

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 2ND OCTOBER, 2024

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 18TH JULY, 2024

**“C76 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY –
CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Leader presented the report, as the accounts were complete and the report was to inform Cabinet of the provisional financial position of the Council for the 2023/24 financial year, although preparation was already underway for the next cycle of budget discussions.

For 2023/23, pressures were experienced due to delays and constraints associated with delivery of savings targets. The net amount remaining within school balances as at 31st March, 2024 was £2.039m, however there was significant variation amongst schools to reach that figure, with some in surplus positions and others with significant balances. Council staff were already working with schools to find ways of tackling and minimising any deficits in 2024/25, with the new proposed reserve available as support if required.

Cabinet passed on their thanks to Council Officers for their work towards achieving efficiency targets and savings for 2023/24.

Councillor Williams, as the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, referred to the overspend in social care because of increased demand and challenge throughout 2023/24. Providers had also struggled during the year. Reserves had been utilised to support the service but was not a sustainable solution for the two to three years to come. He looked forward to the discussion to follow at Scrutiny Committee.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the report and the financial measures taken and proposed be approved.
- (2) T H A T the allocation of overall Council surplus as set out below be approved.

- £2m transfer to new reserve to offset school deficits on a provisional basis in 2024/25.
- £80k to Council Fund to offset general pressures.

(3) T H A T the report be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To approve the report and the financial measures taken and proposed.
- (2) To approve the allocation of the 2023/24 surplus to support the delivery of schemes supporting key priorities identified by the Council.
- (3) To enable the Scrutiny Committee responsible for finance to review the year end position.”

Attached as Appendix – Report to Cabinet: 18th July, 2024

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 18 July 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Closure of Accounts 2023/24
Purpose of Report:	The accounts are complete and this report is to inform Cabinet of the provisional financial position of the Council for the 2023/24 financial year.
Report Owner:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Matt Bowmer Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report is to be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee. This report does not require Ward Member consultation
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Executive Summary:

- The Council also continued to experience significant demand pressures for supporting Children’s services, Homelessness and pupils with Additional Learning Needs.
- The year end revenue position was a breakeven position after net transfers from reserves of £34,235m, made up of £417k transferred from Council Fund, £12.961m from the Housing Revenue Account, £11.785m transferred into specific reserves from revenue and £12,078m transferred from specific reserves to provide one off funding for projects and overspends and £8,779m drawdown from reserves to fund the capital programme and for displacement required by capital grants. The Council Fund now stands at £11.106m as at 31st March, 2024.

Table 1 - Outturn Summary

	Amended Revenue Budget	Actual	Variance +Favourable () Adverse	Net Transfer to /(From) Reserve
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Learning & Skills	128,329	128,454	(125)	7,692
Social Services	85,493	89,755	(4,262)	7,339
Environment and Housing	31,909	32,158	(249)	(1,214)

Place	3,401	4,441	(1,040)	(64)
Corporate Resources	16,741	16,734	7	495
General Policy	30,645	26,319	4,327	(1,768)
Council Tax Surplus	-	(3,423)	3,423	-
Use of Reserves	(2,096)	(2,096)	-	2,096
Total Provisional Outturn	294,422	292,342	2,080	14,575
Allocation of Surplus	-	2,080	(2,080)	(2,080)
Total	294,422	294,422	0	12,495
Capital Programme Funded from Reserves				8,779
Movement on Housing Revenue Account				12,961
Total Movement on Council Fund and Specific Reserves				34,235

Table 2 – Council Fund and Reserves

Council Fund and Specific Reserves	Opening £000's	Movement £000's	Closing £000's
Council Fund	11,523	(417)	11,106
Earmarked Reserves	82,481	(20,857)	61,624
Housing Revenue Account	16,486	(12,961)	3,525
Total	110,490	(34,235)	76,255

- The Council encountered significant revenue pressures during 2023/24, particular pressures were in respect of inflationary pressures particularly regarding contracts and pay pressures (which reflect cost of living, market pressures and the Council's commitment to paying real living wage).
- Challenging savings and efficiency targets have been set for 2023/24 which includes a target of £2.75M for schools and £4.628M of Corporate savings. The progress against these savings targets is reflected in the Appendix and summarised in the table below, and whilst services have mitigated some savings in year in 2023/24 these savings will be kept under review in 2024/25 as services move to identify these on a more sustainable basis over the medium term.
- After taking account of Directorate movements to and from reserves the revenue outturn showed a surplus of £2.080m which it is proposed is transferred to reserves to be utilised as follows.
 - £2m Establish a new reserve to offset Education Deficits in 2024/25 on a provisional basis whilst the Council works with schools on establishing a coordinated approach to tackling school deficits.
 - The balance of £80k has been transferred to the General Fund
- The Housing Revenue Account had a slighter reduced projected draw down on the ringfenced reserve of £12.961m to reducing the level of its ringfenced reserve to £3.525m. Which is thought to be reasonable in the context of the pressures in the service area in 2024/25.
- The level of Useable Reserves reduced in year although by less that has been projected but some of these commitments have been slipped into 2024/25 in accordance with Capital Expenditure

slippage. The Council undertook a further reserve reallocation exercise in year as outlined in the 2024/25 budget proposals and this is reflected in the outturn position.

Table 3 – Reserves

As at	Balance 31/03/23	Capital	Budget Revenue	Revenue Movemen t on Reserves	Surplus Transfer into Reserves	Realloc of Reserves	Provisiona l Balance 31/03/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund	11,523	0	(496)	0	80	0	11,106
Insurance	4,878	0	0	0	0	0	4,878
Service Reserves	22,521	(161)	0	(9,770)	997	3,000	16,587
Risk and Smoothing Reserves	29,802	(940)	(2,800)	(1,211)	1,587	(1,783)	24,655
Capital	17,726	(7,678)	0	(70)	1,686	(1,217)	10,447
Schools	7,554	0	0	(4,842)	2,345	0	5,057
Housing Revenue Account	16,486	0	(12,961)	0	0	0	3,525
Total	110,490	(8,779)	(16,257)	(15,893)	6,694	0	76,255

Recommendations

1. That the report and the financial measures taken and proposed be approved.
2. That the allocation of overall Council surplus as set out below be approved.
 - £2m transfer to new reserve to offset school deficits on a provisional basis in 2024/25.
 - £80k to Council Fund to offset general pressures.
3. That the report is referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To approve the report and the financial measures taken and proposed.
2. To approve the allocation of the 2023/24 surplus to support the delivery of schemes supporting key priorities identified by the Council.
3. To enable the Scrutiny Committee responsible for finance to review the year end position.

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the end of the financial year, Cabinet is provided with provisional outturn figures for the Council. It is anticipated that the Statement of Accounts will be approved by Council in November 2024, which will follow the external audit by Audit Wales.
- 1.2 This report is to be referred to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and separate reports will be presented to the other respective Scrutiny Committees.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 **Council Fund**
- 2.2 Council on 6th March 2023 approved the revenue budget for 2023/24 (minute no 779) and earlier in the year Council on 11th January 2023 approved the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2023/24 (minute number 607). There was an approved drawdown from the Council Fund of £496K during 2023/24 and £2.8M from other specific reserves.
- 2.3 This represented budgeted net expenditure for the Authority of £294.422m. Total expenditure was to be financed by Revenue Support Grant (£160.013m), National Non-Domestic Rates contribution (£42.784m) and Council Taxpayers (£91.625m).

2.4 The directorate revenue budgets have been amended and approved by Cabinet during the financial year. Some further virements are requested as part of this report as detailed below and are further detailed in the service specific appendices.

Table 4. Virements Requested

	Revised Budget 2023/24	Virement Requested	Revised Amended Budget 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Learning & Skills	128,329		128,329
Social Services	85,460	33	85,493
Environment and Housing	32,009	- 100	31,909
Place	3,401		3,401
Corporate Resources	16,641	100	16,741
General Policy	30,678	- 33	30,645
Use of Reserves	- 2,096		- 2,096
Total	294,422	-	294,422

2.5 At year end there was a £2.080m favourable variance which has been allocated as follows.

- £2m Establish a new reserve to offset Education Deficits in 2024/25 on a provisional basis whilst the Council works with schools on establishing a coordinated approach to tackling school deficits.
- The balance of £80k has been transferred to the General Fund

2.6 Total transfers from reserves of £34.235m were made up of a £417k budgeted contribution from the Council Fund and £12.078m transferred from specific reserves to support the revenue budget, a £12.961m drawdown from the Housing Revenue Account Reserve and £8.779m drawdown from reserves to fund the capital programme and displacement arrangements. As part of the preparation for the 2024/25 budget a review of reserves has been undertaken and reserves are reported including these adjustments.

2.7 The following table compares the amended budget and the actual expenditure, including transfers to and from reserves, for the Council. The final column shows the net transfers to specific reserves for each directorate which has been included within the actual expenditure figures.

Table 5 – Summary Outturn

Directorate	Revised Budget 2023/24	Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Learning and Skills	128,329	128,369	(40)	(85)	(125)	7,692
Social Services	85,493	93,744	(8,251)	3,989	(4,262)	7,339
Environment and Housing	31,909	30,735	1,174	(1,423)	(249)	(1,214)
Corporate Resources	16,741	16,734	7	0	7	495
Place	3,401	4,345	(944)	(96)	(1,040)	(64)
Policy	30,645	26,319	4,326	0	4,326	(1,769)
Use of Reserves	(2,096)	(2,096)	0	0	0	2,096
Council Tax Surplus	0	(3,423)	3,423	0	3,423	0
Favourable Variance Transferred to Reserves	0	0	0	(2,080)	(2,080)	(2080)
Total	294,422	294,727	(305)	305	0	12,495

2.8 A detailed analysis of the outturn is provided at Appendix 1.

2.9 A number of the Council's budgets continue to be under considerable pressure a summary of the key headline pressures in year is set out below.

2.10 Schools outturned with a slightly more favourable position than had been reported during the year which was in part due to additional grant income from Welsh Government, the net drawdown from reserves across the delegated schools budget was £4.673m. The majority of schools made progress towards a balanced budget in year and schools ended with remaining net reserve balances of £2.309m. However, this masks some significant variances across individual schools with some schools with significant deficits and some schools with significant balances.

2.11 In Central Learning and Skills, a key ongoing pressure is the School Transport budget. Local Education Authorities have a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school in addition to a statutory duty to provide transport for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) who require access to specialist provision. Mainstream transport continues to run for pupils who are not able to get into their catchment school as they are full. In 2023/24 a number of economic factors such as increased fuel costs, shortage of operators and

drivers in this sector continue to exacerbate pressures in this area. Some operators have also handed back routes as they cannot fulfil them. Other pressures have been experienced in the service in respect of Children's placements and supporting those with additional learning needs and social and emotional needs.

