

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

COUNCIL'S BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24

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

Table 1

Forecasted for year to 31st March 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

Main Variances

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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

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

PRE-CABINET 29th APRIL 2024

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