

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Adults, Health and Well-being Department	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Adults Services</u>						
Older People's Services						
Residential and Nursing - Homes	24,394	23,174	(1,220)		(1,220)	(874)
Domiciliary Care	10,163	11,785	1,622		1,622	1,221
Physical Disabilities Services	3,472	2,593	(879)		(879)	(979)
Others	3,711	5,083	1,372		1,372	911
	41,740	42,635	895	0	895	279
Learning Disabilities Services	30,098	30,253	155		155	364
Mental Health Services	5,197	5,160	(37)		(37)	(144)
Department Management	579	498	(81)		(81)	(123)
<u>Adults Services Total</u>	77,614	78,546	932	0	932	376
<u>Provider Services (shows net budget)</u>						
Residential Care	(75)	314	389		389	211
Day Care	(13)	(19)	(6)		(6)	14
Community Care	157	1,692	1,535		1,535	1,622
Others	(7)	37	44		44	10
<u>Provider Services Total</u>	62	2,024	1,962	0	1,962	1,857

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Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Other Services</u>						
Departmental Central Services (including Department savings)	981	1,436	455		455	440
<u>Other Services Total</u>	981	1,436	455	0	455	440
<u>Adults, Health and Well-being Total</u>	78,657	82,006	3,349	0	3,349	2,673

Adults, Health and Well-being

Older People - in residential and nursing, higher fee costs from private providers continue but the use of an independent national care fees system has been effective in giving the Council assurance of value for money. The arrangements relating to deferred payments due for residents are also more effective. A permanent additional budget of £600k was given to this field for 2024/25, therefore an underspend is anticipated by the end of the year. A further increase in the pressures on the domiciliary care budget and reduction in anticipated income and therefore an overspend of £1.6 million is projected. In the physical disabilities field, the trend is that there is less demand for domiciliary care but continued increasing pressure on direct payments. In 'Other', an overspend of £1.5 million on direct payments but this is slightly reduced by an underspend on day services.

Learning Disability - following an overspend of £2m in this field in 2023/24, the service received an additional budget allocation of £1.68 million on a permanent basis for 2024/25 onwards, it is estimated that there will be an overspend of £155k this year. The pressure remains on supported accommodation, and field worker posts above the organisation is contributing to the overspending.

Mental Health - the service received a permanent additional budget allocation of £419k for 2024/25, which has transformed the financial projection of the overspend position reported last year. It is anticipated that residential and nursing and field workers will underspend but there is pressure on the supported accommodation element.

Department Management - an underspend on salaries, travelling and the legal budget.

Provider Services - overspend on staff in residential care, which includes the use of agency staff. Despite an additional budget of £0.5 million being permanently invested in domiciliary care in 2024/25, higher staffing costs, with sickness levels and high non-contact hour rates continue and account for £1.5 million of the overspend. The day care provision has reduced over recent years, however there are residual running costs for some of the buildings.

Departmental Central Services - posts above the structure, pressure on the bad debts provision and failing to realise savings are responsible for the £455k overspend.

Savings - in terms of the situation of realising savings for the department, savings to the value of £356k from previous years (after deleting savings amounting to £1.5 million in 2023/24), as well as £1.44 million in new savings for 2024/25, therefore a total of £1.8 million. The latest projections show that it will not be possible for 85%, namely £1.5m of these savings, to be realised this year.

In light of the exceptional overspend by the Adults, Health and Well-being Department in 2023/24, the Chief Executive commissioned work earlier on in the year to explain the complex detail in Adults care, in order to gain a better understanding of the issues and a clear agenda to respond. The work is being addressed and is being led by the Statutory Director of Social Services, with the intention to report on the findings soon.

