

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 20 November 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Resources Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Quarter 2 Revenue Monitoring 2025/26
Purpose of Report:	To provide an update on Quarter 2 Monitoring for 2025/26.
Report Owner:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report is to be referred to 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 has continued to experience significant demand pressures for supporting Children's Services, Adult Services due to the aging demographic and increasing complexity of need, Homelessness and pupils with Additional Learning Needs including School Transport. There are also pressures across front line Neighbourhood Services such as in respect of Road Maintenance, Waste, Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing.
- The lag on delivery of savings is quite significant in 2025/26 and outstrips the provision in the budget risk reserve; this reflects the complexity of savings being introduced but further consideration of implementation timelines should be factored into budget setting for 2026/27 and the Medium Term Financial Plan. which impacted outturns in year particularly in Neighbourhood and Social Services.
- The Council has sought to maximise the resources in Schools but 2024/25 ended with a £4.2m net deficit and further deficits are forecast in 2025/26. There are acknowledged funding pressures for schools across Wales, and this is the case for the Vale of Glamorgan too but there are a small number of schools with disproportionate levels of deficit. Greater action is being taken for 2025/26 to address the position including providing schools with strategies to present balanced recovery plans. Whilst mindful of the pressure's schools experience in respect of pay, ALN and wellbeing needs and falling pupil numbers the Council must challenge schools where appropriate

on their approaches to providing a balanced budget. The Director of Learning and Skills has worked with schools and governing bodies to develop plans to address deficits and a number of schools with high irrecoverable deficits and has been meeting regularly with the Chief Executive, Director of Learning and Skills, Head of Finance and Leader across September and October to discuss measures to address these challenges with further steps taken on a case by case basis. Further support will be provided to schools with smaller deficits to support the delivery of recovery plans as agreed with the Director of Learning and Skills.

- The Quarter 2 Revenue position projects unplanned use of reserves corporately of £3.096m, £2m of this sum will be met from the Budget Risk Reserve, £320k from Housing and Homelessness Reserve and the balance is currently shown against the Council's General Fund. There are a number of reshaping proposals that are being explored during 2025/26 to address the unplanned use of reserves, a moratorium on use of reserves has also been introduced by SLT including a review of all planned use of reserves. As noted above Schools a further drawdown of reserves, this amounts to £11.387m in year taking the cumulative net deficit for schools to £15.524m.
- Virements as set out below have been requested as part of this report and reflect the correction of allocation of cost pressures and savings as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process. The projections below include the changes requesting as part of the Housing Revenue Account Report also on this Cabinet agenda.

Table 1 - Outturn Summary

Directorate	Original Budget 2025/26	Virement	Revised Budget 2025/26	Projected Outturn	Variance
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Learning and Skills	142,112	0	142,112	153,648	(11,536)
Social Services	106,715	(8)	106,707	109,257	(2,550)
Environment and Housing	30,964	0	30,964	32,349	(1,386)
Corporate Resources	15,477	10	15,487	16,041	(554)
Place	2,878	143	3,021	3,021	0
Policy	33,428	(145)	33,284	31,742	1,543
Council Tax Surplus	0	0	0	0	0
Schools Adjust to Reserve for Deficit	0	0	0	(11,387)	11,387
Unplanned Use of Reserves	0	0	0	(3,096)	3,096
Total	331,574	0	331,574	331,574	0
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	(41)	(399)	(440)	(440)	0
Public Sector Housing (HRA) Use of Reserves	41	399	440	440	0
	331,574	0	331,574	331,574	331,574

Movement in Reserves	
Unplanned Use of Reserves	3,096
Use of Reserves Schools	11,387
Transfer into Reserves	(552)
Planned Use of Reserves (Budget)	636

Planned Use of Reserves (Projects)	2,580
HRA	(440)
Total	16,707
Capital Movement	7,158
General Fund Movement	-
Total	23,865

- As in Quarter 1 Appendix 2 has been included for 2025/26 that sets out the budgeted Income and Expenditure for the Council; this will be further refined during the course of the financial year to reflect emerging grant funding streams etc.
- The progress against 2025/26 savings targets is reflected in the Appendix 9. Services have mitigated some savings not achieved in year with other temporary income or savings; the appendix also keeps savings not achieved in 2023/24 or 2024/25 under review.
- The level of Useable Reserves is projected to reduce significantly in year, but it is likely to be reprofiled slightly due to Capital Expenditure slippage and emerging grant income. The Council will be undertaking a review of reserve commitments in year outlined above to mitigate some of the unplanned draw down that is currently set out in the projections.

Table 2 – Reserves

As at	Balance 31/03/25	Capital	Planned Budget Movement 2025/26	Unplanned Budget Movement 2025/26	HRA Reserves	Provisional Balance 31/03/26
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund	13,000	0	0	(776)	0	12,224
Insurance	4,954	0	0	0	0	4,954
Service Reserves	10,579	(356)	(1,272)	0	0	8,951
Risk and Smoothing Reserves	20,224	(2,998)	(1,540)	(2,320)	0	13,366
Capital Reserves	9,281	(3,804)	(172)	0	0	5,306
Schools	1,289	0	320	(11,387)	0	(9,778)
Housing Revenue Account	3,885	0	0	0	440	4,325
Total	63,212	(7,158)	(2,664)	(14,483)	440	39,348

Recommendations

1. That the report and the financial measures taken and proposed be approved.
2. That the report is referred to Resources Scrutiny Committee for consideration and for any recommendations to be referred back to Cabinet for consideration.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To approve the report and the financial measures taken and proposed.
2. To enable the Scrutiny Committee responsible for finance to review the year end position.

1. Background

- 1.1 Council on 10th March 2025 approved the revenue budget for 2025/26 and earlier in the year on 13th January 2025 approved the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2025/26. The approved drawdown from specific reserves was £267k for initiatives to support schools in setting balanced budgets including £53k for additional procurement support and £500k to support Homelessness pressures.
- 1.2 There continue to be demand pressures associated with Additional Learning Needs and Social Services both Adult and Children's Services. There is also some pressure in respect of finalising delivery of savings proposals outstanding across 2023/24 and 2024/25 and some projected delay on implementation of 2025/26 savings. Some provision for the delay on implementation of savings has been made through £2m Budget Risk Reserve which is currently projected to be used in full in 2025/26. The current projected unplanned use of reserves and use of the budget risk reserve are reflected in this monitoring report and will continue to be kept under review as the Council progresses through this financial year.
- 1.3 This report is to be referred to Resources Scrutiny Committee.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The original budget approved for 2025/26 represents budgeted net expenditure for the Authority of £331.574m. Total expenditure is to be financed by Revenue Support Grant (£176.793m), National Non-Domestic Rates contribution (£47.654m) and Council Taxpayers (£105.877m), further provision was also made for projected recovery of Council Tax arrears of £1.250m.
- 2.2 The directorate revenue budgets are requested to be amended for the virements set out in the table below. The requests reflect the correction of budgets largely for accounting adjustments. The requests are further detailed in the service specific appendices.

Table 3 - Virements Requested

	Amended Original Budget 2025/26	Virement Requested	Revised Budget 2025/26
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Learning and Skills	142,112	0	142,112
Social Services	106,715	(8)	106,707
Environment and Housing	30,964	0	30,964
Place	15,477	10	15,487
Corporate Resources	2,878	143	3,021
General Policy	33,428	(145)	33,284
Total	331,574	0	331,574

2.3 The projections below include the changes requesting as part of the Housing Revenue Account Report also on this Cabinet agenda.

