

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE
19 November 2024

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor David Thomas
Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate
Transformation

REPORT TITLE: Financial Forecast for the year ended 31st March 2025 (as
at 30th September 2024)

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

1.1. To provide Cabinet with the forecast revenue budget outturn for the 2024-25 financial year, based on the full year forecasts as at 30th September 2024.

2. Background

2.1. Throughout the year, the expected outturn position at 31 March 2025 is forecast, based on expenditure and income received to date, adjusted for any known commitments and any spend, or income anticipated to the end of the financial year. This is the second reported forecast outturn for the 2024-25 financial year based on the financial position at the end of quarter 2 (30th September 2024).

2.2. Table 1 below summarises the projected full year outturn position across the Council's services including HRA¹ and the schools delegated budget. An overall overspend position of £3.9 million is projected for this financial year if nothing changes. This includes a £174,000 overspend on the schools delegated budget and a £54,000 overspend on the HRA. The forecast for non-ringfenced budgets is an overspend of £3.8 million. This is a shift of £4.0 million from the position forecast at the end of Quarter 1.

Table 1: Summary Forecast Outturn Position

Revenue Budget	£000s
Base budget	341,626
Net cost pressures / (underspends)	10,123
Cost reductions not yet delivered but assured	(5,625)
Costs funded from Risk budget	(816)
Reduction in available Risk budget	816
Subtotal	346,125
Over / (Under) spend before agreed specific reserve movements	4,498
Funded by:	
Agreed specific reserve movements	(560)
Net Over / (Under) spend	3,938

¹ HRA: Housing Revenue Account, a ring-fenced revenue account funded by rental income from the Council's housing stock

- 2.3. The change in the forecast position is a combination of increases in forecast overspends on Adults Social Care (£2.9 million), Children's Services (£0.8 million), and the cost of borrowing (£1.3 million). Netted off in part by a reduction in forecast overspend for School Improvement and Learning (£0.5 million) and Economic Development and Growth (£0.5 million). Both of these reductions in forecast overspend are due in part to the allocation from the risk budget agreed in the Quarter 1 report, reducing the forecast underspend on the risk budget by £0.8 million to £2.2 million.
- 2.4. The significant increase in the forecast overspend in Adults Social Care is increased numbers of care packages in part to address the delays in transfers for care home placements and domiciliary care packages. A level of increased demand was anticipated through the budget setting process and provision was made in the Risk Budget, but the current level of demand exceeds the forecast. A virement request has been made to draw against the Risk Budget to partially fund these increases. Both these elements will impact on expenditure in future years as well. The Head of Service commentary at Appendix B provides greater detail.
- 2.5. The forecast overspend on Children's Services has increased as a result of a further increase in the number of children looked after coming into care or requiring placements and also the increased cost of those placements, partly as a result of increasing complexity but also in the context of a national shortage of placements. Again a level of increase was anticipated through the budget setting process and provision was made in the Risk Budget. A virement request has been made to draw against the Risk Budget to partially fund these increases
- 2.6. A report is provided by the Director of Social Services to explain the additional financial demand falling on these services and requests additional funding from the Risk Budget to support these costs is provided at Appendix D.
- 2.7. Immediate action is being taken to address the forecast overspend position, which has shifted considerably since Quarter 1. The forecast projected is now reporting an overspend of £3.9million against this year's budget, after drawing on the £3.0m risk budget. This position is concerning, and we will take action now to prevent the forecast position from increasing as it would have a significant negative impact on the financial resilience of the Council moving into challenging future years. Services are taking action to reduce in year spend with the aim of pulling back this forecast position by next quarter. The report provided by the Director of Social Services sets out the actions already implemented and provides assurance that Social Care decisions are considered carefully, challenged and justified and that any mitigations or alternatives have been considered to limit cost and demonstrate value for money.
- 2.8. The Council has to present a balanced budget proposal for 2025-26 and the pressures faced in this year have a detrimental effect on next year, the full year effect of Social Care demand will increase the budget gap. The budget gap has to be addressed from service reductions, increased income and Council Tax, an affordable balance between these factors is essential. The budget presented by the Chancellor on the 30th October commits to investment in public services, we await details as to how the additional funding provided to Welsh Government will be allocated to Local Government.
- 2.9. Appendix A provides detail of the forecast financial position of each service, with additional detail set out for cost reductions not yet delivered but assured, any planned movements to or from reserves and the use of the risk budget agreed to date. Further detail about the reasons for the forecast financial position for each service is provided in Appendix B,

where Heads of Service set out their individual narrative, including activities being undertaken to deliver the agreed cost reductions, the pressures facing the service and what they are doing to manage their budget and to mitigate any shortfalls.

3. Agreed Cost Reductions

- 3.1. Net cost reductions² of £10.7 million were approved as part of the Council's budget for 2024-25 and these need to be delivered in order to achieve a balanced budget in this financial year. In addition, the cost reductions also include the mothballing of the Children's Services in-house residential scheme of £0.5 million plus undelivered savings from previous years totalling £1.7 million which have been rolled forward making a total of £12.9 million of cost reductions that need to be delivered in 2024-25 in order to achieve the balanced budget position.
- 3.2. The summary in table 2 below shows that 39.3% (£5.1 million) of the of the agreed cost reductions have been delivered by the end of the second quarter. A further 44.5% or £5.7 million is assured of delivery by services within the 2024-25 financial year. £16.2% (£2.1 million) are described as unachieved and are at risk of delivery in this year. Services are being challenged as to the reasons for the changes in positions for some savings proposals and will be required to consider mitigating action to ensure that they can deliver within the budget allocated.

Table 2: Cost Reductions

£'000	Agreed To Be Achieved	Actually Achieved	Not achieved but assured	Un-achieved	% Achieved
School Improvement and Learning	814	323	105	386	39.7%
Highways Transport & Recycling	2,497	153	1,413	932	6.1%
Economy & Climate	220	220	0	0	100.0%
Planning & Regulatory Services	750	117	407	226	15.6%
Community Wellbeing	1,410	1,273	105	32	90.3%
Adult Services	3,814	2,466	1,347	0	64.66%
Childrens Services	3,985	1,859	2,126	0	46.6%
Finance	210	110	100	0	52.4%
Corporate Activities	1,000	500	0	500	50.0%
Workforce & OD	13	3	11	0	18.9%
Digital Services	223	213	0	10	95.5%
Business Intelligence & Governance	34	14	20	0	41.3%
Legal Services	95	0	95	0	0.0%
Sub-Total	15,065	7,251	5,729	2,086	48.1%
Adult Services – reinstated budgets related to one-off savings in 2023-24	(2,200)	(2,200)	0	0	100%
Total	12,865	5,051	5,729	2,086	39.3%
		39.3%	44.5%	16.2%	

² The £10.7 million included the reinstatement of a budget of £2.2 million in Adults Services that was taken as a one-off cost reduction in the 2023-24 budget (ie £12.9 million savings reduced by £2.2 million reinstated budget.)

- 3.3. Last year's cost reductions target was £17.4 million in total and 62% (£10.8 million) had been delivered by the end of quarter 2, with a further £5.7 million assured. By the end of the year, 88% (£15.4 million) were achieved, with £1.7 million being rolled forward for delivery in 2024-25. £0.4 million of the proposals approved for delivery in 2023-24 were unachieved and were written out at the time that the 2024-25 budget was approved.
- 3.4. Those services that show unachieved cost reductions must consider what remedial action they now take to mitigate the impact on the overall performance within their service as they maintain a balanced position. There remains time to reduce spend and bring the targets back on track.

4. Reserves

- 4.1. The reserves position shown in Table 3 sets out the reserve position for the current financial year as forecast at 30th September 2024. The opening reserves stand at £73.2 million, with the General Fund reserve at £10.0 million, the equivalent of 4.1% of the net revenue budget for 2024-25 (excluding schools delegated budgets and the HRA). The Council's Reserves policy requires the General Fund Reserve to be maintained at a minimum of 4% of net revenue budget. In addition to this there are a limited number of specific reserves, and each have a clear intended purpose.

