

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 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				Dec 2023	Oct 2023
	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non Controllable	Total Net	Controllable Expenditure	Controllable Income	Net Non Controllable	Total Net	Forecasted Variance for Year	Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	60,914	-35,759	-4,515	20,640	62,411	-37,936	-4,515	19,959	-681	-382
Communities	210,677	-93,744	14,234	131,166	218,934	-98,395	14,234	134,773	3,607	3,649
Corporate Services	73,035	-39,833	-1,681	31,520	71,232	-38,999	-1,681	30,551	-969	-812
Education & Children (incl. Schools)	225,712	-47,908	25,009	202,813	246,455	-62,141	25,009	209,323	6,510	6,770
Place and Infrastructure	109,533	-53,108	12,446	68,871	119,578	-61,438	12,446	70,587	1,716	1,675
Departmental Expenditure	679,870	-270,352	45,492	455,010	718,609	-298,909	45,493	465,193	10,183	10,900
Corporate Contingency				1,510				0	-1,510	-1,510
Capital Charges/Interest/Corporate				-19,513				-22,513	-3,000	-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				456,014	5,673	6,390
Transfers to/from Departmental Reserves										
- Chief Executive				0				340	340	191
- Communities				0				0	0	0
- Corporate Services				0				484	484	406
- Education & Children (incl Schools)				0				0	0	0
- Place and Infrastructure				0				-1,716	-1,716	-1,675
Net Budget				450,341				455,123	4,782	5,312

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

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Oct 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	-234
People Management	4,759	-1,714	-2,619	426	5,727	-2,534	-2,619	574	147	282
Admin and Law	5,045	-871	710	4,884	4,948	-864	710	4,794	-90	-80
Marketing & Media	2,743	-604	-1,432	707	2,363	-542	-1,432	389	-318	-263
Statutory Services	1,541	-418	281	1,404	1,767	-643	281	1,405	1	29
Regeneration, Digital & Policy	45,826	-32,147	-612	13,067	46,846	-33,348	-612	12,887	-181	-115
GRAND TOTAL	60,914	-35,759	-4,515	20,640	62,411	-37,936	-4,515	19,959	-681	-382

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

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Chief Executive							
Chief Executive Business Support Unit	709	-4	496	0	-210	Underspend on salaries due to one staff member being on maternity leave, three vacant posts, no commitment due to recruitment freeze.	-204
Central Mailing	49	0	28	-5	-26	Saving on franking machine leasing costs	-26
Other variances					-5		-5
People Management							
TIC Team	246	-101	303	-61	98	Additional support for office downsizing, funding to be confirmed (£64k). Income efficiency target (£35k) not likely to be delivered in 2023/24.	99
Business & Projects Support	262	0	228	0	-34	£18k salary efficiency target not met. Offset by savings on Supplies and Services and staff member working reduced hours.	-26
Payroll	913	-386	994	-404	63	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.	97
People Services – HR	913	-291	990	-276	92	£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.	114
Employee Well-being	833	-381	757	-371	-65	In year savings from vacant posts that have not been filled offset by a £11k shortfall in external income.	-3
Organisational Development	507	-42	698	-214	18	£30k Income efficiency target not achieved. Partially offset by savings on supplies and services expenditure.	27
DBS Checks	143	0	121	-2	-25	Underspend based on this and past year's expected volume of checks required.	-25
Other variances					0		-1
Admin and Law							
Democratic Services	2,237	-304	2,160	-331	-104	Underspend on members pay & allowances (£77k) along with additional income from the HRA (£27k)	-103
Democratic Services - Support	550	-8	524	-36	-54	Underspend on supplies & services (£14k), short term vacant posts during the year (£35k), additional income for work undertaken by Partneriaeth (£5k)	-63
Civic Ceremonial	28	0	13	0	-15	Underspend on members hospitality/expenses, & transport cost savings following reducing from two vehicles to one.	-14
Land Charges	92	-274	120	-200	102	Shortfall in income due to low demand for searches due to downturn in the housing market	109
Legal Services	2,139	-285	2,107	-272	-19	Underspend on salaries due to vacant post during the year	-9

