

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023
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				Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	June 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	38,994	-16,046	-4,963	17,986	39,836	-17,004	-4,963	17,868	-117	43
Communities	215,330	-98,398	14,234	131,166	208,374	-89,121	14,234	133,486	2,321	2,193
Corporate Services	72,970	-39,749	-1,681	31,540	71,279	-38,977	-1,681	30,620	-920	-776
Education & Children (incl. Schools)	219,624	-41,820	25,009	202,813	241,010	-56,660	25,009	209,358	6,546	4,949
Place and Infrastructure	119,855	-61,244	12,895	71,506	129,926	-70,415	12,895	72,406	901	990
Departmental Expenditure	666,773	-257,257	45,494	455,009	690,424	-272,179	45,494	463,739	8,730	7,399
Corporate Contingency				1,510				1,510	0	0
Capital Charges/Interest/Corporate				-19,513				-21,763	-2,250	-2,250
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				456,821	6,480	5,149
Transfers to/from Departmental Reserves										
- Chief Executive				0				59	59	-43
- Communities				0				0	0	0
- Corporate Services				0				460	460	388
- Education & Children (incl Schools)				0				0	0	0
- Place and Infrastructure				0				-901	-901	-990
Net Budget				450,341				456,438	6,098	4,504

Chief Executive Department
Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	June 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	844	-4	-845	-5	699	0	-845	-146	-141	-123
People Management	4,759	-1,734	-2,619	406	6,375	-3,093	-2,619	663	257	363
ICT & Corporate Policy	6,674	-1,015	-4,731	929	6,662	-1,028	-4,731	903	-26	-53
Admin and Law	5,106	-884	711	4,933	5,053	-898	711	4,866	-67	-49
Marketing & Media	2,755	-616	-1,432	707	2,494	-557	-1,432	504	-203	-149
Statutory Services	1,485	-363	281	1,404	1,792	-620	281	1,453	49	49
Regeneration	17,370	-11,430	3,671	9,612	16,761	-10,807	3,671	9,625	13	6
GRAND TOTAL	38,994	-16,046	-4,963	17,986	39,836	-17,004	-4,963	17,868	-117	43

Chief Executive Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	June 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Chief Executive							
Chief Executive-Chief Officer	242	0	212	0	-30	Savings on supplies & services	-28
Chief Executive Business Support Unit	602	-4	487	0	-111	Underspend on salaries due to one staff member being on maternity leave, three vacant posts, two committed from November, the other not anticipated to be filled in the current financial year.	-95
People Management							
TIC Team	246	-101	305	-66	95	Additional support for office downsizing, funding to be confirmed (£60k). Income efficiency target (£35k) not likely to be delivered in 2023/24.	94
Business & Projects Support	262	0	244	0	-18	£18k salary efficiency target not met. Offset by savings on Supplies and Services and staff member working reduced hours.	10
Payroll	913	-406	953	-374	72	Salary and income efficiency targets not met (£96k). Partially offset by savings on supplies and services.	84
People Services – HR	913	-291	1,094	-378	94	£108k salary efficiency savings not met. £43k overspend on Agency costs to deal with volume of recruitment work being undertaken. This is partially offset by vacant posts in early part of the financial year.	166
Organisational Development	507	-42	702	-206	31	Income efficiency target not achieved	34
DBS Checks	143	0	120	-1	-25	Underspend based on this and past year's expected volume of checks required.	-25
Other variances					9		-1
ICT & Corporate Policy							
Information Technology	5,786	-970	5,677	-884	-23	Number of short term vacant posts. Four currently vacant anticipated to be filled from November.	-63
Other variances					-2		10
Admin and Law							
Democratic Services	2,237	-304	2,163	-331	-101	Underspend on members pay & allowances (£74k) along with additional income from the HRA (£27k)	-80
Democratic Services - Support	550	-8	542	-36	-35	Underspend on supplies & services (£16k), short term vacant post during the year (£14k), additional income for work undertaken by Partneriaeth (£5k)	-17
Civic Ceremonial	28	0	15	0	-12	Underspend on members hospitality/expenses, & transport cost savings following reducing from two vehicles to one.	-12
Land Charges	105	-287	152	-229	105	Shortfall in income due to low demand for searches due to downturn in the housing market	100
Central Mailing	49	0	25	0	-24	Saving on franking machine leasing costs	-23
Other variances					0		-17