2.4 The following table compares the budget and the projected outturn, including transfers to and from reserves. Also included is a summary of the movement in reserves projected for 2025/26.

Table 4 – Summary Outturn

Directorate	Original Budget 2025/26	Virement	Revised Budget 2025/26	Projected Outturn	Variance
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Learning and Skills	142,112	0	142,112	153,648	(11,536)
Social Services	106,715	(8)	106,707	109,257	(2,550)
Environment and Housing	30,964	0	30,964	32,349	(1,386)
Corporate Resources	15,477	10	15,487	16,041	(554)
Place	2,878	143	3,021	3,021	0
Policy	33,428	(145)	33,284	31,742	1,543
Council Tax Surplus	0	0	0	0	0
Schools Adjust to Reserve for Deficit	0	0	0	(11,387)	11,387
Unplanned Use of Reserves	0	0	0	(3,096)	3,096
Total	331,574	0	331,574	331,574	0
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	(41)	(399)	(440)	(440)	0
Public Sector Housing (HRA) Use of Reserves	41	399	440	440	0
Total	331,574	0	331,574	331,574	0

Movement in Reserves	
Unplanned Use of Reserves	3,096
Use of Reserves Schools	11,387
Transfer into Reserves	(552)
Planned Use of Reserves (Budget)	636
Planned Use of Reserves (Projects)	2,580
HRA	(440)
Total	16,707
Capital Movement	7,158
General Fund Movement	-
Total	23,865

- 2.5** A detailed analysis of the projected outturn at Quarter 2 and the associated variances is provided at Appendix 1.
- 2.6** 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 in the Directorate summary in paragraphs 2.10 to 2.32. The Quarter 2 revenue position projects unplanned use of reserves corporately of £3.096m ; £2m of this sum will be met from the Budget Risk Reserve, £320k from Housing and Homelessness Reserve and the balance is currently shown against the Council's General Fund.
- 2.7** There are a number of reshaping proposals that are being explored during 2025/26 to address the unplanned use of reserves and a moratorium on use of reserves has also been introduced by SLT including a review of all planned use of reserves. As noted above for Schools there is a further drawdown of £11.387m in year taking the cumulative net deficit for schools to £15.524m.
- 2.8** Appendix 2 to the report includes a breakdown of the budget by type of income and expenditure and reflects the gross expenditure of the Council as well as the scale of income from grants and fees and charges.

Table 5 – Budget Analysis by Category

Directorate/Service	Total Expenditure	Total Income	Net Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Learning and Skills (incl. Schools)	179,626	- 37,514	142,112
Social Services	130,171	-23,464	106,707
Environment and Housing	82,162	- 51,198	30,964
Corporate Resources	44,385	- 28,898	15,487
Place	8,907	- 5,886	3,021
Policy	34,400	- 1,117	33,283
Grand Total	479,651	- 148,077	331,574

- 2.9** In 2024/25 the Council Received £104m of revenue grants, the current budget reflects circa £84m of revenue grants in 2025/26 at Quarter 2 but this position will continue to be kept under review as we progress through the financial year.

Directorate Summaries

2.10 The main reasons for the variances are set out in the supporting appendices to this report with the summary positions provided below.

Learning and Skills

2.11 Table 7 below provides detail of the projected outturn and variances for the Learning and Skills Directorate at Quarter 2. The outturn projected reflects an adverse variance of £149k; this relates to a school transport overspend of £446k with the underlying Central Learning and Skills being underspent and full achievement of savings proposals in year. It also reflects £11.387m additional net Schools deficit taking the overall position to £15.524m. A detailed analysis of the outturn for Learning and Skills can be found in Appendix 3.

Table 7 – Learning and Skills Quarter 2

Directorate/Service	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Schools	128,568	-	128,568	139,955	(11,387)	
Unplanned use of school reserves	-		-	(11,387)	11,387	11,387
Subtotal Schools	128,568	-	128,568	128,568	-	11,387
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning and Resources	8,054	-	8,054	7,955	99	38
Directors Office	268		268	272	-(4)	-
Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing	5,392		5,392	5,309	83	-
Standards and Provision	2,651	-	2,651	2,532	119	-
School Transport	-	-	-	446	(446)	
National Insurance	(2,821)		(2,821)	(2,821)	-	-
Total Learning and Skills (incl. Schools)	142,112	-	142,112	142,261	(149)	11,425
Unplanned Use of Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-

2.12 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 a certain distance to their nearest appropriate school, those who have an unavailable walking route to school and those who have Additional Learning Needs (ALN) who require access to specialist provision. The volume of pupils attending the Ysgol y Deri main site and satellite sites has increased again for the 2025/26 academic year. Having three different drop off and collection areas at the Penarth site means premiums are being paid to those vehicles who need to remain on site for extended periods of time. In addition, transport to out of county ALN provision

has increased. The first month of the new academic year has seen an increase in requests for solo taxi 's due to potential behavioural issues. There has also been an increase in the number of resource bases in the county which has led to an increase in transport requirement. The demand for Mainstream transport continues to grow with the increase in demand for school places. Transport for pupils who are not able to secure a place in their catchment school as they are full continues to be a problem and has seen an increase in cost.

- 2.13** Schools - At quarter 2, 36 schools (68% of all schools) are forecast to be in a deficit position at 31st March 2026, and that total deficit balances amounted to £16.6m. In contrast 17 schools (32% of all schools) will be in a surplus position as at 31st March with total surplus balances amounting to £1.09m. The overall net deficit of £15.5m amounts to just under 8% of the school's budget share.
- 2.14** The Council understands that based on previous trajectories of school deficits between the summer term and 31st March that the projected deficits can reduce significantly in part as a result of emerging grant income. The Council also considers this position in the context of pressures on schools being very much emerging picture across Wales due to falling pupil numbers at primary level, rising Additional Learning Needs and wellbeing pressures and the high exposure to inflationary pay pressures. It also acknowledges that the Vale of Glamorgan Council is more exposed to these pressures than some other Welsh Councils due to its low funding profile. Nevertheless, further action is needed to develop achievable deficit recovery plans for some schools.
- 2.15** It is the responsibility of Governing Bodies to set a balanced budget for a school. If they are not able to do this or to set a budget plan that recovers any deficit within 3 to 5 years then it is the Statutory Responsibility of a Local Authority to step in. There are a number of steps that a Local Authority can take including Formal and Informal notices, appointing additional governors and providing additional support, placing a new Executive Board to support the school in achieving a balanced budget and where appropriate de-delegating the budget.
- 2.16** The Director of Learning and Skills has worked with schools and governing bodies to develop plans to address deficits but there remain a number of schools with high irrecoverable deficits. These Director of Learning and Skills has been meeting on a regular basis with the Chief Executive, Director of Learning and Skills, Head of Finance and Leader across September and October to discuss strategies to address these challenges, with further steps taken on a case by case basis and potentially to consider taking some of the statutory measures. Further support will be provided to schools with smaller deficits to support the delivery of recovery plans as agreed with the Director of Learning and Skills.
- 2.17** Some of the actions that have been taken to date are summarised below.
- Teaching and Learning Challenge appointment of external support.
 - Developed a new training package for Business Managers.
 - Developed a new Business Manager Network.
 - Initiated a procurement review with appointment of a procurement officer to enable cluster procurement.