Chief Executive Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st December 2023
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Marketing & Media							
Marketing and Media	790	-69	687	-62	-95	Underspend due to three vacant posts not being filled due to recruitment freeze	-67
Translation	576	-56	478	-56	-98	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	-95
Customer Services Centres	1,267	-380	1,111	-376	-152	Underspend on salaries due to short term vacant posts (£218k), offset by an overspend on set up and configuration of new communications software.	-131
Yr Hwb, Rhydaman a Llanelli	110	-99	87	-48	27	Shortfall in income mainly due to decreased demand for desk space rental	30
Statutory Services							
Coroners	366	0	413	0	47	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%.	71
Electoral Services - Staff	281	0	227	0	-54	Vacant post. Not being filled in current year.	-43
Other variances					8		-0
Regeneration, Digital & Policy							
Regeneration Management	311	0	348	0	37	Overspend due to cessation of staff time that we are able to charge to grants	36
Information Technology	5,786	-970	5,739	-967	-44	6 vacant posts which will not be filled in this financial year as a result of the recruitment freeze.	-76
Welsh Language	141	-11	104	-11	-37	Part year vacant post not currently being filled due to recruitment freeze	-24
Chief Executive-Policy	737	-33	755	-34	17	Temporary post to complete CCTV project	7
Property	1,016	-95	881	-13	-52	Shortfall of £82k in external income offset by £85k 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. £49k underspend on non salary budgets.	-15
Commercial Properties	54	-486	130	-581	-19	Reasonably high occupancy rates currently	-16
Provision Markets	719	-584	666	-499	32	Low occupancy rates has resulted in a shortfall of £93k in anticipated income. This is offset by savings made in premises related costs.	34
Asset Sales	21	0	32	0	11	Asset sales related expenditure	7
Administrative Buildings	4,647	-888	4,463	-738	-34	£17k savings on employee costs due to vacancies and recruitment freeze. £17k savings estimated on premises related running costs.	-61
Industrial Premises	613	-1,638	618	-1,718	-76	Relatively high occupancy rates currently	-66
County Farms	83	-368	115	-368	32	Reimbursement for additional works undertaken	7

Chief Executive Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st December 2023
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023	Notes	Oct 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Livestock Markets	65	-120	13	-38	30	Potential shortfall in income at Llandovery and Carmarthen Marts pending receipt of turnover figures from the respective operators	36
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	15,656	-15,848	163	£18k deficit due to pay award. Following Housing Disaggregation a review of recharges needs to be undertaken to take account of revised operating costs.	217
Property Design - Business Unit	2,634	-3,010	2,811	-3,292	-105	Review of projected income based on current vacancies	-87
Other variances					2		21
Grand Total					-681		-382

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

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Oct 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	78,445	-26,157	3,701	55,989	1,865	1,614
Physical Disabilities	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	9,685	-2,525	276	7,435	-54	-313
Learning Disabilities	48,410	-11,960	1,475	37,925	49,067	-12,000	1,475	38,542	617	939
Mental Health	12,043	-4,443	234	7,834	12,682	-4,399	234	8,517	683	835
Support	11,260	-7,631	1,114	4,743	11,240	-7,503	1,114	4,851	108	35
Homes & Safer Communities										
Public Protection	3,651	-1,417	532	2,766	3,551	-1,145	532	2,938	171	13
Council Fund Housing	28,678	-28,288	521	911	34,005	-33,749	521	777	-134	37
Leisure & Recreation										
Leisure & Recreation	20,552	-11,558	6,380	15,374	20,259	-10,915	6,380	15,724	350	489
GRAND TOTAL	210,677	-93,744	14,234	131,166	218,934	-98,395	14,234	134,773	3,607	3,649

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

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 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	11,161	-4,401	960	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.	951
Older People - Residential Care Homes	31,792	-14,062	32,242	-14,062	450	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.	269
Older People - Direct Payments	1,349	-313	1,539	-313	190	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	159
Older People - Private Home Care	10,038	-2,638	10,783	-2,638	745	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.	829
Older People - Reablement	2,225	-527	1,951	-527	-274	Staffing vacancies	-324
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					-103		-168
Physical Disabilities							
Phys Dis - Residential Care Homes	1,652	-314	1,443	-314	-210	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at December 2023	-285
Phys Dis - Direct Payments	3,164	-603	3,475	-603	311	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	367
Phys Dis - Other variances					-155		-395

