

**REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW**

<b>Adults, Health and Well-being Department</b>	<b>2025/26 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimated Position</b>	<b>Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	<b>Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended</b>	<b>Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	<b>Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25</b>
<b>Area:-</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Adults Services</u></b>						
Management	598	536	(62)		(62)	(114)
Learning Disabilities Services	31,213	31,402	189		189	(92)
Mental Health Services	6,076	6,636	560		560	(218)
Older People's Services						
Residential and Nursing - Homes	24,516	25,428	912		912	(750)
Domiciliary Care	11,700	13,258	1,558		1,558	2,125
Physical Disabilities Services	3,653	2,581	(1,072)		(1,072)	(1,214)
Direct Payments	2,194	2,011	(183)		(183)	(433)
Others	3,057	3,147	90		90	408
	45,120	46,425	1,305	0	1,305	136
<b><u>Adults Services Total</u></b>	<b>83,007</b>	<b>84,999</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>(288)</b>
<b><u>Provider Services (shows net budget)</u></b>						
Residential Care	26	1,073	1,047		1,047	504
Community Care	1,147	1,251	104		104	614
Others	1	(9)	(10)		(10)	27
<b><u>Provider Services Total</u></b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>1,141</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,141</b>	<b>1,145</b>
Closure of 2024/25 Accounts Adaption					0	(757)
<b><u>Adults, Health and Well-being Total</u></b>	<b>84,181</b>	<b>87,314</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>100</b>

## **Adults, Health and Well-being**

Over £3.1 million in additional permanent funding was allocated to the Department for the 2025/26 budget onwards. Nevertheless, it is projected that there will be a departmental budget deficit of £3.1 million by the end of the financial year.

**Department Management** - underspend on the legal and staff turnover budgets.

**Learning Disability** - although the service received an additional budget allocation of £400k in 2025/26, the new savings schemes to the value of £735k are not being realised and therefore lead to an overspend. Pressure on supported accommodation and on the residential services in Council homes. The work of reviewing care packages continues and is bearing fruit.

**Mental Health** - although £177k of additional funding has been allocated to this field for 2025/26, a budgetary deficit of £693k is projected for the residential and nursing element following an unexpected and unusual increase with seven new cases during this financial year (12 since November 2024). The support plans and supported accommodation are underspending and so reduce the overspend reported.

**Older People** - £1.5 million in additional permanent funding was allocated to the Department for 2025/26, with £1.2 million of it allocated to Domiciliary Care. Nevertheless, an overspend of £1.3 million is projected by the end of the year. In residential and nursing, the demand on residential care increased with 29 additional residents in external residential homes, partly due to staffing challenges in internal residential homes resulting in fewer beds being available, thus increasing the cost. In domiciliary care, the costs are forecasted to exceed the budget by £1.6 million due to the additional costs relating to the provision of services in areas where services are not readily available. In the physical disabilities field, the reduced demand for domiciliary care continues. In 'Others', savings schemes are yet to be realised.

**Provider Services** - staff overspend in residential care including £755k of an overspend on the use of agency staff. An additional budget of £1 million has been permanently invested in domiciliary care in 2025/26 and therefore there is a reduction in the overspend reported this year; nevertheless, staff costs are above the budget, with high levels of sickness and rates of non-contact hours.

**Savings** - in terms of the situation of realising savings for the department, although progress has been seen in realising savings, savings to the value of £1.5 million are yet to be realised.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW**

<b>Children and Families Department</b>	2025/26 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Estimated Position	<b>Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	<b>Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25
<b>Area:-</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	708	825	117		117	(3)
Operational	3,075	3,450	375		375	433
Placements						
Out-of-County Placements	6,930	7,339	409		409	2,107
Small Group Homes	196	208	12		12	28
Fostering through an Agency	1,755	1,523	(232)		(232)	(427)
Fostering - Internal	3,120	3,138	18		18	(201)
Support Services and Others	2,211	2,429	218		218	427
	14,212	14,637	425	0	425	1,934
Post-16	1,779	2,008	229		229	273
Derwen Service	3,662	4,177	515		515	1,235
Youth Justice	274	269	(5)		(5)	(41)
Early Years	156	(15)	(171)		(171)	(119)
Workforce Development Unit	311	311	0		0	0
Others	2,371	2,447	76		76	93
Closure of 2024/25 Accounts Adaption			0		0	(3,705)
<b><u>Children and Families Total</u></b>	<b>26,548</b>	<b>28,109</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>100</b>

## **Children and Families**

£2.175 million of additional permanent funding was allocated to the Department for the 2025/26 budget. Nevertheless, a budgetary deficit of £1.5 million is forecasted by the department by the end of the financial year.