- Review of Financial Governance has been undertaken by Internal Audit.
- Benchmarking work regarding schools budgets with two other Welsh Local Authorities.
- Task and Finish work with Scrutiny Committee on ALN Resource Bases.
- Support for some schools with development of a childcare offer.
- Work with the Education Endowment fund to provides training to increase confidence of Mainstream teachers to respond to the challenges of pupils will ALN in the classroom.
- Identification of peer support for schools where appropriate.
- Initiation of Formula review exercise.
- Work with Head Teachers Steering Group and Budget Forum.

2.18 The Overall Schools position is also further noted in Appendix 3 and summarised in the table below. The net deficit reserve position of £15.5m is offset by a specific reserve of £4.1m within the Council's balances. This report outlines a number of steps that will be taken in respect of school pressures and addressing the overall deficit position. Alongside this workstream consideration regarding whether further provision will be required will need to be considered as the Council progresses through 2025/26.

Table 8 Table summarising school balance projections for 31st March 2026.

Sector	No. of schools in Surplus	Gross Surplus Value	No. of schools in Deficit	Gross Deficit value
		£000's		£000's
Primary	14(32%)	605	30 (68%)	11,672
3-19 schools	0 (0%)	0	2 (100%)	900
Secondary	2 (33%)	384	4 (67%)	4,045
Special	1 (100%)	104	0 (0%)	0
TOTAL	17 (32%)	1,092	36 (68%)	£16,617

Social Services

Table 9 – Social Services Quarter 2

Directorate/Service	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children and Young People	24,685	-	24,685	26,435	(1,750)	160
Adult Services	73,056	-	73,056	73,287	(231)	-
Resource Management and Safeguarding	8,714	-	8,714	9,283	(569)	300
Youth Justice	703	-	703	703	-	
National Insurance	(443)	(8)	(451)	(451)	-	
Total Social Services	106,715	(8)	106,707	109,257	(2,550)	460

Unplanned Use of Reserves			-	(1,885)	1,885	1,885
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- 2.19** Table 9 above provides detail of the projected outturn for the Social Services Directorate. The outturn projected reflects an estimated adverse variance of £2.550m of which it is proposed that £665k will be offset by a projected underspend in the Policy budget and the balance of £1.885m will be met from an unplanned use of reserves of which £1.058m will be funded from the budget risk reserve. In addition, £300k funding for the Connecting Care Social Services ICT implementation is reflected against Resource Management and Safeguarding. The outturn is further detailed in Appendix 4.
- 2.20** Significant pressures have continued to develop in Social Services in 2025/26 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.
- 2.21** Children's Services has reported a significant adverse variance relating to increased external placement costs given the complexities of the care proceedings, 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.
- 2.22** Within Children's and Young People's Services there has been some increase in the need for Residential placements (6 placements since April) taking total to 26 placements there were 21 Residential placements in September 2024. There can also be observed an increase in the average cost of all placements since the start of the financial year. The service has maintained the number of Bespoke placements since April however the full year cost has increased by £125k when compared to the position at the start of the year, this does reflect a lower full year projection that in 2024/25
- 2.23** An overspend was also reported in Adult Services in respect of Domiciliary Care and Residential and Nursing Home Payments of approximately £2m. This is offset in part by Staff vacancies in the service and additional income projections.
- 2.24** Resource Management and Safeguarding is projecting a £569k overspend this is largely due to a £318k overspend on Residential Homes predominantly due to staffing costs but also as a result of projected overspends on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and some projected overspend against advocacy costs.

Environment and Housing

Table 10 – Environment and Housing Quarter 2

Directorate/Service	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Neighbourhood Services and Transport	25,909	0	25,909	27,035	(1,126)	
Building Services	686	0	686	626	60	
Building/Cleaning Services	1,081	0	1,081	1,081	0	-
Regulatory Services	1,711	0	1,711	1,711	0	-
Council Fund Housing	2,367	0	2,367	2,687	(320)	-
Planned Use of Reserves (Council Fund Housing)	(500)	0	(500)	(500)	0	500
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	(41)	(399)	(440)	(440)	0	
Use of Reserves HRA	41	399	440	440	0	(440)
National Insurance	(290)	0	(290)	(290)	0	
Total Environment and Housing	30,964	0	30,964	32,350	(1,386)	60
Unplanned Use of Reserves	0	0	0	(911)	911	911

2.25 The Environment and Housing budget projected outturn at Quarter 2 is an adverse variance of £1.386m. Of this sum £400k will be met by an underspend reported against the policy budget, £320k will be met from a contribution from the Housing and Homelessness Reserve and the balance will be met from the Budget Risk Reserve and the General Fund.

2.26 In Environment and Housing, key pressures include some delay on the implementation of savings proposals which is in part due to some further review of the car parking proposals that was undertaken prior to implementation and some delay in savings associated with proposed asset transfer due to the complexity of working with external organisations and securing appropriate funding streams to rectify and condition considerations. There are also pressures in respect of £200k on additional pothole and patching works and £450k against street lighting.

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

Corporate Resources

Table 11 – Corporate Resources Quarter 2

Directorate/Service	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Resources	16,246	10	16,256	16,810	(554)	1,096
Housing Benefit	(431)		(431)	(431)	-	-
National Insurance	(338)		338	(338)	-	-
Total Corporate Resources	15,477	10	15,487	16,041	(554)	1,096
Unplanned Use of Reserves	-	-	-	(300)	300	300

2.28 The Corporate Resources budget projected outturn is an adverse variance of £554k which predominantly relates to the delay on delivery of the Docks Office

savings and the service will seek to mitigate this sum as it progresses through the year; £254k of this sum will be met by the Policy Underspend and the balance from the Budget Risk reserve and the Council's General Fund reserve. A detailed analysis of the outturn is attached at Appendix 6.

- 2.29** There is one virement requested as part of this report, correcting of the transfer of building cleaning and security budget.

Table 12 – Place Quarter 2

Directorate/Service	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Regeneration	1,487	135	1,622	1,622	0	660
Sustainable Development	1,530	0	1,530	1,530	0	112
Private Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Insurance	(139)	8	(131)	(131)	0	0
Total Place	2,878	143	3,021	3,021	0	772

- 2.30** The Place budget projected outturn at Quarter 2 reflects a breakeven position which reflects that whilst some savings have not been achieved in year they are mitigated by other savings or income within the budget.

- 2.31** The budget reflects a virement request for the National Insurance provision for the transfer of the team delivering the Independent Living Policy to the Adult Social Services team and the correction of the IAS19 Accounting adjustment in the budget.

- 2.32** The position at quarter 1 is further detailed in Appendix 7.

General Policy

Table 13– General Policy Outturn

Directorate/Service	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Members and Democratic	1,730		1,730	1,730	-	
General Policy	552	(145)	407	407	-	(202)
Borrowing and Investments	8,122		8,122	6,579	1,543	
Levies and Precepts	8,761		8,761	8,761	-	
Insurance	1,928		1,928	1,928	-	
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	12,335		12,335	12,335	-	
Total Policy	33,428	(145)	33,283	31,740	1,543	(202)

- 2.33** The General Policy projected at Quarter 2 reflects an £800k surplus relating to charges for external borrowing and a £743k surplus on Investment Income. There are two virements requested as part of this report to correct budget transfers made for Building and Cleaning (-£10k) that corrects that budget transfers for building cleaning and security and a further transfer of £135k corrects the budget allocation for IAS 19 in 2025/26. A detailed analysis of the outturn is attached at Appendix 8.
- 2.34** The capital charges budget is 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.
- 2.35** The Council has a £1.250m income budget for the collection of Council Tax arrears in 2025/26 and it is currently expected that this will be achieved in full. The Council Tax team have made significant progress in collecting old year arrears over the past two years, alongside a prudent allowance for empty home premiums and continued housing development in the County, a further review of the Council Tax position will be undertaken as part of the Quarter 2 monitoring report.