- 2.12** Significant pressures have continued to develop in Social Services in 2023/24 and reflect the ageing demographic, an increasing complexity of need and an increase of Children and Young People Looked after with an increasing complexity of need. This position reflects pressures seen across local government nationally.
- 2.13** Children's Services has reported a significant adverse variance relating to increased external placement costs given the complexities of the care proceedings, and care requirements of children and young people currently being supported and the high-cost placements some of these children require to meet their needs. Additional costs have also been encountered in respect of legal costs and increased staffing resources associated with the service. Again, this position reflects pressures seen across local government nationally.
- 2.14** An overspend was also reported in the Adult Services and Resource Management and Safeguarding service areas in respect of Domiciliary Care and Residential and Nursing Home Payments of approximately £3m after allowing for the £2m planned step in funded from reserves. There was also £554k adverse variances associated with Council run care homes in 2023/24.
- 2.15** In Environment and Housing, key pressures for the service included £760k associated with the enhanced pay award and market forces uplift for waste drivers and £985k on additional pothole and patching works. This was offset in part by a rates rebate of approximately £300k and additional income generated by the Service.
- 2.16** Housing received additional income supporting people and refugee resettlement schemes which will be carried forward in the Housing and Homelessness reserve some of which will be used towards the costs of the Rapid Housing Response programme and Resettlement demands in the medium term.
- 2.17** The capital charges budget underspent as the Council is currently able to borrow internally due to the level of Council reserves saving the interest costs associated with external borrowing, however, going forward the ability to utilise internal borrowing will depend on the level of reserves and these are expected to reduce in the near future. The Council also benefitted from increased interest returns on its reserve balances during 2023/24 and the Council tax team made significant progress on arrears and generated a Council tax surplus £3.423m.
- 2.18** The main reasons for the variances are set out in the following paragraphs and additional detail is set out in the supporting appendices to this report.

Learning and Skills

- 2.19** Table 6 below provides detail of the outturn for the Learning & Skills Directorate. The outturn was an adverse variance of £125k after the transfer into the budget of £7.692m from reserves. A detailed analysis of the outturn for Learning and Skills can be found in Appendix 2.

Table 6 – Learning & Skills Outturn

	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Learning and Schools						
Delegated Schools	115,439	115,439	0	0	0	4,590
Use of Reserves	(1,200)	(1,200)	0	0	0	1,200
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning and Resources	6,754	7,159	(405)	0	(405)	1,532
Directors Office	252	252	0	0	0	0
Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing	4,113	3,985	128		128	452
Standards and Provision	2,971	2,735	236	(85)	151	(82)
Total Learning and Skills	128,329	128,369	(40)	(85)	125	7,692

Schools

- 2.20** The delegated schools budget for 2023/24 outturned on target after transferring in £4.369M from School Balances and utilising a further £1.2M planned as part of the 2023/24 budget proposals to smooth energy pressures in schools.
- 2.21** Schools are permitted to carry forward any revenue variances through school balances. At the start of the 2023/24 financial year, school balances totalled £6.667m, with 9 schools in a deficit position this was an increase from 0 at the start of 2022/23. By the end of 2023/24 year, school balances have decreased by £4.369m to £2.309m. A table identifying school balances is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.22** A total of 43 schools needed to draw down funding from reserves amounting to £5,257,741 and only 10 schools transferred funding into school balances amounting to £889,100.

2.23 As at 31st March 2024, there were 22 schools in a deficit position or 41.5% of schools in total, with total deficits amounting to £3,149,651. The net amount remaining within school balances as at 31st March 2024 is £2.309 m however primary school balances are in an overall net deficit position of £681,252.

2.24 The table below shows the breakdown on a sector by sector basis.

Table 7 – School Balances 31st March 2024.

	Total no. of schools	Number of schools in deficit at 31/03/2024	% of schools in a deficit position	Total value of deficit balances carried forward at 31/03/2024	Balance CF as at 31st March 2024
Primary schools	44	19	43%	(£2,776,198)	(£681,252)
Secondary schools	6	2	33%	(£277,974)	£1,971,221
3-19 schools	2	1	50%	(£95,479)	£265,616
Special schools	1	0	0%	£0	£753,255
Total	53	22	42%	(3,149,651)	2,308,840

2.25 Appendix 3 shows the carry forward per school over the last 10 financial years.

2.26 Any school that has a deficit outturn position, will be requested to prepare a balanced recovery plan eradicating the deficit over a three to five year period. Schools are currently working on budgets and recovery plans to the statutory deadline of 30th June 2024.

2.27 Other transfers to and from reserves have also taken place in year which are detailed in the appendix such as repayment to the energy management fund for Salix schemes £67k, repayment of ICT loans £10k. There is also an accounting adjustment for the timing on the Big Fresh Catering Dividend in 2022/23 of £300k.

Central Learning and Skills

2.28 The Central Learning and Skills budget for 2023/24 outturned with an adverse variance of £125k after transferring in £1,963k from reserves. Key issues are outlined below and an outturn proforma is attached at Appendix 1 which provides a summary of the main variances against the budget and also the transfers from reserves.

2.29 Adverse Variances in the service included pressures in School Transport, Children placements, specific school support and establishment of new ALN provision and redundancy costs in schools. There were also pressures in respect of savings identified but not realised such as the Arts Service and School Repairs. Key Pressures in the service included the following.

- Early Retirement/Voluntary Retirement (ER/VR) budget - It is a statutory requirement that redundancy costs in schools are funded centrally. The ERVR budget overspent by £352k due to increased redundancy costs in schools this year.
- A total of £1.175m was transferred from the Education Pressures Reserve to provide support for schools during the year. This includes an additional funding of £1.050m was identified as part of the 22/23 outturn and was added to the Education Pressures Reserve in 23/24. A total of £850k was allocated for additional learning needs support in mainstream schools and was transferred to primary and secondary schools via the funding formula. The balance of £200k was identified for schools in special measures and was allocated to Pencoedtre and Ysgol Pen Y Garth to support the schools with additional staff and training. A further amount of £150k was transferred in from the Education Pressures Reserve to cover additional inspection support costs related to Pen Y Garth, legal costs for Whitmore High School and leadership costs relating to Whitmore and Pencoedtre.
- The School Transport final overspend was £555k and as reported in-year this can be attributed to operators requesting uplifts on their daily rate due to inflation, additional costs due to price increases on routes where pupils have been added, new routes being put in place for pupils attending Ysgol Y Deri
- There was an adverse variance of 10% of the Joint Pooled CLA budget overspend of £195k. Due to increasing numbers of placements and the increasing cost of those placements the pressure on this budget will continue to increase in future years.
- The existing provision at Whitmore Resource Base and Hafan Resource Base (Gladstone school) was increased from September 23. These costs have been funded from the ALN Implementation Grant in 23/24 and this will continue in 24/25. The ongoing costs will be put forward as a cost pressure for 25/26.
- The ALN Implementation Grant also funded the setup of the Welsh Medium Specialist Resource Base at Gwaun Y Nant. This provision will be fully funded from the base budget in 24/25 as a cost pressure was awarded.

2.30 Favourable Variances included underspends against School Improvement due to the maximisation of grants and a reduction in the charges for the Central South Consortium. There was also a favourable variance against The Youth Engagement & Progression Service underspent by £133k as result of vacancies and the maximisation of grant funding.

2.31 Transfers in from reserves included the following:

- A total of £175k has been transferred in from the Education Pressures Reserve to fund the costs of the demountables at Ysgol Y Deri.
- A further £118k was transferred in from the Education Pressures Reserve to cover additional temporary posts. This will be an ongoing issue in 2024/25.
- A total of £190k was transferred in from the Catering Equipment Reserve to offset expenditure incurred on catering equipment. This will be recharged to the Big Fresh Catering Company as part of the lease.
- A further £221k was transferred in from the Welfare Reform Reserve to cover the costs of Free School Meals during the holidays.

2.32 Transfers into reserves included the following:

- The underspend of £263k on capital borrowing was transferred from the Capital Investment budget to the Schools Investment Strategy Reserve as planned.
- A total of £40k was transferred to the Energy Management Reserve in respect of School Decarbonisation
- £320k was transferred to the ICT Hwb End User Reserve which will be used for the ongoing renewal of devices previously purchased under the Hwb Grant.

Social Services

Table 8– Social Services Outturn

	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Social Services						
Children and Young Peoples Services	18,652	23,923	(5,271)	2,674	(2,597)	3,670
Adult Services	58,246	60,569	(2,323)	660	(1,663)	2,677
Resource Management and Safeguarding	7,879	8,665	(786)	784	(2)	992
Youth Offending Service	716	587	129	(129)	0	0
Total Social Services	85,493	93,744	(8,251)	3,989	(4,262)	7,339

- 2.33** Table 8 above provides detail of the outturn for the Social Services Directorate. The outturn was an adverse variance of £4.262m after the transfer from reserves of £7.339m, this adverse variance will be met by the Policy underspend. The outturn is further detailed in Appendix 4.

2.34 Childrens Services – Adverse Variance £2.597m

- Total adverse variances of £2.712m, mainly associated with the cost of external placements £2.524m, Accommodation Payments £677k, Project Team to support Family Teams £596k, Bespoke Packages £543k, Conveyance Costs £397k, Legal Costs of Complex cases £374k, Fostering Payments £347k and other variances which total £924k.
- There were no favourable variances within Childrens Services.
- Contributions from reserves totalling £3.670m towards the overspends listed above and market forces payments.
- There was a residual overspend relating to the cost of the project team which was agreed to be funded from the Policy underspend as a priority cost pressure during the 2023/24 financial year.

2.35 Adult Services – Adverse Variance £1.663m

- Total adverse variances £5.076m mainly as result of Community Care budgets having an adverse variance of £5.021m, Telecare £30k and Adults Physical and Sensory £25k.
- Favourable Variances totalled £736k due to underspends on Adults Central Services of £208K, Adults Elderly Services £225k, Older People Mental Health £83k, Mental Health £74k, Learning Disabilities £133k and St Michaels Garden of £13k.
- Draw down from reserves totalled £2.677m This was made up of a £2.660m transfer from the Social Services Reserve and £30k from the Telecare Reserve. There was a transfer to Reserves of £13k for St Michaels Garden.

2.36 Resource Management and Safeguarding Adverse Variance £2k

- The total adverse variance within RMS was £998K. This was due to an overspend on In house residential homes of £554K other overspends related to safeguarding costs £208k, advocacy costs due to the removal of additional funding, Deprivation of Liberty backlogs £75k and additional staffing resource £76k which was a planned use of the Social Services reserve There were no favourable variances in RMS.
- Total draw down from the Social Services reserve totalled £996k to offset the overspend and fund additional capacity from reserves.

2.37 Youth Offending Service Favourable Variance £129k

- The YOS underspend for 2023/24 can be attributed to saving on staff posts in year. The net underspend in all staffing posts was £126k with the remainder other small favourable variances.

Environment and Housing

Table 9 – Environment and Housing Outturn

	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Neighbourhood Services and Housing						
Neighbourhood Services and Transport	28,307	28,665	(358)	0	(358)	209
Building Services	-	(231)	231	(231)	0	(231)
Regulatory Services	1,668	1,559	109	0	109	0
General Fund Housing	1,934	742	1,192	(1,192)	0	(1,192)
Total Neighbourhood Services and Housing	31,909	30,735	1,174	(1,423)	(249)	1,214

2.38 The Environment and Housing budget outturn was an adverse variance of £249k after a net transfer to reserve of £1.214m. The remaining adverse variance relating to this service area is being offset by an underspend within the Policy budget.

2.39 A detailed analysis of the outturn is attached at Appendix 5

2.40 Neighbourhood Services and Transportation - £358k adverse variance

- Total Adverse variances £2.896m most significantly £760k associated with the enhanced pay award and market forces uplift for waste drivers and £985k on additional pothole and patching works. In addition, £280k overspend on Resort and Street Cleansing and £143k on Community Centres including set up costs for Belle Vue.
- Favourable Variances £2,296m including £294K reduced costs of street lighting, £278K rates rebate and £1.3m additional reimbursement from capital schemes and internal department, savings on vacant posts and additional grant income in the structures and engineering sections.
- Contributions from reserves totalling £209k including £187k towards the costs of tackling Ash Die Back.

