

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

CABINET 15th JANUARY 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				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Aug 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	60,744	-35,589	-4,515	20,640	63,777	-39,003	-4,515	20,258	-382	-114
Communities	210,644	-93,712	14,233	131,166	215,189	-94,607	14,233	134,815	3,649	2,321
Corporate Services	73,035	-39,833	-1,681	31,520	71,441	-39,052	-1,681	30,708	-812	-920
Education & Children (incl. Schools)	222,802	-44,998	25,009	202,813	244,860	-60,286	25,009	209,583	6,770	6,546
Place and Infrastructure	100,434	-44,010	12,447	68,871	108,981	-50,883	12,447	70,545	1,675	898
Departmental Expenditure	667,659	-258,142	45,493	455,010	704,247	-283,831	45,493	465,910	10,900	8,730
Corporate Contingency				1,510				0	-1,510	0
Capital Charges/Interest/Corporate				-19,513				-22,513	-3,000	-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				456,731	6,390	6,480
Transfers to/from Departmental Reserves										
- Chief Executive				0				191	191	56
- Communities				0				0	0	0
- Corporate Services				0				406	406	460
- Education & Children (incl Schools)				0				0	0	0
- Place and Infrastructure				0				-1,675	-1,675	-898
Net Budget				450,341				455,654	5,312	6,098

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

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Aug 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	951	-4	-845	102	739	0	-845	-106	-209	-141
People Management	4,759	-1,714	-2,619	426	5,687	-2,360	-2,619	709	282	257
Admin and Law	5,106	-884	711	4,933	4,974	-858	711	4,827	-106	-67
Marketing & Media	2,743	-604	-1,432	707	2,417	-541	-1,432	444	-263	-203
Statutory Services	1,532	-410	281	1,404	1,763	-612	281	1,432	29	49
Regeneration, Digital & Policy	45,651	-31,972	-612	13,067	48,197	-34,633	-612	12,953	-115	-9
GRAND TOTAL	60,744	-35,589	-4,515	20,640	63,777	-39,003	-4,515	20,258	-382	-114

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

Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Chief Executive							
Chief Executive Business Support Unit	709	-4	502	0	-204	Underspend on salaries due to one staff member being on maternity leave, three vacant posts, no commitment due to recruitment freeze.	-111
Other variances					-5		-30
People Management							
TIC Team	246	-101	304	-61	99	Additional support for office downsizing, funding to be confirmed (£64k). Income efficiency target (£35k) not likely to be delivered in 2023/24.	95
Business & Projects Support	262	0	236	0	-26	£18k salary efficiency target not met. Offset by savings on Supplies and Services and staff member working reduced hours.	-18
Payroll	913	-386	1,029	-404	97	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.	72
People Services – HR	913	-291	1,012	-276	114	£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.	94
Organisational Development	507	-42	703	-211	27	Income efficiency target not achieved	31
DBS Checks	143	0	121	-2	-25	Underspend based on this and past year's expected volume of checks required.	-25
Other variances					-4		9
Admin and Law							
Democratic Services	2,237	-304	2,161	-331	-103	Underspend on members pay & allowances (£76k) along with additional income from the HRA (£27k)	-101
Democratic Services - Support	550	-8	514	-36	-63	Underspend on supplies & services (£16k), short term vacant posts during the year (£42k), additional income for work undertaken by Partneriaeth (£5k)	-35
Civic Ceremonial	28	0	14	0	-14	Underspend on members hospitality/expenses, & transport cost savings following reducing from two vehicles to one.	-12
Land Charges	105	-287	124	-197	109	Shortfall in income due to low demand for searches due to downturn in the housing market	105
Central Mailing	49	0	27	-4	-26	Saving on franking machine leasing costs	-24
Other variances					-9		0
Marketing & Media							
Marketing and Media	790	-69	715	-61	-67	Underspend due to three vacant posts not being filled due to recruitment freeze	-58
Translation	576	-56	481	-56	-95	Underspend on salaries, one staff member on maternity leave, one vacant post that will now to be filled in the current financial year, along with smaller underspends on supplies & services	-80
Customer Services Centres	1,267	-380	1,132	-376	-131	Underspend on salaries due to short term vacant posts (£183k), offset by an overspend on set up and configuration of new communications software.	-97
Yr Hwb, Rhydaman a Llanelli	110	-99	90	-48	30	Shortfall in income mainly due to decreased demand for desk space rental	32

