

Appendix 2 - Service Variance Narrative

Service	Variance Last Month £000	Variance This Month £000	Change £000	Description
Communities and Customers	-2	1	3	No significant variances to report
Education and Children's Service	2,700	2,416	-284	See body of report for summary. The increase from last month relates to additional placement and legal costs. All residential and fostering placements have been costed to realistic timescales however no allowance has been made for any further placements throughout the year.
Business Improvement and Modernisation	-52	-75	-23	Underspend due to vacancy savings
Legal, HR and Democratic Services	-105	-93	12	Underspend due to a number of temporary vacancy savings, further increased this month
Finance and Property	0	-8	-8	No significant variances to report
Highways, Facilities and Environmental Services	373	176	-197	The overspend relates to increasing costs for major projects, street lighting, depot maintenance and staffing. A review of the budgeted arrangements within the Streetscene is currently ongoing to help streamline processes (e.g. removal of timesheets to help free up officer time). Waste service in particular relies on grant income which have yet to be confirmed by Welsh Government so remains a risk. The movement relates to increasing costs of depot maintenance and increasing material costs.
Planning and Public Protection	844	44	-800	The overspend relates to School Transport costs and reduced planning income. Although a £0.500m pressure was approved as part of the 22/23 budget process, this month's increase reflect the increased costs of transport contracts from the start of the new school term in September 2022.
Community Support Services	2,169	606	-1,563	See body of report for summary. The increase to the overspend relates to the cost of homelessness and to additional high cost placements in Specialist Services – Complex Disabilities.
Leisure - ADM	12	11	-1	The movement relates to minor variances.
Corporate & Miscellaneous	-404	-417	-13	See body of report for details
Precepts & Levies	0	0	0	See body of report for details
Capital Financing	0	0	0	The position on capital financing is very much related to progress on capital projects and variances do not crystallise until the final outturn is known. In previous years any underspend on this budget has been carried forward to help support the capital programme. With the level of overspend currently being reported it is unlikely that this will be possible this year.
Council Services & Corporate Budget	5,535	2,661	-2,874	