Housing Revenue Account

- 2.36** Council on 13th January 2025 agreed the Authority's 2025/26 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget.
- 2.37** The 2025/26 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projections show the service will outturn on budget. However, this will be further reviewed as part of the mid-year position and initial proposals for 2026/27.
- 2.38** The HRA revised budget 2025/26 and initial proposals for 2026/27 is going to cabinet on 20th November 2025 with the final HRA budget proposals, rent setting and Housing business plan being presented to cabinet on 8th January 2026 and Full Council on 12th January 2026.

Efficiency Targets

- 2.39** As part of the Final Revenue Budget Proposals for 2025/26, an efficiency target of £8.771m was set for the Council which includes £1.2m for schools; this is a very challenging savings target and builds on challenging savings targets set over the past two years.
- 2.40** The current position in respect of the 2025/26 (74% is expected to be achieved by 31st March 2025) and past year savings (65% of the combined 2024/25 and 2023/24 outstanding savings) is detailed in Table 18 below.
- 2.41** It should be noted that this analysis shows the schools savings target of £1.2m is achieved but in practice the increase in deficits for schools suggests that schools have not taken steps to achieve these savings. The allocation of the sum will not be linear and will reflect the allocation of the schools formula budget. This saving is flagged as red in the context of the high number of schools reporting deficits in 2025/26.

Table 17 – Quarter 2 Position 2025/26 Savings

Directorate	Amount Proposed	Amount Achieved in Year	Amount Mitigated Other	% Achieved/ Mitigated	RAG
Learning and Skills	512	512	-	100%	Green
Social Services	3,624	2,217	337	70%	Red
Neighbourhood Services and General Fund Housing	2,322	944	590	66%	Red
Place	238	128	110	100%	Amber
Corporate Resources and Policy	875	630	195	94%	Amber
Delegated Schools	1,200	1,200		100%	Red
Total 2025/26	8,771	5,631	1,232	78%	-

- 2.42** The Shortfall against the 2025/26 savings target is significantly more than in 2024/25. This is perhaps not unexpected given this increasing complexity of savings implemented and consequently provision has been made against non-delivery of savings in 2025/26 of £2m. However, the shortfall exceeds this sum and further work to implement savings needs to be undertaken in the coming months.
- 2.43** Delivery of savings is monitored closely through SLT, Reshaping Board and the Social Services Programme Board and additional capacity to support the implementation of savings has been introduced through the Transformation Team. Further consideration of implementation timelines will be factored into budget setting for 2026/27 and the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 2.44** The shortfall against Neighbourhood Services requires work in respect of car parking provision and transfer of assets to continue in 2025/26 and will be supported through some additional resource for asset transfer.
- 2.45** Whilst Social Services has not achieved the savings target in full during 2025/26 this is largely due to the need to handle any placement moves very carefully and the savings will be kept under review throughout the year.
- 2.46** The shortfall in Place relates to issues around the implementation of the ANPR solution for Country parks which is as a result of additional time taken to ensure the most appropriate solution is invested in. However, this has been mitigated by other savings in year.
- 2.47** The shortfall against Corporate Resources relates to the delay in the realisation of asset savings predominantly relating to the Docks Offices the service will work to prioritise the mitigation of this saving in year.
- 2.48** The Position for 2023/24 and 2024/25 outstanding savings is also shown below.

Table 18 – Quarter 2 Position 2023/24 and 2024/25 Savings

Outstanding Prior Year Targets 2023/24 and 2024/25

Directorate	Amount Proposed	Amount Achieved Prior Year	Amount Achieved /Mitigated 2025/26	% Achieved	RAG
Learning and Skills	247	36	211	100%	Green
Social Services	700	300	250	79%	Amber
Neighbourhood Services and General Fund Housing	776	251	175	55%	Red
Place	20	0	20	100%	Amber
Corporate Resources and Policy	598	40	243	47%	Red
Total Prior Year	2,341	627	899	65%	-

- 2.49** Attached at Appendix 9 is a statement detailing all savings targets for 2025/26 and the current progress against them.

Reserves

- 2.50** 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.
- 2.51** Table 19 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 2025/26 and planned transfers to reserves to set aside fund for specific purposes. The use of reserves to support the Capital programme is reflected below but will be dependent on the delivery of schemes in 2025/26.
- 2.52** Use of reserves includes an allocation of £3.096m to offset overspends corporately and £11.387m Use of Reserves reflecting an increased net deficit reserves for Schools.

Table 19 – Reserves

As at	Balance 31/03/25	Capital	Planned Budget Movement 2025/26	Unplanned Budget Movement 2025/26	HRA	Provisional Balance 31/03/26
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund	13,000	-	-	(776)	-	12,224
Insurance	4,954	-	-	-	-	4,954
Service Reserves						
Learning and Skills	1,909	-	4	-	-	1,913

Social Services	2,004	-	- (300)	-	-	1,704
Neighbourhood Services	2,241	(211)		-	-	2,030
Corporate Resources	500		(71)	-	-	429
Place	2,425	(145)	(772)	-	-	1,508
Other Service Reserves	1,224		(11)	-	-	1,213
Other Corporate	526	-	(122)	-	-	404
Reshaping and Invest to Save Reserves						
Homelessness and Housing Reserve	4,107	-	(500)	(320)	-	3,287
Cost of Living	124	-	(30)	-	-	94
Pay Pressures	3,764	-	-	-	-	3,764
Energy Pressures	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal	1,000	-	(189)	-	-	811
Project Zero	1,040	(628)	-	-	-	412
Investment and Growth Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reshaping Risk and Investment	2,297	(100)	(328)	-	-	1,869
Corporate Landlord	3,822	(2,270)	-	-	-	1,552
Reshaping Assets	552	-	-	-	-	552
Digital Reshaping	1,268	-	(493)	-	-	775
Budget Risk	2,000	-	-	(2,000)	-	-
Capital Reserves						
Capital	7,233	(3,804)	(172)	-	-	3,258
Adaptations Reserve	14	-	-	-	-	14
Capital Regeneration and Levelling Up	2,034	-	-	-	-	2,034
Sub Total	58,038	(7,158)	(2,984)	(3,096)	-	44,801
Ring Fenced Reserves						
Schools	(4,137)	-	-	(11,387)	-	(15,524)
Other Ringfenced Schools Reserves	1,326	-	320	-	-	1,646
School Deficit Reserve	4,100	-	-	-	-	4,100
Housing Revenue Account	3,885	-	-	-	440	4,325
Total Reserves	63,212	(7,158)	(2,664)	(14,483)	440	39,348

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 four well-being outcomes.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** At 31st March, 2026, the Council projects that it will have reserves specifically earmarked to support the Council's response to the Climate and Nature Emergency totalling £412k 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** There are no legal implications.

6. Background Papers

None.