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

Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Statutory Services							
Coroners	366	0	437	0	71	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%.	99
Electoral Services - Staff	281	0	239	0	-43	Vacant post. Not being filled in current year.	-50
Regeneration, Digital & Policy							
Regeneration Management	311	0	347	0	36	Overspend due to cessation of staff time that we are able to charge to grants	38
Information Technology	5,786	-970	5,703	-963	-76	6 vacant posts which will not now be filled as a result of the recruitment freeze.	-23
Welsh Language	141	-11	117	-11	-24	Part year vacant post not currently being filled due to recruitment freeze	-9
Property	1,016	-95	916	-10	-15	Shortfall of £85k in external income offset by £66k 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. £34k underspend on non salary budgets.	-19
Commercial Properties	54	-486	126	-574	-16	Reasonably high occupancy rates currently	-5
Provision Markets	719	-584	660	-491	34	Low occupancy rates has resulted in a shortfall of £93k in anticipated income. This is offset by savings made in premises related costs.	40
Administrative Buildings	4,647	-888	4,426	-728	-61	£42k savings on employee costs due to vacancies and recruitment freeze. £19k savings estimated on premises related running costs.	-4
Industrial Premises	613	-1,638	857	-1,947	-66	Relatively High occupancy rates currently	-67
The Beacon	252	-151	253	-138	13	Decrease in demand for office space.	-4
Livestock Markets	65	-120	20	-38	36	Potential shortfall in income at Llandoverly and Carmarthen Marts pending receipt of turnover figures from the respective operators	27
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	15,881	-16,019	217	£18k deficit due to pay award. Following Housing Disaggregation a review of recharges needs to be undertaken to take account of revised operating costs.	194
Property Design - Business Unit	2,634	-3,010	2,853	-3,317	-87	Review of projected income based on current vacancies	-55
Other variances					29		14
Grand Total					-382		-114

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

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Aug 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	78,272	-26,235	3,701	55,738	1,614	675
Physical Disabilities	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	9,282	-2,381	276	7,176	-313	-370
Learning Disabilities	48,410	-11,960	1,475	37,925	49,171	-11,782	1,475	38,864	939	811
Mental Health	12,043	-4,443	234	7,834	12,806	-4,371	234	8,669	835	665
Support	11,260	-7,631	1,114	4,743	11,130	-7,466	1,114	4,778	35	246
Homes & Safer Communities										
Public Protection	3,651	-1,417	532	2,766	3,510	-1,263	532	2,779	13	110
Council Fund Housing	28,678	-28,288	521	910	30,695	-30,268	521	947	37	-61
Leisure & Recreation										
Leisure & Recreation	20,519	-11,525	6,380	15,374	20,324	-10,841	6,380	15,863	489	244
GRAND TOTAL	210,644	-93,712	14,233	131,166	215,189	-94,607	14,233	134,815	3,649	2,321

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st October 2023
Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Adult Services							
Older People							
Older People - Residential Care Homes (Local Authority Provision)	10,354	-4,554	11,140	-4,389	951	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.	472
Older People - Residential Care Homes	31,792	-14,062	32,061	-14,062	269	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.	249
Older People - Direct Payments	1,349	-313	1,508	-313	159	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	204
Older People - Private Home Care	10,038	-2,638	10,868	-2,638	829	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 - Reablement	2,225	-527	1,974	-600	-324	Staffing vacancies	-386
Older People - Private Day Services	247	0	145	0	-103	Provision of day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-103
Older People - Other variances					-167		-743
Physical Disabilities							
Phys Dis - Residential Care Homes	1,652	-314	1,367	-314	-285	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023	-261
Phys Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,520	-174	1,252	-174	-268	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023	-320
Phys Dis - Direct Payments	3,164	-603	3,531	-603	367	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	212
Phys Dis - Other variances					-127		-0

