

2023/24 Revenue budget - early assessment of progress

Directorate	Shortfall in saving target £000's	New budget Pressures / Savings £000's	Early budget pressure £000's
Children & Young People	105	582	687
Social Care & Health	1,401	1,600	3,001
Communities & Place	251	1,262	1,513
Monlife	0	0	0
Resources	34	51	85
Chief Executives Units	105	0	105
People & Governance	0	16	16
Corporate, Treasury & Financing	0	710	710
Totals	1,896	4,221	6,117

Unbudgeted - Reserve usage not called on in 22/23 outturn

(2,500)

Grant assumption for remainder of year

(1,000)

Net budget pressure

2,617

Budget Pressures / Savings Update

Directorate	Pressure or Saving +/- £50k	Value (£000)	Explanation
C&P	Waste	1,000	Recycling market has flipped meaning we are paying more for disposal, last year we spent £50k, now expecting it to cost us £500k in 23-24. Increased building rates and effect of inflation on contracts and materials (some contracts have gone up by 11%) £100k. 10 Additional Staff (4 to cover bank holidays, 3 for garden waste collections, 3 for new additional houses) Agency staff to cover these ten additional staff for holidays as well as agency costs to cover staff sickness. Cover for additional days leave as a result of 22-23 pay agreement. (Total employee impact £400k)
C&P	Fleet Maintenance	100	Since centralisation of the service the indication (based on the 22-23 outturn) is that the existing authority budget is insufficient to cover the cost of our vehicle fleet, this has been exacerbated by inflationary increases.
C&P	Homelessness	440	Homelessness presentations remain high - this means we cannot reduce the use of B&Bs by the number that we had originally included in our 23-24 mandate, this has resulted in a budget pressure across both Housing and Benefits. Security costs are also forecast to come in £75k over original 23-24 projection.
C&P	Schools Catering	0	RISK ONLY - NOT BEING FULLY FUNDED (£218k) - Gross overspend is predicted to be £307k but this has been offset by one-off FSM admin funding of £89k (not expected to continue in 24-25). The completion of the roll out of UFSM to all primary pupils from September will result in a significant uplift in the amount of meals that will need to be served, this will require additional staff and ingredient spend. Some of this will be partially offset by the £2.90 per meal grant funding provided by WG but this figure is lower than our actual unit rate cost (currently estimated at £3.75) so it leaves us with a pressure to be managed. There is a review currently being undertaken by WG into the suitability of the £2.90 rate and we will know in the Autumn if this will be increased - if it isn't then there is a potential for the overspend to increase in 24-25 as we will bear the full impact of the meal number increases across a whole financial year.
C&P	Vacant posts	(278)	Vacant posts are in the process of being filled, however the tight labour market conditions will mean that some of these vacancies will last longer into 2023/24
PG	Democratic services	50	Inconsistent elections and grant funding and increased Members expenses owing to increased physical meeting post pandemic is creating a pressure.
PG	Vacant posts	(34)	Vacant posts are in the process of being filled, however the tight labour market conditions will mean that some of these vacancies will last longer into 2023/24
RES	Commercial Investments	111	Service charge costs have increased significantly for the financial year 23/24 primarily associated with inflation and planned maintenance works to the onsite boiler infrastructure. Where there remain vacant units, there will be an associated service charge cost for MCC to meet.
RES	Vacant posts	(60)	Vacant posts are in the process of being filled, however the tight labour market conditions will mean that some of these vacancies will last longer into 2023/24
SCH	Provider fees - Adults and Childrens services	1,600	Negotiations are continuing with care providers around the agreed contractual rate. The current estimate is a total additional YOY cost of £2.6m against an allocated budget pressure of £1m. This estimate to date does not take account of the uplifts in out of county care placements for which we have little control as these are set by the host Local Authority.

