

Budget savings progress

Savings proposals by Directorate	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance		Comment
	£000	£000	£000		
Social Care & Health	(3,349)	(2,236)	1,113	33.2%	
Children & Young People	(1,809)	(1,704)	105	5.8%	
Communities & Place	(2,513)	(2,219)	294	11.7%	
Monlife	(930)	(893)	37	4.0%	
Chief Executives Units	(39)	(39)	0	0.0%	
People & Governance	(86)	(86)	0	0.0%	
Resources	(991)	(876)	115	11.6%	
Corporate Costs & Levies	(433)	(433)	0	0.0%	
Totals	(10,150)	(8,486)	1,664	16.4%	

Ref	Social Care & Health	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
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)	(1,152)	(404)	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)	(162)	146	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)	(72)	349	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)	(31)	269	
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)	(28)	75	There was an inherent risk of moving forward on the proposal for removal of the Head for PP and we will look throughout the year at any mitigation where possible
SCH12b	Transformation Team structure - reduction in core workforce	(61)	(58)	3	Saving met practically in full

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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) £2914.00 from S040 vacant post Mandate SCH12a/b £100,000.00
SCH Totals		(3,349)	(2,236)	1,113	

Ref	Children & Young People	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
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	Savings will be made through restructure
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	

Ref	Communities & Place	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
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.

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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)	(60)	100		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 cannot forecast that any of this saving will be found 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.
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

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		£000	£000	£000	
C&P7	Neighbourhood Services - Savings from Siltbuster 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)	(25)	0	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.
	C&P Totals	(2,513)	(2,219)	294	

Ref	Monlife	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
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 01st 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
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.

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		£000	£000	£000		
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
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)	(135)	0		Achievable - improvement from M2, an updated assessment has been made and it is now predicted that this saving will be fully found within the available budget.
CEO08	Community Hubs & Libraries - Reduce the budget for library books by 50% 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.
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.
	MonLife Totals	(930)	(893)	37		

Ref	Chief Executive's Unit	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance		Comment
		£000	£000	£000		
CEO14	Performance & Data - Remove data scientist post	(39)	(39)	0		Achievable - Post removed from structure
	CEO Totals	(39)	(39)	0		

	Savings proposals by Directorate	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
Ref	People & Governance	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
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	Month 5 Forecast	Variance	Comment
		£000	£000	£000	
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)	(100)	115	Latest assumption is that due to delays in decisions only £100k will be achievable this financial year.
RES12	ICT - Mobile Phone Contract Saving	(149)	(149)	0	Budget has been distributed to services
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.
RES20	Revenues, Systems & Exchequer - Increase use of purchase cards to increase e-payment rebate	(10)	(10)	0	Achievable - The rebate for 2022/23 has been confirmed as £10,164.44.
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)	(876)	115	

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	Savings proposals by Directorate	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance		Comment
		£000	£000	£000		
Ref	Corporate Costs & Levies	Budgeted Saving	Month 5 Forecast	Variance		Comment
		£000	£000	£000		
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		