievement of income ,the income target does not reflect the number of licensable businesses in the county, with licensing fees set by legislation or calculated in accordance with statutory guidance.	68
Trading Standards Services Management	151	-42	113	-49	-45	Underspend on salaries due to vacant Consumer & Business Affairs Manager post	-48
Safeguarding, Licensing & Financial Investigation	97	0	47	0	-51	Underspend on salaries due to vacant Trading Standards Officer post	-52
Fair Trading	212	-68	249	-5	101	Underachievement of income (£63k), which is at the discretion of the courts when awarding prosecution costs. The income target is particularly high and does not currently reflect the actual potential for cost recovery and additional employee costs for three posts due to be re-aligned.	101
Financial Investigator	126	-527	191	-527	65	Continued delays in courts system means it is taking longer than originally anticipated to translate into receipts.	65
Other Variances					-40		-8
Council Fund Housing							
Home Improvement (Non HRA)	661	-284	704	-430	-103	Underspend on salaries due to utilisation of additional grant funding as well as underspend on Supplies & Services	-118
Penybryn Traveller Site	188	-137	159	-128	-20	Reduction in spend in respect of Premises Maintenance	22
Temporary Accommodation/Social Lettings/Homelessness	175	-118	490	-203	230	Increased use of Bed and Breakfast Accommodation due to on-going homelessness demand to meet legislative requirements	31
Social Lettings Agency	1,007	-879	809	-715	-34	Underspend on Premises Maintenance	0
Other variances					-56		-70

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Leisure & Recreation							
Millennium Coastal Park	334	-94	345	-95	10	Forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees	13
Burry Port Harbour	24	-143	45	-109	55	Legal / Mtce costs relating to Burry Port Marina going into administration not budgeted plus forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees	46
Pendine Outdoor Education Centre	525	-375	381	-197	35	Shortfall in income for Board & Accommodation to budget	35
Pembrey Beach Kiosk	0	-80	0	-45	35	Forecast shortfall in income from Kiosk Sales due mainly to the bad summer weather	34
Pembrey Ski Slope	532	-590	467	-601	-76	In year vacancies plus exceeding budgeted income	-25
Carmarthen Leisure Centre	1,955	-1,674	1,900	-1,675	-57	Forecast to be underspent on utilities	-39
Amman Valley Leisure Centre	1,187	-944	1,225	-946	37	Forecast to be overspent on utilities	32
Llandovery Swimming Pool	478	-212	484	-193	26	Forecast income shortfall £19k plus Pay validation shortfall	42
Gwendraeth Sports Centre	0	0	-43	0	-43	Accrual for NNDR no longer required	-44
Actif health, fitness and dryside	242	-156	208	-137	-15	Forecast to not fully utilise match funding budget	-15
Catering - Sport Centres	348	-277	438	-324	43	Unable to achieve vacancy factor plus over on cost of catering materials	32
Sport & Leisure General	843	-44	846	-89	-42	Forecast underspends on Training, Printing and Marketing.	-17
PEN RHOS 3G PITCH	11	-56	27	-58	14	Forecast to be overspent on utilities	-2
Llanelli Leisure Centre	1,567	-1,075	1,629	-1,037	101	Pay validation shortfall £26k plus unable to fully achieve vacancy factor and forecast income shortfall	78
ESD Rev Grant - Ynys Dawela	0	0	2	-16	-14	Grant funding received not accrued	2
Outdoor Recreation - Staffing costs	287	0	299	0	12	Over on Employee costs due to shortfall in Pay validation	9
Pembrey Country Park	1,144	-1,352	1,295	-1,340	163	Forecast to be overspent on utilities £45k, water leak and subsequent damage repair £40k, lost income due to wi-fi issues £20k and campsite part closure due to flooding £58k.	22
NNF - Cernydd Carmel	0	0	0	-13	-13	Grant funding received not accrued	0
Llanelli Library	530	-32	579	-26	55	Forecast overspend on Employees due to Pay validation shortfall, income shortfall £10k plus exhibition boards £10k	54
Community Libraries	275	-7	230	-6	-44	In year vacancies	-26
Libraries General	1,258	-1	1,187	-3	-74	In year vacancies	-76
Carmarthen Museum, Abergwili.	198	-31	166	-39	-41	In year vacancies	-32
Museums General	412	-1	430	-1	18	Unable to achieve vacancy factor	29
Naugharne Boathouse	158	-129	141	-71	40	Forecast to not fully achieve income budgeted due to weather & limitations of staffing structure. Staff capacity stretched through the opening of MOLS and the restructuring period, which is now concluded.	44
Lytic Theatre	622	-445	616	-403	36	Predicted shortfall in income to budget	13
Y Ffwrnes	1,036	-487	887	-408	-69	Under on utilities and Performance Fees	1
Ammanford Miners Theatre	86	-17	73	-23	-19	Under on utilities	-9

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Entertainment Centres General	585	-98	601	-143	-29	In year vacancies	-26
Attractor - Hostel	687	-656	664	-461	172	Forecast includes a £12k pay validation shortfall; £42k 'one off' set up costs; shortfall of £50k until Adventure Golf opens Summer '24; £25k franchise validation gap; PCC income share agreement £20k; plus full year marketing to build up room occupation rates to year 2 projection.	197
Attractor - Externals	5	-65	7	-43	25	Forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees	28
Leisure Management	398	-4	343	-6	-58	In year vacancies and under on Operational Consumables	-48
Other Variances					9		-3
Grand Total					3,207		3,607

Corporate Services Department
Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Feb 2024 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Financial Services	14,147	-3,055	-852	10,240	13,442	-2,813	-852	9,777	-463	-451
Revenues & Financial Compliance	58,888	-36,779	-830	21,279	57,699	-36,126	-830	20,743	-536	-517
GRAND TOTAL	73,035	-39,833	-1,681	31,520	71,141	-38,940	-1,681	30,520	-999	-969