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	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Learning Disabilities							
Learn Dis - Employment & Training	2,195	-410	1,656	-215	-344	Provision of LD day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-303
Learn Dis - Residential Care Homes	13,970	-4,524	14,377	-4,524	407	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.	388
Learn Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	11,515	-2,295	12,742	-2,295	1,227	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.	1,314
Learn Dis - Community Support	3,568	-162	3,127	-162	-440	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at December 2023	-338
Learn Dis - Adult Placement/Shared Lives	3,095	-2,104	3,239	-2,526	-277	Provision of respite care is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels and part-year vacant posts	-195
Learn Dis - Other variances					44		72
Mental Health							
M Health - Residential Care Homes	6,986	-3,394	7,495	-3,394	510	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.	482
M Health - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,707	-446	2,131	-446	423	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.	541
M Health - Other variances					-250	Staff vacancies in the Care Management Teams and Substance Misuse Teams account for £146k of this variance along with a forecasted underspend of £92k relating to reduced demand for Community Support care packages.	-188

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

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Support							
Other Variances - Support	11,260	-7,631	11,130	-7,466	108	£78k of this total relates to the implementation of 2024/25 efficiencies, which are in progress but not expected to be realised this financial year	35
Homes & Safer Communities							
Public Protection							
Animal Welfare	90	-87	87	-33	51	Under achievement of income due to reduced activity	36
Licensing	378	-358	391	-303	68	Under achievement of income due to reduction in number of licensable premises	50
Trading Standards Services Management	151	-42	103	-42	-48	Underspend on salaries	-19
Safeguarding, Licensing & Financial Investigation	97	0	45	0	-52	Underspend on salaries	-52
Fair Trading	212	-68	248	-4	101	Underachievement of income target and additional employee due to be re-aligned.	58
Financial Investigator	126	-527	191	-527	65	Due to continued delays in courts system & slightly under on salary budget	20
Other Variances					-14		-80
Council Fund Housing							
Independent Living and Affordable Homes	124	-45	115	-79	-44	Underspend on salaries due to grant funding & underspend on Supplies & Services	-27
Home Improvement (Non HRA)	661	-284	657	-397	-118	Underspend on salaries due to grant funding & underspend on Supplies & Services	-61
Penybryn Traveller Site	188	-137	173	-100	22	Under achievement of Income	24
Non HRA Re-Housing (Inc Chr)	177	0	149	0	-27	Underspend on Salaries	-39
Temporary Accommodation	175	-118	681	-593	31	Overspend due to increased demand for services, where possible grants will reduce this overspend as we progress to year end.	-4
Other variances					1		144
Leisure & Recreation							
Millennium Coastal Park	334	-94	338	-85	13	Forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees & Season Tickets	11
Burry Port Harbour	24	-143	41	-114	46	Legal / Mtce costs relating to Burry Port Marine not budgeted plus forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees	29
Discovery Centre	5	-113	6	-130	-15	Forecast to over achieve income budgeted	-5
Pendine Outdoor Education Centre	525	-375	387	-202	35	Forecast shortfall in income for Board & Accommodation to budget	28
Pembrey Beach Kiosk	0	-80	0	-46	34	Forecast shortfall in income from Kiosk Sales due mainly to the bad summer weather	34