Appendix 1 Quarter 2 Revenue Monitoring Summary

Directorate/Service	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Learning and Skills						
Schools	128,568	-	128,568	139,955	- 11,387	
Unplanned use of school reserves	-		-	11,387	11,387	11,387
Subtotal Schools	128,568	-	128,568	128,568	-	11,387
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources	8,054	-	8,054	7,955	99	38
Directors Office	268		268	272	- 4	-
Additional Learning Needs & Wellbeing	5,392		5,392	5,309	83	-
Standards and Provision	2,651	-	2,651	2,532	119	-
School Transport	-	-	-	446	- 446	
National Insurance	- 2,821		- 2,821	- 2,821	-	-
Total Learning and Skills (incl. Schools)	142,112	-	142,112	142,261	- 149	11,425
Unplanned Use of Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social Services						
Children and Young People	24,685	-	24,685	26,435	- 1,750	160
Adult Services	73,056	-	73,056	73,287	- 231	-
Resource Management & Safeguarding	8,714	-	8,714	9,283	- 569	300
Youth Justice	703	-	703	703	-	
National Insurance	- 443	- 8	- 451	- 451	-	
Total Social Services	106,715	- 8	106,707	109,257	- 2,550	460
Unplanned Use of Reserves	-		-	- 1,885	1,885	1,885
Environment and Housing						
Neighbourhood Services & Transport	25,909	-	25,909	27,035	- 1,126	
Building Services	686		686	626	60	
Building/Cleaning Services	1,081		1,081	1,081	0	-
Regulatory Services	1,711		1,711	1,711	-	-
Council Fund Housing	2,367		2,367	2,687	- 320	-
Planned Use of Reserves (Council Fund Housing)	- 500		- 500	- 500	-	500
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	- 41	- 399	- 440	- 440	-	-
Use of Reserves HRA	41	399	440	440	-	- 440
National Insurance	- 290		- 290	- 290	-	
Total Environment and Housing	30,964	-	30,964	32,350	- 1,386	60
Unplanned Use of Reserves				- 911	911	911
Corporate Resources						
Resources	16,246	10	16,256	16,810	- 554	1,096
Housing Benefit	- 431		- 431	- 431	-	-
National Insurance	- 338		- 338	- 338	-	-

Total Corporate Resources	15,477	10	15,487	16,041	-	554	1,096
Unplanned Use of Reserves	-	-	-	300	300	300	300
Place					-		
Regeneration	1,487	135	1,622	1,622	-		660
Sustainable Development	1,530		1,530	1,530	-		112
Private Housing	-	-	-	-	-		-
National Insurance	-	139	8	131	131	-	-
Total Place	2,878	143	3,021	3,021	-		772
Policy							
Members and Democratic	1,730		1,730	1,730	-		
General Policy	552	-	145	407	407	-	202
Borrowing and Investments	8,122		8,122	6,580	1,543		
Levies and Precepts	8,761		8,761	8,761	-		
Insurance	1,928	-	1,928	1,928	-		
Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Arrears	12,335		12,335	12,335	-		
Total Policy	33,428	-	145	33,283	31,741	1,543	-
Grand Total	331,574	-	331,574	331,574	-	0	16,707

0

Funding		Movement in Reserves	
Revenue Support Grant	#REF!	Unplanned Use of Reserves	3,096
NDR Contribution from Pool	#REF!	Use of Reserves Schools	11,387
Council Tax Arrears	#REF!	Transfer into Reserves	- 552
Council Tax	#REF!	Planned Use of Reserves (Budget)	636
Total Funding	#REF!	Planned Use of Reserves (Projects)	2,580
		HRA	- 440
		Total	16,707
		Capital Movement	7,158
		General Fund Movement	-
		Total	23,865

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Appendix 2 Quarter 2 Revenue Monitoring Summary

Directorate/Service	Budget							
	2025/26							
	Employees	Other Expenditure	Use of Reserves	Total Expenditure	Grant Income	Other Income	Total Income	Net Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Learning and Skills								
Schools	143,146	24,364	- 12,516	154,994	- 22,628	- 3,798	- 26,426	128,568
Subtotal Schools	143,146	24,364	- 12,516	154,994	- 22,628	- 3,798	- 26,426	128,568
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources	5,961	4,306	76	10,344	- 1,089	- 1,202	- 2,290	8,054
Directors Office	268	-	-	268	-	-	-	268
Additional Learning Needs & Wellbeing	4,406	4,267	-	8,673	- 2,411	- 870	- 3,281	5,392
Standards and Provision	3,347	1,999	-	5,346	- 2,430	- 266	- 2,695	2,651
National Insurance					- 2,821		- 2,821	- 2,821
Total Learning and Skills (incl. Schools)	157,129	34,937	- 12,439	179,626	- 31,378	- 6,136	- 37,514	142,112
Social Services								
Children and Young People	11,231	22,279	- 159	33,351	- 8,458	- 208	- 8,666	24,685
Adult Services	13,748	71,019	9	84,777	- 4,681	- 7,041	- 11,722	73,055
Resource Management & Safeguarding	9,508	1,463	-	10,971	- 463	- 1,794	- 2,257	8,714
Youth Justice	998	74	-	1,072	- 368	-	- 368	704
National Insurance					- 451		- 451	- 451
Total Social Services	35,486	94,835	- 150	130,171	- 14,422	- 9,043	- 23,464	106,707
Environment and Housing								
Neighbourhood Services & Transport	14,481	24,032	-	38,513	- 4,441	- 8,163	- 12,604	25,909
Building Services	1,404	671	-	2,075	-	- 1,389	- 1,389	686
Building/Cleaning Services	3,090	539	-	3,629	-	- 2,548	- 2,548	1,081
Regulatory Services	21	2,030	-	2,052	-	- 341	- 341	1,711
Council Fund Housing	1,193	7,528	- 517	8,204	- 5,902	- 435	- 6,337	1,867
Public Sector Housing	2,992	24,656	41	27,689	- 205	- 27,484	- 27,689	-
National Insurance				-	- 290		- 290	- 290
Total Environment and Housing	23,182	59,457	- 476	82,162	- 10,839	- 40,359	- 51,198	30,964

Corporate Resources								
Resources	17,029	5,589	- 820	21,797	- 988	- 4,553	- 5,541	16,256
Housing Benefit	-	22,588	-	22,588	- 23,019	-	- 23,019	- 431
National Insurance					- 338		- 338	- 338
Total Corporate Resources	17,029	28,177	- 820	44,385	- 24,345	- 4,553	- 28,898	15,487
Place	5,247	1,325	- 32	6,540	- 310	- 3,078	- 3,388	3,152
Shared Prosperity Funding (revenue only)	1,059	1,308		2,367	- 2,367		- 2,367	-
National Insurance				-	- 131		- 131	- 131
Total Place	6,306	2,633	- 32	8,907	- 2,808	- 3,078	- 5,886	3,021
Policy								
Policy	271	34,086	42	34,399	-	- 1,117	- 1,117	33,282
Total Policy	271	34,086	42	34,399	-	- 1,117	- 1,117	33,427
Grand Total	239,403	254,124	- 13,876	479,651	- 83,792	- 64,286	- 148,077	331,574

Funding	
Revenue Support Grant	- 176,793
NDR Contribution from Pool	- 47,654
Council Tax Arrears	- 1,250
Council Tax	- 105,877
Total Funding	- 331,574

Appendix 3	Quarter Two Monitoring 2025/26
Directorate	Learning and Skills

Learning and Skills Summary

Directorate/Service	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Learning and Skills						
Schools	128,568		128,568	139,955	(11,387)	
Unplanned use of school reserves	-		-	(11,387)	11,387	11,387
Subtotal Schools	128,568		128,568	128,568	0	11,387
Strategy, Culture, Community Learning & Resources	8,054		8,054	7,955	99	38
Directors Office	268		268	272	(4)	0
Additional Learning Needs & Wellbeing	5,392		5,392	5,309	83	-
Standards and Provision	2,651		2,651	2,532	119	-
School Transport Overspend	-		-	446	(446)	
National Insurance	(2,821)		(2,821)	(2,821)		
Total Learning and Skills (incl. Schools)	142,112	-	142,112	142,261	(149)	11,425
Unplanned Use of Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Learning and Skills Directorate is projected to overspend by £149k, however this is directly attributable to the education transport adverse variance of £446k. The Directorate is responsible for funding any variance on education transport, despite the budget being held in a different directorate.