Department for Communities - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st October 2023
Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Learning Disabilities							
Learn Dis - Employment & Training	2,195	-410	1,691	-209	-303	Provision of LD day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-283
Learn Dis - Residential Care Homes	13,970	-4,524	14,358	-4,524	388	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.	515
Learn Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	11,515	-2,295	12,829	-2,295	1,314	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.	808
Learn Dis - Community Support	3,568	-162	3,229	-162	-338	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023	-102
Learn Dis - Adult Placement/Shared Lives	3,095	-2,104	3,136	-2,341	-195	Provision of respite care is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels and part-year vacant posts	-69
Learn Dis - Other variances					72		-59
Mental Health							
M Health - Residential Care Homes	6,986	-3,394	7,468	-3,394	482	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.	390
M Health - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,707	-446	2,249	-446	541	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.	531
M Health - Other variances					-188		-256
Support							
Other Variances - Support	11,260	-7,631	11,130	-7,466	35		246

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

Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 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	143	0	-20	Underspend on salaries - Staff Vacancy	-23
Noise Control	230	0	196	-0	-34	Underspend on salaries - Staff Vacancy	-21
Animal Welfare	90	-87	82	-44	36	Under achievement of income	39
Licensing	378	-358	373	-303	50	Short fall in income - income target increases year on year, but the number of licensable businesses remains largely the same.	48
Safeguarding, Licensing & Financial Investigation	97	0	45	0	-52	Underspend on salaries	-53
Fair Trading	236	-68	230	-4	58	Underachievement of an unrealistic income target. Income dependent on criminal case progressing through the court system and the award of fees and costs recoverable.	73
Financial Investigator	126	-527	185	-567	20	Shortfall in salary budget	54
Other Variances					-45		-6
Council Fund Housing							
Independent Living and Affordable Homes	124	-45	131	-79	-27	Underspend on salaries due to grant funding and underspend on Supplies & Services	-0
Home Improvement (Non HRA)	661	-284	693	-376	-61	Underspend on salaries - Staff vacancy	-3
Penybryn Traveller Site	188	-137	205	-130	24	Under achievement of Income	9
Non HRA Re-Housing (Inc Chr)	177	0	138	0	-39	Underspend on salaries - Staff vacancy	-12
Social Lettings Agency	887	-879	825	-653	164	Reduction in forecast income. Mainly commission to retain landlords in the scheme.	0
Other variances					-24		-55
Leisure & Recreation							
Millennium Coastal Park	334	-94	334	-83	11	Forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees & Season Tickets	-5
Burry Port Harbour	24	-143	37	-127	29	Legal / Mtce costs relating to Burry Port Marina not budgeted £14k plus forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees	26
Pendine Outdoor Education Centre	525	-375	375	-197	28	Forecast shortfall in income for Board & Accommodation to budget with smaller group bookings	51
Pembrey Beach Kiosk	0	-80	0	-46	34	Forecast shortfall in income from Beach Kiosk Sales due mainly to the bad summer weather over school holidays	34
Carmarthen Leisure Centre	1,955	-1,674	1,965	-1,644	40	Pay validation £30k plus forecast income shortfall of £10k	-28
Llandovery Swimming Pool	478	-212	497	-185	47	Pay validation plus forecast income shortfall	34
Gwendraeth Sports Centre	0	0	-43	0	-43	Accrual for NNDR no longer required	-43
Actif Communities	384	-39	356	-41	-30	In year vacancy	-25
Actif health, fitness and dryside	242	-156	206	-109	11	Slight shortfall on higher income target set	18

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

Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Llanelli Leisure Centre	1,567	-1,075	1,597	-1,043	63	Pay validation £26k plus forecast income shortfall linked to sports hall booking cancellations due to roof leaks	40
Outdoor Recreation - Staffing costs	287	0	348	0	61	Forecast overspend on Employees due to shortfall of validation £20k plus long term sickness cover	-18
Pembrey Country Park	1,144	-1,352	1,139	-1,392	-44	Forecast to overachieve budgeted income for Admission and Season Tickets however lost over £40k income due to Wi-Fi issues, £72K essential expenditure on campsite works and alternative Wi-Fi solution	-37
Pembrey Country Park Restaurant	651	-524	712	-546	40	Pay validation, price of food increase, ambitious income setting targets, and loss of income due to Wi-Fi issues affecting position at mid-year point with aim to recover by year-end	18
Carmarthen Library	581	-32	584	-17	19	Pay validation £12k plus utilities	3
Llanelli Library	530	-32	580	-19	63	Forecast overspend on Employees - in part Pay validation, utilities £14k, income shortfall £13k; offset with vacancies in Libraries general	9
Community Libraries	275	-7	261	-6	-12	In year vacancies	-25
Libraries General	1,258	-1	1,180	-1	-78	In year vacancies	-3
Carmarthen Museum, Abergwili.	198	-31	159	-35	-43	In year vacancies	-8
Museums General	412	-1	438	-0	26	Unable to achieve vacancy factor	8
Laugharne Boathouse	158	-129	163	-90	43	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.	21
Lyric Theatre	622	-445	617	-399	42	Predicted shortfall in income to budget, offset by other theatres income (managed as one overall target)	46
Ammanford Miners Theatre	86	-17	82	-25	-12	Predicted to over achieve income to budget	-6
Entertainment Centres General	585	-98	616	-142	-13	In year vacancies	-9
Attractor - Hostel	687	-656	673	-396	247	Budget set at steady state year and occupation. Current forecast includes income shortfall as we build to expected room occupation rates; circa £40k shortfall in parking income (pending barrier / enforcement); £80k income shortfall with Adventure Golf opening 2024. Forecast also includes a £12k pay validation shortfall along with £42k 'one off' set up costs.	211
Attractor - Externals	5	-65	5	-42	23	Forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees	19
Leisure Management	398	-4	341	-4	-57	In year vacancies	-44
Other Variances					-4		-44
Grand Total					3,649		2,321