Chief Executive Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023	Notes	June 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Marketing & Media							
Marketing and Media	558	-50	484	-33	-58	Underspend due to three vacant posts anticipated to be filled from November	-55
Translation	576	-56	509	-69	-80	Underspend on salaries, one staff member on maternity leave, one vacant post not anticipated to be filled in the current financial year, along with smaller underspends on supplies & services	-68
Customer Services Centres	1,267	-380	1,167	-376	-97	Underspend on salaries due to short term vacant posts (£145k), offset by overspend on software costs	-61
Yr Hwb, Rhydaman a Llanelli	110	-99	91	-48	32	Shortfall in income mainly due to decreased demand for desk space rental	35
Statutory Services							
Coroners	366	0	465	0	99	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%.	102
Electoral Services - Staff	275	0	225	0	-50	Vacant post. Not likely to be filled in current year	-54
Regeneration & Property							
Regeneration Management	311	0	350	0	38	Overspend due to cessation of staff time that we are able to charge to grants	38
Property	1,016	-95	910	-8	-19	Shortfall of £70k in external income offset by 3 vacant posts in early part of the year. Predicted to be filled from November	12
Provision Markets	719	-584	661	-487	40	Low occupancy rates has resulted in a shortfall of £97k in anticipated income. This is offset by savings made in premises related costs.	22
Industrial Premises	613	-1,638	455	-1,546	-67	Relatively High occupancy rates currently	-68
Livestock Markets	65	-120	25	-53	27	Potential shortfall in income at Llandovery and Carmarthen Marts pending receipt of turnover figures from the respective operators	27
Other variances					-5		-26
Grand Total					-117		43

Department for Communities
Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	June 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	3,618	54,041	77,208	-26,109	3,618	54,716	675	602
Physical Disabilities	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	9,399	-2,555	276	7,119	-370	-185
Learning Disabilities	48,410	-11,960	1,475	37,925	48,535	-11,275	1,475	38,735	811	848
Mental Health	12,043	-4,443	234	7,834	12,583	-4,319	234	8,499	665	638
Support	11,260	-7,631	1,198	4,826	11,347	-7,472	1,198	5,072	246	53
Homes & Safer Communities										
Public Protection	3,651	-1,417	532	2,766	3,521	-1,177	532	2,876	110	198
Council Fund Housing	33,949	-33,560	521	910	25,634	-25,305	521	850	-61	-120
Leisure & Recreation										
Leisure & Recreation	19,934	-10,940	6,380	15,374	20,147	-10,909	6,380	15,618	244	158
GRAND TOTAL	215,330	-98,398	14,234	131,166	208,374	-89,121	14,234	133,486	2,321	2,193

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023	Notes	June 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 - LA Homes	10,354	-4,554	10,649	-4,376	472	Staff agency costs remain high due to a mixture of general higher dependency of residents, vacancies and sickness. In the coming months we will 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. We will continue to monitor sickness closely and consistently as well as being more efficient in the way we recruit.	474
Older People - Private/ Vol Homes	31,792	-14,062	32,042	-14,062	249	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.	238
Older People - LA Home Care	8,387	0	7,659	-0	-727	Staffing vacancies	-741
Older People - Direct Payments	1,349	-313	1,554	-313	204	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	201
Older People - Private Home Care	10,038	-2,638	11,019	-2,638	981	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.	981
Older People - Enablement	2,225	-527	1,838	-527	-386	Staffing vacancies	-382
Older People - Other variances					-118		-168
Physical Disabilities							
Phys Dis - Private/Vol Homes	1,652	-314	1,391	-314	-261	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at August 2023	-117
Phys Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,520	-174	1,199	-174	-320	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at August 2023	-177
Phys Dis - Direct Payments	3,164	-603	3,376	-603	212	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	180
Phys Dis - Other variances					-0		-71