A number of transformational proposals are being developed for the area of education transport, and the overspend will be kept under review throughout the year.

Note – all variances are identified net of reserve transfers.

Delegated Schools

	Original Budget 2025/26	Projected Outturn 2025/26	Variance	Use of Reserves (Transfer to/(-from) Reserves)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Schools	128,568	139,955	(11,387)	0
Use of Reserves (Schools)	0	(11,387)	11,387	(11,387)
Total	128,568	128,568	0	(11,387)

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for schools

Schools are expected to draw down £11.4 million from their reserves to meet the 2025/26 budget. With an opening deficit of £4.13 million in school balances, it is anticipated that the overall balance carried forward into 2026/27 will be a deficit of £15.5 million.

The projected outturn position at Quarter 2 identifies that 36 schools (68% of all schools) will be in a deficit position as at 31st March 2026, with total deficit balances amounting to £16.6 million. In contrast, 17 schools (32%) are expected to be in surplus, with combined surplus balances of £1.09 million. The resulting net deficit of £15.5 million represents just under 8% of the schools' total budget share.

However, this position typically improves during the course of the financial year, largely due to additional grant funding awarded to schools by the Welsh Government in the latter months. Based on previous years' trends in grant income, the projected deficit could reduce to approximately £10 million rather than the £15.5 million currently reported.

Any school that either ended the 2024/25 financial year in deficit or is projected to be in deficit at 31st March 2026 has been required to prepare a medium-term recovery plan to eliminate the deficit over a 3-to-5-year period. Schools have submitted recovery plans and business cases for non-recoverable deficit budgets. To date, only one recovery plan has successfully achieved full deficit recovery.

The net deficit position is not distributed evenly with £10M of the projected deficit in just ten schools. The Directorate is working closely with the top ten deficit schools, who have received informal notices requesting revised recovery plans to be submitted by 24th October 2025.

There has been a reduction in the overall deficit, which has reduced from the £16.6M reported in Quarter 1. It is anticipated that this deficit balance will continue to reduce as schools refine recovery plans.

Table summarising school balance projections for 31st March 2026.

Sector	No. of schools in Surplus	Gross Surplus Value	No. of schools in Deficit	Gross Deficit value
		£000's		£000's
Primary	14(32%)	605	30 (68%)	11,672
3-19 schools	0 (0%)	0	2 (100%)	900
Secondary	2 (33%)	384	4 (67%)	4,045
Special	1 (100%)	104	0 (0%)	0
TOTAL	17 (32%)	1,092	36 (68%)	£16,617

Directors Office

	Original Budget 2025/26	Projected Outturn 2025/26	Variance	Use of Reserves (Transfer to/(-from) Reserves)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Directors Office	268	272	(4)	0
Total Directors Office	268	272	(4)	0

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines

This Service is expected to have a small adverse variance at outturn due to unmet pay awards over the last two financial years.

Strategy Community Learning and Resources

Outturn Summary	Original Budget 2025/26	Projected Outturn 2025/26	Variance	Use of Reserves (Transfer to/(-from) Reserves)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Non-Delegated Schools Expenditure	3,375	3,214	161	-222
Strategy and Resources	2,643	2,540	103	184
Culture and Community Learning	2,036	2,201	(165)	0
Total Strategy Community Learning and Resources	8,054	7,955	99	(38)

Quarter2 Monitoring Headlines – Strategy, Community Learning and Resources

The Strategy, Community Learning and Resources service is projected to outturn with a favourable variance of £98k. This is due to £265k in underspends across Strategy, Resources, and non-delegated schools' budgets, mainly from flexible use of grant income and savings on school software and rates which have offset a £165k overspend in Culture and Community Learning.

The Culture and Community learning overspend of £165k includes a £92k adverse variance on Adult Community Learning, driven by unmet savings targets and reduced external funding, and a £67k shortfall in the Arts Development Service following the removal of its budget in April 2023.

While Penarth Pier is expected to break even, income targets remain ambitious and will be closely monitored.

Total underspends of £265k on Strategy and Resources, and the Non-Delegated Schools budgets are as a result of flexible use of grant income in addition to underspends on school software and rates.

Reserve Transfers

Reserve transfers are estimated to net at £38k in respect of the following

- £320k budgeted transfer to the Schools' ICT end user device fund (Hwb)
- -£172k transfer from the Schools Investment Strategy reserve in respect of the annual rent for two temporary buildings at Ysgol Y Deri.
- -£186k transfer from the Education pressures reserve in respect of
 - Transformation assistance for deficit schools £100k
 - Schools Procurement Officer £36k
 - Support for primary schools causing concern £50k

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Wellbeing

	Original Budget 2025/26	Projected Outturn 2025/26	Variance	Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Complex Needs and Recoupment	2,577	2,443	135	0
Additional Learning Needs	2,448	2,507	(59)	0
Prevention and Partnership	366	359	7	0
Total Additional Learning Needs	5,392	5,309	83	0

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines -ALN and Wellbeing

The ALN and Wellbeing budget is projected to outturn with a favourable variance of £83k, supported by £885k in additional grant funding. While this helps offset significant service pressures, the Directorate's reliance on grants to fund core ALN services is unsustainable. However, Welsh Government has not indicated any plans to withdraw the ALN Grant in the near future.

Complex Needs

The Complex Needs budget is currently projecting an underspend of £135k, primarily due to staff vacancies in the casework management team (£70k) and reduced spend on the Schools' Additional Needs Contingency fund (£50k). However, the £2.37 million pupil placement budget is fully committed, and any additional placements, particularly out-of-county or in independent provision, could significantly impact the outturn due to high unit costs and volatility.

The Directorate is also responsible for 10% of the overspend on the pooled residential budget for Looked After Children, equating to £131k. Although this cost sits outside the Directorate's direct budget, it has been largely offset by £120k in additional recoupment income from other local authorities following increased placements at Ysgol Y Deri.

Additional Learning Needs

The overspend of £59k has been driven by additional support required in resource bases, some of which has been funded by additional grant.

Standards and Provision

Monitoring Summary	Original Budget 2025/26	Projected Outturn 2025/26	Variance	Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
School Improvement	682	560	122	0
Inclusion and Youth Services	1,881	1,883	(3)	0
Learning Link's/Vulnerable groups	88	88	0	0
Total Standards and Provision	2,651	2,531	119	0

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines -Standards and Provision

The Standards and Provision service is projected to underspend by £127k, mainly due to a lower than budgeted contribution to the Central South Consortium or the new Regional Body for Professional Learning.

Within the Youth service, unmet savings targets of £126k have been mitigated through vacant posts and reallocating core staff to grant-funded roles.

Transfers to and (-From) Reserves Learning and Skills

Reserve Name	2025/26 Reserve Movements	
Brief Description of purpose of drawdown		£000's
Use of Reserves		
School Reserves	Draw down from reserves to balance 25/26 budgets (note will put school reserves into an overall deficit of £16.8M)	(11,387)
Education pressures Reserve	Transformational work for deficit schools, including a consultant Headteacher and services provided by the Educational Endowment Foundation	(100)
Education pressures Reserve	Procurement Officer	(36)
Schools hwb end user devices	Annual contribution to the Hwb end user devices reserve to eventually replace laptops in schools	320
Schools Investment Strategy Reserve	Annual rent of two temporary demountable buildings at Ysgol Y Deri	(172)
Education pressures Reserve	Use of 2024/25 grant funding to support schools causing concern	(50)
Total Use of Reserves		(11,425)

Savings – Learning and Skills

Progress against 2025/26 savings are identified in the table below.