CYP	ALN Transport	525	Forecast revised, based on April and May actuals, resulting in an overspend of £525k
CYP	ALN - Recoupment	257	With the recent changes in the ALN formula for schools, all out of county recoupment for mainstream schools will be delegated to schools to support pupils
CYP	ALN - OOC	(200)	Reduction in number of pupils in out of county schools has resulted in a saving of £200k
Corporate	Pay inflation - non-teaching	960	Estimated pressure over and above base budget based upon the employers current pay offer of a flat rate £1,925
Corporate	Treasury costs	250	Estimated pressure as a result of continuing interest rate rises over and above those indicated at the time of budget build
Corporate	Contingency budget	(500)	Inflation contingency budget assumed to be fully utilised
Total		4,221	

Budgeted savings update

	Savings proposals by Directorate	Budgeted Saving £000's	Current Forecast £000's	Variance £000's	Variance %	
	Children & Young People	(1,809)	(1,704)	105	5.8%	
	Social Care & Health	(3,349)	(1,948)	1,401	41.8%	
	Communities & Place	(2,513)	(2,262)	251	10.0%	
	Monlife	(628)	(628)	0	0.0%	
	Resources	(991)	(957)	34	3.4%	
	Chief Executives Units	(341)	(237)	105	30.6%	
	People & Governance	(86)	(86)	0	0.0%	
	Corporate Costs & Levies	(433)	(433)	0	0.0%	
	Totals	(10,150)	(8,254)	1,896	18.7%	
Ref	Children & Young People	Budgeted Saving £000's	Current Forecast £000's	Variance £000's		Comment
CYP13	Schools - A reduction in the budget delegated to schools of 2.8% after making full provision for pay and energy increases.	(1,450)	(1,450)	0		This saving has been made in full. The ISB has been reduced to reflect this.
CYP8	Increase ALN recoupment income - additional places and increased charges to cover pay awards.	(100)	0	100		With the recent changes in the ALN formula for schools, all out of county recoupment for mainstream schools will be delegated to schools to support pupils. Therefore, any additional income generated through additional places will be delegated to the schools.
CYP12	Gwent Music - partial withdrawal of subsidy from the service.	(61)	(61)	0		This saving has been agreed with Gwent Music and will be made in full
CYP11	Grant funding to support Education Psychology staff budget	(81)	(81)	0		Grant funding in place to fund post so saving will be made without loss of post
CYP10	Reduce contribution to Education Achievement service - To reduce MCC's core contribution by 10%	(40)	(40)	0		This has been agreed with the EAS and the saving will be made in full
CYP6	Grant funding to support the Additional Learning Needs Admin Team	(30)	(30)	0		Grant funding in place to fund post so saving will be made without loss of post
CYP15	Support Services staff savings through restructure	(25)	(25)	0		Grant funding in place to fund post so saving will be made without loss of post
CYP7	Additional Learning Needs Equipment - To cease funding for ALN specialist equipment that is funded centrally for pupils placed in our schools.	(22)	(17)	5		Funding has been made available for a pupil in one of our mainstream schools.
	CYP Totals	(1,809)	(1,704)	105		