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023	Notes	June 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	2,195	-410	1,680	-178	-283	Provision of LD day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-229
Learn Dis - Private/Vol Homes	13,970	-4,524	14,485	-4,524	515	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 or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	507
Learn Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	11,515	-2,295	12,323	-2,295	808	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 or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	781
Learn Dis - Other variances					-230		-211
Mental Health							
M Health - Private/Vol Homes	6,986	-3,394	7,376	-3,394	390	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 or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	393
M Health - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,707	-446	2,239	-446	531	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 or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	525
M Health - Other variances					-256		-279
Support							
Departmental Support	4,337	-3,022	4,487	-3,023	150	Implementation of 2024/25 efficiency in progress but not expected to be realised this financial year	18
Other Variances - Support	11,260	-7,631	11,347	-7,472	96		35

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	June 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Homes & Safer Communities							
Public Protection							
PP Business Support unit	163	0	139	0	-23	Vacancy & underspend on supplies & services	-0
Public Health	305	-16	350	-12	49	Re-alignment of staffing budgets required, overall position on target	27
Noise Control	230	0	208	-0	-21	Re-alignment of staffing budgets required, overall position on target	-82
Animal Welfare	90	-87	85	-44	39	Under achievement of income	44
Licensing	378	-358	361	-293	48	Under achievement of income	57
Food Safety & Communicable Diseases	531	-38	511	-40	-22	Re-alignment of staffing budgets required, overall position on target	22
Trading Standards Services Management	127	-42	93	-42	-35	Savings due to vacant post	18
Safeguarding, Licensing & Financial Investigation	97	0	44	0	-53	Staff Vacancy	-54
Fair Trading	236	-68	244	-4	73	Under achievement of income	72
Financial Investigator	126	-527	180	-527	54	Under achievement of income, delays in court cases	55
Other Variances					1		41
Council Fund Housing							
Homelessness	146	-72	34	-15	-55	Forecast additional grant income	-0
Other variances					-6		-120
Leisure & Recreation							
Burry Port Harbour	24	-143	25	-119	26	Forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees	8
Pendine Outdoor Education Centre	525	-375	382	-181	51	Forecast shortfall in income for Board & Accommodation to budget	78
Pembrey Beach Kiosk	0	-80	0	-46	34	Forecast shortfall in income from Kiosk Sales due mainly to the bad summer weather	-0
Pembrey Ski Slope	532	-590	511	-596	-27	In year vacancies	-5
Newcastle Emlyn Sports Centre	360	-187	347	-191	-17	In year vacancies £17k	-30
Carmarthen Leisure Centre	2,005	-1,724	1,962	-1,709	-28	Forecast underspend in utilities	-34
St Clears Leisure Centre	188	-69	177	-44	14	Forecast to not fully achieve income budgeted	-7
Amman Valley Leisure Centre	1,187	-944	1,181	-959	-21	Forecast to over achieve income budgeted	-34
Llandovery Swimming Pool	478	-212	484	-185	34	Forecast to not fully achieve income budgeted	22
Gwendraeth Sports Centre	0	0	-43	0	-43	Accrual for NNDR no longer required	-43
Actif Communities	384	-39	361	-41	-25	In year vacancy along with reduced match funding requirement	-34
Actif health, fitness and dryside	242	-156	233	-129	18	Forecast to not fully achieve income budgeted	7
LAPA Additional Funding (E)	12	-12	94	-79	15	Cessation of external grant has resulted in employee costs not being funded for part year until re-deployment confirmed	1

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023	Notes	June 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Sport & Leisure General	843	-44	882	-44	40	Forecast to overspend on Employees	40
Llanelli Leisure Centre	1,567	-1,075	1,611	-1,080	40	Forecast to not fully achieve income budgeted £35k and overspend on Employees £45k	-9
Outdoor Recreation - Staffing costs	287	0	269	0	-18	Forecast underspends in vehicle fuel budgets	5
Pembrey Country Park	1,144	-1,352	1,123	-1,369	-37	Forecast to overachieve budgeted income for Admission and Season Tickets	2
Pembrey Country Park Restaurant	651	-524	670	-526	18	Forecast to overspend in cost of Catering	-4
Community Libraries	275	-7	248	-5	-25	In year vacancies	-7
Museum of speed, Pendine	168	-103	159	-77	17	Forecast includes 'one off' set up costs for new site	3
Laugharne Boathouse	158	-129	153	-103	21	Forecast to not fully achieve income budgeted	24
Lyric Theatre	584	-445	618	-433	46	Forecast overspend on Performance fees along with predicted shortfall in income to budget	46
Y Ffwrnnes	1,161	-515	984	-390	-52	Forecast underspend in utilities	-6
Attractor - Hostel	0	0	608	-397	211	A fledgling business that only commenced operation in this financial year. Current forecast includes income shortfall to budget with continuing marketing of location likely to increase future room occupation rates which will assist in mitigating this overspend	27
Attractor - Parry Thomas	43	-39	12	-44	-36	Minor underspends forecast in numerous expenditure budgets	0
Attractor - Externals	7	-63	5	-42	19	Forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees	-2
Leisure Management	398	-4	354	-4	-44	In year vacancies	-55
Other Variances					14		166
Grand Total					2,321		2,193