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

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Pembrey Ski Slope	532	-590	514	-597	-25	In year vacancies	-5
Carmarthen Leisure Centre	1,955	-1,674	1,890	-1,648	-39	Forecast to be underspent on utilities	40
Amman Valley Leisure Centre	1,187	-944	1,199	-925	32	Forecast income shortfall £19k plus over on utilities	9
Llandovery Swimming Pool	478	-212	492	-185	42	Forecast income shortfall £27k plus pay validation shortfall	47
Gwendraeth Sports Centre	0	0	-44	0	-44	Accrual for NNDR no longer required	-43
Actif Facilities	272	0	260	-1	-12	Forecast to underspend on Operational consumables	-5
Actif health, fitness and dryside	242	-156	214	-143	-15	Forecast to not fully utilise match funding budget	11
Catering - Sport Centres	293	-277	348	-299	32	Unable to achieve vacancy factor	1
Sport & Leisure General	843	-44	823	-41	-17	Forecast underspends on Premises Mtce, Training and Uniforms	4
Llanelli Leisure Centre	1,567	-1,075	1,624	-1,055	78	Pay validation £26k plus forecast income shortfall	63
Pembrey Country Park	1,144	-1,352	1,225	-1,411	22	Forecast to be overspent on utilities	-44
Pembrey Country Park Restaurant	651	-524	710	-574	10	Forecast overspend on Employees due to pay validation shortfall, income shortfall	40
Carmarthen Library	581	-32	581	-20	13	Forecast to be overspent on utilities	19
Llanelli Library	530	-32	574	-22	54	Forecast overspend on Employees due to pay validation shortfall, income shortfall £10k plus exhibition boards £10k	63
Community Libraries	275	-7	247	-6	-26	In year vacancies	-12
Libraries General	1,258	-1	1,182	-1	-76	In year vacancies	-78
Carmarthen Museum, Abergwili.	198	-31	171	-35	-32	In year vacancies	-43
Museums General	412	-1	442	-1	29	Unable to achieve vacancy factor	26
Laugharne Boathouse	158	-129	150	-77	44	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.	43
Lyric Theatre	622	-445	584	-394	13	Predicted shortfall in income to budget	42
Entertainment Centres General	585	-98	604	-142	-26	Higher grant income achieved than budgeted	-13
Attractor - Hostel	687	-656	672	-443	197	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. Forecast includes a £12k pay validation shortfall along with £42k 'one off' set up costs.	247
Attractor - Externals	5	-65	7	-40	28	Forecast shortfall in income for Parking Fees	23
Leisure Management	398	-4	353	-6	-48	In year vacancies	-57
Other Variances					3		16
Grand Total					3,607		3,649

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

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Oct 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	13,503	-2,862	-852	9,789	-451	-436
Revenues & Financial Compliance	58,888	-36,779	-830	21,279	57,728	-36,136	-830	20,762	-517	-376
GRAND TOTAL	73,035	-39,833	-1,681	31,520	71,232	-38,999	-1,681	30,551	-969	-812

Corporate Services Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st December 2023
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Financial Services							
Accountancy	1,942	-510	1,953	-479	42	£31k overall shortfall on income targets consisting of a £22k shortfall on deputyship income and £9k of other smaller income shortfalls. £20k net underspend on vacant posts during the year ; £34k net overspend on supplies and services.	32
Treasury and Pension Investment Section	284	-226	266	-228	-20	Additional income in year due to grant related work undertaken	-4
Bank Charges	64	0	54	0	-10	Forecast underspend on Bank Charges	-12
Miscellaneous Services	8,111	-131	7,551	-20	-449	£435k underspend on pre LGR pension costs. £14k underspend on Subscriptions	-444
Other variances					-13		-8
Revenues & Financial Compliance							
Procurement	643	-37	578	-37	-65	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
Audit	518	-21	509	-40	-27	£18k of additional income generated from Fire SLA. £9k underspend on supplies and services	-8
Business Support Unit	150	0	129	0	-21	Vacant post during year. Will not be filled in 2023/24.	-22
Corporate Services Training	55	0	17	0	-38	Underspend based upon current demand for courses.	-30
Local Taxation	1,040	-776	1,160	-725	171	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.	168
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	18,385	0	18,179	0	-205	Underspend anticipated based on current levels of demand.	-146
Rent Allowances	34,823	-35,040	34,326	-34,517	26	Projection based on 2022/23 claims.	27
Rates Relief	251	0	155	0	-96	Low take-up anticipated based on current demand.	-96
Housing Benefits Admin	1,766	-755	1,273	-642	-381	Net shortfall on grants income receivable of £112k compared with budget, offset by 11.5 FTE current vacant posts within the section due to difficulties with recruitment.	-325
Revenues	1,089	-148	1,245	-175	128	£114k overspend on bank charges due to significant increase in the number of card payments in recent years along with other smaller overspends.	118
Other variances					-8		0
Grand Total					-969		-812