Corporate Services Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Financial Services							
Accountancy	1,942	-510	1,954	-476	46	£34k overall shortfall on income targets consisting of a £22k shortfall on deputyship income and £12k of other smaller income shortfalls. £22k net underspend on vacant posts during the year. £34k net overspend on supplies and services.	42
Treasury and Pension Investment Section	284	-226	265	-228	-21	Additional income in year due to grant related work undertaken	-20
Payments	609	-87	584	-81	-19	Vacant posts during the year. 2 currently vacant	-9
Miscellaneous Services	8,111	-131	7,559	-32	-453	£439k underspend on pre LGR pension costs. £14k underspend on Subscriptions	-449
Other variances					-15		-15
Revenues & Financial Compliance							
Procurement	643	-37	587	-37	-56	Underspend on staff, due to 2 being on maternity leave, one on reduced hours and 2 vacancies during the first quarter of the year.	-65
Audit	518	-21	508	-40	-28	£18k of additional income generated from Fire SLA. £10k underspend on supplies and services	-27
Business Support Unit	150	0	127	0	-23	Vacant post during year. Will not be filled in 2023/24.	-21
Corporate Services Training	55	0	13	0	-43	Underspend based upon current demand for courses.	-38
Local Taxation	1,040	-776	1,173	-725	184	Large overspend on postage costs following price increases in recent years of £116k, along with a reduction in anticipated income received from recovering court costs based on 2022/23 figures.	171
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	18,385	0	18,141	0	-244	Underspend anticipated based on current levels of demand.	-205
Rent Allowances	34,823	-35,040	34,326	-34,517	26	Projection based on 2022/23 claims.	26
Rates Relief	251	0	155	0	-96	Low take-up anticipated based on current demand.	-96
Housing Benefits Admin	1,766	-755	1,264	-632	-380	Net shortfall on grants income receivable of £123k compared with budget, offset by 11 current vacant posts within the section due to difficulties with recruitment.	-381
Revenues	1,089	-148	1,242	-175	125	£114k overspend on bank charges due to significant increase in the number of card payments in recent years along with other smaller overspends.	128
Other variances					-1		-8
Grand Total					-999		-969

Department for Education & Children
Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Feb 2024 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Schools Delegated Budgets	155,436	-18,893	0	136,543	163,642	-20,310	0	143,332	6,789	8,567
Transfer from Reserves				0		-6,789		-6,789	-6,789	-8,567
Director & Strategic Management	1,680	0	-109	1,571	1,310	0	-109	1,201	-370	-418
Education Services Division	16,548	-5,414	20,122	31,256	17,038	-6,382	20,122	30,778	-478	-48
Access to Education	12,653	-8,223	1,403	5,833	13,608	-8,639	1,403	6,372	539	385
Strategy & Learner Support	7,551	-4,915	828	3,464	6,916	-4,590	828	3,154	-310	-221
Children's Services	32,232	-10,850	2,764	24,146	42,713	-14,606	2,764	30,871	6,725	6,811
TOTAL excluding schools	70,664	-29,403	25,009	66,270	81,584	-34,217	25,009	72,377	6,107	6,510
GRAND TOTAL	226,100	-48,296	25,009	202,813	245,226	-61,316	25,009	208,919	6,107	6,510

Department for Education & Children - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Director & Strategic Management							
Director & Management Team	1,272	0	976	0	-296	Temporary underspend supporting other service pressures	-346
Business Support	408	0	334	0	-74	Part year vacant posts pending review of service needs following relocation	-72
Education Services Division							
Early Years Non-Maintained 3 year old Provision	941	-542	664	-593	-328	WG are providing grant for non maintained settings, releasing core budget on a temporary basis to support pressures in other services	-307
School Improvement	777	0	1,062	-347	-61	Partneriaeth to cover costs previously paid for by CCC. Also transfer of vacant post to Governor support team, resulting in underspend.	-23
Additional Learning Needs	4,756	-2,525	4,683	-2,511	-60	Part year vacant posts and using core staff to utilise grant income within SEN management resulting in £323k underspend. Statementing estimated to be £191k under as reducing in number. This is offset by Out of County provision being £475k over due to increased number of high cost placements	164
Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)	5,151	-555	5,377	-816	-34	Part year vacant posts and using core staff to utilise grant income	79
Other variances					5		38
Access to Education							
School Admissions	485	0	381	0	-104	Part year vacant posts currently being recruited to	-100
School Modernisation	144	0	336	-2	190	Ongoing costs for closed school premises following school reorganisations	120
School Meals & Primary Free Breakfast Services	12,023	-8,223	12,890	-8,637	453	Updated costs & income levels for primary school meals increasing the forecast overspend to £306k re UPFSM as not being rolled out for year 6 pupils until April 24, assumption at December was from Feb half term. Primary breakfast contributions for care element shortfall £96k & increased costs of food & labour £51k	365
Strategy & Learner Support							
Welsh Language Support	992	-436	1,026	-592	-121	Very low uptake of teachers/teaching assistants on Welsh language training and maximising available grants	-53
Youth Support Service & Participation	2,311	-1,294	2,264	-1,372	-124	Part year vacant posts and using core staff to utilise grant income.	-111
Data & Education Systems	1,079	-30	1,012	-28	-65	Part year vacant posts and using core staff to utilise grant income.	-57
Other variances					1		1