Savings for 2025/26 have been achieved; however, ongoing pressures remain around resource bases and sensory support, which although cut as a saving, are now being funded through the ALN grant.

2025/26 Savings	Risk	£000's Target	£000's Value Achieved/Projected
5% cut to Resource Base Budgets	Green	16	16
Vacant Post Review ALN (including £30k from prevention and partnership)	Green	196	196
Remove Y Deri respite catering budget, respite provision previously stopped	Green	12	12
Remove Early Years Provision Budget	Green	31	31
Review Sensory Team Level of Provision	Green	19	19

Remove Non-Maintained Nursery placements residual budget	Green	11	11
Central South Consortium reduced contribution	Green	14	14
Reduction in Out of School Tuition service	Green	30	30
Alternative use of Local Authority Education Grant matchfunding budget	Green	183	183
Total		512	512

	%
Proportion of Savings Achieved and Mitigated	100%
Savings not achieved in year	0%

Although the Directorate has met savings targets for 2025/26, a number of savings introduced in previous years remain unidentified. These are detailed in the table below and are being offset by underspends generated in other areas of strategy and resources through flexible use of grant.

Previous year savings (unmet)	Risk	£000's target	£000's Value Achieved/Projected
Review Arts provision (introduced April 2023)	Red	65	0
Move to Full Cost Recovery for ACL, and increase income for Cowbridge	Red	142	22
TOTAL Unmet savings from previous financial years		207	22

Youth service savings implemented in 2024/25 and 2023/24 have been met by use of SPF grant income.

Learning and Skills Summary

The Directorate is projecting to outturn at an adverse variance of £148k due to the overspend on Education transport.

Whilst the budgets within the Directorates control will outturn within target overall, the Directorate is using one off savings and grant income to meet ongoing budget cuts (efficiency savings) and fund core ALN services.

Appendix 4	Quarter Two Monitoring 2025/26
Directorate	Social Services

Social Services Summary

Directorate/Service	Adjusted Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children and Young People	24,685	-	24,685	26,435	(1,750)	160
Adult Services	73,056	-	73,056	73,287	(231)	-
Resource Management & Safeguarding	8,714	-	8,714	9,283	(569)	300
Youth Justice and Early Support Service	703	-	703	703	-	
National Insurance	(443)	(8)	- 451	-(451)	-	
Total Social Services	106,715	(8)	106,707	109,257	2,550	460
Unplanned Use of Reserves	-		-	(1,885)	1,885	1,885
Total	106,715	0	106,715	107,372	665	2,345

Children and Young People

Directorate/Service	Adjusted Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children and Young People	24,685	0	24,685	26,435	(1,750)	160
Youth Justice and Early Support Service	703	0	703	703	-	0
Total	25,388	0	25,388	27,138	(1,750)	160

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for Children and Young People

The projected outturn for the Children and Young People Services budget for 2025/26 is an adverse variance of £1.75m.

This is largely due to the External Placement budget currently forecasting a £1.1m overspend and a £400k overspend on Bespoke Accommodation Arrangements where children have required the development of bespoke arrangements to meet their needs. There are also overspend forecasts of £100k on the Emergency Duty Team budget, £100k on direct payments and £100k on domiciliary care for children with disabilities.

Within Children's and Young People's Services there has been some increase in the need for Residential placements (6 placements since April) taking total to 26 placements there were 21 Residential placements in September 2024. Also, in April 2025 there was no need for any Remand placements, where there are 2 currently. There can also be observed an increase in the average cost of all placements since the start of the

financial year. The service has maintained the number of Bespoke placements since April however the full year cost has increased by £125k when compared to the position at the start of the year, this does reflect a lower full year projection that in 2024/25.

Adult Services

Directorate/Service	Adjusted Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adult Services	73,056	0	73,056	73,287	(231)	0
Total	73,056	0	73,056	73,287	(231)	0

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines

The projected outturn for the Adult Services budget for 2025/26 is an adverse variance of £231k. The adverse variance is attributable to the following.

The Community Care budget is projected to be overspent by £2m. This includes all external residential care, home care, direct payments, respite and supported accommodation payments, this. This is offset during the year by deferred income receipts, as past costs are recouped from house sales. The deferred income projected outturn is currently £500k over target. The projected overspend in Community Care is further offset by team underspends, mostly relating to staffing and RIF grant funding receipts.

The Community Care Budget is the key pressure on the Adult Services budget in 2025/26. This is due to rising demand, particularly for older people, and increased costs coupled with a limited market for new complex case placements.

Resource Management and Safeguarding

Directorate/Service	Adjusted Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Resource Management and Safeguarding	8,714	0	8,714	9,283	(569)	300
Total	8,714	0	8,714	9,631	(569)	300

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines – Resource Management and Safeguarding

The Resource Management and Safeguarding service budget for 2025/26 is an adverse variance of £569k. The adverse variance is attributable to the following.

Residential Homes budget is expected to be overspent by £318k due to increased costs against permanent and agency staff along with an increase in general provision costs. There is an overspend against the

Safeguarding and Service Outcomes budget which relates to expenditure in respect of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. These additional costs relate to against medical fees and staff costs. Additionally, there is an overspend of £62k against Commissioning and Finance, largely driven by National Approach to Advocacy costs. However, this cost centre is scheduled to move across to Children and Young People Services, effective by quarter 3.

Regarding the Connecting Care grant, we are awaiting confirmation of the amount to be received. At present, there is an assumed drawdown from reserves of £300k towards Connecting Care system implementation. However, this will be kept under review and adjusted based on the grant income.

Transfers to and From Reserves Social Services

Reserve Name	2025/26 Reserve Movements	
	Brief Description of purpose of drawdown	£000's
Planned and Ringfenced Use of Reserves		
Legal Reserve	Legal Costs Childrens Services	160
Social Services Reserve	Funding to support the Connecting Care Implementation	300
Total Use of Reserves		460

Savings – Social Services

Progress against savings is identified in the table below.

2025/26 Savings	Risk	£000's Target	£000's Value Achieved/Projected
Telecare Expansion & fee review	Green	20	20
Adult Transport Review	Green	15	15
Releasing time to care	Green	350	190
Complex Cases Review	Green	250	250
Agency Review	Green	10	1
Reablement "intake" model of care	Green	200	200
Property payments growth in income (Finance Ref Additional Deferred Income)	Green	500	300
Debt Recovery	Red	200	27
Direct Payment Processes	Green	50	7
Increase Income	Green	75	25
Vacant Post and Unutilised Budget Review	Green	81	81
Advocacy contract	Green	10	10
Non-residential max charge uplift	Green	83	83
Residential Accommodation for children	Red	790	580

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Supported Accommodation	Amber	75	75
Pre Birth Pathway	Amber	147	148
Regional projects review	Red	75	75
Children's Transport Review	Amber	65	65
Eliminate Programme	Amber	250	250
Agency Review	Red	136	0
Staffing Review	Green	48	48
Independent Fostering Agency placements for children	Red	90	0
Maximise impact of Additional funding	Amber	104	104
Total		3,624	2,554

Proportion of Savings Achieved and Mitigated	70%
Savings not achieved in year (to date)	30%