2.41 Regulatory Services – breakeven

- Favourable variances £109k on the regulatory services base budget mainly due to changes to internal recharges from Neighbourhood Services for the relevant share of the budget.
- This sum has been utilised to offset the Neighbourhood Services and Transportation overspend.

2.42 Council Fund Housing – Breakeven

2.43 The outturn at year end was a favourable breakeven after a transfer to reserves of £1.192m. This included transfers for historic grant sums that have been carried forward for a number of years and additional funding for resettlement to be utilised to support the service in 2024/25.

2.44 Adverse variances totalling £370k including £35k rental income shortfall on Cadoxton House, £265k homelessness costs and other adverse variances totalling £70k.

2.45 Favourable variances of £681k across the service mainly due to additional grant income for supporting people, community safety and refugee resettlement schemes which will be carried forward in a supporting people reserve, and also towards the costs of the Rapid Housing Response programme and Resettlement demands in the medium term.

2.46 Contributions to reserve totalling £1.193m into the Homelessness & Housing Strategy Reserve including £882k ringfenced for Refugee resettlement. There was a transfer from reserve £200k as a budget contribution to central policy.

Corporate Resources

Table 10 – Corporate Resources Outturn

	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Corporate Resources						
Resources	17,172	17,231	(59)	0	(59)	495
Housing Benefit	(431)	(496)	65	0	65	0
Total Corporate Resources	16,741	16,734	7	-	7	495

2.47 The Corporate Resources budget outturn was an favourable variance of £7k after a net transfer from reserve of £495k. A detailed analysis of the outturn is attached at Appendix 6.

- Total adverse variances and planned use of reserves to supplement capacity in the Directorate totalled £733k. Most significantly this relates to £272k associated with Legal and Democratic, Policy and Business Transformation £270k, Human Resources £96k. Favourable Variances £245k including £50k Property, £89k Facilities Management and Regional Internal Audit Services £61k. Contributions from reserves totalling £495k including £134k for Reshaping and £157K for Corporate Resources which mainly funded additional posts within the service to provide additional capacity.

Place

Table 11 – Place Outturn

-	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
-	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
<u>Place</u>						
Regeneration	1,494	1,321	171	(176)	(5)	(155)
Development Management	1,726	1,695	31	0	31	(31)
Private Housing	181	261	(80)	80	0	122
Vale Enterprise Centre	0	1,066	(1,066)	0	(1,066)	0
Total Place	3,401	4,343	(944)	(96)	(1,040)	(64)

2.48 The Place budget outturn was an adverse variance of £1.040m after a net transfer to reserves of £64k. A detailed analysis of the outturn is attached at Appendix 7.

2.49 Regeneration - £171k Favourable Variance

- Adverse variances totalled £273k mainly due to an overspend on Workshops of £104k and an increase in provision for Bad Debts £85k.
- Favourable variances totalled £454k mainly due to SPF Management Fee income £234k, Levelling up funding of £86k, Long Term Plan for Towns funding £50k.

- Contributions to reserve totalled £155k of this figure £163k was transferred to the Place reserve and £11k was put into reserve for 198 Holton Road. £23k was drawn down from reserve to cover the Pension Strain.

2.50 Development Management - £31k

- Adverse variances totalled £167k. The main variances were for the Local Development Plan £55K, Ash die back £21K, Customer receipts lower than expected £44K and other adverse variances of £47K.
- Favourable variances totalled £198k. There was £150K in additional car park income, £12K underspend on premises costs and £36K of other favourable variances.
- There was a net transfer of £31k from reserves. £38k drawdown from the LDP reserve, £60k from the Building Control reserve and £21k drawdown to cover overspend on Ash die back and £150k transferred into a reserve for the car park income.

2.51 Private Housing - £80k Adverse Variance

- Total adverse variances of £122k due to an occupational therapist post and reduced fee income.
- There were no Favourable variances.
- There was a planned £42k drawdown from reserves to cover the occupational therapist post mentioned above and the balance was an unplanned drawdown to offset the shortfall on income against Disabled Facility Grants in 2023/24.

2.52 In addition to this a settlement has been negotiated to but out the lease on the Vale Enterprise Centre given the poor condition of the facility and this has been reported as a separate line in the outturn and will be funded by the Policy underspend in 2023/24.

General Policy

Table 12 – General Policy Outturn

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Allocation of Surplus to Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
General Policy						
Members Costs incl Members Expenses	1,693	1,598	95	0	95	0

Elections	42	42	0	0	0	42
Precepts and Levies	7,891	7,906	(15)	0	(15)	0
Grants and Contributions	444	477	(33)	0	(33)	20
General Expenditure	509	(1,049)	1,558	0	1,558	1,706
Financing Costs	8,672	5,783	2,888	0	2,888	0
Property Costs	65)	103	(167)	0	(167)	0
Subtotal General Policy	19,185	14,860	4,325	0	4,325	1,768
Council Tax						
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	11,460	11,502	(42)	0	(42)	0
Council Tax Surplus	0	(3,465)	3,465	0	3,465	0
Total Council Tax	11,460	8,037	3,423	0	3,423	0
Use of Reserves	(2,096)	(2,096)	0	0	0	(2,096)
Total	28,549	20,802	7,747	0	7,747	(328)

2.53 The General Policy outturn was a £4.325m favourable variance after a net transfer to reserves of £1.768m. A detailed analysis of the outturn is attached at Appendix 8.

- Total Adverse variances £1.049m most significantly Provision for bad and doubtful debts £335k, various contributions to corporate costs such as Employee Counselling, Flu vaccinations and legal costs totalling £134k and property costs £172k.
- Favourable Variances £7.144m including £2.313m against the cost of capital financing for external borrowing as the Council continues to utilise reserve balances in the current high interest environment. Additional investment income of £3m, The Council also received income of £200k related to solar panels which has been ringfenced for Project Zero and £1.3m relating to the replacement of Council vehicles.
- Transfers to reserves total £1.763m which includes £163k towards the Big Fresh Catering equipment replacement arrangements £42k provision for future Local elections and £202k ringfenced for energy management. Included in the analysis above is a contribution of £1.3m to the Vehicles renewals fund which has been funded by planned contribution as part of the Council's fleet arrangements towards the replacement of vehicles and proceeds of sale where the sum does not meet the capitalisation threshold.

2.54 Council Tax Surplus – Adverse Variance £3.423m

2.55 The Council Tax team have made significant progress in collecting old year arrears during 2023/24, alongside a prudent allowance for empty home premiums and continued development in the County, a significant surplus has

been generated in year and a reduction in the provision for bad debts has also been achieved.

Allocation of Surplus

2.56 Following Directorate specific transfers to and from reserves the Council reported a surplus of £2.080m this was largely due to the continued use of the Council's reserves to minimise external borrowing, investment income generated in year as well as the Council tax surplus in 2023/24.

2.57 The indicative outturn was reviewed by SLT and following further discussions the following sums have been transferred to reserves to allow schemes to progress in 2023/24.

- £2m Establish a new reserve to offset Education Deficits in 2024/25 on a provisional basis whilst the Council works with schools on establishing a coordinated approach to tackling school deficits.
- The balance of £80k has been transferred to the Council Fund

Housing Revenue Account

2.58 Council on 11th January 2023 (minute no.C176) agreed the Authority's 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget.

2.59 The 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) resulted in a deficit of £12.961m compared to the amended budget deficit of £15.538m. A breakdown is shown in Appendix 2. The HRA reserve balance opened at £16.486m and closed at £3.524m. This level is higher than the figure projected in the current Housing Business Plan to reflect the level of risk associated with the significant levels of investment in the programme. The level of this balance will be reviewed as part of the production of the next Housing Business Plan. A detailed analysis of the outturn is attached at Appendix 9.

Insurance Fund

2.60 The total Insurance Fund comprises of both a provision and a reserve. The provision represents potential liabilities on known claims and the reserve relates to claims not yet made. There was a deficit on insurance transactions of £50k in year after an adjustment to the provision has been made. Following analysis of outstanding claims the provision was increased for £119k, through a contribution from the revenue account. A breakdown is shown in the following table.

Table 13 – Insurance Fund

	Provision	Reserve	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Opening Balance	1,795	4,879	6,674
Additional Provision Made	119	0	119
Surplus/(Deficit) on Insurance Transactions	0	0	0
Transfers In/(Out)	0	0	0
Closing Balance	1,914	4,879	6,793

Trading Operations

2.61 The Trading Organisations referred to in this section are made up of Building Maintenance, Caretaking & Security and Building Cleaning and Courier.

2.62 The provisional figures for the Trading Services are shown below:

Table 14 – Trading Operations

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Transfer to Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Building Maintenance Trading Account	0	(78)	78	0	78	0
Building Cleaning Trading Account	0	225	(225)	0	(225)	0
Caretaking and Security Trading Account	0	(131)	131	0	131	0
Building Maintenance Twin Hat Underspend	0	(231)	231	(231)	0	231
Courier Account	0	(16)	16	0	16	0
Total	0	(231)	231	(231)	0	231

2.63 Explanations of the variances are shown in the Appendix. The net surplus is offset by a £231k transfer to the Building Services Reserve to fund the ongoing costs of apprentices and other business improvements within the area.

Efficiency Targets

2.64 As part of the Final Revenue Budget Proposals for 2023/24, an efficiency target of £7.378M was set for the Council, this is a far higher level of savings than has been set for a number of years.

2.65 Of this sum £2.75M has been delegated to schools has been managed as part of school budget setting. There are a number of schools that have ended the year

in a deficit position and have set deficit recovery strategies to mitigate the deficit budget over a 3-5 year period.

- 2.66** The outturn position in respect of the 2023/24 savings is detailed in Table 3 below whilst the value of savings achieved is broadly similar to the percentage reported as part of Quarter 3 Monitoring the amount mitigated has increased slightly so that the net shortfall is 11% rather than 15% as reported in February.

Table 15 – Outturn Position 2023/24 Savings

Directorate	Target	Amount Achieved	% Achieved	Mitigation	Mitigation Achieved %	Shortfall	Shortfall %
	£'000s	£'000s		£'000s		£'000s	£'000s
Policy	1,615	1,615	100%	-	0%	-	0%
Resources	582	331	57%	250	43%	1	0%
Neighbourhood and Housing	1,000	743	74%	40	4%	217	22%
Learning and skills	564	369	65%	105	19%	90	16%
Social Services	681	481	71%	-	0%	200	29%
Place	265	245	92%	-	0%	20	8%
Total	4,707	3,784	80%	395	8%	528	11%

- 2.67** The shortfall against Neighbourhood Services requires work in respect of car parking provision and waste implementation to continue in 2023/24.
- 2.68** The shortfall in Learning and Skills relates to the Schools Repairs budget, it is hoped that increased asset renewal provision in the Capital programme in 2024/25 will help mitigate the pressures against this budget in year but pressures in schools may also have an impact on delivery of this saving.
- 2.69** Whilst Social Services have not achieved the savings target in full during 2023/24 this is due to the need to handle any placement moves very carefully and the savings are expected to be achieved for 2024/25.
- 2.70** The shortfall in Place relates to issues around means testing, a lack of available contractors to carry out the capital works, as well as potential applicants delaying applications until the Council adopts the new Independent Living Policy and is proposing to offset the shortfall from reserves in 2023/24.
- 2.71** Attached at Appendix 10 is a statement detailing all savings targets for 2023/24 and the current progress against them.

Reserves

- 2.72** A reserve is an appropriation from a revenue account and does not constitute a cost of service until the expenditure is eventually incurred. A reserve does not

cover a present obligation or liability and is a voluntary means of setting aside monies for future requirements either capital or revenue.