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

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Oct 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	155,536	-18,893	0	136,643	164,103	-18,893	0	145,210	8,567	8,785
Transfer from Reserves				0		-8,567		-8,567	-8,567	-8,785
Director & Strategic Management	1,715	0	-109	1,606	1,297	0	-109	1,188	-418	-342
Education Services Division	16,486	-5,424	20,122	31,184	17,302	-6,288	20,122	31,136	-48	2
Access to Education	12,628	-8,223	1,403	5,808	13,642	-8,853	1,403	6,193	385	734
Strategy & Learner Support	7,492	-4,857	828	3,464	7,257	-4,842	828	3,243	-221	-127
Children's Services	31,854	-10,511	2,764	24,108	42,853	-14,698	2,764	30,919	6,811	6,504
TOTAL excluding schools	70,176	-29,015	25,009	66,170	82,352	-34,681	25,009	72,680	6,510	6,770
GRAND TOTAL	225,712	-47,908	25,009	202,813	246,455	-62,141	25,009	209,323	6,510	6,770

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

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Children's Services							
Commissioning and Social Work	8,019	-115	9,543	-538	1,100	Increased agency staff costs forecast £967k re additional demand & difficulty recruiting permanent staff. Increased demand for assistance to clients and their families £375k. This is partly offset by additional grant income	1,119
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	1,035	-91	1,103	-252	-93	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-87
Fostering & Other Children Looked After Services	4,843	0	6,270	-124	1,303	Increased costs associated with providing specialist support and fostering placements for young people / children looked after, some with highly complex needs £623k, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) £58k, Fostering £746k. This is partly offset by additional WG grant £124k	1,138
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)	0	0	1,683	-1,390	293	Increase in number of Unaccompanied Children resulting in more expensive placement costs in excess of the fixed income received.	257
Commissioned Residential Placements (CS)	469	0	3,597	-12	3,117	Several ongoing highly complex placements in 2023/24	2,889
Residential Settings	1,421	-361	2,865	-1,552	254	£254k Garreglwyd - agency staff costs forecast due to difficulty recruiting & sickness cover. £529k forecast overspend for new setting Ty Magu / Ross Avenue, which is being offset by £529k WG grant	225
Respite Settings	1,094	0	1,182	0	88	Increased staffing costs £55k 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 £16k and also additional premises maintenance costs forecast £17k in relation to essential works needed following outcome of recent playground inspection at Llys Caradog	84
Adoption Services	591	0	1,103	-412	101	Overspend in relation to increased staffing costs, including agency staff and travelling costs re ongoing service demands £65k. Also, additional costs in relation to Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs, again in line with service demands £36k	136
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	657	0	1,747	-208	882	Increased demand for Direct Payments with further pressures linked to post covid & lack of commissioned services available £360k. Also increased demand for 1-2-1 support under Short Breaks due to lack of available location based services £522k	1,040
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	1,023	-643	1,024	-619	25	Net overspend mainly in relation to cost of equipment needed for disabled children - grant funded in recent years, but reduced grant available in 23-24	-46
Children's Services Mgt & Support (inc Eclipse)	1,366	-164	1,322	-205	-86	Part year vacant posts recently recruited to	-123

Department for Education & Children - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st December 2023
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023	Notes	Oct 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	-580	-152	Maximisation of grant income, partially offsetting overspends elsewhere within the division	-131
Other Variances					-21		4
Grand Total					6,510		6,770

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

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Oct 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	5,274	-4,141	484	1,617	218	228
Waste & Environmental Services	30,007	-4,931	1,342	26,419	31,397	-5,656	1,342	27,082	664	664
Highways & Transportation	66,940	-40,547	10,239	36,632	75,737	-48,169	10,239	37,807	1,175	1,052
Place and Sustainability	7,553	-3,513	381	4,422	7,171	-3,472	381	4,080	-341	-269
GRAND TOTAL	109,533	-53,108	12,446	68,871	119,578	-61,438	12,446	70,587	1,716	1,675