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

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Aug 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	13,474	-2,818	-852	9,805	-436	-429
Revenues & Financial Compliance	58,888	-36,779	-830	21,279	57,967	-36,234	-830	20,903	-376	-491
GRAND TOTAL	73,035	-39,833	-1,681	31,520	71,441	-39,052	-1,681	30,708	-812	-920

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

Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Financial Services							
Accountancy	1,942	-510	1,940	-476	32	£35k overall shortfall on income targets consisting of a £22k shortfall on deputyship income and £13k of other smaller income shortfalls. £29k net underspend on vacant posts during the year; £26k net overspend on supplies and services.	52
Bank Charges	64	0	52	0	-12	Forecast underspend on Bank Charges	-25
Miscellaneous Services	8,111	-131	7,556	-20	-444	£432k underspend on pre LGR pension costs. £12k underspend on Subscriptions	-442
Other variances					-12		-14
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.	-62
Business Support Unit	150	0	128	0	-22	Vacant post during year. Will not be filled in 2023/24.	-11
Corporate Services Training	55	0	25	0	-30	Underspend based upon current demand for courses.	-30
Local Taxation	1,040	-776	1,156	-725	168	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.	147
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	18,385	0	18,238	0	-146	Underspend anticipated based on current levels of demand.	-225
Rent Allowances	34,823	-35,040	34,409	-34,599	27	Projection based on 2022/23 claims.	27
Rates Relief	251	0	155	0	-96	Low take-up anticipated based on current demand.	-97
Housing Benefits Admin	1,766	-755	1,347	-661	-325	Net shortfall on grants income receivable of £94k compared with budget, offset by 10.5FTE current vacant posts within the section due to difficulties with recruitment.	-312
Revenues	1,089	-148	1,235	-175	118	£116k overspend on bank charges due to significant increase in the number of card payments in recent years.	92
Other variances					-7		-19
Grand Total					-812		-920

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

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Aug 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	155,160	-18,492	0	136,668	163,945	-18,492	0	145,453	8,785	8,513
Transfer from Reserves				0		-8,785		-8,785	-8,785	-8,513
Director & Strategic Management	1,690	0	-109	1,581	1,349	0	-109	1,240	-342	-395
Education Services Division	15,766	-4,704	20,122	31,184	17,425	-6,362	20,122	31,186	2	20
Access to Education	12,359	-7,954	1,403	5,808	13,747	-8,609	1,403	6,542	734	1,145
Strategy & Learner Support	6,608	-3,972	828	3,464	6,762	-4,253	828	3,336	-127	-27
Children's Services	31,218	-9,875	2,764	24,108	41,632	-13,784	2,764	30,612	6,504	5,804
TOTAL excluding schools	67,642	-26,506	25,009	66,145	80,915	-33,008	25,009	72,916	6,770	6,546
GRAND TOTAL	222,802	-44,998	25,009	202,813	244,860	-60,286	25,009	209,583	6,770	6,546