Table 3: Reserves Table

Summary	Opening Balance (1 April 2024) Surplus / (Deficit)	Budgeted Transfer to / (Use) of Reserves	Forecast (Over) / Under Spend	Forecast Balance (31 March 2024) Surplus / (Deficit)
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
General Fund Reserve	10,037	0	0	10,037
Budget Management Reserve	3,584	0	0	3,584
Transport & Equipment Fund	11,218	(4,109)	0	7,109
Other Specific Reserves	32,410	(3,237)	(141)	29,032
Total Useable Reserves	57,249	(7,346)	(141)	49,762
Schools Delegated Reserves	891	(2,309)	(73)	(1,491)
School Loans and other items	(400)	0	0	(400)
Housing Revenue Account Reserve	3,812	(984)	(54)	2,774
Total Revenue Reserves	61,551	(10,639)	(268)	50,645
Revenue Grants Unapplied	11,608	(11,260)	0	348
Total	73,160	(21,899)	(268)	50,993

- 4.2. The budgeted use of the Transport and Equipment reserve has reduced by £1.1 million since the quarter 1 report as a result of the transfer into the reserve for depreciation. The budgeted use of other specific reserves includes £1.3 million for levelling up match funding and £0.9 million related to school settings and clubs, with the remainder being made up of smaller amounts. The table also shows £11.3 million of grants that were rolled forward from 2023-24 for use in this financial year. Currently, services are forecasting to utilise all their 2024-25 grant funding so there is no forecast transfer into this reserve at this stage.

- 4.3. Schools set their budgets with an expected call on reserves of £3.3 million. This figure has reduced to £2.4 million as schools have provided updated forecasts and recovery plans.
- 4.4. Collectively the forecast now projects a £22.17 million draw on specific revenue reserves, reducing the reserves held by the Council from £73.2 million to £50.9 million. However the projected outturn position at this point could see a further draw of approximately £4 million against these reserves to fund the overspend if mitigating actions are not successful.

5. Virements and Grants

Grants

- 5.1. There have been additional grants received this quarter as set out below or in Appendix C. These are included here to comply with financial regulations:

- 5.1.1. There has been an award of funding from the Welsh Government in relation to the Assets Collaboration Programme Wales Phase 3 (ACPW3) of up to £249,970 Capital and £74,940 Revenue. The project will support and bring together learning from two pilots that aim to build affordable small farms for a new generation of farmers on county owned land. These farms will produce food agroecologically for local markets and put nature and climate at the forefront of their delivery.

Virements for Cabinet approval

- 5.2. The virements set out below require approval by Cabinet in order to comply with financial regulations.
 - 5.2.1. £340k virement from the specific Schools Causing Concern reserve to fund additional leadership and / or teaching and learning support at a small number of schools identified internally and / or by Estyn as causing concern.
 - 5.2.2. Following the introduction of the new Workplace Waste Regulations on 5th April 2024, Trade Waste Services have seen an increase of 97 trade customers which has resulted in the need to introduce an additional Trade collection vehicle and the appointment of two additional Trade Waste Operatives. This virement requests that the expenditure budget is updated to reflect the increase in cost of £124,780 and the income budget is increased by £124,780 to reflect an increase in Trade Customer income.
 - 5.2.3. £338,730 – Transport services have been awarded £1.7 million Bus Network Grant in 2024/25, and the service propose to use £338,730 of this grant funding to support public transport costs, releasing £338,730 of base budget within public transport, and then to subsequently vire £338,730 base budget from public transport to support storm/flooding expenditure.
 - 5.2.4. £234,000 – Highways operations are requesting to draw down £234,000 from the flood risk reserve to finance flooding responsive costs.
 - 5.2.5. Highways Operations are requesting to draw down £163,450 from the flood risk and flood water reserve to be spent on works to repair storm damage.
 - 5.2.6. £290,000 from HRA reserves to cover the cost of urgent significant tree safety works in the Welshpool area, required to remove a risk to public safety, property and utility supplies.
 - 5.2.7. Business Intelligence and Governance are requesting to draw down £104,040 from the Sustainable Powys reserve to fund 2 x staff positions (Project support Officer and Change & Improvement Officer) in 2024/25.

- 5.2.8. The section 33 agreement between the Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) and the council for ICT ended at the end of April 2024. A joint reserve was established as part of the agreement, this virement requests that a payment from the Section 33 reserve of £64,140 is made to the PTHB. This is the balance due to the PTHB that was held in the specific reserve, calculated as per the Section 33 agreement.
- 5.2.9. This virement requests that revenue sales receipts, up to the value of £250,000, for the sale of plant and vehicles disposed of are paid into the transport reserve during the 2024-25 financial year to contribute towards funding the replacement of the vehicles.

Virements for Cabinet to recommend to Council

- 5.3. The virements set out below need to be recommended to Council for approval in order to comply with financial regulations:
- 5.3.1. Appendix D provides a report explaining the reasons for forecast position in Social Care and explaining the mitigating actions being taken to contain or reduce this overspend by year end. Provision was made in the Risk Budget as part of budget setting for 2024-25 to cover a level of uncertainty in demand, acknowledging that this could rise above estimates factored into Social Care budgets. Approval is requested in the Appendix D for virement from the Risk Budget to Social Care totalling £4.392 million. If this were approved the Risk Budget would then be in an overspend position as £816,000 has previously been committed, which leaves £2.184 million available to support Social Care. A virement to this level is requested to this level provide a level of stability, but the service will remain overspent.
- 5.3.2. A further virement request is made for Adult Social Care to utilise £948,000 held in a specific reserve to support the increase in demand, as explained at Appendix D, and will be recommended to Full Council for approval by Cabinet.

6. Financial Risks

- 6.1. The Council holds a £3.0m revenue risk budget centrally to manage the cost of potential additional pressures identified through budget setting but not funded at a service level, especially inflation and demographic pressures. The position on pay awards for teachers' and council staff is now known with settlements having been reached on both.
- 6.2. The teachers' pay award was increased to 5.5% from September 2024. WG will be providing grant to cover the additional cost in 2024-25 which will be distributed to schools. While it is anticipated that the Education IBA for 2025-26 will also increase, the overall impact on the local government settlement is not yet known. The pressure of the teachers' pay award on the schools funding formula is included within the Finance Resource Model (FRM) for 2025-26. There is also greater clarity now around the funding of the Teachers' Pension changes reducing the risk that these posed at quarter 1.
- 6.3. All staff on Grades 1-14 who are under the National Joint Council (NJC) will see their full time equivalent annual salary increase by £1,290. This represents a national pay award ranging from 5.8% for Grade 1 staff to 2.5% for those on top of Grade 14. The NJC pay agreement will also see the full time equivalent pay for Senior Managers increase by 2.5%. In-line with the JNC Chief Officers pay award, which was agreed in July 2024, the Chief Executives pay grade will increase by 2.5%. The Council budgeted for a 4% increase in pay and we anticipate that this will largely cover the cost of the award.

- 6.4. The forecast position set out in table 1 above, currently forecasts a £4 million overspend by the end of this financial year. As mentioned in paragraph 2.7 above, services area already taking action to avoid this position, however, should this not be reduced, the overspend of £4 million would need to be funded from the Council's reserves, increasing the draw on reserves shown in table 3 from £10.9 million to £14.9 million and reducing the Council's revenue reserves to £46.6 million, reducing the Council's overall financial resilience.
- 6.5. The greatest financial risk remains in our ability to deliver a balanced budget over the medium and longer term. The budget approved for 2024/25 recognised the ongoing impact of the current economic situation and the impact on public finances in the next few years. The Financial Planning update presented to Cabinet in July showed a budget gap of £9.6 million in 2025-26, growing to a cumulative gap of £50.9 million. The impact of the current level of spend within Social Services will further increase this gap. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the assumptions on which the Financial Resource Model (FRM) is based continue to be reviewed and updated through the Autumn.
- 6.6. The council has benefited from being significantly under borrowed in recent years, last year to a level of £100m due to the level of cash balances held. This approach has reduced the need to borrow and the resultant associated costs such as interest. The Council cash balances are reducing due to use of grants, call on reserves and overspends and will continue into next year as the amounts currently held in the Council's reserves reduces. Our approach is regularly updated and explained as part of the Treasury Management update.