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

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 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	4,939	-4,058	168	£180k budget deficit following the pay award	199
Business Support	122	-35	177	-40	50	£48k budget deficit following the pay award	55
Departmental Pooled Vehicles	0	0	13	0	13	Under-utilisation of pool vehicles	14
Departmental - Core	117	0	104	0	-12	Net saving on vacant post not estimated to be filled in this financial year due to recruitment freeze	-30
Other variances					0		-9
Waste & Environmental Services							
Environmental Infrastructure	134	0	98	0	-35	Part-year saving due to Head of Service post being vacant until July 2023	-35
Waste & Environmental Services Unit	-145	0	-308	-0	-163	Underspend on pay costs due to a realignment review & recruitment freeze.	-167
Emergency Planning	81	0	70	0	-11	Underspend due to Manager post not at top of grade	-8
Environmental Enforcement	566	-19	516	-21	-52	Underspend relates to vacated post, maternity leave and flexible retirement. Realignment review ongoing.	-49
Public Conveniences	230	-9	244	-9	14	Increase in Danfo contract cost over and above validation	14
Cleansing Service	2,660	-103	2,776	-114	105	£53k deficit in pay budgets due to pay award and efficiencies not met	135
Waste Services	21,203	-1,405	22,116	-1,669	650	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.	775
Green Waste Collection	671	-602	645	-650	-73	Increased customer base and £5k budget deficit following pay award	-91
Grounds Maintenance Service and Urban Parks	3,953	-2,696	4,299	-2,838	205	Deficit in pay budget due to pay award	62
Closed Landfill Sites	292	0	316	0	23	Increased electricity costs in both sites.	33
Other variances					2		-6
Highways & Transportation							
Departmental - Transport	41	0	-112	0	-152	Vacant post, management review underway	-91
Civil Design	1,308	-1,943	1,273	-1,973	-65	Based on current income projections	-13
Transport Strategic Planning	442	0	393	0	-50	Vacant posts during the year	-48

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

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
School Transport	13,683	-994	15,108	-1,294	1,125	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.	908
Traffic Management	557	-262	1,023	-921	-193	Net increase in Traffic Regulation orders income, staff vacancies during the year and staff time recharged to grants.	-173
Car Parks	2,269	-3,593	2,034	-3,131	228	Parking income not achieving income targets due to reduced footfall in town centres together with year on year validation applied to budget.	277
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.	300
Road Safety	251	-11	187	0	-54	Staff time recharged to grants	-47
School Crossing Patrols	160	0	127	0	-33	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.	-31
Highway Maintenance	21,543	-12,961	23,731	-14,980	169	£105k budget deficit following the pay award	0
Highway Lighting	3,096	-1,029	2,996	-974	-44	Vacant post now filled from February 2024	-40
Public Rights Of Way	1,069	-83	1,042	-67	-11	Underspend due to maternity leave during the year	-9
Other variances					-43		18
Place and Sustainability							
Place & Sustainability Unit	585	-18	653	-135	-48	Underspend on supplies & services	-62
Building Control	706	-560	667	-376	145	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 9 months which may vary as the year progresses	104
Strategic Policy & Placemaking	775	0	669	-1	-106	Underspend on salaries due to maternity leave, secondment, and vacant post during the year - filled from November 2023	-34
Development Management	1,967	-1,169	1,837	-1,290	-251	£209k underspend on net pay costs due to vacancies within the year & current recruitment freeze; £121k additional planning application income forecast based on actual income received in the first 9 months of the year, this may vary as the year progresses.	-240
Tywi Centre	73	-69	130	-142	-16	Additional income received from training courses provided	9

Place and Infrastructure Department - Budget Monitoring - as at 31st December 2023
Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 4th MARCH 2024

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Dec 2023	Notes	Oct 2023
	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Forecasted Variance for Year		Forecasted Variance for Year
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Net Zero Carbon Plan	188	0	113	0	-75	Vacant post won't be filled this year due to recruitment freeze, and maternity leave from November 2023	-70
SAB - Sustainable Drainage Approval Body Unit	139	-134	134	-113	16	Anticipated income not materialised - Dependent on number of submissions and market buoyancy of development projects	23
Other Variances					-6		0
Grand Total					1,716		1,675