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

Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Director & Strategic Management							
Director & Management Team	1,282	0	999	0	-283	Growth budget to be allocated as the relevant recruitment and reviews progress.	-335
Business Support	408	0	350	0	-58	Any temporary in year underspend will support other service pressures. Part year vacant posts pending review of service needs once relocated.	-60
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	1,163	-340	46	Partneriaeth RCG Income less than anticipated for 2023/24	54
Additional Learning Needs	4,756	-2,525	4,822	-2,542	49	£272k pressure in relation to Out of County placements, partially offset by part year vacant posts and utilisation of grant income	114
Education Other Than At School (EOTAS)	5,099	-565	5,475	-774	167	Increased agency costs due to staff absences across the 4 settings	109
Music Services for Schools	348	0	1,400	-1,022	30	Increased staff cover costs relating to long term absence	20
Other variances					17		31
Access to Education							
School Admissions	485	0	401	0	-84	Part year vacant posts currently being recruited to	-96
School Modernisation	144	0	311	-46	121	Ongoing costs for closed school premises following school reorganisations	100
School Meals & Primary Free Breakfast Services	11,729	-7,954	13,034	-8,563	696	Updated costs & income levels for primary school meals has reduced the forecast overspend to £468k which is down to the meal price being insufficient to cover costs per meal, paid and UPFSM funded. Primary breakfast contributions for care element shortfall £96k & increased costs of food & labour £132k	1,140
Strategy & Learner Support							
Youth Support Service & Participation	2,311	-1,294	2,311	-1,368	-74	Part year vacant posts and using core staff to utilise grant income	-29
Data & Education Systems	1,079	-30	1,030	-30	-49	Part year vacant posts and using core staff to utilise grant income	-7
Other variances					-4		9
Children's Services							
Commissioning and Social Work	8,019	-115	9,554	-530	1,119	Increased agency staff costs forecast £962k re additional demand & difficulty recruiting permanent staff - forecast has increased due to extending of agency staff to March 2024 and also 2 additional agency Social Workers. Increased demand for assistance to clients and their families £346k, which again is a further increase compared to August. This is partly offset by additional grant income.	536
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	1,035	-91	948	-91	-87	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-77

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

Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Fostering & Other Children Looked After Services	4,843	0	6,120	-139	1,138	Increased costs associated with providing specialist support and fostering placements for young people / children looked after, some with highly complex needs £453k, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) £62k, Fostering £762k. This is partly offset by additional WG grant £139k	892
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)	0	0	1,603	-1,346	257	Increase in number of Unaccompanied Children resulting in more expensive placement costs in excess of the fixed income received. Additional grant income identified since August return	322
Commissioned Residential Placements (CS)	469	0	3,369	-12	2,889	Several ongoing highly complex placements in 2023/24	2,770
Residential Settings	1,421	-361	2,728	-1,444	225	£225k Garreglwyd - agency staff costs forecast due to difficulty recruiting & sickness cover. £514k forecast overspend for new setting Ty Magu / Ross Avenue, which is being offset by £514k WG grant	191
Respite Settings	1,094	0	1,178	0	84	Increased staffing costs £54k re meeting service demand, vacancy / absence cover and impact of increased pay award in excess of budget, increased vehicle costs in relation to additional vehicles needed £20k and also additional premises maintenance costs forecast £10k in relation to essential works needed following outcome of recent playground inspection at Llys Caradog	19
Adoption Services	591	0	1,136	-409	136	Overspend in relation to increased staffing costs, including agency staff and travelling costs re ongoing service demands £73k. Also, additional costs in relation to Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs, again in line with service demands £63k	151
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	657	0	1,880	-184	1,040	Increased demand for Direct Payments with further pressures linked to post covid & lack of commissioned services available £376k. Also increased demand for 1-2-1 support under Short Breaks due to lack of available location based services £664k	1,229
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	1,023	-643	1,021	-687	-46	Maximisation of grant income, partially offsetting overspends elsewhere within the division	-53
Children's Services Mgt & Support (inc Eclipse)	1,366	-164	1,287	-208	-123	Part year vacant posts recently recruited to	-107
School Safeguarding & Attendance	827	-512	759	-575	-131	Maximisation of grant income, partially offsetting overspends elsewhere within the division	-74
Other Variances					4		6
Grand Total					6,770		6,546