2.73 As part of the preparation for the 2024/25 budget a full review of the Council's reserves has been undertaken some consolidation has been undertaken and some reallocation to ensure that the reserves are more appropriately matched the Council's key budgetary risks the table below reflects the reallocation of reserves that has taken place, this includes an additional allocation of £3m to Social Services reserves and the establishment of a £1m budget risk reserve.

2.74 Table 15 below sets out the use of reserves for a variety of purposes including planned usage to fund Capital Expenditure, planned revenue usage in accordance with the earmarked purpose of the reserve, unplanned usage to fund emerging overspends during 2023/24 and planned transfers to reserves to set aside fund for specific purposes. The use of reserves to support the Capital programme has reduced to £8.779m and reflects slippage on the delivery of schemes in 2023/24. Where schemes have been reprofiled into 2024/25 this drawdown from reserves will now take place in 2024/25 to match expenditure.

2.75 Use of reserves includes an allocation of £7.2m to offset pressures in Social Services and £2m transferred from Education Reserves to support pressures in schools and ALN including £1m set aside as part of the 2023/24 closing process. Transfers into reserves include the corporate surplus of £2.080m which consisted into £2m into a reserve to offset school deficits and £80k transferred into the Council Fund. The use of reserves is detailed in the table below and a detailed analysis is attached at Appendix 11.

Table 15 – Reserves

As at	Estimated Balance 31/03/23	Capital	Budget Revenue	Revenue Mvmt on Reserves	Surplus Transfer into Reserves	Realloc of Reserve	Provisional Balance 31/03/24
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund	11,523	0	(496)	0	80	0	11,106
Total General Fund	11,523	0	(496)	0	80	0	11,106
Insurance	4,878	0	0	0	0	0	4,878
Service Reserves							
Learning and Skills	4,131	(47)	0	(2,002)	258	0	2,340
Social Services	10,015	0	0	(7,201)	0	3,000	5,814
Neighbourhood Services	3,078	(11)	0	0	0	0	3,067
Corporate Resources	734	0	0	(205)	0	0	529
Place	2,096	(23)	0	(160)	361	0	2,274
Other Service Reserves	1,625	(80)	0	(45)	364	0	1,864
Other Corporate	842	0	0	(157)	14	0	699

Risk and Smoothing Reserves							
Homelessness and Housing Reserve	4,456	0	(200)	0	1,193	0	5,449
Cost of Living	854	0	(200)	(283)	0	0	371
Pay Pressures	4,168	0	0	(360)	61	0	3,869
Energy Pressures	3,885	0	(2,400)	0	0	0	1,485
Legal	2,000	0	0	(160)	0	0	1,840
Project Zero	2,325	(50)	0	(208)	322	(681)	1,708
Investment and Growth Fund	2,353	0	0	0	0	(2,353)	0
Reshaping Risk and Investment	2,523	0	0	(200)	0	251	2,574
Corporate Landlord	5,707	(760)	0	0	0	0	4,947
Digital Reshaping	1,531	(130)	0	0	11	0	1,412
Budget Risk	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Capital Reserves							
Capital	17,726	(7,678)	0	(30)	1,645	(3,175)	8,488
Independent Living Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	500	500
Capital Regeneration and Levelling Up	0	0	0	(40)	40	1,458	1,458
Sub Total	86,450	(8,779)	(3,296)	(11,051)	4,349	0	67,672
Ring Fenced Reserves							
Schools	6,677	0	0	(4,368)	0	0	2,309
Other Ringfenced Schools Reserves	877	0	0	(474)	345	0	748
School Deficit Reserve	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
Housing Revenue Account	16,486	0	(12,961)	0	0	0	3,525
Total Reserves	110,490	(8,779)	(16,257)	(15,893)	6,694	0	76,254

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The Council's revenue budget and therefore its expenditure is incurred in order to achieve its corporate priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 through the 4 well-being outcomes.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1 At 31st March, 2024 the Council holds reserves specifically earmarked to support the Council's response to the Climate and Nature Emergency totalling £1.369m with further reserves earmarked within the Capital reserves shown.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

5.1 As detailed in the body of the report.

Employment

5.2 There are no employment implications contained in this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 The provisional outturn figures for the Council have been used in the preparation of the Statements of Accounts. Regulation 10(1) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires the Responsible Financial Officer to sign and date the Statement of Accounts and certify that they present a true and fair view of the financial position at the end of the year. This means that for 2023/24 the Statement of Accounts should be certified by the Section 151 Officer by 31st May 2024.

5.4 If it is not possible to meet this deadline the Council has to advertise that this has not happened and the reason why. Due to the continued impact of the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic and Resource pressures in the team it was not possible to produce the Statement of Accounts by 31st May 2024 and the appropriate advert was placed. The Statement of Accounts was however signed by the S151 Officer on 29th June, 2024.

6. Background Papers

None.

Appendix 1	Amended Budget	Projected	Variance	Unplanned Use	Residual	Use of Reserves
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
<u>Learning and Schools</u>						
Delegated Schools	115,439	115,439	-		-	4,590
Use of Reserves	- 1,200	- 1,200	-		-	1,200
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning and Directors Office	6,754	7,159	- 405		- 405	1,532
	252	252	-		-	-
Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing Standards and Provision	4,113	3,985	128		128	452
	2,971	2,735	236	- 85	151	- 82
Total Learning and Skills	128,329	128,369	- 40	- 85	- 125	7,692
<u>Social Services</u>						
Children and Young Peoples Services	18,652	23,923	- 5,271	2,674	- 2,597	3,670
Adult Services	58,246	60,569	- 2,323	660	- 1,663	2,677
Resource Management and Safeguarding	7,879	8,665	- 786	784	- 2	992
Youth Offending Service	716	587	129	- 129	-	-
Total Social Services	85,493	93,744	-8,251	3,989	-4,262	7,339
<u>Neighbourhood Services and Housing</u>						
Neighbourhood Services and Transport	28,307	28,665	- 358	-	- 358	209
Building Services	-	- 231	231	- 231	-	- 231
Regulatory Services	1,668	1,559	109	-	109	-
General Fund Housing	1,934	742	1,192	- 1,192	-	- 1,192
Total Neighbourhood Services and Housing	31,909	30,735	1,174	- 1,423	- 249	- 1,214
<u>Corporate Resources</u>						
Resources	17,172	17,231	- 59	-	- 59	495
Housing Benefit	- 431	- 496	65	-	65	
Total Corporate Resources	16,741	16,734	7	-	7	495
<u>Place</u>						
Regeneration	1,494	1,323	171	- 176	- 5	- 155
Development Management	1,726	1,695	31	-	31	- 31
Private Housing	181	261	- 80	80	-	122
Vale Enterprise Centre	-	1,066	- 1,066	-	1,066	
Total Place	3,401	4,345	- 944	- 96	- 1,040	- 64
<u>Policy</u>						
General Policy	30,645	26,319	4,326		4,326	- 1,768
Total Policy	30,645	26,319	4,326	-	4,326	- 1,768
Use of Reserves	- 2,096	- 2,096	-		-	2,096
Council Tax Surplus	-	- 3,423	3,423		3,423	0
Allocation of Surplus		-	-	- 2,080	- 2,080	- 2,080
Grand Total	294,422	294,727	- 305	305	0	12,496

<u>Funded By</u>						
Council Tax	- 91,625	- 91,625				
Revenue Support Grant	- 160,013	- 160,013				
Non Domestic Rates	- 42,784	- 42,784				
Grand Total	- 294,422	- 294,422				

Transfer from Reserves Revenue	12,496
Transfer from Reserves Capital	8,779
Total Transfer from Reserves	21,275

Appendix 2	
Directorate	Learning & Skills
Service Area	Director and Strategy, Community Learning and Resources

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Allocation of Surplus to Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning and Resources Directors Office	6,754	7,159	- 405		- 405	1,532
	252	252	-		-	-
Total	7,006	7,411	- 405	-	- 405	1,532

Outturn Key Headlines

A key ongoing pressure is the School Transport budget. Local Education Authorities have a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school in addition to a statutory duty to provide transport for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) who require access to specialist provision. Mainstream transport continues to run for pupils who are not able to get into their catchment school as they are full. In 2023/24 a number of economic factors such as increased fuel costs, shortage of operators and drivers in this sector continue to exacerbate pressures in this area. Some operators have also handed back routes as they cannot fulfil them. This service transferred a net overspend of £555k at year end to the Learning and Skills budget.

Early Retirement/Voluntary Retirement (ER/VR) budget - It is a statutory requirement that redundancy costs in schools are funded centrally. The ERVR budget overspent by £352k due to increased redundancy costs in schools this year. Schools are responsible for paying the early retirement costs for any staff that leave but a scheme has been in place for a number of years where the ER/VR budget pays the one-off costs related to a staff member leaving and then the cost is recharged to the school over an agreed number of years. The additional net costs for this year were £14k. A total of £337k was transferred from the Corporate Pay Pressures Reserve to offset the

As part of the efficiency savings for the Directorate the £90k budget for School Repairs and Maintenance was cut. However, expenditure of £94k was incurred for works across various schools that would normally have been funded from this budget. A total of £39k of the overspend related to revenue contributions to capital outlay (RCCO) which were not known about until year end.

A total of £1.175M was transferred from the Education Pressures Reserve to provide support for schools during the year. Additional funding of £1.050M was identified as part of the 22/23 outturn and was added to the Education Pressures Reserve in 23/24. A total of £850k was allocated for additional learning needs support in mainstream schools and was transferred to primary and secondary schools via the funding formula. The balance of £200k was identified for schools in special measures and was allocated to Pencoedtre (£150k) and Ysgol Pen Y Garth (£25k) to support the schools with additional staff and training (the remaining £25k was allocated to the Additional Learning Needs & Wellbeing Service to cover training invoices which had been paid for on behalf of Pencoedtre). A further amount of £150k was transferred in from the Education Pressures Reserve to cover additional inspection support costs related to Pen Y Garth (£35k), legal costs for Whitmore High School (£74k) and leadership costs relating to Whitmore and Pencoedtre (£44k).

Favourable Variances	£000's
Payments to private nurseries	- 61
Staff Costs and Other	- 14
School Decarbonisation	- 40
Capital Investment	- 265
ICT Hwb end user	- 320
Libraries	- 11

Adult Community Learning	-	81
Pension Payments	-	2
Teacher Facilities Time	-	3
Rates Rebate	-	196

Total Favourable Variances	-	993
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Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves	£000's	
School Repairs (Including demountables at YYD and RCCO Contributions for		268
Catering Equipment Lease new equipment		190
FSM Vouchers Hardship Fund		221
Arts Service Overspend		54
Penarth Pier Pavilion		24
School Transport Overspend		555
Early Retirement/Voluntary Retirement Scheme		277
Welsh Immersion		6
Schools Long Term Supply & Maternity		104
Support provided to schools from reserves		1,175
Non Delegated Budgets		56

Total Adverse Variances		2930
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Net Outturn		1937
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Use of Reserves	£000's	
Planned		
Early Retirement/Voluntary Retirement Scheme	-	277
Support provided to schools from reserves	-	1,175
Staff Costs and Other	-	118
Costs for Demountables at Ysgol Y Deri	-	175
Catering Equipment Lease	-	190
FSM Vouchers Hardship Fund	-	221
Total Planned Use	-	2,156

Unplanned Transfers from
No Unplanned Transfers from Reserves

Transfers to		
School Decarbonisation		14
Capital Investment		264
ICT Hwb end user		320
Libraries - Salix contribution		1
Ysgol Bro Morgannwg Pitch Sinking Fund		25

Total Movement against Reserves	-	1,532
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Net Outturn	405	-404.9723	-	0
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Directorate	Learning & Skills
Service Area	Additional Learning Needs

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Allocation of Surplus to Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing	4,113	3,985	128	-	128	452
Total	4,113	3,985	128	-	128	452

Outturn Key Headlines

The Children's Placements budget pays for provision at out of county and independent schools. After a transfer in of £201k from the ALN Implementation grant the budget outturned with an adverse variance of £5k. In addition to these costs, Learning & Skills also had to pick up 10% of the Joint Pooled CLA budget overspend. The final external placements panel report showed an overspend of £1.951M which meant that the Directorate had to contribute £195k at year end. The total overspend of £200k against Childrens Placements and the Pooled budget was covered by a transfer from the Education Pressures Reserve, Due to increasing numbers of placements and the increasing cost of those placements the pressure on this budget will continue to increase in future years.