**Management** - one-off additional staffing costs.

**Operational** - although a permanent additional resource to the value of £365k has been allocated to the field for 2025/26 onwards, the overspend trend continues as a result of substantial pressure on support plan support as well as field worker staffing above the budget.

**Placements** - although an increase has been seen in the average number of out-of-county placements again this year to 37 (34.3 in 2024/25, 25.7 in 2022/23), as three exceptional cases in non-registered placements have already ended this year, with a further three to end by the end of October, this means that the costs have reduced substantially as they cost £675k each on average. The average cost of other placements reduced to £205k compared with 2024/25.

The average numbers of Agency Fostering and In-house Fostering are consistent with the numbers for 2024/25. It was seen that the income from the Home Office has reduced for unaccompanied asylum seekers (without parents/guardians) who are receiving a service. In the support service and others, there is increasing pressure on the budget of the support workers and on the North Wales Adoption Service.

**Small Group Homes** - the homes are currently being established in Gwynedd with one home now operational, and the second in the autumn and the third in February. This in-house provision means that children can be placed in-house instead of with out-of-county external providers. The Council received grants to establish the homes as well as a contribution towards the costs of running the homes this year.

**Post 16** - additional pressures on the service including the over 18s asylum seeker element as the Home Office's contribution is not sufficient to cover the costs. Staffing above the social worker budget also contributes to the overspending.

**Derwen** - to respond to the overspending trend, Derwen received an additional permanent resource allocation of £1 million for the 2025/26 budget. Nevertheless, the projected overspend is £515k, with pressures on support plan workers and specialist support.

**Early Years** - staff turnover and increasing grants available to fund the core spending led to an underspend.

**Others** - many factors including overspending on staffing, specialist service fees and on the out-of-hours service.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW**

<b>Business and Care Commissioning Service</b>	2025/26 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Estimated Position	<b>Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	<b>Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25
<b>Area:-</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Support and Commissioning	1,328	1,328	0		0	(77)
Income and Finance	1,556	1,492	(64)		(64)	83
Preventative Services	279	250	(29)		(29)	(21)
Closure of 2024/25 Accounts Adaption - underspend not carried forward			0		0	15
<b>Business and Care Commissioning Service Total</b>	<b>3,163</b>	<b>3,070</b>	<b>(93)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(93)</b>	<b>0</b>

**Business and Care Commissioning Service**

**Support and Commissioning** - staffing above the budget on the Carers Plan being counterbalanced by reducing spending on the professional service budget and grant receipts in the Development Unit.

**Income and Finance** - grant receipt towards staff time associated with the work to implement care cases software across North Wales is the main reason for the projected underspend.

**Preventative Service** - receipt of an additional grant for preventive services which means there is an underspend at the end of the financial year.

<b>REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW</b>						
<b>Education Department</b>	2025/26 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Estimated Position	<b>Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	<b>Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25
<b>Area:-</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Leadership and Management	2,516	2,564	48		48	33
Devolved Schools	105,017	105,017	0		0	0
Gwasanaethau Ansawdd Ysgolion	(2,205)	(2,226)	(21)		(21)	(43)
Infrastructure and Support Services						
Transportation	8,380	8,380	0		0	0
Ancillary Services	1,087	1,000	(87)		(87)	(182)
Others	4,208	4,268	60		60	(18)
	13,675	13,648	(27)	0	(27)	(200)
Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion	5,477	5,449	(28)		(28)	24
Youth Service	1,012	1,020	8		8	(5)
Closure of 2024/25 Accounts Adaption - underspend not carried forward			0		0	191
<b>Education Total</b>	<b>125,492</b>	<b>125,472</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>0</b>

## Education

**Leadership and Management** - one-off spend on a new information management system for schools.

**Schools Quality Service** - transition period for the new service with vacant posts, but there is pressure on the immersion system budget.

**Transport** - following substantial overspending in the field over the past years, a budget of £896k was allocated on a permanent basis and a further £939k for the year only to address the pressures in the field of school buses and taxis. Based on the latest projections, the one-off contribution can be reduced to £639k, therefore we report on a balanced financial position.

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 Service** - projection of a higher income and lower costs for catering after receiving a grant receipt for primary school free school meals. Overspend on staff costs due to sickness are issues in school cleaning and caretaking. The care element of the breakfast clubs also continues to overspend by £89k as a result of higher staff costs and a lack of income.