7. Actions to Reduce the Deficit

- 7.1. Corrective action is already being implemented to reduce the level of deficit projected. This will ensure that the budget for the current year is managed effectively and will limit the impact on reserves, especially specific reserves which could be more effectively utilised to support capital projects, reducing the need for future borrowing which would have a positive impact on revenue spending over the longer term.
- 7.1 The delivery of cost reductions approved in the budget shows £7.8 million not delivered as yet. Services are being challenged to ensure these are managed by implementing either the original or alternative proposals.
- 7.2 A review of the current and future capital programme is planned which will to review all proposals and ensure they are essential to the Council's Sustainable Powys plans. Some schemes may be delayed, some schemes may not commence at all.
- 7.3 Services are aware of the need to limit expenditure to all but essential activity. This needs to be applied consistently across all budget holders, following a systematic and strategic approach. Steps already being taken include:
- Taking every opportunity to reduce / limit expenditure
 - Implementing a spend freeze on all bar essential spend
 - Putting additional checks by senior managers / escalation processes in place on all spend in some services
 - Head of Service approval required for recruitment in some services

- Head of Service and Section 151 officer review of any new commitments in some service areas
- Tight management control over use of external contractors
- Reduction in use of agency staff
- Exploring all opportunities to increase income
- Utilising grant funding as effectively as possible

7.4 A review of all budget lines be undertaken and where underspends are already being reported at Appendix A and are unlikely to change, or where income is higher than expected and projected to continue, the section 151 officer has delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to freeze or realign these budgets for the remainder of this financial year

8. Resource Implications

The Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer) has provided the following comment:

- 8.1. The shift in the forecast outturn for 2024-25 demonstrates the financial challenges the Council faces particularly in relation to Social Services. Powys is not unique in this challenge and all Councils across Wales are seeing this impact. Sound and robust financial management is essential to manage the Councils finances effectively. To reinforce this and the responsibilities of officers across the Council focused sessions have been held in recent weeks with the Senior Leadership Team and senior managers. These sessions have emphasised compliance with the Council's financial regulations, the routine focus on cost control, demonstrating value for money, accountability to the Council Tax payers of Powys and seeking every opportunity to transform service delivery to move forward with Sustainable Powys.
- 8.2. The Council faces significant challenge as we develop our plans for future years. Our Medium Term Financial Strategy continues to be extremely challenging with a significant budget gap of at least £50.9 million over the next 5 years as the financial pressure we continue to face is likely to outweigh the funding available.
- 8.3. The budget delivered by the Chancellor on the 30th October will have an impact on our financial modelling. The employers National Insurance change adds costs of £3.6 million to our budget plan from 1st April 2025, we await further clarification as to whether we will receive additional funding to support these costs. The increase in both the National and Real Living Wage will increase costs for many of the external providers that are contracted to the Council. The commitment to invest in public services does suggest that the funding to Local Government may increase beyond our working assumptions and we await further information from Welsh Government as to what this might mean.
- 8.4. Our financial plans will therefore be subject to ongoing review, funding assumptions will be revisited as more information becomes available, our costs into 2025/26 are currently estimated to rise by £29.8 million, 9% more than the current year, funding settlements are very unlikely to be this significant and further cost reductions across our services and an increase in Council Tax will have to be considered to balance our budget.

8.5. The Sustainable Powys programme is fundamental to this, as we re-shape council services. We must continue to take every opportunity to reduce costs and ensure the financial sustainability of the Council. We must progress at pace to develop our plans to achieve a Sustainable Powys for the future. This is critical to ensure that the Council can remain financially stable and provide sustainable services for the residents of Powys in the long-term.

9. Legal implications

9.1. The Head of Legal & Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has no comment to make on this report.

10. Climate Change & Nature Implications

10.1. Not applicable to this report.

11. Data Protection

11.1. There are no data protection issues within this report.

12. Comment from local member(s)

12.1. This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

13. Impact Assessment

13.1. No impact assessment required.

14. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

14.1. Cabinet note the current budget position and the projected full year forecast to the end of March 2024.

14.2. The grants set out in section 5.1 and Appendix C are noted.

14.3. The virements set out in section 5.2 are approved and those in 5.3 agreed for recommendation to Council. This is to comply with the virement rules for budget movements as set out in the financial regulations.

Contact Officer:	Mari Thomas
Tel:	01597 826068
Email:	mari.thomas@powys.gov.uk
Head of Service:	Anne Phillips, Interim Head of Finance
Corporate Director:	Jane Thomas, Director of Corporate Services

Appendix A: Summary Revenue Forecast to year end as at 30th September 2024

			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER					
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded Pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25		Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
EDUCATION								
Schools Improvement and Learning	15,906	16,589	0	(6)	(375)	16,208		(302)
Schools Transformation	1,930	2,205	0	(100)	0	2,105		(174)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH								
Highways Transport & Recycling	36,044	38,065	(1,413)	0	(267)	36,385		(341)
Economy and Climate	1,085	1,157	0	(106)	0	1,051		34
Planning and Regulatory Services	9,937	10,295	(407)	0	0	9,888		49
General Fund Housing	773	1,121	0	(348)	0	773		0
Economic Development, Growth & Place	348	344	0	0	0	344		4
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING								
Community Wellbeing	2,506	2,454	(105)	0	0	2,349		157
Adult Services	92,688	97,119	(1,348)	0	0	95,771		(3,082)
Children's Services	30,728	35,599	(2,126)	0	0	33,473		(2,745)
CORPORATE SERVICES								
Finance	7,162	7,199	(100)	0	0	7,099		63
Corporate Activities	38,127	35,279	0	0	816	36,095		2,032
Workforce & OD	2,884	2,847	(11)	0	0	2,837		47
Digital Services	6,758	6,474	0	0	0	6,474		284
Business Intelligence and Governance	4,185	4,018	(20)	0	0	3,998		187
Legal	1,612	1,731	(95)	0	0	1,636		(23)
Total	252,673	262,495	(5,625)	(560)	174	256,484		(3,811)
Housing Revenue Account	0	54	0	0	0	54		(54)
Schools Delegated	88,954	89,200	0	0	(174)	89,027		(73)
Total	341,626	351,749	(5,625)	(560)	0	345,564		(3,938)

Appendix B: Service commentary on revenue forecast

EDUCATION			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER				
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
Schools Improvement and Learning	15,906	16,589	0	(6)	(375)	16,208	(302)

Head of Service commentary:

An overspend of £302k is forecasted at the end of September 2024. This is a reduction of £529k compared to the position forecasted at the end of quarter 1. This reduction in overspend can be attributed to savings identified within the service, maximisation of grants and a £375k virement for out of county placements.

The remaining forecasted overspend of £302k is attributed to the following:

- £151k overspend in non-delegated functions, this position assumes that the functions will draw an additional £151k from their specific reserves following finance meetings held during the Summer. Individual functions within this area are reviewed in respect of their overall cumulative deficit or surplus. As part of the autumn term finance meetings with providers, challenge and an expectation of balanced budgets is being clearly communicated to ensure that the setting, after school club etc remains self-financing.
- The forecasted overspend within Schools Central has increased from £25k to £249k. This is due to the continued pressure on the suspension / restricted duties budget with a forecasted overspend of £59k. To mitigate this pressure for the future a working group is being established to consider options. In addition, an £85k overspend within the redundancy / early retirement budget is forecasted. The £100k additionality received for the 24/25 budget is insufficient given the increase in demand and increased life expectancy. This overspend will be partially mitigated by an underspend of £19k within the residual pension liability area of the service.
- Within the 2024/25 FRM the service identified savings of £177k relating to changing the swimming hours in schools and a reduction to the Freedom leisure management fee. This saving may not be fully delivered in year but is mitigated by slippage in inflation uplift on the contract. At this stage the net overspend currently is £153k. During the autumn term, further dialogue is being undertaken with schools to develop a new swimming offer. Some savings are anticipated from January 2025, but the majority will be evident in the next financial year.

Held at risk issues

The reduction in EIG (Educational Improvement Grant) materialised; however the service has mitigated this risk, but it does leave the service without any EIG retained to support schools where issues in leadership etc arise.

EDUCATION			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER				
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
Schools Delegated	88,954	89,200	0	0	(174)	89,027	(73)

Head of Service commentary:

An overspend of £73k is forecasted for the schools delegated budget. This represents the difference between the budgeted and projected use of reserves as of 30/9/24.

Following schools budget submittals in May 2024, any school forecasting a deficit budget in year or future years were requested to submit a recovery plan to the Local Authority. This has resulted in a forecasted reduction in the transfer from reserves from £3,225k in May 2024 to £2,382 in Sept 2024.

The service continues to support and challenge schools to maintain accurate and realistic budgets and where necessary the submittal of recovery plans. All schools have now moved across to the new Access budget management system to improve the accuracy of planning and reporting.

Ongoing tracking of individual school budgetary positions remains a priority for the service.

EDUCATION

£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER			Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
			Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures		
Schools Transformation	1,930	2,205	0	(100)	0	2,105	(174)

Head of Service commentary:

The forecasted overspend for this area is a £174k overspend. This is as a result of the forecasted overspend in the structural repairs and maintenance area of £224k. This is in the main a result of the ageing schools' infrastructure. This has been identified as a service pressure for the 2025/26 FRM.