The existing provision at Whitmore Resource Base and Hafan Resource Base (Gladstone school) was increased from September 23. These costs have been funded from the ALN Implementation Grant in 23/24 and this will continue in 24/25. The ongoing costs will be put forward as a cost pressure for 25/26. The ALN Implementation Grant also funded the setup of the Welsh Medium Specialist Resource Base at Gwaun Y Nant. This provision will be fully funded from the base budget in 24/25 as a cost pressure was awarded.

The Additional Needs Fund (ANF) which provides additional learning support assistants in schools, agreed by a ANF panel. overspent by £386k. There was £174k left in the ANF reserve which was transferred in to offset part of the overspend with the balance of £212k being transferred back to primary schools. This was done on a percentage basis which reflected the contribution made by each school to the fund.

Favourable Variances	£000's
Prevention & Partnership	- 79
Complex Needs (including Children's Placements)	- 23
Recoupment Income	- 61
Capital contribution for out of county placements at Ysgol y Deri	-26
Total Favourable Variances	- 189

Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves	£000's
Joint Pooled CLA Budget	195
Additional Needs Fund	174
Additional Learning Needs	144
Total Adverse Variances	513

Net Outturn	324
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Use of Reserves	£000's
Planned	
Joint Pooled CLA Budget	- 195
Children's Placements	- 5
Additional Needs Fund	- 174
Additional Learning Needs	- 104

Total Planned Use	-	478
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Unplanned Transfers from
No Unplanned Transfers from Reserves

Transfers to
Capital contribution for out of county placements at Ysgol y Deri 26

Total Movement against Reserves	-	452	452
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Net Outturn	-	128	128.37596	-	0
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Directorate	Learning & Skills
Service Area	Standards and Provision

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Allocation of Surplus to Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Standards and Provision	2,971	2,735	236	- 85	151	- 82
Total	2,971	2,735	236	- 85	151	- 82

Outturn Key Headlines

There was an underspend of £66k against School Improvement due to the maximisation of grants and a reduction in the charges for the Central South Consortium.

The Youth Engagement & Progression Service underspent by £133k as result of vacancies and the maximisation of grant funding. Of this figure a total of £60k was transferred into the Education Pressures Reserve to help towards future replacement/repair costs for the mobile vehicle.

Inclusion and OOST outturned with a favourable variance of £11k after transferring £34k to the Education Pressures Reserve. This will be used to fund a temporary Attendance Officer post at Pencoedre High School in

Favourable Variances	£000's
School Improvement & Grants	- 65
Inclusion	- 45
Youth	- 133
EAL & LAC, MEAG & Travellers	- 3

Total Favourable Variances	-	246
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Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves	£000's
Engagement Team, EOTAS & Alternative Curriculum	13

Total Adverse Variances		13
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Net Outturn		-233
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<u>Use of Reserves</u>	£000's
Planned	

Engagement Team, EOTAS & Alternative Curriculum - 13

Total Planned Use	-	13
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Unplanned Transfers from
No Unplanned Transfers from Reserves

Transfers to
Inclusion - Temporary Attendance Officer at Pencoedtre High School 24/25 35
Youth - Universal Provision (Replacement/Repairs to mobile vehicle) 60

Total Movement against Reserves		82
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Net Outturn	-	151
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Savings	£000's Target	£000's Achieved	
Learning and Skills Savings Achieved in 2023/24	564	369	A
Learning and Skills Savings Mitigated in 2023/24			M
Makerspace income generation for letting out of makerspace rooms in barry and penarth libraries		20	M
External income -income generation for letting to external organisations for filming and events		20	M
Review Arts Provision		65	M
Learning and Skills Savings Not Achieved in 2023/24			
Removal of schools emergency repairs budget		90	NA
Total Savings Learning and Skills	564	564	

	%
Proportion of Savings Achieved	65%
Proportion of Savings Mitigated (temporary)	19%
Savings not achieved in year	16%

	Schools Balances as at 31st March	Balance 31.03.15	Balance 31.03.16	Balance 31.03.17	Balance 31.03.18	Balance 31.03.19	Balance 31.03.20	Balance 31.03.21	Balance 31.03.22	Balance 31.03.23	Balance 31.03.24	move. on last FY	move. on last FY
	Total Secondary	£571,648	£464,942	£507,092	£661,008	£543,072	£26,472	£1,489,319	£3,998,119	£2,309,146	£1,971,221	-£337,925	-15%
Special School	Ysgol Y Deri	£65,762	£110,187	£60,528	£99,571	-£11,807	£82,010	£291,026	£779,017	£575,414	£753,255	£177,841	31%
	Total Special	£65,762	£110,187	£60,528	£99,571	-£11,807	£82,010	£291,026	£779,017	£575,414	£753,255	£177,841	31%
	GRAND TOTAL	£2,708,131	£2,946,348	£2,321,817	£2,622,733	£2,679,902	£839,050	£6,311,159	£12,771,230	£6,677,483	£2,308,841	-£4,368,642	-65%

	Change on previous Year		£238,217	-£624,531	£300,916	£57,169	-£1,840,852	£5,472,109	£6,460,071	-£6,093,747	-£4,368,642		
	Change on previous Year %		8.8%	-21.2%	13.0%	2.2%	-68.7%	652.2%	102.4%	-47.7%	-65.4%		

Please note that Cowbridge 3-19 school data also includes secondary school data prior to the 2023/24 financial year

Formula 2023/24	balance % of formula
£38,371,575	5%
£15,850,159	5%
£15,850,159	5%
£120,615,744	2%

Appendix 4	
Directorate	Social Services
Service Area	Children and Young Peoples Services and Youth Offending Serv

Virement Request	Revised Budget	Virement	Amended Budget 2023/24
Childrens Services	18,619	33	18,652

Virement of £33k from Policy to correct the correction of Corporate Recharges.

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Childrens Services	18,652	23,923	- 5,271	2,674	- 2,597	3,670
Youth Offending Service	716	587	129	- 129	-	
Total	19,368	24,510	- 5,142	2,545	- 2,597	3,670

Outturn Key Headlines

Adverse variances have increased through 2023/24 and reflect pressures across Children's services including In year a number of Bespoke Packages have been implemented by the team to address support needs for A strategy to amend the approach to Intake and Assessment in Children's services was approved as a priority The Youth Offending Service reported a favourable variance at year end which reflects additional grant

Favourable Variances

£000's

Grant Income Youth Offending Service - 129

Total Favourable Variances	- 129
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Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves

£000's

Childrens External Placements (joint LAC & IFA budgets)	2,524
Accommodation Payments	677
Project Team to support Family Teams	596
Bespoke Packages to individuals across Service	543
Conveyance Costs	397
Childrens Services Legal Budget	374
Fostering Payments	347
Assessment Services	255
Childcare/carer Costs	182
Domiciliary Care Payments	158
Other adverse variances	329
Total Adverse Variances	6,382

Net Outturn	6,253
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Use of Reserves

£000's

Planned

Use of Legal Reserve - 160

Budget Programme Use of Social Services Reserve - 951

Total Planned Use	- 1,111
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Unplanned Transfers from
Unplanned Use of Social Services Reserve - 2,559

Transfers to
No transfers to reserves

Total Movement against Reserves	- 3,670	3670
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Net Outturn	2,597	- 2,597
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This net overspend will offset by an underspend in the Policy budget as set out in the

Savings	£000's Target	£000's Achieved
Closer to Home Residential Care Accommodation - part achieved	200	0

%

Proportion of Savings Achieved	0%
Proportion of Savings Mitigated (temporary)	0%
Savings not achieved in year	100%

Directorate	Social Services
Service Area	Adult Services

Virement Request	Revised Budget	Virement	Amended Budget 2023/24
Adult Services	58,196	50	58,246

Virement requested from Resource Management and Safeguarding to correct the allocation of budgets

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adult Services	58,246	60,569	- 2,323	660	- 1,663	2,677
Total	58,246	60,569	- 2,323	660	- 1,663	2,677

Outturn Key Headlines

Total adverse variances £5.076m mainly as result of Community Care budgets having an adverse variance of £5.021m, Telecare £30k and Adults Physical and Sensory £25k.

Favourable Variances totalled £736k mainly due to underspends on Adults Central Services of £208k, Adults Elderly Services £225k, Older People Mental Health £83k, Mental Health £74k, Learning Disabilities £133k and St Michaels Garden of £13k.

Use of reserves totalled £2.6m including £660k unplanned transfer from the Social Services reserve.

The balance of this overspend will be offset by the Policy Underspend as set out in the main report.

Favourable Variances	£000's
St Michaels Gardens	- 13
Adults Central Services	- 208
Adults Elderly Services (less Telecare)	- 225
Adults Older People Mental Health (EMI)	- 83
Adults Mental Health (less St Michaels Gardens)	- 74
Adults Learning Disabilities	- 133

Total Favourable Variances	- 736
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Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves £000's

Telecare	30
Community Care overspend	5,021
Adults Physical and Sensory Impairment	25

Total Adverse Variances	5,076
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Net Outturn	4,340	4,340
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Use of Reserves £000's

Planned	
Telecare	- 30
Social Services Reserve Stepped In fees uplift Adults	- 2,000

Total Planned Use	- 2,030
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Unplanned Transfers from Unplanned Use of Social Services Reserve	- 660
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Transfers to St Michaels Gardens	13
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Total Movement against Reserves	- 2,677
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Net Outturn	1,663
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This net overspend will offset by an underspend in the Policy budget as set out in the

Savings	£000's Target	£000's Achieved
Budget Programme Savings	81	81
Additional Income	400	400
Total Savings	481	481

	%
Proportion of Savings Achieved	100%
Proportion of Savings Mitigated (temporary)	0%

Savings not achieved in year	0%
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Directorate	Social Services
Service Area	Resource Management and Safeguarding

Virement Request	Revised Budget	Virement	Amended Budget 2023/24
Resource Management and Safeguarding	7,929	- 50	7,879

Virement requested to Adult Services to correct the allocation of budgets in the service

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Resource Management and Safeguarding	7,879	8,665	- 786	784	- 2	992
Total	7,879	8,665	- 786	784	- 2	996

Outturn Key Headlines

The total adverse variance within RMS was £998K. This was due to an overspend on In house residential homes of £554K other overspends related to safeguarding costs £208k, advocacy costs due to the removal of additional funding, Deprivation of Liberty backlogs £75k and additional staffing resource £76k which was a planned use of the Social Services reserve.

There were no favourable variances in the service.

Use of reserves totalled £996k including £784k unplanned transfer from the Social Services reserve.