**Infrastructure and Support Services - Others** - one-off costs being reduced by underspending on other budgets.

**Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion** - a mixed picture which is a combination of staff turnover and grant receipts but there is pressure on other various headings. The circumstances relating to one specific centre has ended and is responsible for an overspend of £66k.

**Youth Service** - higher spending in many areas, including Youth Support and Youth Clubs.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW**

<b>Economy and Community Department</b>	2025/26 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Estimated Position	<b>Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	<b>Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25
<b>Area:-</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	407	403	(4)		(4)	(269)
Community Regeneration and Support Programmes	644	644	0		0	113
Maritime and Country Parks	(138)	(112)	26		26	195
Byw'n Iach and Other Leisure Contracts	2,194	2,527	333	(219)	114	151
Economic Development Programmes	(67)	(67)	0		0	(200)
Marketing and Events	269	269	0		0	(27)
Gwynedd Libraries	1,854	1,829	(25)		(25)	(105)
Gwynedd Museums, Arts and Archives	1,095	1,110	15		15	147
Use of the Department's Underspend Fund	49	0	(49)		(49)	(5)
<b><u>Economy and Community Total</u></b>	<b>6,307</b>	<b>6,603</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>(219)</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>



## **Economy and Community**

**Management** - grant receipt leading to an underspend on the core budget.

**Maritime and Country Parks** - a mixed picture which includes spending above the budget of £66k in Doc Fictoria, Caernarfon, whilst Country Parks underspend (£45k) as a result of staff underspend and surpassing income in Parc Padarn, whilst there was less spending on several headings in Parc Glynllifon.

**Byw'n lach and Other Leisure Contracts** - transfer of the leisure provision to Byw'n lach in April 2019, but the responsibility for the property running costs remain with the Council. Over the past few years, the company has received annual financial support from the Council which was £550k in 2022/23 and £308k in 2023/24, and £281k in 2024/25, which was above the contractual payment in the delivery contract, to enable them to maintain their services. It is projected that the demand for financial support continues this year, and the required amount is £219k by the end of the year.

Furthermore, an overspend of £150k on the Economy and Community Department budget to run leisure facilities.

**Gwynedd Libraries** - transitional year following the work of restructuring the service which means that some posts have been vacant for part of the year. Higher rent income receipt along with less spending on several budget headings.

**Gwynedd Museums, Arts and Archives** - overspending mainly because staffing costs exceed the budget and lack of income is an issue in Storiol £27k and Lloyd George Museum £24k. The budget projections for Neuadd Dwyfor improved.

To reduce the reported overspend, the department is using £49k from a departmental underspend fund.

**It is recommended** that the Cabinet approves additional financial support for Byw'n lach if the overspend continues at the end of the financial year, with the current projections estimating support to the value of £219k.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW**

Highways, Engineering and YGC Department (including Trunk roads)	2025/26 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Estimated Position	Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26	Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25
<b>Area:-</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Gwasanaethau:</u></b>						
Highways (including Trunk roads)	12,249	12,437	188		188	241
Engineering	486	455	(31)		(31)	(25)
Municipal	6,098	6,543	445		445	674
Gwynedd Consultancy	204	124	(80)		(80)	(234)
Closure of 2024/25 Accounts Adaption			0		0	(556)
<b><u>Highways, Engineering and YGC Total</u></b>	<b>19,037</b>	<b>19,559</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>100</b>

**Highways, Engineering and YGC (including Trunk roads)**

**Highways Services** - although an increase was seen in realising savings in this area, some new savings still need to be delivered. Furthermore, there was a reduction in the income from external agencies.

**Engineering Services** - underspend on various headings as well as a higher income receipts.

**Municipal Services** - a mixed picture which is a combination of factors, including the need to realise savings. Pressures also on the budgets of street cleaning and public toilet cleaning staff. Income losses are issues for land maintenance and public toilets. Following recent work in the Crematorium, a resulting reduction was seen in the associated income projections.