Department for Education & Children - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Children's Services							
Commissioning and Social Work	8,019	-115	9,613	-603	1,106	Increased agency staff costs forecast £974k re additional demand & difficulty recruiting permanent staff. Increased demand for assistance to clients and their families £394k. This is partly offset by additional grant income	1,100
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	1,035	-91	1,064	-287	-167	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-93
Fostering & Other Children Looked After Services	4,843	0	6,332	-144	1,345	Increased costs associated with providing specialist support and fostering placements for young people / children looked after, some with highly complex needs £625k, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) £88k, Fostering £761k. This is partly offset by additional WG grant £129k	1,303
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)	0	0	1,652	-1,316	336	Increase in number of Unaccompanied Children & more expensive placement costs in excess of the fixed income received.	293
Commissioned Residential Placements (CS)	469	0	3,833	-12	3,353	Several ongoing highly complex placements in 2023/24	3,117
Residential Settings	1,409	-361	2,871	-1,574	249	£249k Garreglwyd - agency staff costs forecast due to difficulty recruiting & sickness cover. £554k forecast overspend for new setting Ty Magu / Ross Avenue, which is being offset by £554k WG grant	254
Respite Settings	1,106	0	1,174	0	68	Increased staffing costs £29k re meeting service demand, vacancy / absence cover and impact of increased pay award in excess of budget, additional vehicles needed £17k and additional premises maintenance costs forecast £22k for essential works following outcome of recent playground inspection at Llys Caradog	88
Adoption Services	781	-190	1,202	-486	125	Overspend in relation to increased staffing costs, including agency staff and travelling costs re ongoing service demands £75k. Additional costs for Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs, again in line with service demands £50k	101
Supporting Childcare	1,675	-1,141	1,666	-1,155	-23	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-16
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	657	0	1,628	-249	722	Increased demand for Direct Payments with further pressures linked to post covid & lack of commissioned services available £310k. Increased demand for 1-2-1 support under Short Breaks due to lack of available location based services £412k	882
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	1,023	-643	1,117	-775	-38	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	25
Children's Services Mgt & Support (inc Eclipse)	1,405	-164	1,307	-207	-141	Number of part year staff vacancies, delays in recruitment and additional short term grants being utilised	-86

Department for Education & Children - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
School Safeguarding & Attendance	827	-512	743	-573	-145	Maximisation of grant income, partially offsetting overspends elsewhere within the division	-152
Educational Psychology	1,404	-373	1,395	-427	-63	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-10
Other variances					-3		4
Grand Total					6,107		6,510

**Place and Infrastructure Department
Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024**

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Feb 2024 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Service Improvement & Transformation	5,032	-4,117	484	1,399	5,247	-4,171	484	1,559	160	218
Waste & Environmental Services	30,007	-4,931	1,342	26,419	31,542	-5,745	1,342	27,139	720	664
Highways & Transportation	57,886	-31,493	10,239	36,632	65,121	-38,430	10,239	36,931	299	1,175
Place and Sustainability	7,603	-3,563	381	4,422	7,050	-3,253	381	4,178	-243	-341
GRAND TOTAL	100,529	-44,104	12,446	68,871	108,960	-51,599	12,446	69,807	936	1,716

Place and Infrastructure Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Service Improvement & Transformation							
Facilities Management - Building Cleaning	4,731	-4,017	4,957	-4,083	160	£180k budget deficit following the pay award	168
Business Support	122	-35	120	-40	-7	£48k budget deficit following the pay award met from vacant posts during the year.	50
Departmental Pooled Vehicles	0	0	12	0	12	Under-utilisation of pool vehicles	13
Other variances					-6		-12
Waste & Environmental Services							
Environmental Infrastructure	134	0	101	0	-33	Part-year saving due to Head of Service post being vacant until July 2023	-35
Waste & Environmental Services Unit	-145	0	-341	-0	-196	Underspend on pay costs pending structure review and re-assessment of recruitment freeze	-163
Emergency Planning	81	0	71	0	-10	Underspend due to Manager not at top of pay grade	-11
Environmental Enforcement	566	-19	514	-25	-58	Underspend relates to vacated post, maternity leave and flexible retirement. Realignment review ongoing.	-52
Public Conveniences	230	-9	248	-6	21	Increase in Danfo contract cost over and above validation	14
Cleansing Service	2,660	-103	2,789	-116	116	£53k deficit in pay budgets due to pay award and efficiencies not fully met	105
Waste Services	21,203	-1,405	22,337	-1,677	862	Delivery of the interim phase of the waste strategy has increased costs due to contingency measures put in place. Outturn includes draw-down from reserves. £188k pay budget deficit following pay award.	650
Green Waste Collection	671	-602	659	-659	-69	Increased customer base and £5k budget deficit following pay award	-73
Grounds Maintenance Service and Urban Parks	3,953	-2,696	4,224	-2,908	60	Deficit in pay budget due to pay award	205
Closed Landfill Sites	292	0	320	0	28	Increased electricity costs in both sites	23
Other variances					-0		2

Place and Infrastructure Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Highways & Transportation							
Departmental - Transport	41	0	-112	0	-153	Vacant post, management review underway	-152
Civil Design	1,308	-1,943	1,295	-2,033	-104	Based on current income projections	-65
Transport Strategic Planning	442	0	414	0	-28	Vacant posts during the year	-50
School Transport	13,683	-994	14,892	-1,360	842	Increased transport costs for operators which subsequently escalate the tendered contract prices for the statutory provision of home to school transport. Transport operators are continuing to experience driver shortages, global supply chain shortages for vehicles and parts and a period of very high fuel prices make for a challenging operating environment. £57k deficit budget on Passenger Assistants as a result of the pay award.	1,125
Traffic Management	557	-262	1,036	-954	-212	Net increase in Traffic Regulation orders income, staff vacancies during the year and staff time recharged to grants.	-193
Car Parks	2,269	-3,593	1,981	-3,309	-4	Increased anticipated parking income, however there is a reduced footfall in town centres together with year on year validation applied to budget. Reduction in gritting and highways costs as a result of a milder winter.	228
Electric Cars Charging Points - running costs	0	0	2	-15	-14	Forecasted income from charging points	-3
Storm Damage	0	0	-2	2	-0	As a result of the recent storms, two sections of the highway suffered support issues with estimated reconstruction costs of £300k; A485 Alltwalis culvert replacement £100k and C2043 Bwlchnewydd road collapse £200k. Additional funding from WG Resilient Roads Fund to cover these costs.	300
Road Safety	251	-11	187	0	-54	Staff time recharged to grants	-54
School Crossing Patrols	160	0	124	0	-36	Safety Criteria to ensure posts exist at locations a patrol is required only.	-33
Highway Maintenance	12,489	-3,907	13,597	-4,911	105	£105k budget deficit following the pay award	105
Highway Lighting	3,096	-1,029	3,162	-1,142	-47	Vacant post now filled - from February 2024	-44
Public Rights Of Way	1,069	-83	1,041	-67	-12	Underspend due to maternity leave during the year	-11
Other variances					15		23