School meals forecast remains at an underspend of £50k. This has been factored into 2025/26 FRM.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER

£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
Highways Transport & Recycling	36,044	38,065	(1,413)	0	(267)	36,385	(341)

Head of Service commentary:

We are reporting a forecast outturn overspend of £336k at the end of September 2024 (£505k overspend in June). The main reason for the £169k improvement since reporting in June arises from the approval of the use of the risk budget of £267k to fund an overspend on highways routine maintenance works.

The forecast overspend of £336k assumes assured savings of £1.413m will be met. Should the assured savings not be delivered, the forecast position will worsen to an overspend of £2.016m.

The main reasons for the forecast overspend of £336k include:

- There is an under spend of £24k reported because of vacant management/supervision posts and reduced private contractor spend in Highways Operations.
- £24k underspend on street lighting maintenance (materials and staff resource).
- £114k underspend on traffic maintenance activities.
- £111k forecast over-recovery of income on highways chargeable works
- An over-achievement of £129k on dry recycle income
- An under spend of £183k on disposal of residual waste.
- £71k underspend on food and other waste services
- An underspend of £29k on green waste collection due to income recovery
- £199k underspend on public transport
- An over-achievement of £235k against street works resulting from increased income against budget.
- £59k underspend on network management

- £23k underspend on civil enforcement operating costs

Offset by:

- Unachieved savings totalling £931k. Total savings target for 2024/25 is £2.497m, of which £153k been achieved to date, £1.566m assumed to be achieved and £931k reported as unachieved.
- £73k expenditure on a Programme Change Manager which has no base budget.
- £269k overspend on domestic waste collections
- £74k overspend on school transport costs
- £84k forecast overspend on fleet workshops
- £177k overspend on flooding revenue costs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER				
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
Economy and Climate	1,085	1,157	0	(106)	0	1,051	34

Head of Service commentary:

Overall financial position of the service is a forecast underspend of £34k compared to a working budget of £1,085k after use of £106k in Specific Reserves, which will be used to support the strategic management of the budget as significant economic projects end.

There are concerns for future years regarding funding as 45% of Economy and Climate is grant funded. Having delivered savings of £100k, the strategy budget is limited. We may not be able to carry out additional activities as we are using reserves currently.

All opportunities to reduce spend, to increase income or to utilise grant funding have been built in. We have utilised SPF funding to support activities. The Specific Reserves funds the staffing structure needed for significant economic projects like the Shared Prosperity Fund, Levelling Up Fund and

Transforming Towns programme as well as economic strategy and climate activities. Flexibility in using the reserves during the delivery period will accommodate fluctuations in grant income.

There are no cost pressures at this point.

Income is in line with expectations. Grant income has mainly been received as expected, although there was a 33.3% reduction in Communities for Work+ funding for this financial year. SPF grant has been secured for the TIME programme to cover the reduction in Grant. All activity, outputs and spend to be achieved by December 2024.

There are no pressures “held at risk” for the service.

There are cost reductions for the Royal Welsh Show which we are mitigated in year but continues to be a risk. We are delivering without an allocated budget through the RDP reserve. This has been identified as a potential ongoing risk.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER			Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductio ns not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures		
Planning and Regulatory Services	9,937	10,295	(407)	0	0	9,888	49

Head of Service commentary:

Planning and Regulatory Services are reporting an outturn underspend of £49K, against a budget of £9.937m.

Currently overspends in Strategic Property, Environmental Protection, and Trading Standards are being offset by underspends in Catering, Development Management, and Environmental Health (Commercial).

The Strategic Property overspends principally relate to utility costs, insufficient income generation (Corporate Maintenance) and delays in implementing savings proposals (for example, part year rather than full year rental income for The Park Office, Newtown). Additional oversight of Strategic Property

spend has been implemented and measures to reduce the overspend are being considered. Whilst saving proposals can be delivered, a number cannot be implemented for the complete financial year. Restrictions in spend are therefore being implemented to reduce the overspend in the area.

The overspend reported in Public Protection is a result of income targets not being achieved. Clarification on funding streams is being sought from external parties, which may impact on future income setting. Savings targets for cemeteries is currently off track. Income generation is outside of the services control but will be closely monitored to ensure accurate reporting of trends as we move into quarter 3 and 4 of the financial year. Private water supply work is forecast an overspend. This is caused by increased costs associated with laboratories and sickness within the service area impacting on income generation. Unfortunately, it is considered that income generation is unlikely to be recovered.

Increased software costs associated with the implementation of the new Planning, Building Control and Public Protection ICT system are resulting in a overspend. This is a one-off cost, offset by underspends within the service area. Moving forward, all ICT costs should be within the budget allocated for ICT within the service area.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER					
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25		Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
General Fund Housing	773	1,121	0	(348)	0	773		0

Head of Service commentary:

General Fund Housing (HGF) is reporting a forecast outturn breakeven position, (£192k overspend at the end of June) compared to a working budget of £774k at the end of September 2024, this includes the use of the specific reserve for Homelessness of £348k, without this reserve the service would be reporting an outturn overspend of £348k. The overall forecast outturn shows a mix of over and under-spending across various categories. Notable areas include significant overspends in premises expenditure for HGF Homelessness and HGF Gypsy Sites, while there are substantial positive variances in generated income for several categories. Overall, the HGF budget is currently predicted to be in balance at year end.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER					
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September	
Housing Revenue Account	0	54	0	0	0	54	(54)	

Head of Service commentary:

Tight management controls, especially with regard to the use of external contractors and greater use of the Council's in-house teams, has allowed the HRA to have a forecast year end overspend of £54k. Maintaining the tight management controls will continue and, unless there are unforeseen items of expenditure (for example weather related repairs arising, the HRA should be in balance at year end.

Rental income is exceeding the income budget of £29.998m by £205k. This would suggest that the void loss rate of 3.5% assumed when setting the business plan is improved actual void rent loss is now running at 2.75%, the result of intensive activity to reduce void times without compromising the quality of homes being let and limited use of external contractors, whose costs are generally above those of the in-house teams. However, materials and private contractor spend in the HRA still remains an area for continued vigilance, although the spend has reduced and appears to be remaining at the lower level. This will continue to be monitored carefully. Other income is also forecast to over-recover against the budget by £207k.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER				
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
Economic Development, Growth & Place	348	344	0	0	0	344	4
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>Spend is on track to balance budget.</p>							

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER				
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
Community Wellbeing	2,506	2,454	(105)	0	0	2,349	157
<p>Service Senior Manager Commentary:</p> <p>Community Wellbeing is reporting an overall forecast outturn underspend of £157k. The main reasons for the underspend is slippage in staffing costs due to vacancies and base budgeted staff being funded by grant funding, income expected to be over the budgeted level.</p>							

The service has savings to achieve of £1,410k in year. £1,213k of savings have already been achieved, with £104k of savings forecast as assured by the end of the financial year. If the savings forecast as assured are not achieved the forecast position will become an underspend of £53k. It is currently forecast that £32k of savings will not be achieved in this financial year - due to uncertainty with timescales linked to Sustainable Powys projects.

Libraries are reporting a forecast outturn under spend of £168k against a working budget of £1,327k. The underspend reported is mainly because of vacancies/slippages in staffing costs and increased grant income that is funding base budgeted staffing costs. The improvement in the forecast outturn compared to the reported £39k underspend at quarter 1 is due to more members of staff funded by base budget being funded by the grant from the shared prosperity fund.

Archives are reporting a forecast outturn underspend of £1K against a working budget of £136K. The underspend is due to increased income from external organisations for the storage of records and records management and the sale of photocopies/research service.

The Policy Unit covers the central team and is forecasting an outturn overspend of £42k, against a working budget of £184k. The overspend is due to the cost of the leisure review staff. This is compared to a forecast underspend of £4k at Q1. The change is due to the admin staff being moved out of the policy unit to catering and cleaning, there were vacant staff within these areas that were creating an underspend, the underspend has now been moved and is shown in catering and cleaning.

Leisure and Sports Centres are reporting a forecast outturn overspend of £41k against a working budget of £353k. The overspend is due to a saving of £32k for the expected reduction in the Freedom Leisure budget following the Leisure review. Negotiations regarding the changes to the Freedom Contract are ongoing but it is not expected that this will conclude in time to achieve the £32k saving in this financial year. A further overspend of £10k is forecast against the hire budget, a payment for the utilities relating to the 'licence' of the leisure facilities from Maesydderwen school is under review as this charge has not been reviewed for some time, it is expected that this will increase by around £10k.

Sports Development is reporting a forecast outturn breakeven position against a working budget of £90k.

Arts and Cultural Services are reporting a forecast outturn breakeven position against a working budget of £74k.