**Gwynedd Consultancy** - projected performance over the income from external organisations such as other councils and the Welsh Government in roads and engineering as well as vacancies and staff turnover.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW**

<b>Environment Department</b>	<b>2025/26 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimated Position</b>	<b>Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	<b>Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended</b>	<b>Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	<b>Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25</b>
<b>Area:-</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Management	783	944	161		161	212
Planning and Building Control Service	777	844	67		67	189
Street Care and Transport Services						
Network Management (Transportation)	356	(18)	(374)		(374)	(547)
Parking and Parking Enforcement	(2,623)	(2,417)	206		206	753
Integrated Transport	2,313	2,383	70		70	(68)
	46	(52)	(98)	0	(98)	138
Markets	11	10	(1)		(1)	0
Countryside and Access	738	745	7		7	(7)
Public Protection	1,938	1,880	(58)		(58)	(283)
Waste	14,659	15,321	662		662	1,100
Use of Parc Adfer Refinance Gain Share Reserve			0		0	(1,100)
Closure of 2024/25 Accounts Adaption			0		0	(149)
<b>Environment Total</b>	<b>18,952</b>	<b>19,692</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>100</b>
<b><u>Income / Grant received in 2025/26 to be put into Funds</u></b>						
Parc Adfer Refinance Gain Share		(187)	(187)	187	0	
Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging		(3,713)	(3,713)	3,713	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,900)</b>	<b>(3,900)</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>0</b>	

## Environment

**Department Management** - a delay in realising savings schemes to the value of £150k as well as an overspend on vehicle costs.

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

There are projected costs to the value of £1.5 million relating to a dangerous building, i.e., Corbett Arms Hotel, Tywyn, which is a Grade II listed building. This has been a concern to Cyngor Gwynedd and the local community for years as it is in a structurally dangerous condition and this meant that the Council had to act to protect and safeguard the public. The Department are unable to cope with such unexpected expenditure within their revenue budget, and therefore a separate report will be needed in due course to consider what other options we have to meet this cost.

**Street Care Services and Transport Network Control (Transportation)** - exceeding the streetworks fees income, as well as vacant posts and underspend on many of the budget's headings.

**Parking and Parking Enforcement** - after parking fees were increased in April 2025, the parking income projections are better than the deficit of £826k reported in 2024/25 but continues to be £319k lower than the target. An underspend on staff and other budgets improves the situation.

**Integrated Transport** - the grants received for this area does not meet the whole costs. Projected underspend on staff costs and other budgets reduces the reported overspend.

**Public Protection** - vacant posts and less expenditure on several budget headings, including services and supplies. Projected to exceed income in trading standards but income down in the field of taxi licensing, licences and environmental protection.

**Waste** - although an additional budget of £400k has been allocated for 2025/26 onwards, several factors are responsible for the overspend of £662k projected. The work of introducing changes to the field continues, but overspending on waste collection and recycling, running the recycling centres and on the waste treatment and transfer sites. Many savings schemes are slipping because of restructuring challenges. A reduction is expected in the waste disposal costs of Parc Adfer, which assists the situation.

**Recycling Target 2024/25** - after Cyngor Gwynedd achieved a 65.3% rate for recycling in 2024/25 which is below the Welsh Government's 70% recycling target, this means that the Council is facing a £612k fine subject to an assessment against various criteria from the Government. We believe that the risk of being forced to pay the fine is low and therefore we have not included this amount in the calculation for the end of the year.

**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 reserve, with the first call from it to be used to fund the overspending in the waste field.

**Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging material** - new income receipt for councils which derives from a levy on packaging materials for producers and retailers, to promote recycling. The money will fund the recycling fine, and the rest will be put in a reserve to be prioritised.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW**

<b>Housing and Property Department</b>	2025/26 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Estimated Position	<b>Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	<b>Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25
<b>Area:-</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management	795	659	(136)		(136)	(35)
Housing Services						
Homelessness	6,795	7,258	463		463	(34)
Private Sector Housing	478	412	(66)		(66)	15
Others	426	327	(99)		(99)	(9)
	7,699	7,997	298	0	298	(28)
Property Services						
Property	3,882	3,876	(6)		(6)	41
Caretaking, Catering and Cleaning	13	24	11		11	19
	3,895	3,900	5	0	5	60
Closure of 2024/25 Accounts Adaption			0		0	3
<b><u>Housing and Property Total</u></b>	<b>12,389</b>	<b>12,556</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>0</b>

## **Housing and Property**

**Management** - underspending on services and supplies and on staffing costs.

**Homelessness** - the trend of significant pressure on the emergency accommodation service continues, with expenditure on the field forecast to be £6.4 million this year, compared to £6 million last year. An additional budget of £3m was allocated from council tax premium to emergency accommodation as well as an additional one-off budget allocated as part of the bids system and further to this to assist with the additional pressure. A combination of higher costs is seen for moving and storing the personal belongings of households receiving emergency accommodation, an increase in the number of individuals presenting as homeless and needing accommodation, and an increase in the nightly rate for emergency accommodation by some providers.