Place and Infrastructure Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 29th February 2024
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Feb 2024	Notes	Dec 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Place and Sustainability							
Place & Sustainability Unit	585	-18	649	-125	-43	Underspend on supplies & services	-48
Building Control	706	-560	666	-358	162	Shortfall in building reg fee income due to an increase in competitors and the current economic climate. Projection is based on actual income in first 11 months which may vary as the year progresses	145
Strategic Policy & Placemaking	775	0	645	-1	-130	Underspend on salaries due to maternity leave, secondment, and vacant post during the year - filled from November 2023	-106
Development Management	1,967	-1,169	1,836	-1,178	-141	Underspend on net pay costs due to vacancies within the year & current recruitment freeze	-251
Tywi Centre	73	-69	132	-147	-18	Additional income received from training courses provided	-16
Renewable Energy Fund	0	-56	0	-37	19	Reduction in feed-in tariff income received in year	0
Net Zero Carbon Plan	188	0	97	0	-91	Vacant post won't be filled this year due to recruitment freeze, and maternity leave from November 2023	-75
SAB - Sustainable Drainage Approval Body Unit	139	-134	136	-130	1	Increased anticipated income - Dependent on number of submissions and market buoyancy of development projects	16
Other Variances					-1		-6
Grand Total					936		1,716

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Housing Revenue Account - Budget Monitoring as at 29th February 2024

	Working Budget £'000	Forecasted £'000	Feb 24 Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Dec 23 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
Expenditure					
Repairs & Maintenance					
Responsive	3,053	6,212	3,159		2,550
Minor Works	3,917	3,451	-466		-285
Voids	5,191	4,691	-500		54
Servicing	2,127	1,860	-268		157
Drains & Sewers	165	166	1		-39
Grounds	891	851	-40		-40
Property & Strategic Projects	696	755	59		-359
Unadopted Roads	123	123	0		0
Supervision & Management					
Employee	7,745	7,067	-678	Savings from vacant posts and maximising grant income	-613
Premises	1,757	3,061	1,304	Additional forecast energy costs in sheltered schemes of almost £604k. Due to underspends elsewhere some Estate Improvement works brought forward (budget will be increased for 2024/25). Re-alignment of most of the Temporary Accommodation function from Council Fund to HRA (in line with advice received). These additional Temp Accommodation costs offset by "Other Income" line below (-443k)	743
Transport	47	61	14		13
Supplies	1,260	2,151	891	Additional spend related to legal costs in housing management (£184k). Also increased decant activity for major repair works as a result of greater number of decant properties becoming available and resultant additional compensation costs and project costs.	382
Recharges	-2,078	-2,078	-0		-0
Provision for Bad Debt	250	246	-4	Based on forecast total indebtedness arrears of £3.2m as at 31/03/2024, current aged debt analysis and estimated write-off for the year of £224k	-59
Capital Financing Cost	15,001	14,593	-407	Capital HRA programme is predicting a £1m overspend on the revised budget of £33.9m. This, in conjunction with increased grant funding in 2022/23 and 2023/24 has increased the borrowing requirement in year from £8.4m to approximately £10.1m. The impact on mid-year CFR and therefore interest is significant, reducing capital charges by £407k. This does assume an interest rate of 4.01% which may change if other elements of the capital programme on Council Fund vary.	-547
Central Support Charges	2,403	2,403	0		0
Direct Revenue Financing	10,000	9,000	-1,000	Amended funding of capital programme to allow for services which are revenue in nature e.g. resourcing to specific projects. This may be varied in closing the accounts to optimise borrowing/capital position.	-396
Total Expenditure	52,549	54,613	2,064		1,562

Housing Revenue Account - Budget Monitoring as at 29th February 2024

	Working Budget £'000	Forecasted £'000	Feb 24 Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Dec 23 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
Income					
Rents	-46,247	-46,867	-620	Void loss has reduced in year from a budget of 3.5% to 2.34% and is forecast to continue at this level for the remainder of the financial year, saving over £0.6m in foregone rental income.	-620
Service Charges	-981	-1,068	-87	Void loss has reduced in year from a budget of 3.5% to 2.34% and is forecast to continue at this level for the remainder of the financial year, saving over £87k in foregone rental income.	-87
Supporting People	-70	-445	-375	HSG funding diverted to support eligible staff expenditure	0
Interest on Cash Balances	-137	-800	-663	Interest rate significantly above 0.9% budgeted, assumed current year average of 4.76% by year end	-475
Grants	-296	-296	0		0
Insurance	-171	-0	171	No forecast income from insurance claims.	0
Other Income	-49	-492	-443	Increased income as a result of meeting eligible Temporary Accommodation costs (see Premises budget line above)	-296
Total Income	-47,951	-49,969	-2,018		-1,478
Net Expenditure	4,598	4,644	46		84

HRA Reserve	£'000
Balance b/f 01/04/2023	16,998
Budgeted movement in year	-4,598
Variance for the year	-46
Balance c/f 31/03/2024	12,353

CABINET 13TH MAY 2024

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 UPDATE

Purpose: To report the latest projected outturn of the capital programme for the financial year.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. That the capital programme update report is received.
2. That the new projects are noted and agreed, to be funded from current year capital charges underspends.