It is recommended that a number of substantial budget transfers are implemented before the end of the financial year within the Adults, Health and Well-being Department to reflect the current pressures, including in the field of Learning Disability, Older People, Physical Disability and Mental Health.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Children and Families Department	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Service Management	674	662	(12)		(12)	(43)
Operational	2,598	3,029	431		431	319
Placements						
Out-of-County Placements	5,831	7,838	2,007		2,007	1,821
Small Group Homes	0	0	0		0	0
Fostering through an Agency	1,917	1,529	(388)		(388)	(269)
Fostering - Internal	3,057	2,816	(241)		(241)	(219)
Support Services and Others	2,086	2,497	411		411	385
	12,891	14,680	1,789	0	1,789	1,718
Post-16	1,703	1,768	65		65	2
Derwen Service	2,614	3,992	1,378		1,378	1,139
Youth Justice	283	243	(40)		(40)	(41)
Early Years	168	92	(76)		(76)	(36)
Workforce Development Unit	186	186	0		0	0
Others	2,257	2,405	148		148	147
Children and Families Total	23,374	27,057	3,683	0	3,683	3,205

Children and Families

Service Management - grants receipt but a reduction in the amount that funds core spending.

Operational - the overspending trend continues as a result of substantial pressure on support from support plans, as well as staffing above the budget for field workers.

Placements - a further increase was seen in the average number of out-of-county placements again this year to 35.1 (32.5 in 2023/24, 25.7 in 2022/23), and therefore an increase in the overspend since the 2023/24 position, with an overspend projection of £2 million for the year. Although £240k is the average cost of the placements, there are six exceptional placements this year, which cost between £488k and £800k each. An increase was seen in the costs due to the complexities of packages and recent increased use of unregistered placements, which are more costly.

Average numbers of Fostering through an Agent and Internal Fostering consistent with 2023/24 numbers but as there are several unaccompanied asylum seekers receiving a service, the income receipt from the Home Office for them has resulted in an underspend. In the support service and others, there are increasing pressures on the budget of the placements team and support workers.

Small Group Homes - in the process of being established in Gwynedd, which are in-house provisions which will mean that children can be placed in-house, instead of with external out-of-county providers, which in turn will reduce the existing overspending on placements.

Derwen - the overspend trend continues, and has intensified, with the costs of support plan workers and specialist support now overspending by £1.1 million. There was a change in the emphasis in terms of how the service is provided, with more emphasis on direct payments which is responsible for £195k of the overspend. Increased use of placements that are long-term in their nature in the Short Break Unit, thus leading to an increase in the pressure on the budget.

Post-16 - staffing above the social worker budget, but a contribution from the Home Office towards asylum seekers reduces the overspending.

Youth Justice - staff turnover and a reduction in the Council's contribution towards the partnership's running costs this year.

Early Years - grants available to fund core spending, leading to a projected underspend.

Others - a combination of factors including overspending on staffing, specialist service fees and on the contributions of joint services.

As a result of the exceptional overspending by the Children and Families Department, the Chief Executive has already commissioned work to explain the detail in the area of Children's care, in order to obtain a better understanding of the issues and a clear programme of response. The work will be led by the Statutory Director of Social Services.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Business and Care Commissioning Service	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Support and Commissioning	1,586	1,472	(114)		(114)	(151)
Income and Finance	757	778	21		21	(70)
Preventative Services	229	222	(7)		(7)	124
<u>Business and Care Commissioning Service Total</u>	2,572	2,472	(100)	0	(100)	(97)

Business and Care Commissioning Service

The Business and Care Commissioning Service has been moved from the Adults, Health and Well-being Department during the year to be accountable to the Statutory Director of Social Services, since their work field includes the care of adults and children.

Support and Commissioning - underspend on a number of budget headings, including staff costs, travelling, printing and services and supplies, but one-off costs on systems reduces the reported underspend.

Income and Finance - one-off employment costs, as well as unfound savings, mean that further overspend is anticipated by the end of the financial year.

Preventative Services - the telecare plan is underspending (£14k) as a result of improvement in the contributions projections which is now above the target, as well as receiving a grant to fund a post. An additional grant receipt was also seen for other preventative services, therefore an underspend of (£7k) is anticipated.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Education Department	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Devolved Schools	97,325	97,325	0		0	0
Schools Quality Services	(1,357)	(1,369)	(12)		(12)	(13)
Infrastructure and Support Services						
Transportation	8,511	8,511	0		0	0
Ancillary Services	1,145	1,083	(62)		(62)	(28)
Others	2,928	2,893	(35)		(35)	(23)
	12,584	12,487	(97)	0	(97)	(51)
Leadership and Management	2,620	2,600	(20)		(20)	(24)
Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion	5,194	5,209	15		15	48
Youth Service	1,008	977	(31)		(31)	(20)
Education Total	117,374	117,229	(145)	0	(145)	(60)

Education

Schools Quality Service - a combination of income receipt and an increase in the use of grant funding to fund core spending.