Museums are reporting a forecast outturn underspend of £10k compared to a working budget of £218k which is due to slippages and vacancies in staffing as well as expected underspends on utilities.

Y Gaer is reporting a forecast outturn underspend of £60k compared to a working budget of £124k. The underspend is because of increased income. A contribution of £40k has been received from the Town Council that is not built into the budget. There are also slippages in staffing costs due to vacancies, base budget staffing being funded by grant funding and a member of staff not in the pension scheme. This is compared to an underspend of £48k at Q1. The improvement is also due to additional staff members being temporary funded by grant funding.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER			Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
			Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures		
Adult Services	92,688	97,119	(1,348)	0	0	95,771	(3,082)

Head of Service commentary:

The forecast outturn at the end of Period 6, Quarter 2, 30th September 2024, is a £4.431 million overspend, however if the outstanding savings/efficiencies are delivered of £1.348 million, then the position will be £3.082 million, 3.33%. This is an increase in expenditure since quarter 1 of £2.904 million. The overspend is due to increased service demand and pressures in Residential and Homecare across all service areas in line with increased referrals and presentations at the Front Door, some partly as a consequence of COVID and deteriorating health conditions but in the main to address a reduction in delayed transfer of care (DTC). Additionally, costs associated with provider stability over and above what was funded in the Financial Resources Model (FRM).

Cost Pressures

Current Pressures - Included in the forecast £4.431 million at quarter 2,

£2.578 million overspend in Older adults compared to £1.208 million in Q1.

- £2.311,000 due to increased demand/complexity, reduced capacity in the marketplace.
 - an additional 50 nursing beds and 18 residential EMI beds
 - an additional 68 clients receiving Home Care at an increase in hours of 1536 per week

- 9 new Direct Payment (DP) packages.to prevent carer breakdown

£2.616 million overspend in Learning Disabilities compared to £0.570 million in Q1

- £313,000, an additional 3 service users in receipt of Home Care and an additional 13 clients in respect of non-care services e.g. Transport.
- £949,000, additional 9 new residential placements, increased packages and reduction in educational funding from Welsh Government.
- £34,086, Additional tenants moving into the Locality with no budget available
- £234,532, part year effect for 3 new tenancies

£0.358 million overspend in Mental Health compared to £0.059 million in Q1

- £217,000 due 2 new support living tenants and 1-1 hours
- £141,000 one new out of county residential placement

£0.514 million overspend in Physically Disabled provision compared to £0.440 million in Q1

- £620,657 an additional 10 new service users in receipt of Home Care and full year effect of part year clients from 2023/24 offset by Residential/Nursing Care currently an underspend of £106,175

£0.011 million overspend in commissioning compared to £0.030 million in Q1.

- This is Due to a £47,000 budget pressure in the Live Well Health and Social Care team for the Housing Support Grant “What Matters” project. This is currently being offset due to staff recruitment/slippage.

This is offset in part by an underspend in provider and support services where decision to re-open Older Day Centres and Day Bases, ‘what matters conversation’ have occurred and service users still wishing to receive the alternative community services, resulting in corresponding overspends in these areas, as the Council decision not to move budget during Covid and since the Service is awaiting the outcome of review.

Future pressures

The forecast outturn does not account for any future costs that may materialise in relation to:

- Winter pressures and potential demand on home-based care and interim bed options, as future demand is unknown.

- Stability of commissioned providers, particularly the care home sector. There are currently a number of providers who may be at risk of failure.
- The unmet need in regard to community services sitting on the Care Transfer or Referral Form (CROFT) following assessment but lack of service provision, although this has reduced to 69 individuals and 541 hours of care due to 7 new providers on the framework. This would be an additional budget pressure of £430,000 to year end if care provision was provided (and an additional £430,000 full year effect next year).
- Future demography, which was agreed to be funded from the risk reserve as part of the FRM budget setting process. This temporary allocation will only support these costs during 2024/25, and the full year impact will need to be considered in the FRM and Service's Integrated Business Plan (IBP) for future years.
- Future demography, which was agreed to be funded from the risk reserve as part of the FRM budget setting process. This temporary allocation will only support these costs during 2024/25, and the full year impact will need to be considered in the FRM and Service's Integrated Business Plan (IBP) for future years.

Areas of concern are the: -

- Increased demand and delivery of domiciliary care which is not costed within the FRM.
- Increased need for residential EMI and Nursing placements and placements for individuals with complex needs and our ability to maintain our set fee rates.

Our ageing population with increased complexity of need is outstripping nursing provision within the county and forcing us to spot purchase out of county placements at increased rates often above the host authority rates. This is a particular issue in the mid and north of the county. We also have a lack of in county residential provision for those with complex needs and are solely reliant on high cost out of county placements. Most Powys residential and nursing homes charge significantly above our rates with some providers citing financial instability. Nursing home providers indicate the FNC rate is insufficient and does not cover their costs. This is compounded by insufficient workforce driving a reliance on agency workers and ongoing general increased running costs which compound their cost pressures. Several learning disability providers have demanded significant uplifts above the agreed rate. With the threat of notice being served, requests in line with the Collaborative Commissioning and Procurement Services (CCAPS) rate and with no alternative placements to support these extremely complex individuals available it is nearly impossible to negotiate.

- Ongoing difficulty to agree appropriate health funding in a timely manner and respond to increased hospital discharges.
- Need to manage demand, accurately predict and report on commitments for the rest of 24/25 including the completion of timely virements, reprofiling budgets and escalating concerns in a timely manner.
- Need to accurately set FRM for 25/26 to include 24/25 realised demographic pressures.

Opportunities to reduce spend have included,

Increased supported living opportunities, has facilitated a reduction in voids and provided an alternative to high-cost residential accommodation with several individuals being repatriated into the county and non-sustainable schemes decommissioned

Robust monitoring of the locality provision and direct payments has seen a hand back in relation to non-delivered hours

Work to develop capacity within the domiciliary care market has been successful providing an alternative to more costly residential care and we have seen a reduction in the use of interim beds.

Cost Reductions

Assured

Of the original target of £3.814 million, £2.466 million has been achieved to date, 64.66%. Of the remaining £1.347 million cost reductions are assured to be delivered.

Undeliverable

There is a risk of not being able to deliver,

- £120,000 against older persons day opportunities as remodelling work still in progress
- £300,000 against transforming older persons accommodation
- £300,140 against increasing Shared Lives.

We aim to mitigate this by increasing strengths based work and right sizing packages of care. This will need to be reviewed each month to be able to forecast accurately. There are no outstanding cost reductions brought forward from 2023/24

Other mitigating actions to deliver a balanced budget.

Actions currently being taken to try and reduce gap and deliver within budget are set out in an ASC budget rectification plan and includes, Continue to focus on early help and prevention and our transformation programme. Using TECH, direct payments, home support and extra care to maintain people's independence as long as possible and reducing the need for more costly support whilst remodelling the reablement service to create capacity where 83% of ongoing packages reduce the need for higher cost alternative care. Provide options appraisal for future model of accommodation-based support to ensure we can meet future demand sustainably and develop locality model to increase community resilience and decrease reliance on statutory services.

Improving accurate forecasting, escalation and compliance with financial regulations by completing enhanced housekeeping, data cleansing, timely virements, systems training and a review of the allocation and decommissioning process.

Complete audit of direct payments to adjust underspends and dormant accounts.

Ensure provision of care is strengths based and prudent with additional scrutiny and robust challenge at existing forums with HoS agreement and sign off by the Section 151 officer for all new packages of care/provision.

Additional training for staff in strengths-based training and the development of a practice framework.

Continue to use additional screening tools put in place in the last quarter to scrutinise provider costs, robustly negotiate uplift request and evidence eligibility for health funding.

Complete fair cost of care exercise to set appropriate fee rates.

Continue to work nationally via ADDSS and AWASH to address the need to increase the FNC rate and improve the CHC process locally with PTHB.

A spend freeze on all non-essential items, HoS approval needed for all recruitment and review all non-statutory spend.

Take every opportunity to maximise/utilise any grant underspends, if applicable within the Terms & Conditions of the grant.

Establish dedicated resources for right sizing team to ensure delivery of forecasted savings.

Review and consider revising eligibility to ensure equity of access to support.

The cost of fee uplifts and demographic demand has exceeded that forecasted at the time of setting the 24/25 budget.

To bridge this gap and be able to manage further demography costs for the remainder of the year we must consider making a request to draw down from the both the risk budget and specific reserves through the virement process.