Reasons:

To provide an update of the latest budgetary position for the 2023/24 capital programme, as at the 29th February 2024.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:
Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)

Directorate: Name of Head of Service: Randal Hemingway Report Author: Randal Hemingway	Designations: Head of Financial Services	Tel: 01267 224886 Email addresses: RHemingway@cararthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 UPDATE

The current capital programme is based on information available as at the end of February 2024. **Appendix A** shows a forecasted net spend of £80,059k compared with a working net budget of £140,625k, giving a **-£60,482k** variance.

The net budget includes the original H.R.A. and General Fund capital programmes approved by Council on 1st March and slippage from 2022/23. Some of the budgets have also been amended to account for differences in actual grant allocations compared with the anticipated allocations at the time the programme was approved, and new grant awards received during the year to date. The project outturn for the year is £134m gross which is £32m more than the final outturn from 2022-23. This is attributable to significant spend on the HRA programme, and Pentre Awel.

Appendix B details the main variances within each department.

New Projects and virements to note and approve for the current year:

Private Housing:

A new award of £193k of Housing Care Fund (HCF) grant funding has been received from the Regional Health Partnership.

To approve a revenue contribution of £15k to fund the Care & Repair - Small Repairs Scheme

Social Care: Award of two grants funds by HCF to support housing standards.

Place and Infrastructure:

A new award of grant funding from the Energy Saving Trust of £159k as a contribution toward the purchase of new electrical vehicles and £281k for the installation costs for charging infrastructure.

Regeneration:

Additional £1,260k from reserves towards the Transforming Towns budget for the acquisition of town centre properties.

Education and Children Services:

A grant from the Welsh Government's sustainable communities for learning programme of £10,238k has been awarded for the refurbishment of Ysgol Bryngwyn, Llanelli, being 65% of the £15,750k total project costs. An appropriation of £10,299k has been made from the MEP delivery fund to this approved project, which will slip to future years. Permission is also sought to appropriate funds from the MEP delivery fund in future years of the programme up to the level of the award and match funding.

An award of £600k for the purchase of a property to be developed as safe accommodation for children.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Randal Hemingway

Head of Financial Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Biodiversity & Climate Change
NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YES	YES

3. Finance

The capital programme shows an in-year forecasted variance of -£60,482k against the 2023/24 approved budget as at 29th February 2024.

7. Physical Assets

The capital programme will have an impact on the physical assets owned by the Authority.

8. Biodiversity and Climate Change

Some schemes within the Capital Programme relate to decarbonisation measures to help reduce our carbon footprint.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Randal Hemingway

Head of Financial Services

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	NA
If yes include the following information:	
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered:	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:	

2. Local Member(s): N/A

3. Community / Town Council: N/A

4. Relevant Partners: N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations: N/A

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	Include any observations here
NO	

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
2023/24 Capital Programme		Corporate Service Department, County Hall, Carmarthen. On-line via corporate website – Minutes of County Council Meeting 1 st March 2023.

Capital Programme 2023/24							
Capital Budget Monitoring - Report for February 2024							
	Working Budget			Forecasted			Variance for Year
Department	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	
Public Housing	34,632	-16,030	18,602	34,930	-15,139	19,791	1,189
Private Housing	3,644	-661	2,983	3,676	-814	2,862	-121
Leisure	4,793	-1,264	3,529	2,506	-153	2,353	-1,176
Social Care	2,446	-528	1,918	2,069	-418	1,651	-267
Place & Infrastructure	46,186	-24,367	21,819	24,629	-12,037	12,592	-9,227
Education & Children	32,904	-16,091	16,813	16,957	-7,606	9,351	-7,462
Chief Executive	10,529	0	10,529	5,294	-35	5,259	-5,270
Regeneration	109,495	-45,063	64,432	45,773	-19,489	26,284	-38,148
TOTAL	244,629	-104,004	140,625	135,834	-55,691	80,143	-60,482