Favourable Variances

£000's

No favourable variances

Total Favourable Variances	0
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Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves

£000's

In house residential overspend	554
Safeguarding (recruitment issues and agency spend)	208
Advocacy Costs (removal of funding)	61
DOLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding)	75
Additional Staffing resource Community Care Finance	76
Other Adverse Variances	24
Total Adverse Variances	998

Net Outturn	998
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Use of Reserves

£000's

Planned

Social Services Budget Programme

-212

No Planned Transfers from Reserves

Total Planned Use	-212
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Unplanned Transfers from Unplanned Use of Social Services Reserve	-780
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Transfers to
No transfers to reserves

Total Movement against Reserves	-992
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Net Outturn	2
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This net overspend will offset by an underspend in the Policy budget as set out in the

Savings	£000's Target	£000's Achieved
No savings in 2023/24		

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Appendix 5	
Directorate	Neighbourhood Services and Housing
Service Area	Neighbourhood Services and Transport

Virement Request	Revised Budget	Virement	Amended Budget 2023/24
Neighbourhood Services and Transport	28,407	- 100	28,307

Virement of £100k to Corporate Resources requested to correct the allocation of additional energy pressures in 2023/2.

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24 £000's	Projected Outturn 2023/24 £000's	Variance £000's	Unplanned Use of Reserves £000's	Residual Variance 2023/24 £000's	Use of Reserves 2023/24 £000's
Support and Emergency Planning Engineering, Structures and Highways Development	199	143	56	-	56	43
Car Parks	2,120	784	1,336	-	1,336	
Waste, Parks and Highways Operational Transportation and Enforcement	- 648	- 793	145	-	145	-
Leisure and Community Centres	19,445	21,411	- 1,966	-	- 1,966	187
	6,545	6,294	251		251	-
	646	827	- 181		- 181	65
Total	28,307	28,665	- 358	-	- 358	209

Outturn Key Headlines

Persistent overspend against Highways patching in 2023-24 £1m

Offset by Surplus against Highways construction schemes.

Unfunded Market forces payments in respect of HGV drivers also impacted the service in year

Rates refund in year approximately £300k, mainly affecting car parking sites.

Surplus against Public Transport and additional income generated in the service area including enforcement income

Favourable Variances	£000's
Rates refund in year mainly affecting car parking sites	-278
Surplus highways construction schemes, vacant posts and additional grant income	-1300
Surplus against Public Transport and Enforcement Income	-250
Recycling resale income	-124
Receipts on Vehicles to be Transferred to Vehicle Renewals Reserve	-44
Underspend Food Recycling and Special Collections	-300
Total Favourable Variances	-2296

Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves	£000's
Highways Patching	985
Other Highways Maintenance Costs	187
Additional Salary Costs Waste incl Market Forces and roll out of cominglec	760
Overspend Car Parks - mostly Court Road Multistorey	60
Resort and Street Cleansing Overspend	280
Overspend Community Centres and Belle Vue Set Up Costs	143
Other Parks Overspends incl Jenner Park and Bowling Greens	133
Ash Die Back Reserve and other Highways Trees Costs	250
Additional Reserve spend Youth Wellbeing	65
Total Adverse Variances	2863

Net Outturn	567
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Use of Reserves	£000's
Planned	
Ash Die Back reserve - used to fund costs of ash die back works for highways	-187
Youth Wellbeing Funding - Additional funding to support Youth Wellbeing as	-65

Total Planned Use	-252
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Unplanned Transfers from
No Unplanned Transfers from Reserves

Trasfers to	
Transfer to Vehicles Repairs and Renewals reserve	43
Total Movement against Reserves	-209

Net Outturn	358
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This net overspend will be met from the Policy Underspend as set out in the main report

Savings	£000's Target	£000's Achieved	
Increase in fees and charges	30	30	A
Parking Charging Review	20	0	NA
Review Car Park Provision - mitigated by rates rebate in year	50	0	NA
Stop provision of sandbags	5	5	A
Do not apply for Green Flag and Coastal Awards	5	0	NA
Allotment Charging	3	0	NA
Double Shift Mechanical sweepers (2 vehicles plus one spare)	40	40	NA
Enforcement Income	40	40	A
Commercial Opportunities and Business Support review	50	50	A
Waste Collection for Black Bags to 3 weeks	150	100	A
Green Bag Subscription Charge	500	373	A
Charging for public use of Electric vehicle chargers	2	0	NA
Total Savings Target 2023-24	895	638	

257

%

Proportion of Savings Achieved	67%
Proportion of Savings Mitigated (temporary)	0%
Savings not achieved in year	29%

Directorate	Environment & Housing
Service Area	Building Services

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Transfer to Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Building Maintenance Trading Account	-	-	78	78	-	78
Building Cleaning Trading Account	-	-	225	-	-	225
Caretaking and Security Trading Account	-	-	131	-	-	131
Building Maintenance Twin Hat Underspend	-	-	231	-	231	-
Courier Account	-	-	16	-	-	16
Total	-	-	231	231	-	231

0 -231

Outturn Key Headlines

The overall position for Building Services is a breakeven position. The Building Maintenance trading unit had a turnover of £8.010m and made a year end surplus of £78k.

The Building Cleaning & Security trading unit had a turnover of £3.036m making a deficit of £94k. Due to the enhanced pay award received by staff during the 23/24 financial year it was anticipated that the Building Cleaning & Security trading account would make a deficit as a lot of the recharges to clients are agreed at the beginning of the financial year therefore it is difficult to adjust for cost increases during the financial year.

The Building Services Twin Hat function had a favourable variance of £231k at year end. This was mainly due to vacant posts, plus underspends against transport budgets and general supplies & services budgets. The Courier service made a surplus of £16k.

All the above were offset by a £231k transfer to the Building Services Reserve to fund the ongoing costs of apprentices and other business improvements within the area.

Directorate	Environment & Housing
Service Area	General Fund Housing

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Transfer to Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Council Fund Housing	1,934	742	1,192	-	1,192	-
Total	1,934	742	1,192	-	1,192	-

Outturn Key Headlines

The outturn at year end was a favourable breakeven after a transfer to reserves of £1.192m. This included transfers for historic grant sums that have been carried forward for a number of years and additional funding for resettlement to be utilised to support the service in 2024/25.

Adverse variances totalling £370k including £35k rental income shortfall on Cadoxton House, £265k homelessness costs and other adverse variances totalling £70k.

Favourable variances of £681k across the service mainly due to additional grant income for supporting people, community safety and refugee resettlement schemes which will be carried forward in a supporting people reserve, and also towards the costs of the Rapid Housing Response programme and Resettlement demands in the medium term.

Contributions to reserve totalling £1.193m into the Homelessness & Housing Strategy Reserve including £882k ringfenced for Refugee resettlement. There was a transfer from reserve £200k as a budget contribution to central policy.

Favourable Variances	£000's	
Additional Grant Income Supporting People, Community Safety and Refugee Resettlement	-	680
	-	882
Total Favourable Variances	-	1,562

Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves	£000's	
Rental Income Shortfall Cadoxton House		35
Homelessness Costs		265
Other Adverse Variances		70
Total Adverse Variances		370

Net Outturn	-	1,192
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Use of Reserves	£000's	
No Planned Use of Reserves		
Total Planned Use		0

Unplanned Transfers from
No Unplanned Transfers from Reserves

Transfers to Homelessness and Housing Reserve		1,192
Total Movement against Reserves		1,192

Net Outturn		0
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Savings	£000's Target	£000's Achieved
Budget Adjustment Pre Tenancy Adviser and VATs budget	26	26
Review Senior Officer Recharges to HRA to ensure no cross subsidisation	33	33
Review Support Function - Vacant Post	25	25
Total General Fund Housing Savings	84	84

	%	
Proportion of Savings Achieved		100%
Proportion of Savings Mitigated (temporary)		0%
Savings not achieved in year		0%

Appendix 6	
Directorate	Corporate Resources
Service Area	Corporate Resources

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves	Residual Variance	Use of Reserves
	2023/24	2023/24			2023/24	2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Corporate Resources	17,781	18,245	- 464	51	7	495
	17,781	18,245	- 464	51	7	495

Outturn Key Headlines

The Corporate Resources budget outturn was an a favourable variance of £7K after a net transfer from reserve of £495k.

Total adverse variances and planned use of reserves to supplement capacity in the Directorate totalled £733k. Most significantly this relates to £272k associated with Legal and Democratic, Policy and Business Transformation £270k, Human Resources £96k.

Favourable Variances £245k including £50k Property, £89k Facilities Management and Regional Internal Audit Services £61k.

Contributions from reserves totalling £495k including £134k for Reshaping and £157K for Corporate Resources overspends.

Favourable Variances	£000's
Child Burials ringfenced surplus	-14
Facilities and Office Accommodation surplus	-89
Other Property Surpluses including capital charges and vacant posts	-50
Regional Internal; Audit Surplus ringfenced	-61
Housing Benefits additional grant income	-31
Total Favourable Variances	-245

Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves	£000's
Legal & Democratic Services shortfall on income	272
Coroners Overspend of shared service hosted by RCT	44
Policy & Business Transformation posts funded from reserve	270
Human Resources overspend incl Health and Safety costs	96
Social Care Workforce Development Team grant overspend	51
Total Adverse Variances	733

Total Adverse Variances	733
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Net Outturn	488
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Use of Reserves	£000's
Planned	
Corporate Resources posts funded from reserve and additional costs	-154
Electoral Registration	-45
Reshaping Posts funded from reserve	-134
Graduate Trainee posts funded from the reserve	-97
Cost of Living	-62
Transfer from reserves Improvement and Development	-27
Total Planned Use	-519

Unplanned Transfers from Corporate Resources	-51
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Transfers to Reserves	
Child Burial	14
Regional Internal Audit Service	61
Total Movement against Reserves	-495

Net Outturn	-7
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Savings	£000's Target	£000's Achieved
Corporate Resources Savings Achieved 2023/24	582	332
Corporate Resources Savings Mitigated in 2023/24		
Mitigated - Review C1V Office Accommodation		50
Mitigated - Review Docks Office Site		200
Total	582	582

	%
Proportion of Savings Achieved	57%
Proportion of Savings Mitigated (temporary)	43%
Savings not achieved in year	0%

Appendix 7	
Directorate	Place
Service Area	Place

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Unplanned Use of Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Regeneration	1,494	1,323	171	-176	5	-155
Sustainable Development	1,726	1,695	31	0	31	-31
Private Housing	181	261	- 80	80	-	122
Vale Enterprise Centre	0	1,066	-1,066	0	-1,066	
	3,401	4,345	- 944	- 96	- 1,040	- 64

	171	-176
	31	-
	- 80	80
	- 1,066	
	- 944	- 96

Outturn Key Headlines

The Place budget outturn was an adverse variance of £96k after a net transfer from reserve of £64k.