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

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Aug 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 and Transformatio	5,031	-4,117	478	1,392	5,250	-4,123	478	1,606	214	-4
Waste & Environmental Services	30,004	-4,926	1,341	26,420	31,368	-5,626	1,341	27,083	664	262
Highways & Transportation	57,865	-31,474	10,247	36,638	65,010	-37,553	10,247	37,704	1,066	802
Place and Sustainability	7,533	-3,493	381	4,422	7,353	-3,582	381	4,152	-269	-162
GRAND TOTAL	100,434	-44,010	12,447	68,871	108,981	-50,883	12,447	70,545	1,675	898

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

Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Service Improvement & Transformation							
Facilities Management - Building							
Cleaning	4,731	-4,017	4,972	-4,059	199	£180k budget deficit following the pay award	0
Business Support	120	-35	175	-35	55	£48k budget deficit following the pay award	-3
Departmental - Core	117	0	87	0	-30	£25k vacant post not estimated to be filled in this financial year due to recruitment freeze	-1
Other variances					-9		0
Waste & Environmental Services							
Environmental Infrastructure	134	0	99	0	-35	Part-year saving due to Head of Service post being vacant until July 2023	-33
Waste & Environmental Services Unit	-145	0	-312	-0	-167	Net £149k underspend on pay costs due to a realignment review & recruitment freeze.	-86
Environmental Enforcement	566	-19	518	-20	-49	Underspend relates to vacated post, maternity leave and flexible retirement. Future needs are being addressed.	-55
Public Conveniences	230	-9	244	-9	14	Increase in Danfo contract cost over and above validation	3
Cleansing Service	2,660	-103	2,801	-108	135	£53k deficit in pay budgets due to pay award and £100k efficiency not met	-9
Waste Services	21,198	-1,400	22,279	-1,707	775	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.	571
Green Waste Collection	671	-602	643	-665	-91	£183k pay budget deficit following pay award.	-72
Grounds Maintenance Service and urban parks	3,953	-2,696	4,077	-2,758	62	Increased customer base and £5k budget deficit following pay award	
Closed Landfill Sites	292	0	325	0	33	Deficit in pay budget due to pay award	-43
Other variances					-14	Increased electricity costs in both sites.	-1
							-13
Highways & Transportation							
Departmental - Transport	41	0	-50	0	-91	Vacant post, management review underway	-41
Departmental Pooled Vehicles	0	0	14	0	14	Under-utilisation of pool vehicles	14
Civil Design	1,308	-1,943	1,262	-1,910	-13	Based on current income projections	0
Transport Strategic Planning	442	0	395	0	-48	Vacant posts during the year	-8
School Transport	13,683	-994	14,863	-1,267	908	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.	664

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

Main Variances

CABINET 15th JANUARY 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Traffic Management	557	-262	897	-776	-173	Staff vacancies during the year, staff time recharged to grants and net increase in Traffic Regulation orders income	-79
Car Parks	2,268	-3,593	2,064	-3,112	277	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 March 2024.	357
Nant y Ci Park & Ride	17	-7	36	-7	19	Overspend following the cessation of the service after the start of the financial year due to statutory notice periods.	18
Storm Damage	0	0	-2	302	300	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. Awaiting decision from WG on additional funding from Resilient Roads Fund.	0
Road Safety	251	-11	194	0	-47	Staff time recharged to grants	-59
School Crossing Patrols	160	0	129	0	-31	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.	-34
Highway Lighting	3,096	-1,029	3,203	-1,176	-40	Vacant post estimated to be filled from January 2024	-31
Other variances					-9		1
Place and Sustainability							
Place & Sustainability Unit	585	-18	655	-151	-62	Underspend on supplies & services	-56
Building Control	706	-560	662	-411	104	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 first 7 months which may vary as the year progresses	88
Strategic Policy & Placemaking	775	0	741	-0	-34	Underspend on salaries due to maternity leave and vacant post during the year - filled from November 2023	-76
Development Management	1,967	-1,169	1,870	-1,312	-240	£190k underspend on net pay costs due to vacancies within the year & current recruitment freeze; £142k additional planning application income forecast based on actual income received in the first 7 months of the year, this may vary as the year progresses.	-125
Net Zero Carbon Plan	188	0	117	0	-70	Vacant post won't be filled this year due to recruitment freeze, and maternity leave from November 2023	-32
SAB - Sustainable Drainage approval Body Unit	139	-134	138	-110	23	Anticipated income not materialised - Dependent on number of submissions and market buoyancy of development projects	31
Other Variances					10		8
Grand Total					1,675		898