Transport - following an overspend of £1.5 million during the 2023/24 financial year, the field received an additional budget allocation this year of £896k on a permanent basis, and a further £896k for one year only to address the pressure on the school bus and taxi field, following the re-tendering of contracts. Therefore, at present, it is anticipated that the financial position will be balanced.

The transport field continues to be the subject of a strategic review to try to control the increase in the expenditure, so that it is possible to reduce overspending and take advantage of opportunities for efficiencies.

Infrastructure and Support Services - Ancillary Services - higher income for catering following a grant receipt for primary schools' free school meals. Overspending on staffing costs are issues in school cleaning and caretaking. The care element of the breakfast clubs also continues to overspend, with a projected overspend of £94k as a result of higher staff costs and lack of income.

Infrastructure and Support Services - Others - underspend on a number of various budgets.

Leadership and Management - staff turnover and grant allocations, as well as savings deriving from a system change.

Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion service - a mixed picture which is a combination of staff turnover and grant receipt, however, pressure on a number of other various headings. The circumstances relating to one specific centre remain and is responsible for an overspend of £135k.

Youth Service - realising the 2025/26 savings scheme relating to staffing in advance.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Economy and Community Department	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	431	425	(6)		(6)	0
Community Regeneration and Support Programmes	464	454	(10)		(10)	(10)
Maritime and Country Parks	(163)	18	181		181	128
Byw'n Iach and Other Leisure Contracts	2,100	2,408	308	(201)	107	59
Economic Development Programmes	(77)	(182)	(105)		(105)	(75)
Marketing and Events	295	285	(10)		(10)	(40)
Gwynedd Libraries	1,824	1,776	(48)		(48)	(60)
Gwynedd Museums, Arts and Archives	995	1,178	183		183	178
Use of the Department's Underspend Fund	53	0	(53)		(53)	(53)
Economy and Community Total	5,922	6,362	440	(201)	239	127

Economy and Community

Community Regeneration and Support Programmes - grant money is funding core spending.

Maritime and Country Parks - the impact of poor weather over the summer disrupted income levels, which has led to a lack of income at beaches and has contributed to a reduction in the income of Hafan Pwllheli. Higher spending and spending above the budget are also issues at Hafan Pwllheli and Victoria Dock, Caernarfon. Better projections with the Country Parks with an underspend of (£65k) as a result of a one-off income receipt from Netflix at Parc Padarn and a combination of grant receipts and higher income at Glynllifon.

Byw'n Iach and Other Leisure Contracts - the leisure provision was transferred to the Byw'n Iach Company in April 2019, but responsibility for the running costs of properties remained with the Council. Over the past few years, as the income levels of Byw'n Iach have been disrupted by Covid, the company has received annual funding support from the Council which was £550k in 2022/23 and £308k in 2023/24, which was above the contractual payment of the delivery contract, to enable them to maintain their services. The financial support continues this year and the required sum is £201k.

Furthermore, there is an overspend of £135k on the Economy and Community Department budget on leisure properties running costs.

Economic Development Programmes - success in attracting grants which releases the Council's core budget.

Marketing and Events - job saving in advance which is part of the 2025/26 savings schemes.

Gwynedd Libraries - vacant post which is a part of the 2025/26 savings schemes, as well as less spending on many budget headings.

Gwynedd Museums, Arts and Archives - overspend mainly because lack of income are issues at Neuadd Dwyfor £147k, Storiel £41k and Lloyd George Museum £3k.

In order to reduce the overspend reported, the department will use its departmental underspend fund in full, which is £53k this year.

It is recommended that the Cabinet approves financial support to the value of £201k to Byw'n Iach.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Highways, Engineering and YGC Department (including Trunk roads)	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Services:						
Highways (including Trunk roads)	12,122	12,350	228		228	228
Engineering	507	499	(8)		(8)	(3)
Municipal	5,698	6,187	489		489	391
Gwynedd Consultancy	122	112	(10)		(10)	33
Highways, Engineering and YGC Total	18,449	19,148	699	0	699	649

Highways, Engineering and YGC (including Trunk roads)

Highways Services - less work being commissioned by external agencies which therefore has a negative impact on the projected income, as well as increasing pressure on the lighting budget. Underspend on staff costs reduces the overspend reported.