Adverse Variances	£000's
Regeneration	
Provision for Bad Debts	85
Workshops	104
Pension strain	23
Other adverse variances	61
Sustainable Development	
Local Development Plan	55
Ash die back	21
Customer receipts lower than expected	44
Other Adverse Variances	47
Private Sector Housing	
Occupational Therapist costs & Reduced Fee Income	122
Vale Enterprise Centre Lease Buyout	1066
Total Adverse Variances	1628

Favourable Variances	£000's
Regeneration	
SPF Management Fee Income	-234
Levelling up funding	-86
Long Term Plan for Towns funding	-50
Delay in appointing Empty Properties Officer	-42
Other favourable variance	-42
Sustainable Development	
Car Parking Income Fees	-150
Underspent on Premises costs	-12
Other Favourable variances	-36
Total Favourable Variances	-652

Net Outturn	976
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Use of Reserves	£000's
Planned	
Regeneration	
198 Holton Road	11
Pension Strain	-23
Net Favourable variance transferred to Place reserve	167
Sustainable Development	
Transfer to Car Parking Reserve	150
Ash Die Back	-21

Building Control Team	-60
Local Development Plan	-38
Private Sector Housing	
Place Reserve to cover Occupational Therapist post	-42

Total Planned Use	144
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Unplanned Transfers from	
Unplanned use of reserve Disabled Facility Grants	-80
Total Movement against Reserves	64

Net Outturn	1040
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Savings	£000's Target	£000's Achieved	
Place Savings Achieved 2023/24	265	245	A
Place Savings Mitigated 2023/24			M
Place Savings not Achieved and offset by Reserves			N/A
Increased DFG provision (removal of means testing)		20	N/A
Total Place Savings	265	265	

	%
Proportion of Savings Achieved	92%
Proportion of Savings Mitigated (temporary)	0%
Savings not achieved in year	8%

Appendix 8	
Directorate	Policy
Service Area	Policy

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Projected Outturn 2023/24	Variance	Allocation of Surplus to Reserves	Residual Variance 2023/24	Use of Reserves 2023/24
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
General Policy						
Members Costs incl Members Expenses	1,693	1,598	95	-	95	
Elections	42	42	- 0	-	- 0	42
Precepts and Levies	7,891	7,906	- 15	-	- 15	
Grants and Contributions	444	477	- 33	-	- 33	20
General Expenditure	509	- 1,049	1,558		1,558	1,708
Financing Costs	8,672	5,783	2,888		2,888	
Property Costs	- 65	103	- 167		- 167	
Subtotal General Policy	19,185	14,860	4,325	-	4,325	1,770
Council Tax						
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	11,460	11,502	- 42		- 42	
Council Tax Surplus	-	- 3,465	3,465		3,465	
Total Council Tax	11,460	8,037	3,423	-	3,423	-
Use of Reserves	- 2,096	- 2,096	0		0	- 2,096
Total	28,549	20,802	7,747	-	7,747	- 326

Outturn Key Headlines

Significant surplus of Investment Income £2.4m due to reserve balances and increased investment returns in year.

Reduced borrowing costs as Internal Borrowing position was maintained for much of the financial year

Some corporate costs have been coded to Policy in year such as central cost associated with staff such as the Counselling and vaccination costs for staff and some surplus property costs.

Large provision for bad debts adjustment associated with the backlog of outstanding debt across the Council
Significant surplus on Council Tax in year associated with prudent assumptions re Empty Homes collection and significant progress on collection of Council Tax arrears in year which say historic arrears reduce by one third.

Favourable Variances	£000's
Investment Income	-2957
Democratic and Members costs including expenses	-94
Borrowing Costs	-2313
Vehicle Contributions to Renewals Reserve	-1336
Welsh Translation Underspend	-58
BFCC Lease income to Equipment Replacement Reserve	-163
Energy Management Income PV panels etc these surpluses are	-202
Ringfenced surplus Strong Communities Budget	-20
Council Tax Surplus	-3423
Total Favourable Variances	-10566

Adverse Variances including Planned Use of Reserves	£000's
Property Costs incl generator at Colcot Sports Centre and Security cc	172
Events Costs	60
Corporate staff costs such as vaccinations, wellbeing and Counselling	134
Professional and Consultancy Fees	208
Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	335
Contribution for General Fund element if grass cutting contract	80
External Audit Overspend	50
Other Adverse Variance Policy	10

Total Adverse Variances	1049
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Net Outturn	-9517
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Use of Reserves

£000's

Planned

No Planned Transfers from Reserves

Total Planned Use	0
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Unplanned Transfers from

No Unplanned Transfers from Reserves

Transfers to Reserves

BFCC Lease income to Equipment Reserve	164
Strong Communities Surplus budget	20
Energy Management Income ringfenced to fund future decarbonisat	204
Transfer to Vehicles Repairs and Renewals Reserve in accordance wi	1339
Transfer to Elections Reserve	42
Total Movement against Reserves	1769

Net Outturn	-7748
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This net overspend will offset Overspends in Social Services, Learning and Skills

Savings	£000's Target	£000's Achieved	
Mayor's hospitality budget and twinning savings	40	40	A
Appropriation of Debt to HRA - Savings against borrowing costs	25	25	A
Temporary Capital Financing Headroom	1000	1000	A
Additional Investment Income (Temporary)	550	550	A
Total Savings 2023/24	1615	1615	

%

Proportion of Savings Achieved	100%
Proportion of Savings Mitigated (temporary)	0%
Savings not achieved in year	0%

Appendix 9	
Directorate	Housing Revenue Account
Service Area	HRA

Outturn Summary	Amended Budget 2023/24	Actual Outturn 2023/24	Variance Fav and Adv ()	Percentage Variance
	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
Expenditure				
Supervision & Management				%
– General	4,406	4,496	- 90	-2%
– Special	1,811	2,120	- 309	-17%
Housing Repairs	4,981	5,805	- 824	-17%
Capital Financing Costs	5,196	5,165	31	1%
Rent, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	192	228	- 36	-19%
Increase in Provision for Bad & Doubtful Debts	146	294	- 148	-102%
Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account (CERA)	22,756	19,256	3,500	15%
Total Expenditure	39,488	37,365	2,123	-140%
Income				
Dwelling Rents	- 22,773	- 22,662	- 111	0%
Non Dwelling Rents	- 170	- 172	2	-1%
Interest	- 156	- 449	293	-188%
Charges for Services and Facilities	- 591	- 743	152	-26%
Contribution towards Expenditure	- 55	- 100	45	-83%
Grant Income	- 205	- 277	72	-35%
Total Income	- 23,950	- 24,403	453	-332%
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	15,538	12,962	2,576	

Outturn Key Headlines

The 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) resulted in a deficit of £12.962m compared to the amended budget deficit of £15.538m. A breakdown is shown in Appendix 2. The HRA reserve balance opened at £16.486m and closed at £3.524m. This level is higher than the figure projected in the current Housing Business Plan, mainly due to the level of risk in the Housing Business Plan. The level of this balance will be reviewed as part of the production of the next Housing Business Plan.

The net favourable HRA revenue budget variance of £2.576m is identified over the following areas.

Supervision & Management General – Adverse Variance £90k

There were favourable variances of £205k. £139k relating to vacant staff posts and apprentices, £32k on departmental support due to a reduced contribution and additional income of £34k.

There were adverse variances of £349k, of which £72k relating to compensation and legal costs and £14k relating to printing, £205k Consultant fees, £36k Compliance and £22k on Environmental costs.

Supervision and Management Special Services – Adverse Variance £309k

This budget is split into three areas, Ty Iolo Homeless Hostel, Vale Temporary Accommodation and Vale Special Services. The term 'Special Services' relates to communal costs for all housing areas throughout the Vale of Glamorgan, including sheltered accommodation, such as grass cutting, rubbish removal, communal lighting, security, warden salaries and environmental improvements.

There were adverse variances on Special Services of £366k, £352k relating to Grounds maintenance and waste collections and £14k contract cleaning.

There were favourable variances on Special Services of £57k, £51k due to staffing and various underspends totalling £6k.

Housing Repairs – Adverse Variance £824k

There were adverse variances on planned and cyclical maintenance mainly as a consequence catching up on works that were not completed due to COVID-19, an increase in costs and providing more inspections and treatments.

Capital Financing Costs – Favourable Variance £31k

Interest charges were lower than originally estimated due to less borrowing was required during the year to fund the Housing Investment Programme.

Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges – Adverse Variance £36k

This is mainly due to rates and consultant fee's.

Increase in the Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts – Adverse Variance £148k

Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account – Favourable Variance £3.5m

In the context of the risk associated with the significant investment set out over the life of business plan it was determined to maintain a higher level of reserve as at 31st March 2024, the mechanism to achieve this is to reduce the level of Capital Expenditure funded from the Revenue Account in year. A further contributing factor would be contributions from leaseholders, capital receipt and additional capital grants has also reduced the level of revenue contribution required to fund capital expenditure. This has led to an increased balance on the HRA Reserve

Dwellings Rents – Adverse variance £111k

Dwelling rents collected were slightly lower than budgeted due to units being delayed coming into stock.

Interest Received – Favourable variance £293k

The HRA reserve had a higher closing balance at year end than forecast and the interest rate during the year had increased.

Charges for Services and Facilities – Favourable variance £152k

This is mainly due to additional income of £131k from housing repairs recharges. Other favourable variances were £10k, £5k on Wayleaves and Lease income and £6k on lighting.

Contribution towards expenditure – Favourable variance £45k

This favourable variance is due to sale of small land, commission on collections, insurances and donations totalling £45k.

Other Income – Favourable variance £72k

This favourable variance is due to additional grants from Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and WLGA.

Appendix 10

Directorate	Description of Saving Proposal	Saving Category	Target Value £'000	Overall RAG Stat	Comments/Narrative	Value Achieved/ Expected to be Achieved	Percentage Achieved	Shortfall	Mitigation Ref	Mitigation Value Achieved	Mitigation Achieved	On Track for
			2023/24			2023/24	%	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24 YES/NO	2024/25 YES/NO
Directorate Learning and Skills												
Learning and Skills	Payments to Non Maintained Nursery Providers	Service Review	20	Green	Notice given to St Donats	20	100%	-				
Learning and Skills	Removal of schools emergency repairs budget	Service Review	90	Amber	Even though the budget was cut there were ongoing pressure relating to repairs in schools. This is an area that will need to be kept under review due to ongoing pressures.	-	0%	- 90				
Learning and skills	Makerspace income generation for letting out of makerspace rooms in barry and penarth libraries	Generating Income	20	Amber as unable to predict income generation	Only £2K income was achieved across both sites. Barry Makerspace wasn't available until July 2023. Mitigated in year by staffing underspends across Culture & Community Learning. The income target will need to be kept under review in 24/25.	20	100%	-				
Learning and skills	External income -income generation for letting to external organisations for filming and events	Generating Income	20	Amber as unable to predict income generation	Budget was set to include new income target. Only £472 income was achieved. The shortfall was covered by staffing underspends across Culture & Community Learning. The income target will need to be kept under review in 24/25.	20	100%	-				
Learning and skills	Stop providing newspapers and DVDs in libraries	Service Review	15	Green	Budget has been cut, service will no longer purchase DVDS	15	100%	-				
Learning and skills	Increase libraries fees and charges by 12%	Generating Income	5	Green	Fees have been increased in the budget	5	100%	-				
Learning and skills	Review Arts Provision	Service Review	65	Amber dependent on options appraisal.	Budget cut but savings not achieved. Overspend against Arts has been offset by savings within other areas of Culture & Community Learning. Restruture proposals now approved, will be kept under review	65	100%	-				
Learning and Skills	Reshaping of Out of School Tuition	Service Review	89	Green	The way in which OOST is delivered has been altered so that most tuition is delivered online rather than face to face. This is not ideal but is not out of sync with many other LAs. Budget saving will be achieved but service affected	89	100%	-				
Learning and Skills	Increase in retained element of Post 16 WG grant for school improvement administration	Service Review	50	Green	Post 16 grant for schools has been top-sliced to contribute towards the central costs of the Learning and Skills Directorate. £50k has been included as an ongoing budgeted income	50	100%	-				
Learning and skills	Review use of alternative funding sources to support service delivery	Service Review	190	Green	Shared Prosperity Fund grant has increased not decreased as anticipated. Staff roles within the Youth Service have been reassigned to work on the shared prosperity grant funded project	190	100%	-				
Subtotal Directorate Learning and Skills			564			474	84%	- 90		-		
Directorate Social Services												
Social Services	Closer to Home Residential Care (C&YPs)	Invest to Save	200		Delays on Building Programme and Recruitment of Staff, need to go through registration process- Provision is available to allow delivery of savings in 2024/25	0	0%	- 200				
Social Services	Budget Programme Savings 2023-24	Invest to Save	81		Potential to identify 2023/24 target from review of high cost packages of care and commitments and health funding further review work to be undertaken.	81	0%					
Social Services	Additional Income	Generating Income	400		Budget Adjustment	400	100%	-				
Subtotal Directorate Social Services			681			481	71%	- 200		-		
Directorate Neighbourhood and Housing												
Neighbourhood and	Increase in fees and charges	Generating Income	30	Green	Fees & Charges increased for 23/24	30	100%	-				
Neighbourhood and	Parking Charging Review	Generating Income	20	Amber	Residents permits - Cabinet Report due to be taken delayed due to 20mph work work ongoing in 2024/25	-	0%	- 20				
Neighbourhood and	Review Car Park Provison	Corporate Asset Stra	50	Amber	Court Road Car Park- Awaiting the result of the Public Consultation plan before this can be progressed further work ongoing in 2024/25	-	0%	- 50				
Neighbourhood and	Stop provision of sandbags	Service Review	5	Green	Achieved	5	100%	-				