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Capital Programme 2023/24							Variance for Year £'000	Comment
Capital Budget Monitoring - Report for February 2024 - Main Variances								
DEPARTMENT/SCHEMES	Working Budget			Forecasted				
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000		
COMMUNITIES								
- Public Housing	34,632	-16,030	18,602	34,930	-15,139	19,791	1,189	
Sewage Treatment Works Upgrading	20	0	20	12	0	12	-8	
Internal and External Works (Property)	13,756	-160	13,596	15,983	-160	15,823	2,227	The main variances are £4,110k Voids, £1,053k Sheltered Housing, -£495k Planned M&E Works, £480k on minor works, £1,053k Rendering and -£1,949k Risk Reduction Measures. The overspend on Voids is the result of a higher volume of voids undertaken and additional expenditure on decant properties.
Environmental Works (Housing Services)	350	0	350	89	0	89	-261	Projects have not progressed as expected and will be included in next years work programme. New monitoring framework has put in place to identify, plan and deliver projects(EWP and Garages) in line with the budget allocation.
Adaptations and Equalities Works (Building Services)	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	0	
Programme Delivery and Strategy	1,916	0	1,916	392	0	392	-1,524	Stock condition Surveys now being processed through revenue budgets by agreement.
Housing Development Programme (New builds & Stock Increase Programme)	14,875	-398	14,477	16,454	-1,688	14,766	289	The main variances are -£1,185k as a result of the reprofiling of the Tyisha development to a future financial year, -£1,611k in Council New build and £750k in the Strategic Regeneration Schemes. The overspend in Strategic Regeneration Schemes is a result of accelerated works on 5-8 Spilman Street and Brynmefys.
Retrofit and Decarbonisation	1,715	0	1,715	0	0	0	-1,715	Asset Management System to be delivered via revenue budgets, and retro fits being delivered by other budgets.
MRA and IHP Grants Income	0	-15,472	-15,472	0	-13,291	-13,291	2,181	Offset by income received against the Housing Development Programme.
- Private Housing	3,644	-661	2,983	3,676	-814	2,862	-121	
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	2,881	-293	2,588	2,888	-446	2,442	-146	
ENABLE - Adaptations to Support Independent Living	368	-368	0	672	-368	304	304	Offset by DFG budget and 2024/25 budget.
Empty Properties Initiatives	379	0	379	100	0	100	-279	To be carried forward for other projects.
Care & Repair Small Repairs Scheme	16	0	16	16	0	16	0	
- Leisure	4,793	-1,264	3,529	2,506	-153	2,353	-1,176	
Leisure Centres	2,013	0	2,013	2,013	0	2,013	0	Ammanford 3G Pitch complete.
Oriol Myrddin Redevelopment	1,802	-1,000	802	185	-8	177	-625	Slip to 2024/25. Project now secured all funding. Works started on site on 8th Jan 2024.
Libraries & Museums	411	-264	147	184	-71	113	-34	Slip to 2024/25. Two-year scheme on car parking at Abergwili Museum.
Country Parks	567	0	567	124	-74	50	-517	Slip to 2024/25. £83k against the Cycling Hub, and £90k against Morfa Bacas Path.
Social Care	2,446	-528	1,918	2,069	-418	1,651	-267	
Place & Infrastructure (Including Fleet)	46,186	-24,367	21,819	24,629	-12,037	12,592	-9,227	
Countryside Recreation & Access	185	-105	80	164	-105	59	-21	Slip to 2024/25.
Coastal Protection & Flood Defence Works	1,543	-1,015	528	1,085	-753	332	-196	Slip to 2024/25. Scheme delayed because of redesign to avoid closing the road at Cae Ffynnon Culvert Kidwelly
Fleet Replacement	4,237	-159	4,078	3,986	-159	3,827	-251	Slip to 2024/25.
Murray Street Multi Storey Car park	177	0	177	124	0	124	-53	Slip to 2024/25 - Needed for ongoing works.

Capital Programme 2023/24							
Capital Budget Monitoring - Report for February 2024 - Main Variances							
DEPARTMENT/SCHEMES	Working Budget			Forecasted			Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	
Bridge Strengthening & Replacement	809	0	809	881	0	881	72
Road Safe Improvements and Grant Project	727	0	727	262	0	262	-465
Highways Infrastructure	1,937	0	1,937	2,238	0	2,238	301
Integrated Waste Strategy	370	0	370	0	0	0	-370
Refuse and Recycling Strategic Transformation	1,000	0	1,000	59	-59	0	-1,000
Road Safety Projects	2,268	-2,180	88	2,268	-2,180	88	0
Junction Improvements	451	-100	351	111	-72	39	-312
Cross Hands ELR	3,306	0	3,306	3,306	0	3,306	0
Public Transport Infrastructure	964	-932	32	956	-932	24	-8
Towy Valley Path	18,377	-11,751	6,626	791	0	791	-5,835
SRIC - Safe Routes in Communities	881	-881	0	881	-881	0	0
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	629	-544	85	574	-495	79	-6
Resilient Roads	909	-800	109	909	-800	109	0
Active Travel Cycle and Walking Projects	740	-740	0	704	-691	13	13
Decarbonisation - Heat Pumps for Schools	4,798	-3,843	955	4,180	-3,843	337	-618
Other Infrastructure Projects	1,878	-1,317	561	1,150	-1,067	83	-478
EDUCATION & CHILDREN	32,904	-16,091	16,813	16,957	-7,606	9,351	-7,462
Schools: General Projects	994	0	994	516	0	516	-478
Sustainable Communities For Learning - Match Funding Delivery Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sustainable Communities for Learning - Band A - Design Stage Schemes	291	0	291	160	0	160	-131
Sustainable Communities for Learning - Band A - WG FBC Approved Schemes	515	0	515	473	0	473	-42
Sustainable Communities for Learning - Band B - Design Stage Schemes	749	0	749	278	0	278	-471
Sustainable Communities for Learning - Band B - WG FBC Approved Schemes	18,189	-12,190	5,999	5,616	-4,690	926	-5,073
Infant Class Size	36	0	36	94	0	94	58
Welsh Language Immersion Centres	0	0	0	25	0	25	25
School Buildings - Education Capital Maintenance and Other Initiatives	5,969	-504	5,465	5,932	-504	5,428	-37
Additional Learning Needs (ALN + ASD) Projects	1,838	-1,261	577	1,080	-1,261	-181	-758
Community Focused Schools 2023-25	2,166	-1,345	821	1,097	-276	821	0
Traffic Management Projects (Inc. Bus Bays)	650	0	650	95	0	95	-555
Flying Start Capital Expansion Programme	191	-191	0	191	-191	0	0
Hafen y Gors Safe Accommodation for Children	1,316	-600	716	1,400	-684	716	0

Comment
Slip to 2024/25. Committed to future Sandy Road works.
Increased programme costs owing to material increases - accommodate as negative slippage. Fund from future year allocation.
Slip to future years.
Slip to 2024/25. Delays during initial stages of the project, because of costing analysis and the production of a Cost benefit analysis report.
Slip to 2024/25. Committed to future Sandy Road works.
Slip to 2024/25. Committed to future Sandy Road works.
Agreed land purchases and associated fees due to be completed shortly, potential to rise as more deals are agreed. Slip to 2024/25.
Slip to 2024/25. A two year scheme to be completed in 2024/25.
Slip to 2024/25.
Main variance is -£277k Mobile Classrooms provision - slip to 2024/25. - £200k for Amman Valley Comp access path.
Vired to Bryngwyn School following grant confirmation by WG.
Delays with acquiring land for Laugharne Primary School.
Snagging/defects ongoing.
Projects subject to MEP Review.
Bryngwyn Full Business Case (FBC) now approved by Welsh Government, expected to commence in 2024/25.
To be funded from MEP reserves.
Strade waiting approval.
Slip to future years.
Projects under design and will commence in 2024/25.