Service savings progress

Ref	Social Care & Health	Budgeted Saving £000's	Current Forecast £000's	Variance £000's	Comment
SCH3	Children's Services - Placement and Practice Change - re-evaluating our current processes and systems post-covid in order to clearly define at what points we make essential decisions in regard to when a child is placed within a High-Cost Placement	(748)	(936)	(188)	Care planning for High Cost and Solo Placements is in place with HOS oversight and sign off. This is allowing children to progress to alternative placements where this is in keeping with their care and support needs and their longer term personal outcomes.
SCH5	Staffing reductions to Adult Services - The proposal is to create savings by reducing the core workforce across the statutory teams in adults' services.	(308)	(160)	148	A monitoring framework has been established and a "totaliser" set up to track, record and account for all the identified staff savings throughout the year.
SCH4	Children's Service Redesign/Staffing - (i) Family Time Service Development, (ii) Review of Structures and Service Operating costs	(421)	(34)	387	Additional Family Contact Sessional workers are in place providing cost avoidance activity where intensive family supervision is required (previously the service was reliant on commissioned services). Weekly Workforce Meeting of Children Service Leadership Team is overseeing the reduction of the use of agency social workers, which is progressing positively.
SCH10	Adults - Care hours, block commissioning, Mileage - Reduce amount of direct care in the region of 10% whilst rebalancing in house/external provision	(400)	0	400	Various workstreams underway to right size care packages but challenges associated with identifying the resource required to undertake the work. A Review pilot in Monmouth to right size packages and Nevill Hall to discharge people with minimal care requirements, and establishment of a weekly QALG (Quality Assurance Group) to right size care package and ensure cost efficiency. However current data tells us that overall, once care reductions and new demand has been accounted for, the impact is one of increasing spend in this area.
F&Cs	Fees and charges increases - in line with inflation for SCH directorate	(415)	(415)	0	All agreed Fees and Charges for 2023/24 have been implemented
SCH9	Practice and Process Change Adults - For people with high support needs	(250)	0	250	SCH7 and 9 are merged together as they are both looking into the same operational areas and are mainly focussing around practice change and the effective application of CHC around the Adult care spectrum. At present we have one LD cases which has entered into the final level 3 dispute stage and we continue to challenge ABuHB with estimate costs of £250K.
SCH7	Learning disabilities - Remodelling of learning disability and mental health teams that will involve a decrease in team management hours.	(300)	0	300	
SCH8	Adult services - Direct payment saving	(200)	(200)	0	10% levy has been applied to all Direct Payment care packages
SCH2a	Staff restructuring within the Public protection service.	(103)	(27)	76	2 x Officers reduced their working hours from 1st April '23, capturing a saving of £27K. However, the deletion of HoPP post (main feature of this savings mandate) currently not being implemented, so no saving captured in 23/24.
SCH12b	Transformation Team structure - reduction in core workforce	(61)	(58)	3	Saving met practically in full
SCH11	Reduction in Adult partnership arrangements for Gwent service delivery models - Shared lives, Emergency duty, Frailty, Regional partnership team	(60)	(35)	25	Savings to date represent a 50% reduction in the RPT contribution.
SCH13	Monmouthshire & Torfaen YOS – Accommodation Change, Reduction in Staffing, Reallocation of Duties	(44)	(44)	0	YOS partnership budget has been realigned accordingly so SCH achieved the saving in its partner in year contribution
SCH12a	Transformation Team structure - vacant and temporary posts	(39)	(39)	0	Savings met 100%. Removal of counselling development fund (£8,000); Reduce commissioned training (£6,729); Reduce professional accredited professional and leadership training commissioned (£10,000); Review business support functions - vacant post (£14,000).

Service savings progress

	SCH Totals	(3,349)	(1,948)	1,401	
Ref	Communities & Place	Budgeted Saving £000's	Current Forecast £000's	Variance £000's	Comment
DeCarb1	Decarbonisation - Reducing energy consumption across the Council's estate	(532)	(355)	177	Potential Risk - only estimating 2 thirds achievable at present - Decarbonisation team is not yet in place resulting in a delay in implementing the energy reduction strategies highlighted in the saving mandate. In addition April and May was colder than expected so we are expecting heating bills to be up.
DeCarb1	Commercial & Landlord Services - Solar farm export tariff income	(150)	(150)	0	Achievable - budget uplifted to reflect 22-23 activity, no indication that this will not be the case in 23-24 so saving should be achieved in full.
C&P28	Highways Development & Car Parks - Increasing car park & permit charges.	(280)	(280)	0	Achievable - car park prices have been increased across authority, if activity remains the same as 22-23 then saving will be achieved in full.
22/23 Decision	Neighbourhood Services - Recycling & Waste - Increase garden waste charges to achieve a full cost recovery model and increase annual charge based on inflation	(250)	(250)	0	Achievable - Prices were uplifted as part of cabinet report in Jan - no notable reduction in uptake so assume saving will be made in full.
TRAN1+2	Fleet Maintenance - Reduction in operating fleet and corporate mileage reduction.	(160)	(110)	50	Fleet reduction of £60k on course to be achieved. Mileage - 50% achievable - roll-out of pool car scheme and other initiatives has been slower than anticipated so can only assume that 50% will be achieved in 23-24.
F&Cs	Uplift in fees & charges not covered by a standalone mandate	(155)	(155)	0	Achievable - Services have uplifted fees as per 23-24 MTFP - if activity remains the same then saving will be achieved across directorate.
C&P27	Highways Development & Car Parks - To increase the income target for road closures	(149)	(149)	0	Achievable - budget uplifted to reflect 22-23 activity - no indication that this will not be achieved in 23-24.
C&P4	Neighbourhood Services - To reduce the revenue budget for street lighting maintenance taking account of the reduction in energy usage and reduced maintenance requirements of recently renewed columns, LED lamps and traffic light renewals	(142)	(142)	0	Achievable - Energy and maintenance saving reflects actual reduction in 22-23, no indication that these savings will not re-occur in 23-24.
C&P8	Neighbourhood Services - Reduction of grounds maintenance services	(90)	(90)	0	Achievable - Mowing schedules have been reduced and sweeping structure changed so saving should be achieved in full.
C&P6	Neighbourhood Services - Grounds Maintenance and Cleansing - Uplift of charges for external contracts	(120)	(120)	0	Achievable - Pricing schedule has been updated to reflect new rates.
C&P3	Neighbourhood Services - Service savings and staff reduction.	(80)	(80)	0	Achievable - Re-use shop has increased opening hours so saving should be achieved, black bag sorting has been employed at sites so we should see a reduction in overall tipping costs.
C&P17,18,21+24	Highways & Flood Mgt - Reduction in staffing costs in the Highways and Flood Management service area	(74)	(74)	0	Achievable - Posts have been removed from structure so saving should be made in full.
PTU1	Passenger Transport Commissioning - New acceptable routes are implemented to reduce transport requirements based on current transport policy	(70)	(70)	0	Potential risk - The majority of the routes will be tendered in June so we will have a clearer picture in July. We are trying to increase the number of passengers travelling by public buses, but I think that will be limited by the uncertainties around bus grant funding. They are working on the costs for active travel to reduce transport demand and we do expect to see savings.