The risk budget request would be for £1,647,000 this would include,

Demographic pressures - £ 897,000

Powys Care Homes uplift - £453,000

Hours taken off the CROFT - £297,000

As part of the year end closure of 2023/24 accounts £948,000 was agreed to be transferred to specific reserves for Adult Social Care. To date there has been no draw down and for reasons outlined above there is a need to request access to these and will be undertaken through a virement request.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER			Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
			Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures		
Children's Services	30,728	35,599	(2,126)	0	0	33,473	(2,745)

Head of Service commentary:

The 2024/25 Children's Services forecast outturn position as of 30th September 2024 exceeds the baseline budget set by £4.871 million which equates to 15.85% expenditure over budget, however if the assured cost reductions of £2.126 million are delivered, then the forecast overspend will be £2.745 million which equates to 8.93% expenditure over budget.

Cost pressures

The £4.165 million unfunded pressures within the service are due to

- £3.591 million Children Looked After (CLA) placements - new, step up in provision and increasing costs in relation to meeting the complexity of the need of the current cohort. This is in the context of a national shortage of placements for looked after children across the UK. All new or step up in provisions going forward will be a pressure. An increase of £268,000 since quarter 1.
- £209,000 additional overspend to placement pressures for CLA support, an increase of £43,000 since quarter 1.
- £44,000 budget pressure in regard to Section 21, for families in need of care and support, in the main due to post lockdown and trying to keep children with their families wherever it is safe and in their best interests to do so. An increase of £19,000 since quarter 1.
- £320,000 overspend forecasted for the five In House Residential homes, a decrease of £109,000 since quarter 1.
 - Due to service decision to transfer employees to meet need in homes not their base and closure of Henrhyd & Pum Copa, and reduce dependency on agency
 - Due to relief staff over and above base budget to cover rotas, unplanned employee absences, the use of overtime and agency staff due to recruitment and escalating needs of the children, over and above that included in the original business cases.

- £180,000 of Regional Partnership Board (RPB) funding has been secured at Ty'r Orsaf following the withdrawal of phase 2 & 3 Welsh Government funding. It is expected that this will fund this additional staffing required for 2024/25. This 3rd placement will become a pressure in 2025/26 without additional funding.
- Bannau, the Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) Continuing Care (CC) base budget income funding of £136,000 has ceased, since budget setting, and therefore is now a pressure. The child is no longer eligible for the CC funding following an assessment.
- Henrhyd has been mothballed and base budget has contributed towards the £517,000 of savings in the Financial Resources Model (FRM).
- The balance of Pum Copa's base budget has been moved to Ty'r Orsaf at a shortfall to the required base funding.

All baseline budget underspends of £1.420 million are currently being utilised to mitigate the overall budget forecast overspend. The majority of this is around posts and associated costs.

- £786,000 Staffing underspend based on current vacancies qualified and non-qualified positions.
- £51,000 due to underutilisation of the Market supplement. Currently not all qualifying posts are occupied or been occupied for the relevant time frame.
- £163,000 Short Breaks underspend due to many placements, including expensive legacy placements, ending in the last financial year and more due to end in the current financial year, largely due to children in the current cohort turning 18.
- £181,000 various small underspends on service subjective headings.
- £164,000 Legal underspend, although this is difficult to predict as Legal services do not use commitment accounting.
- £75,000 Commissioning underspend due to staff vacancies.

There is a risk if these underspends are utilised in the future, then the overspend forecast will increase.

The forecast outturn is based on actual expenditure on the ledger, commitments via eProcurement and profiled budgets. It is important to note that efficiency savings will be reported when they have been delivered, and we maintain this approach to ensure a prudent position.

Savings were identified of £2.903 million in the 2024/25 budget setting process and £1.082 million was rolled forward from 2023/24, £1.859 million of the savings have been achieved, 46.64%. The outstanding £2.126 million is assured to be saved by the end of the 2024/25 financial year. However, this will need to be reviewed each month to be able to forecast accurately.

The rising costs of residential placements continue to be challenging and have increased significantly over the past 12 months from £6 million to £10 million in the total costs of placements.

Any child who becomes a 'child who is looked after' and requires a placement, and in particular a residential placement will have a direct impact on the overspend of the budget position at any given time. There is no demography within the existing budget to manage this complex matter, so it immediately becomes a pressure.

All children who are in residential placements are tracked monthly in terms of cost and effectiveness of their care plan.

All children who become a 'child who is looked after' are agreement by the Head of Children's Services.

The Residential homes are a continued pressure within the budget and cannot be forecasted due to the need for agency care workers to bridge the gap of sickness and HR matters and the need for 2:1 staffing when the needs of children escalate. This is additional financial pressure to the original business case.

The continued pressures that have rolled on from year to year, add to the challenges of delivering the service within the allocated budget. These pressures are largely around placements, either new placements or being reliant on carers wishing to convert to a Special Guardianship Order arrangement. We can influence but we cannot enforce.

There have been some small opportunities around reducing the overspend by £132k in period 7. £112k from the Children's & Communities Grant and £20k from the Social Care Workforce Grant. Further grant monies will be established over Quarter 3 and 4 when it is typical to receive grant funding right at the end of the financial year.

Children's Services budget has seen a flat budget for the past 2 years. The pressures from the previous financial years roll over to the following financial year, which adds additional pressures to the in-year financial position.

For Children's services to be in a balanced position at the end of the financial year, consideration will be required to draw upon the risk budget to offset the expenditure. The current position is a £2.75 million deficit if all savings are achieved. Over the next quarter there will be further consideration whether the savings target will be achieved as this largely depends on sourcing placements for children and reducing the current deficit position. There are risks within this matter due to the unpredictability of a child needing a placement at any given time and no demography to draw upon within the current budget. Work will continue to reduce the deficit, but it is unlikely that the deficit will reduce to a balanced position. It will be important to track and monitor placements over period 8 and 9 which will forecast a more predictable position.

The cost reductions are being reduced with mitigations as follows, a freeze on all posts unless considered to be essential by the Head of Service. All spends on purchase cards are reviewed by the Head of Service. All new placements are agreed by the Head of Service and signed off by the Section 151 officer. A review has taken place of all children living in residential placements currently to determine if any changes can be made to their care plan, costs or return home earlier than planned. There are 9 children who have been identified as having a reduced care package or change in care plan. There is no further money available to deliver section 21 services for those families in need.

Grants will be sourced in partnership with PAVO and the Head of Children’s Services and Section 151 officer will consider any new commitments.

There has been considerable progress made on the reduction of agency social workers with the peak of 57 some years ago to a current position of 16. Recruitment continues and we have seen an increase in agency social workers wishing to become permanent. The stability within the workforce continues to be a key priority within the service as in turn this drives forward practice, influences change and delivers quality outcomes.

CORPORATE SERVICES

ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER

£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
Finance	7,162	7,199	(100)	0	0	7,099	63

Head of Service commentary:

The forecast underspend is due to staff slippage, there have been vacancies that are being recruited to but will not require full budget this year. At this stage we have not assumed any under or overspend on Insurance, but any variance will be adjusted against the specific reserve.

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER			Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
			Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures		
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn					
Corporate Activities	38,127	35,279	0	0	816	36,095	2,032

Head of Service commentary:

The virements from the Risk Budget approved in the quarter 1 report have been actioned, reducing the previous underspend against corporate activities. This will reduce further as a result of the virement requests included within this report.

The current forecast for the cost of borrowing has increased by £1.3 million since quarter 1 due in part to a shift away from the previous under-borrowed position that the Council has seen as grant balances and reserves, particularly schools reserves, have reduced.

The back payment of business rate revaluations helps to mitigate the housing benefit overspend arising from the payments made for homelessness activity. There is no surplus on Council Tax collection and the reduction scheme that funds those requiring council tax support is projected to be fully utilised.

CORPORATE SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER				
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
Workforce & OD	2,884	2,847	(11)	0	0	2,837	47

Head of Service commentary:

The forecast underspend of £47k mainly arose due to vacancies and the delay in recruiting to them, and from an overachievement of income from DBS work undertaken. This in part was then offset by the service picking up some staff recruitment, advertising, psychometric assessment and job evaluation costs for the wider council, along with some class IA national insurance costs arising from the councils' staff lease car scheme. The forecasted figure has tightened compared to the figure of £94k reported at the end of the first quarter.

The service had achieved £2.5k of its savings target by the end of the second quarter, with the balancing figure of £11k being assured to be achieved.

CORPORATE SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES		ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER					Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
		2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures		
£'000								
Digital Services	6,758	6,474	0	0	0	6,474	284	

Head of Service commentary:

There are no areas that are causing financial concern, this quarter.

The forecast outturn is £6,474k, compared to the working budget of £6,758k. There is an underspend of £284k compared to the working budget.