Capital Programme 2023/24								
Capital Budget Monitoring - Report for February 2024 - Main Variances								
DEPARTMENT/SCHEMES	Working Budget			Forecasted			Variance for Year £'000	Comment
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000		
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	10,529	0	10,529	5,294	-35	5,259	-5,270	
IT Strategy Developments	1,890	0	1,890	884	0	884	-1,006	To be slipped to 2024/25, following a strategy review of corporate critical digital Infrastructure.
Block 3, St David's Park	1,203	0	1,203	1,143	0	1,143	-60	Slip to 2024/25 for retention.
Glanamman Industrial Estate Redevelopment	76	0	76	22	0	22	-54	Slip to 2024/25. Needed for flooding and drainage works.
Rural Estates Capital Schemes	0	0	0	25	-25	0	0	
Capital maintenance	4,595	0	4,595	1,929	-10	1,919	-2,676	Slip to 2024/25. Grant funded works have been prioritised over core funded works.
Main Administrative Buildings Works	2,765	0	2,765	1,291	0	1,291	-1,474	Ty Elwyn works -£771k, slip to 2024/25, County Hall works -£703k slip to 2024/25 and 2025/26.
REGENERATION	109,495	-45,063	64,432	45,773	-19,489	26,284	-38,148	
Llanelli Coast JV	324	0	324	327	-3	324	0	
SPF (Shared Prosperity Fund) - Projects	0	0	0	1,068	-4,152	-3,084	-3,084	Balance of capital SPF funding received to be applied in future years.
Swansea Bay City Region Projects	72,226	-31,413	40,813	32,227	-13,001	19,226	-21,587	Slip to 2024/25. On schedule to be completed in 2024/25.
Rural Employment Spaces JV	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	-1,000	Slip to 2024/25. Initial scheme being developed by Welsh Government, contribution required will be determined in 2024/25.
Business Grants & Strategic Capital Projects	5,558	0	5,558	981	0	981	-4,577	Projects are dependent on take-up from and delivery by third party businesses. Delays in 3rd party grant delivery, slip to 2024/25.
Employment Sites	4,984	0	4,984	4,582	59	4,641	-343	Balance to slip for retention.
Town Centres	707	0	707	109	-48	61	-646	Slip to 2024/25. Earmarked for Jackson's Lane, Carmarthen.
Town Centre Loan Scheme	331	0	331	331	0	331	0	
Transforming Towns Strategic Projects	3,833	0	3,833	2,208	-19	2,189	-1,644	Slip to 2024/25. Relates mainly to Market Street North, Llanelli which is due to complete in Dec 2024.
Arfor Innovation Fund	300	-300	0	189	-189	0	0	Project will continue in 2024/25.
Business Support for Renewable Energy Initiatives	456	0	456	74	0	74	-382	Slip to 2024/25. To be relaunched as community grants.
Ten Town Growth Plan	1,000	0	1,000	264	0	264	-736	Slip to 2024/25. Dependent on third party delivery of projects.
Transforming Towns - Place Making (TTPM)	2,940	-925	2,015	1,527	-250	1,277	-738	Slip to 2024/25 - Delays with purchasing properties.
Levelling Up Fund - Carmarthen Hwb	15,836	-12,425	3,411	1,842	-1,842	0	-3,411	Slip to 2024/25.
SPF - Place - Tackling Town Centres	0	0	0	44	-44	0	0	
TOTAL	244,629	-104,004	140,625	135,834	-55,691	80,143	-60,482	

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CABINET 15TH MAY 2024

LEASE OF FORMER NEWCASTLE EMLYN COURTHOUSE TO NEWCASTLE EMLYN TOWN COUNCIL

Purpose: To allow the premises to be used for community regeneration purposes as outlined below.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- To agree to the County Council entering into a lease for 21 years at a peppercorn rent with Newcastle Emlyn Town Council

Reasons: Allows the premises to be used for community regeneration purposes including its refurbishment.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:- **Cllr. Alun Lenny** (Cabinet Member for Resources)

Directorate: Chief Executives

Name of Head of Service: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration, Policy & Digital

jaiones@sirgar.gov.uk

Report Author: Stephen Morgan

Strategic Asset Manager

smmorgan@sirgar.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lease of former Newcastle Emlyn Courthouse to Newcastle Emlyn Town Council

The future of the former courthouse has been the subject of significant discussion since the library service vacated the premises for a location in the town centre, and there being no viable alternative County Council use for the premises

The Town Council has carried out a public consultation exercise together with an open day to allow the residents and community to provide its views on the asset's future. A common theme from the consultation was its retention and refurbishment to a multi-use centre / community hub. This is aligned with the Town Council's aim of safeguarding the future of the building for the benefit of the residents of the Town.

Whilst the Town presently has 2 Church halls and the Town council chamber available for use, these assets are very well utilised with the consultation exercise highlighting additional uses and requirements around youth and learning activities.

The condition of the premises has deteriorated since the library service vacated and the Town Council is looking to secure in the region of £25,000 of SPF funding to undertake the necessary refurbishment. The funding is conditional upon the Town Council having a lease of sufficient term in the premises.

The Town Council is currently reviewing its options in connection with the operation of the building. Should it be successful in obtaining a lease, then it will consider whether a sub lease to a third sector organisation would be appropriate.