Service savings progress

C&P34+35	Planning, Policy & Building Control - To reduce revenue budget for the service area by reducing the professional and specialist fees, and photocopying and postage budget.	(59)	(59)	0		Achievable - budgets were reduced to reflect activity - no indication that this will change, achieved in full.
22/23 Decision	Housing - A proposed restructure of the Housing Sustainable Living Team	(50)	(50)	0		Achieved - Post has been removed from structure
22/23 Decision	Flexible Funding - Restructure Management Team to reduce core costs	(50)	(50)	0		Achieved - Post has been removed from structure
C&P7	Neighbourhood Services - Savings from Silbuster recycling plant.	(30)	(30)	0		Achievable - recycling plant is operational and contracted rebate payments have been received, saving will be achieved in full.
PTU7	Passenger Transport - Terminate the Mission Software and revert back to CTX which is a lower cost	(30)	(30)	0		Achievable - Change has been made, savings should be achieved in full.
C&P12	Housing - to build on the foundations of the well-established Careline Service to ensure it continues to be fit for future purpose.	(25)	(18)	7		Part Achieved - All clients have been written to and given notice of a price rise of £0.50 pw. Due to the increased charge being implemented wef 1st June 2023, it is not projected that the price increase will achieve the mandate target. Assuming no reduction of clients leaving the service due to the price increase, the additional projected income is £17,995. An agreed proposal to remodel the Careline service to a broader Assistive Technology model in order to align with Social Care requirements is making positive progress, including the appointment of a Digital Coach. A joint action plan focused on staff training and development has been established and is being implemented. One off grant funding acquired from Social Care Wales to support the Assistive Technology proposal. An arising risk is Call Monitoring Centre charges have increased for 22/23
PTU4-6a	Schools & Community Transport - Changing the licensing arrangements	(17)	0	17		Unachievable - This will not materialise as we have not been able to proceed with the operators licence as we are only allowed to run 10 public bus / grass route vehicles on it and we have more than that.
		(2,513)	(2,262)	251		
Ref	Monlife	Budgeted Saving £000's	Current Forecast £000's	Variance £000's		Comment
ML 3 & 4	Finance & Business Support Restructure	(104)	(104)	0		Restructure complete - Post deleted from structure savings will be fully achieved
ML22	Gilwern Outdoor Adventure Services Redesign - Increase income through new business, new ways of working and engaging further with Monmouthshire internal services to provide cost avoidance for CYP and Social Services.	(100)	(100)	0		Early indications of continued growth along with the services final outturn position indicates that this saving should be fully achievable in 23-24, there is still significant uncertainty around winter bookings and our re-engage program which are both essential in achieving the necessary income targets, we will continue to monitor this close and report any variances.
F&Cs	Uplift in fees & charges not covered by a standalone mandate	(83)	(83)	0		Fee's updated 1st April 2023 - Early indications this will be achievable.
ML 7,8,9 & 21	Attractions Service Redesign	(65)	(65)	0		Redesign is underway savings will be fully achieved in 23-24
ML1	Green Infrastructure Grants - To fully utilise Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), Local Places for Nature and related grants / project funding	(45)	(45)	0		The service has received notification of successful bids, these will allow this saving to be fully achieved in 23-24.
ML5	Removal of vacant Project Officer post	(45)	(45)	0		Post deleted savings will be fully achieved