Engineering Services - underspend on various headings.

Municipal Services - a mixed picture which is a combination of factors, additional pressure on the budgets of street cleaning staff and cleaning public toilets. Income losses are issues for land maintenance and public toilets. An increase was seen in the expenditure projections since the August Review which worsens the financial situation. Higher income projections by the bereavement services, and staffing underspend in a number of fields is assisting the financial position.

Gwynedd Consultancy - improvement in the income projections from external organisations such as other councils and the Welsh Government in the roads and engineering field, but income shortfall is still anticipated in the construction service.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Environment Department	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Department Management	717	930	213		213	219
Planning and Building Control Service	602	834	232		232	235
Street Care and Transport Services						
Network Management (Transportation)	256	(212)	(468)		(468)	(539)
Parking and Parking Enforcement	(2,286)	(1,682)	604		604	695
Integrated Transport	2,583	2,547	(36)		(36)	53
	553	653	100	0	100	209
Countryside and Access	706	683	(23)		(23)	(34)
Public Protection	2,048	1,829	(219)		(219)	(210)
Waste	14,476	15,143	667		667	664
Parc Adfer Refinance Gain Share	(1,779)	(1,779)	0		0	0
Environment Total	17,323	18,293	970	0	970	1,083

Environment

Department Management - a delay in realising savings schemes to the value of £200k as well as an overspend on staff and travelling costs.

Planning and Building Control Service - lack of income is an issue in Building Control, Development Control and Land Charges, but is reduced by an underspend on staffing costs.

Street Care and Transport Services

Network Management (Transportation) - exceeding the streetworks fees income, as well as vacant posts and underspend on many of the budget's headings.

Parking and Parking Enforcement - the projected deficit in the parking income has increased to £679k, but its impact is reduced by an underspend on other budgets.

Integrated Transport - an additional one-off budget of £400k was allocated for 2024/25 following the additional pressures after re-tendering public bus contracts. A higher grant receipt from Transport for Wales is also helping to ease the situation. It is suggested that the review into the transport provision should continue.

Public Protection - vacant posts and reduced expenditure on a number of the budget headings, including food and water samples, services and supplies. Projected income is down for the areas of licensing, markets, taxi licensing and food and water safety, but is more promising for trading standards following grant receipts.

Waste - the work of introducing changes to the field continues, and therefore there is a reduction in the overspend projections from the 2023/24 levels, with £667k projected by the end of the financial year. There are a number of matters responsible for the overspend, but mainly waste collection and recycling. Overspend also evident in the running costs of recycling centres. Employment costs and sickness and overtime levels are problematic; however, the matter is being addressed and therefore seems to be reducing. Additional fleet costs, in terms of vehicle hire, is another issue. A number of savings schemes slipping are also a part of the picture.

Reclaiming the Shared Returns of Parc Adfer - One-off saving to all councils from the returns of re-funding Parc Adfer. The contribution has been placed in a fund, with the first call on it to be used to fund the overspending in the waste field.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Housing and Property Department	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	543	534	(9)		(9)	(52)
Housing Services						
Homelessness	6,184	5,915	(269)		(269)	227
Private Sector Housing	403	353	(50)		(50)	(38)
Others	360	349	(11)		(11)	(38)
	6,947	6,617	(330)	0	(330)	151
Property Services						
Property	5,279	5,299	20		20	14
Caretaking, Catering and Cleaning	(1)	15	16		16	13
	5,278	5,314	36	0	36	27
Housing and Property Total	12,768	12,465	(303)	0	(303)	126

Housing and Property

Management - underspend on staffing costs and on services and supplies.

Homelessness - the trend of significant pressure on the emergency accommodation service continues, with projections that spending in this field will be £5 million this year, compared with £6.8 million last year. Following consideration of an additional budget for emergency accommodation, namely £3m allocated from the council tax premium and also £0.9 million from an additional one-off budget allocated as part of the bids procedure for 2024/25 to assist with the extra pressures.