**Private Sector Housing** - staff turnover and underspend on supplies and services.

**Housing Services, Others** - underspend on staff costs and on property budgets as well as a grant receipt.

**Property Services** - underspend on staffing costs and travelling costs but pressure on the services and supplies budget in Property whilst lack of income is a problem in Pest Control.

**Caretaking, Catering and Cleaning** - overspend on the costs of services and supplies and lack of income.

<b>REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW</b>						
<b>Central Departments</b>	2025/26 Proposed Budget	2025/26 Estimated Position	<b>Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended	<b>Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25
<b>Area:-</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corporate Management Team and Legal	2,937	2,916	(21)		(21)	0
Finance (and Information Technology)	9,361	9,353	(8)		(8)	0
Corporate Services	8,473	8,467	(6)		(6)	0
<b>Central Departments Total</b>	<b>20,771</b>	<b>20,736</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>0</b>

### **Central Departments**

**Corporate Management Team and Legal** - exceeding income and staff turnover in various fields responsible for the projected underspend. Various one-off costs will also be funded within the underspend.

**Finance (and Information Technology)** - staff turnover and attracting additional income assisting the department to cope with the substantial increase in the costs of processing income from the customers and residents of Gwynedd.

**Corporate Services** – combination of reasons responsible for the situation, but mainly an underspend on staff costs and exceeding income. The latest projections suggest that the Print room will be overspending by the end of the year.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26- END OF AUGUST REVIEW**

<b>Corporate (Reflects variances only)</b>	<b>2025/26 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimated Position</b>	<b>Estimated Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	<b>Use of Other Sources or Other Adjustments Recommended</b>	<b>Estimated Adjusted Over / (Under) Spend 2025/26</b>	<b>Net Over / (Under) Spend Final Position 2024/25</b>
<b>Area:-</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Council Tax	*	*	(1,986)	1,986	0	0
Council Tax Reductions	*	*	258	(258)	0	0
Interest	*	*	(104)	104	0	0
Savings Provision	*	*	0	0	0	0
Pay Inflation			(601)	601	0	0
National Insurance	*	*	(289)	289	0	0
Elimination of Negative Balances in Care Area Funds	*	*	576	(576)	0	0
Others	*	*	(1,611)	1,611	0	0
<b>Corporate Total</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>(3,757)</b>	<b>3,757</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## Corporate

**Council Tax** - additional council tax returns because of prudent projections when setting the 2025/26 budget. Following the trend seen in 2024/25 with an increase of 387 in the number of premium second homes, there was a further increase of 79 up to the end of August this year. Furthermore, up to the end of August, we saw 347 properties transferring from non-domestic rates to council tax (692 in 2024/25, 381 in 2023/24). However, contrary to this picture, the Valuer's Office allowed 81 properties to transfer from council tax to non-domestic rates (189 in 2024/25, 193 in 2023/24, 452 in 2022/23). In 2025/26, £6 million in council tax premium has been earmarked for the Housing Strategy, and a further £3 million for the Homelessness field.

**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 over the past 12 months compared with the trend in previous years.

**Interest** - projections that the interest received will exceed the expected target.

**Savings Provision** - following the inability of some departments to realise savings in certain areas, corporate provision has been made so that it is available to eliminate problematic savings and bridge the realisation of savings.

**Pay Inflation** - following recent confirmation about the 2025/26 national pay settlement, the settlement was lower than what was provided along with a grant receipt for teachers' salaries.

**National Insurance** - the Welsh Government's delay in confirming its contribution towards the additional costs of councils' national insurance until the summer, the Council received a grant that was higher than what was originally expected.

**Abolishing the Negative Balances of Reserves in the Care Field** - overspend reserves to the value of £576k have accumulated by the Adults, Health and Well-being Department and the Children and Families Department over the past three years, it is suggested that they are written-off for departments to address the current challenges.

**It is recommended** that £3.757 million is transferred to the Council's Financial Strategy Reserve, with its use to be considered before the end of the current financial year.

Following a reserve review exercise detailed in **Appendix 3**, that the overspend reserves of the:

- Adults, Health and Well-being Department worth £300k
- Children and Families Service to the value of £276k,

Therefore, a total of £576k, is written off to allow the departments to focus on the challenges for 2025/26.