Service savings progress

ML14	Youth Services - Seeking to maintain service delivery at reduced core costs by increases reliance on external grants, an internal restructure of priorities, programmes and delivery.	(25)	(25)	0	A joined up approach to funding through the delivery of sports development youth and play should provide the necessary opportunities to maximise external income opportunities and deliver this saving in 23-24.
ML19	Old station Tintern Miniature Train Track - Complete the necessary repair and maintenance on the miniature train track through an initial one-off capital investment of £45k, this will allow us to re-open this much-loved attraction and increase our income generation.	(25)	(25)	0	The season has just reopened early indications indicate we are on target to achieve the additional income
ML10	Collections Management - Remove 0.40 FTE from the Collections Management Post, currently vacant within the structure.	(21)	(21)	0	Post removed savings will be fully achieved
ML13	Sports Development - To increase income generation through external grants, seeking to maintain service delivery at reduced core costs but increase service reliance on alternative external grants.	(20)	(20)	0	This income will be fully achieved in 23-24
ML2	Countryside Access Grant Project cost recovery - To fully utilise the full cost recover model when recovering project management costs, ensuring our recovery rates maximise the rate allowed by grant providers.	(20)	(20)	0	In progress early indications indicate that the additional income will be fully achieved in 23-24.
ML11	Visitor charging at some heritage exhibitions/activities and events	(20)	(20)	0	Program is being developed, income should be fully achievable in 23-24.
ML18	Recharge Project Officers against Grant - Ensuring full cost recovery of officer's time against grants.	(20)	(20)	0	Additional grants awarded to MONLIFE will allow this income to be fully achieved in 23-24.
ML12	Sale of Caterpod	(10)	(10)	0	In the process of arranging the sale of the caterpod will be complete in 23-24.
ML15	Caldicot Fitness Equipment Maintenance - Reduce Caldicot LC maintenance contract to reflect the ageing equipment and seek a local accredited supplier to maintain	(10)	(10)	0	Contract negotiations underway, this saving should be fully achieved in 23-24.
ML17	Commercial contributions and Sponsorships	(10)	(10)	0	This will be achieved in 23-24.
ML6	Reducing the Marketing supplies and services budget	(5)	(5)	0	This saving will be fully achieved in 23-24
		(628)	(628)	0	
Ref	Chief Executive's Unit	Budgeted Saving £000's	Current Forecast £000's	Variance £000's	Comment
CEO1-5	Community Hubs - Reduce staffing levels at community hubs in order to reduce costs while keeping all hubs open with reduced service levels.	(135)	(68)	68	50% achievable - won't see full year saving due to timing of staff reductions but exploring alternative savings measures.
CEO11&13	Contact Centre - To reduce staffing levels in the contact centre by 2.5 FTE	(112)	(75)	37	Full year saving won't be achieved due to timing of redundancies, but exploring alternative savings measures.
CEO14	Performance & Data - Remove data scientist post	(39)	(39)	0	Achievable - Post removed from structure