Corporate Services Department
Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	June 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	14,082	-2,970	-852	10,260	13,442	-2,759	-852	9,831	-429	-422
Revenues & Financial Compliance	58,888	-36,779	-830	21,279	57,837	-36,219	-830	20,789	-491	-354
GRAND TOTAL	72,970	-39,749	-1,681	31,540	71,279	-38,977	-1,681	30,620	-920	-776

Corporate Services Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023	Notes	June 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Financial Services							
Accountancy	1,939	-510	1,956	-476	52	£35k overall shortfall on income targets consisting of a £22k shortfall on deputyship income and £13k of other smaller income shortfalls. £17k net overspend on supplies and services.	62
Bank Charges	64	0	39	0	-25	Forecast underspend on bank charges	-25
Miscellaneous Services	8,135	-131	7,621	-60	-442	£430k underspend on pre LGR pension costs. £12k underspend on Subscriptions	-437
Other variances					-14		-22
Revenues & Financial Compliance							
Procurement	643	-37	581	-37	-62	Underspend on staff, due to 2 being on maternity leave, one on reduced hours and 2 vacancies during the first quarter of the year. These are being filled imminently.	-62
Risk Management	166	-1	146	-0	-20	Reduction in working hours of a member of staff within the section £16k, along with a £4k underspend on supplies and services.	-13
Business Support Unit	150	0	140	0	-11	Vacant post due to be filled from October	-8
Corporate Services Training	55	0	25	0	-30	Underspend based upon current demand for courses.	-12
Local Taxation	1,040	-776	1,136	-725	147	Large overspend on postage costs following price increases in recent years of £115k, along with a reduction in anticipated income received from recovering court costs based on 2022/23 figures.	158
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	18,385	0	18,160	0	-225	Underspend anticipated based on current levels of demand.	-140
Rent Allowances	34,823	-35,040	34,410	-34,600	27	Projection based on 2022/23 claims.	27
Rates Relief	251	0	154	0	-97	Low take-up anticipated based on current demand.	-95
Housing Benefits Admin	1,766	-755	1,360	-661	-312	Net shortfall on income grants receivable of £94k compared with budget, offset by 12.5FTE current vacant posts within the section due to difficulties with recruitment.	-328
Revenues	1,089	-148	1,208	-174	92	£116k overspend on bank charges due to significant increase in the number of card payments in recent years, partially offset by a saving due to a vacant post anticipated to be filled from November and long term staff sickness.	117
Other variances					0		2
Grand Total					-920		-776

Department for Education & Children
Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	June 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	154,509	-18,066	0	136,443	163,022	-18,066	0	144,956	8,513	8,722
Transfer from Reserves				0		-8,513		-8,513	-8,513	-8,722
Director & Strategic Management	1,793	0	-109	1,684	1,398	0	-109	1,289	-395	-851
Education Services Division	15,343	-4,083	20,028	31,288	16,028	-4,759	20,028	31,297	9	-136
Access to Education	12,584	-7,954	1,403	6,033	13,830	-8,055	1,403	7,178	1,145	672
Strategy & Learner Support	4,279	-1,842	922	3,360	6,665	-4,244	922	3,343	-16	-40
Children's Services	31,116	-9,875	2,764	24,005	40,067	-13,023	2,764	29,809	5,804	5,305
TOTAL excluding schools	65,115	-23,754	25,009	66,370	77,988	-30,081	25,009	72,916	6,546	4,949
GRAND TOTAL	219,624	-41,820	25,009	202,813	241,010	-56,660	25,009	209,358	6,546	4,949