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval in principle for the Lease to the Town Council for a term of 21 years at a peppercorn rent to allow the necessary funding to bring the space back into use for community regeneration purposes. The Town Council will be responsible for full repairs, maintenance, insurance and premises related outgoings under the lease.

The alternative would be to attempt to dispose of the premises on the open market. As a listed building with no obvious end use, it's not anticipated that this option would give rise to a significant receipt. In addition, it's unlikely that a disposal and re-use would be achieved in a timely fashion, potentially leading to greater deterioration.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	No
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IMPLICATIONS

ALL IMPLICATIONS REQUIRE SIGN OFF BY THE DIRECTOR OR HEAD OF SERVICE

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration Policy & Digital

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Ensures that the sustainable development principle is applied and embedded in the future management of our assets in line with the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act. Co-ordinating a holistic approach to economic and environmental growth, including promoting health and wellbeing through bringing a redundant building back into community use.

2. Legal

Will require a new lease as outlined in the report

3. Finance

Whilst rental will be a peppercorn, the maintenance, insurance and running costs will be the Tenant's responsibility.

4. Risk Management Issues

Reduces the risks associated with holding a vacant premises subject to deterioration

5. Physical Assets

Conclude lease negotiations following agreement in principle. Reduced Revenue implications

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration Policy & Digital

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	NO
If yes include the following information: -	
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered:-	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	

2. Local Member(s)

Local Member has been consulted and is involved with proposal.

3. Community / Town Council

Proposal is to lease to the Town Council

4. Relevant Partners

Not applicable

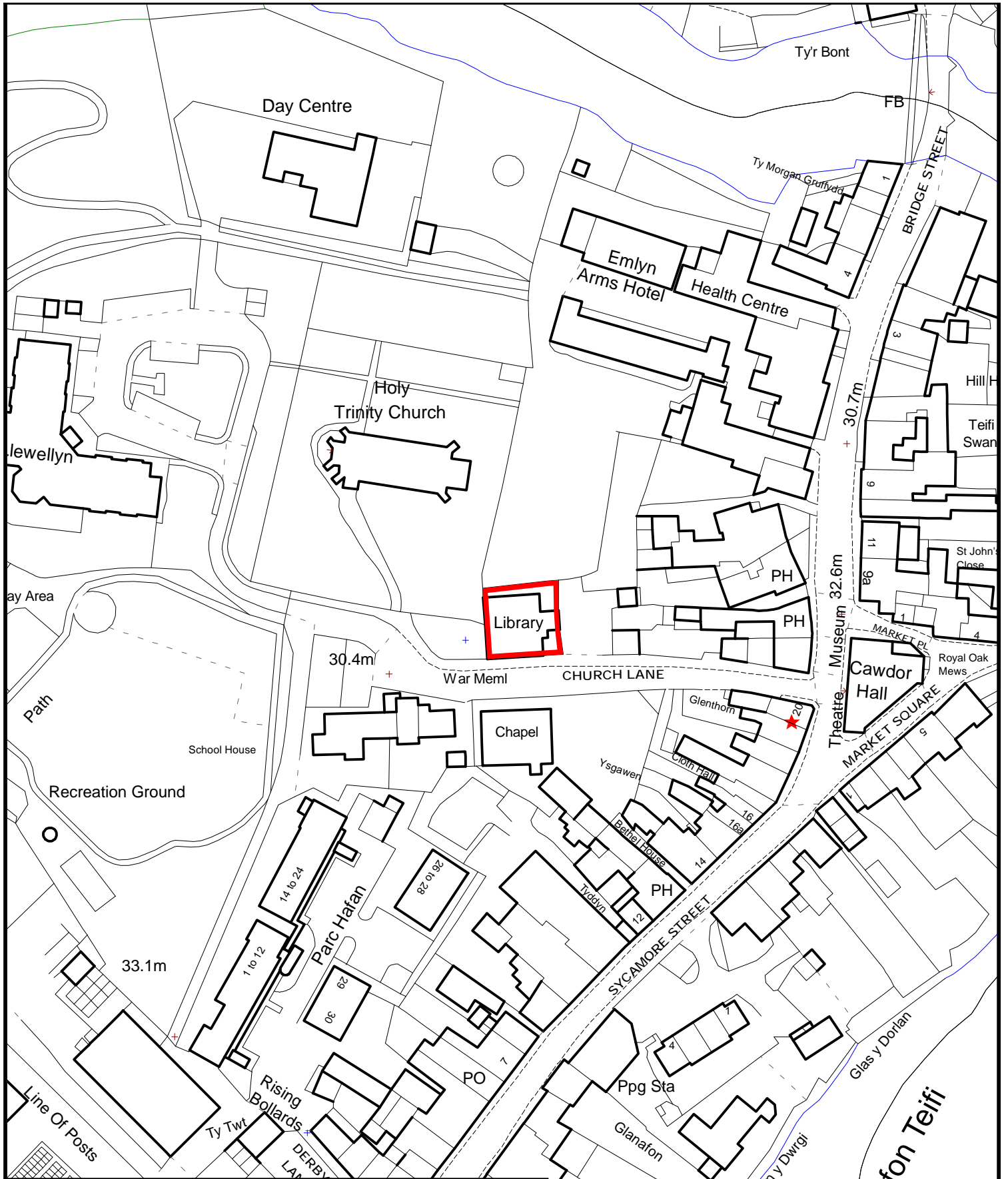
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not applicable



CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES/NO * Delete as appropriate	Include any observations here	
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: THERE ARE NONE		
Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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Title - Former Newcastle Emlyn Library

Ref. - 761200

Date/Dyddiad - 21/03/2024

Scale/Graddfa - 1:1250



Adran Eiddo/Property Division
 Neuadd y Sir/County Hall
 Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen
 SA31 1JP

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