The outturn forecast underspend of £284k compares to a forecast underspend outturn reported in June of £192k. The £92k increase in underspend is primarily attributed to the release of £156k of transformation funding. This was partially offset by an increase in ICT contract costs, which included a £30k contribution to the funding of the pilot of innovative Microsoft applications supporting digital transformation activities, and contract inflation.

Digital Operations forecast underspend is £75k against the working budget of £3,593k. The underspend has been achieved through management of the overall ICT Contracts budget, resulting in, in year efficiencies, and because of SPF Grant funding. It is proposed in the 2025-26 FRM that the ICT contracts underspend is used to fund pressures arising from the added incremental costs of implementation of the upgrade to E5.

Digital Services forecast outturn was £1,864k which is an underspend of £150k compared to the working budget of £2,014k.

Budget management was undertaken to release Transformation funding. This strategic decision ensured that there was a significant reduction in underspend in the base budget within ICT Strategy, and that an underspend of £156k could be released against the allocated ICT transformation funding.

Customer Services and Information Compliance forecast outturn is an underspend of £60k, against the working budget of £1,151k. Most of the underspend is due to a reduction in staff costs due to vacancies and slippages where staff are budgeted at top of scale. These are offset by an overspend in equipment costs and unachieved savings relating to the scale down of postage from first class post to second class plus an increased use of email.

CORPORATE SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES			ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER					
£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September	
Business Intelligence and Governance	4,185	4,018	(20)	0	0	3,998	187	

Head of Service commentary:

Business Intelligence and Governance have a working base budget of £4,185m for 2024-25 and a forecast outturn underspend of £187k (compared with £134k underspend in June). The main reason for the £53k improvement since reporting in June arises from a reduction in member travel costs, as well as a reduction in staff forecast costs in Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance (however these vacancies will be filled in quarter four due to successful recruitment campaigns in quarter three).

The service has a savings target of £34k to find in 2024-25 and £14k is reported as achieved. The remaining £20k (reduction in member travel budget) is assured and on track to be realised.

The reason for the underspend results from some staff vacancies during the period, as well as extra one-off income that has been brought in from external sources (such as Regional Integrated Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund) to support the staffing structure in communications (note: the communications team are not fully funded by the base budget and do rely on income streams to support the staffing structure).

CORPORATE SERVICES

ADJUSTMENTS OUTSIDE THE LEDGER

£'000	2024/25 Base Budget	CP Forecast Outturn	Cost Reductions not yet delivered but assured	Specific Reserves with Agreed use	Use of Risk Funding to cover unfunded pressures	Forecast Outturn Position 2024/25	Forecast Outturn Under / (Over) spend as at September
Legal	1,612	1,731	(95)	0	0	1,636	(23)

Head of Service commentary:

We are forecasting an overspend of £23k against budget due to the following:

1. a projection from RCT that the Coroners' service will overspend by **£9k**. A further meeting has been arranged with RCT for November to discuss continual overspends – Budget £426k;
2. An anticipated loss of income from Land Charges of **£30k** due to a reduction in the number of Land Charge searches received - income target is £191k;
3. **£5k** overspend on elections due to slight overspend on elections staff.

Total Projected overspend = **£44k**

NB: The above overspend has been partially offset by a projected £21k underspend in other budget lines

Appendix C: Details of grants received

Service	Revenue / Capital	Grant Body	Grant name	Total Grant awarded (£)	Changes requiring approval (£)	Purpose
Adult Services	Revenue	Welsh Government	Social Care Workforce Grant 2024-25	1,840,896	1,840,896	<p>The Purpose of the Funding is to enable Local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uplift salaries in the social care sector. • Take steps that address social care recruitment and retention difficulties. • Mitigating current workforce pressures in core social services in order to be better placed to manage unexpected or increased demands, as a result of demographic changes or the need for increasingly complex and challenging care. • Investing in the workforce in core services to provide greater capability to invest in innovative and preventative approaches, which will enable medium to long term sustainability. • Supporting providers in becoming more sustainable to help maintain the quality and continuity of care. • Facilitate greater integration, innovation in roles and meet increasingly complex care and support needs. • Take forward measures that support fair work in the sector, such as increasing opportunities to access continued learning and professional development; providing opportunities for growth and progression for the workforce; and supporting employee voice. • Take steps that support the Welsh Language and that lead to greater equality and inclusion within the workforce.
Adult Services	Revenue	Welsh Government	Mental Capacity Act / Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)	123,440	123,440	<p>The Purpose of the Funding is to reduce the DoLS backlog as well as undertaking MCA training. The allocated funding will also be used to increase capacity within the DoLS team by commissioning approved agencies.</p>

Service	Revenue / Capital	Grant Body	Grant name	Total Grant awarded (£)	Changes requiring approval (£)	Purpose
Adult Services	Revenue	Welsh Government	Substance Misuse Action Fund Revenue, Complex Needs and Buidal	1,264,238	5,625	The Purpose of the Funding is to enable you to deliver the Welsh Government's Substance Misuse Delivery Plan. This money is ring-fenced for Naloxone only.
Adult Services	Revenue	Welsh Government	Age Friendly Communities 2024-25	50,000	50,000	The Purpose of the Funding is to fund a post or, where a post is already in place, to fund activity to take forward work to make Wales an age friendly nation, in line with the information at Annex 1 and your agreed work plan with the intention for local authorities to work towards achieving membership of the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities
Business Intelligence and Governance	Revenue	Welsh Government	Website procurement and development & Citizen's Assembly planning	47,077	47,077	Website procurement and development & Citizen's Assembly planning
Children Services	Revenue	Welsh Government	Children and Communities Grant (CCG) 2024-25	4,550,203	4,370,563	The Purpose of the Funding is to seek to address the support needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities through a range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms. It will seek to mitigate or remove disadvantage to vulnerable people to enable them to have the same life chances as others, and therefore contribute to a more equal Wales

Service	Revenue / Capital	Grant Body	Grant name	Total Grant awarded (£)	Changes requiring approval (£)	Purpose
Children Services	Revenue	Ministry of Justice	Turnaround Programme Grant 22-25 (Final Year)	50,360	50,360	<p>To deliver the Programme, the Authority will provide grant funding to YOTs across England and Wales over three financial years, funding them to intervene earlier and improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the Youth Justice System. This additional funding will enable YOTs to consistently support a cohort of children not currently on their statutory caseload.</p> <p>The overall aims of the Programme are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve positive outcomes for children with the aim of preventing them going on to offend; • Build on work already done to ensure all children on the cusp of the youth justice system are consistently offered a needs assessment and the opportunity for support; • Improve the socio-emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children; and • Improve the integration and partnership working between YOT and other statutory services to support children.
Community Wellbeing	Revenue	Sport Wales	Active Young People Grant	302,965	302,965	<p>Sport Wales Funding will be used to progress, create and implement support and initiatives that development the following areas: Equality Diversity and inclusion, Participation - Growing opportunities, Workforce and coaching, Pathway and performance, Governance and leadership, Additional priorities, 60+ and Free Swim Initiative.</p>
Community Wellbeing	Revenue	Sport Wales	60 Plus Active Leisure Scheme	40,771	40,771	<p>Sport Wales Funding will be used to progress, create and implement support and initiatives that development the following areas: Equality Diversity and inclusion, Participation - Growing opportunities, Workforce and coaching, Pathway and performance, Governance and leadership, Additional priorities, 60+ and Free Swim Initiative.</p>

Service	Revenue / Capital	Grant Body	Grant name	Total Grant awarded (£)	Changes requiring approval (£)	Purpose
Community Wellbeing	Revenue	Sport Wales	Sports Partnership	51,538	51,538	Sport Wales Funding will be used to progress, create and implement support and initiatives that development the following areas: Equality Diversity and inclusion, Participation - Growing opportunities, Workforce and coaching, Pathway and performance, Governance and leadership, Additional priorities, 60+ and Free Swim Initiative.
Community Wellbeing	Revenue	Disability Sport Wales	Disability Sport Wales Grant	6,770	6,770	Disability Sport Wales grant funding will be used for the purpose of supporting local and regional opportunities for physical activity (including sport) to be inclusive of disabled people, and we will provide insight, learning and data illustrating the impact of local and regional provision inclusive of disabled people in Powys.
Community Wellbeing	Revenue	Museums Federation	Conservation Materials	567	567	Conservation Materials
Community Wellbeing	Revenue	Sport Wales	In year investment	16,852	16,852	Sport Wales Funding will be used to progress, create and implement support and initiatives that development the following areas: Equality Diversity and inclusion, Participation - Growing opportunities, Workforce and coaching, Pathway and performance, Governance and leadership, Additional priorities, 60+ and Free Swim Initiative.
Community Wellbeing	Revenue	Books Council of Wales	Promoting the Reading Well Project 2024-25	840	840	To hold Tai Chi Movements for Wellbeing sessions for people living with dementia and their carers across the county and drop-in sessions for the recently-diagnosed (in collaboration with Memory Assessment Staff in attendance) to share concerns and seek assistance; both of which will also promote the Reading Well for dementia collection as a resource for support.
Digital Services	Revenue	Welsh Government	Cyber Ninjas training	1,450	1,450	The purpose of the funding is to provide Cyber Ninjas training for elected members to support cyber resilience across local authorities in Wales.