Private Sector Housing - staff turnover and an underspend on supplies and services but a deficit in the disabled facilities grant income.

Housing Services, Others - a grant receipt and an underspend on staffing costs, which is reduced by a shortfall in the contributions from housing associations.

Property Services - pressures on the services and supplies budget in Property and on vehicle costs in Pest Control, a one-off income receipt reduces the overspend.

Caretaking, Catering and Cleaning - overspend on staffing costs which is reduced by an income receipt that is higher than the target.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Central Departments	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate Management Team and Legal	2,748	2,687	(61)		(61)	(63)
Finance (and Information Technology)	8,474	8,470	(4)		(4)	(18)
Corporate Services	8,020	7,987	(33)		(33)	(23)
Central Departments Total	19,242	19,144	(98)	0	(98)	(104)

Central Departments

Corporate Management Team and Legal - attempt to keep posts vacant in various fields as well as projected income being above target (£50k) by the legal service. Additional pressures of £17k on the Gwynedd element of the Coroner's budget, reduces the underspend reported.

Finance (and Information Technology) - staff turnover, which is reduced by higher software costs in Information Technology and the Taxation, Benefits, Income and Payments Units. It is not anticipated that income targets will be met in several fields across the department by the end of the financial year. One-off spending on CIPFA Consultation reduces the anticipated underspend.

Corporate Services - a combination of reasons responsible for the situation, including staff turnover and an attempt to keep posts vacant. Realising the 2025/26 savings in advance is also evident. The latest income projections of the Print-room suggest that the income target will be met, however, a deficit is projected in Customer Contact. A permanent bid was allocated for 2024/25 to address the added pressures on the counselling and physiotherapy budget, and therefore this has cancelled out the associated overspend.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 - END OF NOVEMBER REVIEW						
Corporate (Reflects variances only)	2024/25 Proposed Budget	2024/25 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25	Estimated August Review Over / (Under) Spend 2024/25
Field:-	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Council Tax	*	*	(1,800)	1,800	0	0
Council Tax Reductions	*	*	0	0	0	0
Interest	*	*	82	(82)	0	0
Pay Inflation Pressure Above Demand	*	*	(948)	948	0	0
Government Grant - Additional Pay Pressure	*	*	(2,179)	2,179	0	0
Savings Provision	*	*	0	0	0	0
Budgets / Bids Returned	*	*	(691)	691	0	0
Bridging Savings	*	*	2,991	(2,991)	0	0
Others	*	*	(1,864)	1,864	0	0
Corporate Total	*	*	(4,409)	4,409	0	0

Corporate

Council Tax - additional council tax returns as a result of prudent projections when setting the 2024/25 budget. Although a reduction of 239 was seen in the numbers of second home premiums in 2023/24; there has been an increase of 287 in the numbers to date this year. Furthermore, we saw 362 properties transferring from non-domestic rates to Council Tax up to the end of November (381 in 2023/24). However, on the other hand, the Valuer's Office permitted 145 properties to transfer from Council Tax to non-domestic rates, which is lower than in previous years (193 in 2023/24, 452 in 2022/23, 469 in 2021/22 and 506 in 2020/21). In 2024/25, £6m of Council Tax Premium has been earmarked for the Housing Strategy and a further £3m for the field of Homelessness.

Council Tax Reductions - following a campaign to target different groups to increase the number of applications, an increase was seen in the number who claim the reduction in Gwynedd this year compared with the trend in previous years.

Interest - balance levels in the bank to invest are lower than expected as we set the budget and therefore means that the interest receipts are underachieving.

Pay Inflation Above the Requirement - following the recent pay settlement, a combination of prudent budgeting, as well as additional funding from the Government for an element of teachers' pay inflation.

The Government Grant - Additional Pay Pressures - received an additional grant in December from the Government towards additional pay pressures facing councils.

Budgets / Bids Returned - the pressures on some budgets not as much as provided for in the budget, including gas budgets.

Bridging Savings - make use of corporate underspend to fund the required savings transition which was part of the Council's financial strategy for 2024/25.

Others- the demand on the provision was not as high as projected when setting the budget.

It is recommended that £4.409 million is transferred to the Council's Financial Strategy Reserve, so that it is available to assist in funding the financial deficit.