Department for Education & Children - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	June 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Director & Strategic Management							
Director & Management Team	1,385	0	1,049	0	-335	Growth budget to be allocated as the relevant recruitment and reviews progress.	-814
Business Support	408	0	348	0	-60	Any temporary in year underspend will support other service pressures. Part year vacant posts pending review of service needs once relocated.	-38
Education Services Division							
Early Years Non-Maintained 3 year old Provision	941	-542	633	-542	-308	WG are currently providing grant for non maintained settings, releasing core budget on a temporary basis to support pressures in other services	-308
School Improvement	777	0	833	-2	54	Partneriaeth RCG Income less than anticipated for 2023-24	-0
Additional Learning Needs	4,756	-2,525	4,571	-2,226	114	£217k pressure in relation to Out of County placements, partially offset by vacant posts and utilisation of grant income	42
Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)	5,099	-565	5,280	-637	109	Increased agency costs due to staff absences across the 4 settings	113
Music Services for Schools	348	0	1,377	-1,009	20	Increased staff cover costs relating to long term absence	2
Other variances					19		16
Access to Education							
School Admissions	485	0	389	0	-96	Part year vacant posts currently being recruited to	-75
School Modernisation	144	0	289	-45	100	Ongoing costs for closed school premises following school reorganisations	65
School Meals & Primary Free Breakfast Services	11,954	-7,954	13,151	-8,011	1,140	Based on existing costs & income levels for school meals £851k, as difficult to estimate the further roll out of UPFSM. Primary breakfast contributions for care element shortfall £96k & increased costs of food & labour £193k	681
Strategy & Learner Support							
Youth Support Service & Participation	1,122	-106	2,331	-1,343	-29	Part year vacant posts	-22
Other variances					13		-18

Department for Education & Children - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	June 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Children's Services							
Commissioning and Social Work	8,019	-115	8,976	-535	536	Increased agency staff costs forecast £638k re additional demand & difficulty recruiting permanent staff and increased demand for assistance to clients and their families £263k. This is partly offset by additional grant income. Reduction from June forecast is mainly due to a revised forecast for legal fees which is on budget.	985
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	1,035	-91	958	-91	-77	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-58
Fostering & Other Children Looked After Services	4,843	0	5,883	-149	892	Increased costs associated with providing specialist support and fostering placements for young people / children looked after, some with highly complex needs £445k, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) £26k, Fostering £570k. This is partly offset by additional WG grant £149k	894
Adoption Services	591	0	742	0	151	Overspend in relation to increased staffing costs, including agency staff and travelling costs re ongoing service demands £75k. Also, additional costs forecast in August in relation to Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs, again in line with service demands £76k	80
Out of County Placements (CS)	469	0	3,250	-12	2,770	Several ongoing, highly complex placements in 2023/24, with a further increase in number of placements compared with 2022/23 and those forecast at June 23	1,907
Residential Settings	1,323	-361	2,564	-1,411	191	£191k Garreglwyd - agency staff costs forecast due to difficulty recruiting & sickness cover (reduction since June report is growth budget allocation). £507k forecast overspend for the new Ty Magu residential setting being offset by £507k WG grant.	499
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	657	0	1,991	-105	1,229	Increased demand for Direct Payments with further pressures linked to post covid & lack of commissioned services available £491k. Also increased demand for 1-2-1 support under Short Breaks due to lack of available location based services £738k	982
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	1,023	-643	1,061	-734	-53	Maximisation of grant income, partially offsetting overspends elsewhere within the division	-68
Children's Services Mgt & Support (inc Eclipse)	1,189	-164	2,554	-1,314	215	Large increase in number of Unaccompanied Children resulting in more expensive placement costs in excess of the fixed income received £322k, additional Carefirst / Eclipse system costs £21k. This is partially offset by savings by not replacing 2 x vacant posts within the management and administration teams £128k	124
School Safeguarding & Attendance	827	-512	790	-550	-74	Maximisation of grant income, partially offsetting overspends elsewhere within the division	-62
Other Variances					25		21
Grand Total					6,546		4,949