Service	Revenue / Capital	Grant Body	Grant name	Total Grant awarded (£)	Changes requiring approval (£)	Purpose
Digital Services	Revenue	Welsh Government	Cyber Breach Grant	3,100	3,100	To allow Local Authorities in Wales the opportunity to have their own individual Workshop on Cyber Breach and what to do in the event of a Cyber Attack.
Digital Services	Revenue	Shropshire Council	River Severn Partnership Advanced Wireless Innovation Region (RSPAWIR) Digital Champion	39,999	39,999	Funding for a Digital Champion and associated activities and initiatives
Economy and Climate	Revenue	Welsh Local Government Association	Regional Skills Partnership - Young Persons Guarantee	20,000	20,000	Continuation of funding to work with young persons' guarantee stakeholder and employer networks to monitor impacts and changes to the current provision landscape.
Economy and Climate	Revenue	Welsh Local Government Association	Communities for Work Plus Programme: 2024-25	384,206	384,206	The purpose of the funding is to enable the Communities for Work Plus delivery plan for 2024-25.
Economy and Climate	Revenue	Welsh Local Government Association	Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership	290,000	290,000	The purpose of the funding is to enable the Regional Skills Partnerships to undertake their primary functions and deliver their core activities
Economy and Climate	Revenue	Welsh Local Government Association	Armed Forces Liaison Officers 2024-25 - (Army Covenant Grant)	21,153	21,153	The purpose of the funding is for a regional Armed Forces Liaison Officer (AFLO) to support commitment to delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant.
Economy and Climate	Both	Welsh Local Government Association	Local Food Partnerships 2024/2025	66,086	66,086	The purpose of the funding is to support joint working between the local authorities and Local Health Boards and other partners.
Economy and Climate	Both	Welsh Government	Shared Prosperity Fund	15,990,649	15,990,649	Shared Prosperity Fund
Economy and Climate	Revenue/Capital	Welsh Government	Direct Food Support Fund	59,178	59,178	The purpose of the funding is to enable local authorities to support an increased number of people facing food poverty by strengthening existing community food initiatives, and including a focus on activity that helps to address the root causes of food poverty

Service	Revenue / Capital	Grant Body	Grant name	Total Grant awarded (£)	Changes requiring approval (£)	Purpose
Economy and Climate	Revenue	Welsh Government	Connect Powys – Local Broadband Programme	45,000	45,000	The purpose of the funding is to enable you to support the grant objectives. Namely, the delivery of fast reliable broadband to those parts of Wales currently not served.
Economy and Climate	Both	Welsh Government	Assets Collaboration Programme Wales Phase 3 (CPW3) - Community Farm Project	324,910	324,910	The project will bring together learning from two pilots that aim to build affordable small farms for a new generation of farmers on county owned land. These farms will produce food agroecologically for local markets and put nature and climate at the forefront of their delivery.
Economy and Climate	Revenue	Welsh Government	Provision of safe, secure and warm spaces this winter 24/25	47,129	47,129	Funding will be available to support safe and warm places within the local community that people could go to across Wales this winter (24-25).
Education	Revenue	Welsh Government	Homelessness Prevention Grant - Innovation Funding	200,105	200,105	Provide Housing support to 16 - 25 year olds.
Education	Revenue	Welsh Government	Local Authority Education Grant	12,903,048	12,903,048	Schools standards, Reform, Equity, Cymraeg 2050
Education	Revenue	Welsh Government	Local Authority Education Grant - Variation 1	34,405	34,405	Reform, Equity, Cymraeg 2050
Education	Revenue	Welsh Government	Local Authority Education Grant (Demand Led)	4,238,281	4,238,281	UPFSM, School essentials grant (Was PDG), Post 16 specialist payments.
Education	Revenue	Welsh Government	Local Authority Education Grant (Demand Led) - Variation 1	57,795	57,795	Regional NPQH Celebration Events - £795, Welsh-medium capacity building grant 24-25 Academic year - £57,000
Education	Revenue	Welsh Government	Adult Community Learning	235,767	235,767	Provision of Adult Community Learning
Education	Revenue	Welsh Government	Post 16 Education Provision (6th Form Grant)	5,547,288	5,547,288	6th form grant
Education	Revenue	Welsh Government	Post 16 Transition Funding (Yr 10 & 11)	66,000	66,000	To ensure Y10 and Y11 learners understand the Post-16 options available outside of current school

Service	Revenue / Capital	Grant Body	Grant name	Total Grant awarded (£)	Changes requiring approval (£)	Purpose
Education	Revenue	Welsh Government	Post 16 Transition / Learner Recovery & Progression Funding (Yrs 12, & 13)	123,923	123,923	LA 6th Forms to provide additional learning hours for full time learners in Year 12, Y13 and above.
General Fund Housing	Revenue	Welsh Government	Homelessness - No One Left Out Approach	459,635	459,635	Homelessness - No One Left Out Approach
General Fund Housing	Revenue	Welsh Government	Discretionary Homelessness Prevention	170,950	170,950	Discretionary Homelessness Prevention
General Fund Housing	Revenue	Welsh Government	Strategic Co-ordinator Role	60,000	60,000	The post is to lead on the transformation agenda - towards rapid rehousing and away from priority need - and ensure strategic join-up across the authority
General Fund Housing	REVENUE	Welsh Government	RURAL HOUSING ENABLER (RHE)	30,182	30,182	Award of Funding in relation to Funding to Support Rural Housing Enabler Projects in Wales 2022-2025
General Fund Housing	Revenue	Welsh Government	Substance Misuse Action Fund Revenue, Complex Needs and Buidal	177,188	177,188	The Purpose of the Funding is to enable you to deliver the Welsh Government's Substance Misuse Delivery Plan.
Highways, Transport & Recycling	Capital	Welsh Government	Active Travel Fund	765,000	765,000	Active Travel Fund
Highways, Transport & Recycling	Capital	Welsh Government	Local Transport Fund	410,000	410,000	Local Transport Fund
Highways, Transport & Recycling	Capital	Welsh Government	20MPH	250,000	250,000	20MPH
Highways, Transport & Recycling	Capital	Welsh Government	Safe Routes in Communities	337,000	337,000	Safe Routes in Communities
Highways, Transport & Recycling	Capital	Welsh Government	Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund	135,000	135,000	Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund
Highways, Transport & Recycling	Capital	Welsh Government	Unadopted Roads	149,300	149,300	Unadopted Roads
Highways, Transport & Recycling	Capital	WCVA	Local Places for Nature / Biodiversity	120,000	120,000	

Service	Revenue / Capital	Grant Body	Grant name	Total Grant awarded (£)	Changes requiring approval (£)	Purpose
Highways, Transport & Recycling	Revenue	Welsh Government	Traws Cymru Grant 2024-25	621,000	-56,160	The Purpose of the Funding is to support the TrawsCymru® T4 bus service 2024/25. Grant award lower than originally budgeted.
Planning and Regulatory Services	Revenue	Department of Science Innovation and Technology (DSIT)	Regulator's Pioneer Fund	818,798	818,798	<p>The aim of Operation Jigsaw is to provide a co-ordination function in each of the English regions to support the sharing of intelligence and information between Private Sector Housing, Trading Standards teams, and other relevant enforcement agencies by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing best practice. - Developing innovative cross-border initiatives. - Improving the consistency of business advice and enforcement. <p>Regional coordinators have been appointed to develop a framework to assist local authorities to support good businesses, and to identify when businesses consistently fail to comply with legislation and enforcement action is needed.</p> <p>The project is funded until the end of February 2025 by the Regulators' Pioneer Fund, sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) which supports projects that help to create a regulatory environment to encourage business innovation and growth. Monthly project reports are submitted to DSIT.</p>
Planning and Regulatory Services	Revenue	The Police and Crime Commissioner	Builth Wells Events Safety Group	4,500	4,500	Builth Wells Events Safety Group

Appendix D: Social Care virement request

To follow