Service savings progress

CEO08	Community Hubs & Libraries - Reduce the budget for library books by 16.7% from £90,000 to £45,000,	(45)	(45)	0		Achievable - budget removed, purchases will be limited to new figure.
CEO10	Community Education - Increase income by growing learner base	(10)	(10)	0		Achievable - Early indication is that this will be achieved.
	CEO Totals	(341)	(237)	105		
Ref	People & Governance	Budgeted Saving £000's	Current Forecast £000's	Variance £000's		Comment
PG2	P&G income - The below proposals seek to increase income in Comms and Land Charges and a small software cost reduction in payroll.	(80)	(80)	0		Achievable - no indication so far that this will not be achieved.
F&Cs	Uplift in fees & charges not covered by a standalone mandate	(6)	(6)	0		Achievable - Services have uplifted fees as per 23-24 MTFP - if activity remains the same then saving will be achieved across directorate.
	PG Totals	(86)	(86)	0		
Ref	Resources	Budgeted Saving £000's	Current Forecast £000's	Variance £000's		Comment
RES8	Landlord services - Reduce Corporate Building (Reactive and Planned) Maintenance revenue budget	(300)	(300)	0		Achievable - budget will be monitored to ensure all qualifying repairs will be charged to the capital programme (where funding has been made available) - assume saving will be made in full.
RES24	Landlord services - To review the property estate and to explore options for further rationalisation	(215)	(215)	0		Potential Risk, assume on target for now but is dependant on timing of decisions of disposal.
RES12	ICT - Mobile Phone Contract Saving	(149)	(115)	34		Partial - contract changeover delay by 2 months
RES19	Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - Remove budget earmarked for a discretionary business rate relief scheme	(126)	(126)	0		Achievable - budget has been removed.
RES2	Landlord services - Vacant development surveyor post being held - or funded by capital programme as required	(45)	(45)	0		Achievable - Post has been removed from structure.
RES14	SRS Contribution & PSBA Line Savings	(62)	(62)	0		Achievable - SRS contribution has been reduced in line with SRS figures, assume achievable.
F&Cs	Uplift in fees & charges not covered by a standalone mandate	(19)	(19)	0		Achievable - Services have uplifted fees as per 23-24 MTFP - if activity remains the same then saving will be achieved across directorate.
RES7	Landlord services - Explore alternative reception solutions at County Hall to remove front of house staffing needs	(19)	(19)	0		Achievable - Staffing reduction to kick in from July, saving should be achieved in full.
RES11	Digital Design & Innovation - Automate Starters & Leavers Process	(13)	(13)	0		Achievable - Awaiting SRS but assume it will be made in full.
RES23	ICT - Restructure of the Information Security and Technology Team	(13)	(13)	0		Achievable - adjustments to team structure have been made.

Service savings progress

RES20	Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - Increase use of purchase cards to increase e-payment rebate	(10)	(10)	0	Achievable - The number of purchase cards in use increased last year, as more services adopted this payment method. Therefore expect the rebate to increase. However we await confirmation of how much this will actually be. Assume savings target will be achieved until we hear otherwise.
RES21	Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - Reduce budget allocated for finance system upgrades	(10)	(10)	0	Achievable - System development costs will be managed in line with budget. Therefore barring any emergencies or unexpected costs, expect to achieve this saving.
RES22	Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - Shared Revenues & Benefits service potential savings through automation and increased use of self service facilities (Citizens Access).	(10)	(10)	0	Achievable - Expect to achieve this saving following changes to operating practices within the Shared Service
Resources Totals		(991)	(957)	34	
Ref	Corporate Costs & Levies	Budgeted Saving £000's	Current Forecast £000's	Variance £000's	Comment
Capex1	Extend capitalisation direction	(358)	(358)	0	Additional qualifying expenditure identified and will be funded via capital receipts as per budget
CORP2	Insurance - reduction in self insured costs and professional fees/ICT costs	(75)	(75)	0	Saving in professional fees/ICT costs to be achieved in full (£25k). Self insured costs (£50k saving) - This budget covers insurance excesses payable on claims or costs agreed outside of insurance and not met from the service (i.e. where costs in total fall below any excess). This is a highly volatile budget based on claims incidence and operating environment (i.e. adverse weather conditions). However long term trends have seen some modest reduction in costs payable and this trend is expected to continue through 2023/24.
Corporate Costs & Levies Totals		(433)	(433)	0	