Appendix 10

Directorate	Description of Saving Proposal	Saving Category	Target Value		Comments/Narrative	Value Achieved/ Expected to be Achieved		Percentage Achieved	Shortfall	Mitigation Ref	Mitigation Value Achieved	Mitigation Achieved	On Track for			
			£'000	Overall RAG Stat		2023/24	2023/24						2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25
													%			
Resources	Mayor's Supplies and Services Budget	Service Review	4	Achieved - budget adjusted.		4	100%	-								
Resources	Democratic Supplies and Services Budget	Service Review	1	Achieved - budget adjusted.		1	100%	-								
Resources	Registrars Supplies and Services Budget	Service Review	1	Achieved - budget adjusted.		1	100%	-								
Resources	Legal Services Supplies and Services Budget	Service Review	17	Achieved - budget adjusted.		17	100%	-								
Resources	Budget Supplies and Services Adjusted	Service Review	9	Achieved - budget adjusted.		9	100%	-								
Resources	Supplies and Services Budget Adjusted	Service Review	17	Achieved - budget adjusted.		17	100%	-								
Resources	Supplies and Services Budget Adjusted	Service Review	9	Achieved - budget adjusted.		9	100%	-								
Resources	Supplies and Services Budget Adjusted	Service Review	20	Achieved - budget adjusted.		20	100%	-								
Resources	Supplies and Services Budget Adjusted	Service Review	13	Amber	Need to consider impact of OD refreshments cut	12	92%	-	1							
Resources	Registrars' Income	Generating Income	30	Green	Budget has been adjusted. Additional target should be achieved based on annual trends.	30	100%	-								
Resources	O2 Mobile Phone Contract	Contract/Procurement	55	Green	Achieved - budget adjusted to reflect lower tariff however approx £18k relates to SRS and HRA and are not able to be realised within the General Fund. This is being offset by printing savings in 2023/24	55	100%	-								
Resources	Annual RSA Support Costs - Reduce	Contract/Procurement	22	Green	Saving is predicated on the reduced use of RSA due to greater VPN usage.	22	100%	-								
Resources	Review C1V Office Accommodation	Corporate Asset Strategy	50	Amber	Full saving will not be achieved during 23/24 as review is ongoing and this is part of a wider review of office space. Mitigated in year	50	100%	-			50					
Resources	Review Docks Office Site	Corporate Asset Strategy	200	Amber	Full saving will not be achieved during 23/24 as review is ongoing and this is part of a wider review of office space. A Rateable Value reduction has realised part of the saving earlier than anticipated. Mitigated in year	200	100%	-			200					
Resources	Remove Vacant Posts	Workforce Review	43	Green	Achieved - posts removed from establishment.	43	100%	-								
Resources	Shared Cost AVCs	Generating Income	25	Green	The Shared Cost AVC deductions process commenced in August 2023, anticipated shortfall is expected to be £6k due to current take up is expected to increase during the financial year.	25	100%	-								
Resources	e-Billing in Revenues	Digital Strategy	7	Green	Ongoing daily mailings through Datagraphic (hybrid mail) are under review. Plan to introduce text messaging for CTax pre reminders/finals/summons and we will be able to use the same solution for promoting e-billing	7	100%	-								
Resources	Hybrid Mail - Housing Benefits	Digital Strategy	20	Green	Project has been kicked off and team have engaged with Business Improvement.	20	100%	-								
Resources	Vale proportion of Vacant Post	Workforce Review	15	Achieved - Vale share of post removed from establishment.		15	100%	-								
Resources	Vale proportion of miscellaneous supplies and services savings from budget	Service Review	2	Achieved - Vale share of budget adjusted		2	100%	-								

Appendix 10

Directorate	Description of Saving Proposal	Saving Category	Target Value £'000	Overall RAG Stat	Comments/Narrative	Value Achieved/ Expected to be Achieved	Percentage Achieved	Shortfall	Mitigation Ref	Mitigation Value Achieved	Mitigation Achieved	On Track for
			2023/24			2023/24	%	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25
Resources	Counter fraud budget reduction	Service Review	22	Achieved - budget adjusted	Service includes a high target for fraud reduction. Annual in	22	100%	-				
Subtotal Directorate Corporate Resources			582			581	100%	- 1		250		
Policy												
Policy	Mayor's hospitality budget and twin	Service Review	40	Achieved Budget Adjustment		40	100%	-				
Policy	Appropriation of Debt to HRA - Savings against borrowing costs	Service Review	25	Achieved Budget Adjustment		25	100%	-				
Policy	Temporary Capital Financing Headrc	Service Review	1,000	Achieved Budget Adjustment		1,000	100%	-				
Policy	Additional Investment Income (Tem	Generating Income	550	Dependent on Income Generation	Achieved in full	550	100%	-				
Subtotal Policy			1,615			1,615	100%	-		-		
Total Savings			4,707			4,139	88%	- 568		290		
Subtotal Directorate Learning and Skills			564			474	84%	- 90		-		
Subtotal Directorate Social Services			681			481	71%	- 200		-		
Subtotal Directorate Neighbourhood and Housing			1,000			743	74%	- 257		40		
Subtotal Directorate Place			265			245	92%	- 20		-		
Subtotal Directorate Corporate Resources			582			581	100%	- 1		250		
Subtotal Policy			1,615			1,615	100%	-		-		
Total Savings			4,707			4,139	88%	- 568		290		

Appendix 11 Detailed Reserves Analysis

Reserve Category	Reserve Name	2023/24 Opening	Drawdown Capital	Budget Revenue	Revenue Movement on Reserves	Surplus Transfer into Reserves	Reallocation of Reserves	2023/24 Closing
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund	General Fund	11,523	0	-496	0	80	0	11,107
Insurance	Insurance	4,878	0	0	0	0	0	4,878
Service Reserves	Education Improver	3,549	0	0	-1,812	94	0	1,831
Service Reserves	Libraries and Commun	397	0	0	0	0	0	397
Service Reserves	Catering Equipment	185	-47	0	-190	164	0	112
Service Reserves	SS Donation	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Service Reserves	Social Services	10,012	0	0	-7,201	0	3,000	5,811
Service Reserves	Neighbourhood Service	2,404	-11	0	0	0	0	2,393
Service Reserves	Bad Weather	470	0	0	0	0	0	470
Service Reserves	Civil Parking Enforcem	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Service Reserves	Waste Management C	200	0	0	0	0	0	200
Service Reserves	Place Donation	57	0	0	0	9	0	66
Service Reserves	Place Reserve	1,902	-23	0	-160	202	0	1,921
Service Reserves	Porthkerry	67	0	0	0	56	0	123
Service Reserves	Cosmeston	70	0	0	0	94	0	164
Service Reserves	Corporate Resources	733	0	0	-205	0	0	528
Service Reserves	Building Services	802	0	0	0	231	0	1,033
Service Reserves	Electoral Registration	296	0	0	-45	42	0	293
Service Reserves	Holton Road	46	0	0	0	11	0	57
Service Reserves	Strong Communities	221	-80	0	0	19	0	160
Service Reserves	IASS Reserve	261	0	0	0	61	0	322
Service Reserves	Building Control	121	0	0	-60	0	0	61
Service Reserves	Regulatory	101	0	0	0	0	0	101
Service Reserves	Trainee Appointments	521	0	0	-97	0	0	424
Service Reserves	Child Burial	85	0	0	0	14	0	99
Service Reserves	Mayors Foundation Gr	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Service Reserves	Staff Employment Res	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Risk and Smoothing R	Homelessness and Ho	4,358	0	-200	0	1,193	0	5,351
Risk and Smoothing R	Asylum Seekers	98	0	0	0	0	0	98
Risk and Smoothing R	Cost of Living	854	0	-200	-283	0	0	371
Risk and Smoothing R	Pay Pressures	4,168	0	0	-360	61	0	3,869
Risk and Smoothing R	Energy Pressures	3,885	0	-2,400	0	0	0	1,485
Risk and Smoothing R	Legal Claims	2,000	0	0	-160	0	0	1,840
Risk and Smoothing R	Energy Management F	159	-41	0	0	322	0	440
Risk and Smoothing R	Social Services Vehicle	408	0	0	0	0	-67	341
Risk and Smoothing R	Ash Die Back	335	0	0	-208	0	0	127
Risk and Smoothing R	Project Zero	1,423	-9	0	0	0	-614	800
Risk and Smoothing R	Investment and Growth	2,353	0	0	0	0	-2,353	0

Risk and Smoothing R	Reshaping Risk and In	2,523	0	0	-200	0	251	2,574
Risk and Smoothing R	Corporate Landlord	5,707	-760	0	0	0	0	4,947
Risk and Smoothing R	Digital Reshaping	1,531	-130	0	0	11	0	1,412
Risk and Smoothing R	Budget Risk	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Capital Reserves	School Investment Stra	1,896	-1,054	0	0	290	0	1,132
Capital Reserves	Vehicles Repair and R	1,973	-1,346	0	0	1,355	0	1,982
Capital Reserves	ICF Capital	259	-87	0	0	0	0	172
Capital Reserves	Telecare	1,043	0	0	-30	0	0	1,013
Capital Reserves	Waste Transfer Station	891	0	0	0	0	-626	265
Capital Reserves	WG Schools Capital	2,334	-2,334	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Reserves	FSM Capital Grant	1,593	-1,593	0	0	0	364	364
Capital Reserves	Capital Scheme Comm	5,839	-1,264	0	0	0	-1,015	3,560
Capital Reserves	City Deal	1,898	0	0	0	0	-1,898	0
Capital Reserves	Independent Living Re	0	0	0	0	0	500	500
Capital Reserves	Capital Regeneration a	0	0	0	-40	40	1,458	1,458
Schools	Schools	6677	0	0	-4368	0	0	2,309
Schools	Temporary Reserve BF	300	0	0	-300	0	0	0
Schools	ICT hwb	353	0	0	0	320	0	673
Schools	3g Pitch Renewals and	50	0	0	0	25	0	75
Schools	Additional Needs Fund	174	0	0	-174	0	0	0
Schools	School Deficits	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
Housing Revenue Accd	Housing Revenue Accd	16486	0	-12961	0	0	0	3,525
	TOTAL	110,489	-8,779	-16,257	-15,893	6,694	0	76,254