Place and Infrastructure Department
Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	June 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	4,867	-4,117	478	1,228	4,845	-4,099	478	1,224	-4	4
Waste & Environmental Services	30,004	-4,926	1,342	26,420	30,946	-5,605	1,342	26,682	262	252
Highways & Transportation	57,691	-31,300	10,247	36,638	64,265	-37,071	10,247	37,440	802	857
Property	19,734	-17,384	448	2,798	22,531	-20,178	448	2,801	3	-89
Place and Sustainability	7,558	-3,518	381	4,422	7,340	-3,461	381	4,260	-162	-34
GRAND TOTAL	119,855	-61,244	12,895	71,506	129,926	-70,415	12,895	72,406	901	990

Place and Infrastructure Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	June 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Waste & Environmental Services							
Waste & Environmental Services Unit	-145	0	-231	-0	-86	Interim staffing complement, temporary recruitment freeze to ensure a comprehensive review of staffing / management structure based on the amalgamation of services	-112
Environmental Infrastructure	134	0	100	0	-33	Part-year saving due to Head of Service post being vacant until July 2023	7
Environmental Enforcement	566	-19	514	-21	-55	Underspend relates to vacated post, maternity leave and flexible retirement. Future needs are being addressed.	-54
Waste Services	20,527	-1,400	21,399	-1,702	571	Delivery of the interim phase of the waste strategy has increased costs due to contingency measures put in place.	550
Absorbent Hygiene Products (Collection)	671	0	671	0	0		0
Green Waste Collection	671	-602	663	-666	-72	Increased customer base	-78
Grounds Maintenance Service and Urban Parks	3,953	-2,696	3,950	-2,736	-43	More work kept in-house therefore less sub-contractor costs.	-46
Other variances					-20		-15
Highways & Transportation							
Departmental - Transport	41	0	-1	0	-41	Vacant post, management review underway	-22
Departmental Pooled Vehicles	0	0	14	0	14	Under-utilisation of pool vehicles	14
School Transport	13,690	-994	14,538	-1,178	664	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.	664
Traffic Management	557	-262	900	-684	-79	Staff vacancies during the year, staff time recharged to grants and net increase in Traffic Regulation orders income	-65
Car Parks	2,268	-3,593	1,974	-2,942	357	Parking income not achieving income targets due to reduced footfall in town centres together with year on year validation applied to budget. Parking fees increase of 5% due to be implemented from January 2024.	380
Nant y Ci Park & Ride	17	-7	35	-7	18	Overspend due to cessation of service after the start of the financial year due to statutory notice periods.	18
Road Safety	251	-11	182	0	-59	Staff time recharged to grants	-60
School Crossing Patrols	160	0	126	0	-34	Several posts have become vacant and will not be refilled - in line with the National Safety Criteria to ensure posts exist at locations a patrol is required only.	-33
Highway Lighting	3,096	-1,029	3,137	-1,101	-31	Vacant post estimated to be filled from November	-28
Other variances					-7		-11

Place and Infrastructure Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st August 2023

Main Variances

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY 12th DECEMBER 2023

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	June 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Property							
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	14,828	-14,990	194	Following Housing Disaggregation a review of recharges needs to be undertaken to take account of revised operating costs	-0
Property Design - Business Unit	2,697	-3,010	2,778	-3,146	-55	Review of projected income based on current vacancies	48
Place and Sustainability							
Place & Sustainability Unit	585	-18	628	-118	-56	Underspend on supplies & services	-43
Building Control	706	-560	650	-416	88	Shortfall in building reg fee income due to an increase in competitors and the current economic climate. Projection is based on actual income in the 1st 5 months which may vary as the year progresses	142
Forward Planning	771	0	695	-0	-76	Underspend on salaries due to maternity & vacant post estimated to be filled from November	-52
Development Management	1,971	-1,169	1,888	-1,211	-125	Underspend on salaries due to vacancies within the year & planning application income forecast based on actual income received in the 1st 5 months of the year, this may vary as the year progresses	-87
Net Zero Carbon Plan	188	0	156	0	-32	Underspend on salaries, vacant post estimated to be filled in November	-31
SAB - Sustainable Drainage approval Body Unit	139	-134	136	-100	31	Anticipated income not materialised - Dependent on number of submissions and market buoyancy of development projects	47
Other Variances					9		-10
Grand Total					901		990