Appendix 5	Quarter Two Monitoring 2025/26
Directorate	Neighbourhood Services and Housing

Neighbourhood Services and Housing Summary

	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Neighbourhood Services & Transport	25,909	0	25,909	27,035	(1,126)	
Building Services	686	0	686	626	60	
Building/Cleaning Services	1,081	0	1,081	1,081	0	-
Regulatory Services	1,711	0	1,711	1,711	-	-
Council Fund Housing	2,367	0	2,367	2,687	(320)	-
Planned Use of Reserves (Council Fund Housing)	(500)	0	(500)	(500)		500
Public Sector Housing (HRA)	(41)	(399)	(440)	(440)	-	-
Use of Reserves HRA	41	399	440	440	-	(440)
National Insurance	(290)	0	(290)	(290)	-	
Total Neighbourhood Services and Housing	30,964	-	30,964	32,350	(1,386)	60
Unplanned Use of Reserves				(911)	911	911
Total Neighbourhood Services and Housing	30,964	0	30,964	31,439	(475)	971

Neighbourhood Services & Transport

Monitoring Summary	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Support and Emergency Planning	-12		-12	584	(125)	0
Engineering, Structures and Highways Development	1,425		1,425	1,235	0	0
Car Parks	-1,108		-1,108	(719)	(389)	0

Waste, Parks and Highways Operational	17,184		17,184	17,745	(561)	0
Transportation and Enforcement	8,042		8,042	8,081	(39)	0
Leisure and Community Centres	378		378	379	0	0
Total Neighbourhood and Transport	25,909	0	25,909	27,046	(1,126)	0

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for Neighbourhood Services and Transport

Neighbourhood Services is reporting a £1.126m overspend at the end of quarter 2 this is predominantly made up of pressures in Operational Highways of approximately £170k against carriageway patching and £450k against street lighting energy costs.

In addition, there is significant pressure in the service in relation to the lag on implementation of savings which totals approximately £788k across the service this has been offset in part by staff vacancies and additional income for Car Parking, Enforcement and Waste Management to make the net impact approximately £446k. A number of pressures within Waste Management will be impacted by the roll out of transitional changes in respect of the receipt of the EPR grant and this will need to be kept under review as we progress through the financial year.

Building Services

Monitoring Summary	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Building Services	686	0	686	626	60	(60)
Total Building Services	686	0	686	626	60	(60)

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for Building Services

The building services budget is currently projecting a surplus of £60k which has been generated by vacant posts.

Building Cleaning and Security

Monitoring Summary	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Building Cleaning and Security	1,081	0	1,081	1,081	0	0
Total Building Cleaning and Security	1,081	0	1,081	1,081	0	0

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for Building Cleaning and Security

The building cleaning & security budget is currently projected to outturn on target.

Regulatory

Monitoring Summary	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Regulatory Services	1,711	0	1,711	1,711	0	0
Total Regulatory	1,711	0	1,711	1,711	0	0

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for Regulatory

The Regulatory budget, which funds the Vale's contribution to the Regulatory Shared Service, is currently projected to outturn on target.

General Fund Housing

Monitoring Summary	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Fund Housing	2,367	0	2,367	2,687	320	820
General Fund Housing	2,367	0	2,367	2,687	320	820

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for General Fund Housing

The General Fund Housing budget is expected to outturn with a deficit of £820k due to additional costs associated with exiting the contract with the Holiday Inn Express. This will be funded from the Homelessness & Housing reserve.

Transfers to and From Reserves Neighbourhood Services and Housing

Reserve Name	2025/26 Reserve Movements	
	Brief Description of purpose of drawdown	£000's
Planned and Ringfenced Use of Reserves		
Homelessness & Housing Reserve	To fund additional costs at the hotel for dilapidation costs and lost room rental income	500
Unplanned Use of Reserves		

Homelessness & Housing Reserve	To fund additional costs at the hotel for dilapidation costs and lost room rental income	320
Total Use of Reserves		820

Savings – Neighbourhood Services and Housing

Progress against savings is identified in the table below.

	Risk	£000's Target	£000's Value Achieved/ Mitigated
Restructure of Neighbourhood Services management	Green	100	100
Reduce litter bins by a further 25% (post 25% reduction) and reduce service standards for cleaning and public convenience provision across the Vale	Amber	200	200
Reduction of service standards across Resorts	Amber	50	0
Alternative delivery model for Parks and Open Spaces - A full service Transformation.	Amber	270	0
Resource reduction (Vehicles and Staffing)	Green	100	100
Review of service routes and resources	Amber	15	15
Permanent closure of car park Court Road Multistorey (residual budget)	Red	38	0
Fleet reduction and efficiency	Amber	50	50
Fees and Charges Increase to full cost recovery or 3%	Green	25	25
Income - Increase garden waste subscription charges for 2025/26	Green	20	20
Income - Increased market share Commercial Waste	Amber	50	50
Car Parking Income Coastal locations	Red	320	0
Income from capital projects	Amber	50	50
Annual income target	Amber	190	190
New camera car and increased enforcement opportunities	Amber	225	175
Waste Income	Green	400	400
Declare all Lifeguard buildings surplus for Community Asset Transfer consideration or closure	Amber	10	0
Introduce additional concessions across Neighbourhood Services assets	Green	25	0
Community Asset Transfer of assets (Vale wide)	Amber	25	0
GFH –Vacant post review	Green	103	103
GFH- Reduction in agency staffing	Green	6	6
GFH- Reduction in Management charges for leased accommodation	Green	50	50
		2,322	1,534

%

Proportion of Savings Achieved and Mitigated	66%
Savings not achieved in year	£788k/34%

Appendix 6	Quarter Two Monitoring 2025/26
Directorate	Place

Place Summary

	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Regeneration	1,487	135	1,622	1,622	-	660
Sustainable Development	1,530		1,530	1,530	-	112
National Insurance	(139)	8	(131)	(131)	-	-
Total Place	2,878	143	3,021	3,021	-	772
Unplanned Use of Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Place	2,878	143	3,021	3,021	0	772

Regeneration

	Original Budget 2025/26	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Projected Outturn 2025/26	Variance	Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)
	£000's	£,000's	£,000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Regeneration	1,487	135	1,622	1,622	0	660
Total	1,487	135	1,622	1,622	0	660

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for Regeneration

A virement for £135k is requested from the Policy budget for notional accounting adjustments to account for historic pensions adjustments.

As Shared Prosperity Funding is extended into 2025/26 there is an opportunity to charge management and administration fees on the programme and will fund the additional staffing involved in the Programme, rather than need to draw upon reserve funding.

Sustainable Development

	Original Budget 2025/26	Projected Outturn 2025/26	Variance	Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Sustainable Development	1,530	1,530	0	112
Total	1,530	1,530	0	112

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development budget incorporates Planning and Countryside Services. Planning fee income remains behind target, but it is anticipated that when the national increase in planning fees is introduced later this year that the position will improve. The Countryside budget is currently on target.

National Insurance

	Original Budget 2025/26	Budget Virement	Amended Budget	Projected Outturn 2025/26	Variance	Use of Reserves/ (Transfer to Reserves)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
National Insurance (Place)	(139)	8	(131)	(131)	0	0
Total	(139)	8	(131)	(131)	0	0

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines

The Place budget for the National Insurance increase has previously included a sum covering the Disabled Facilities Team (previously part of the Private Housing budget within Place) which has been transferred to Social Services earlier this financial year. As such, it is requested that the sum of -£8k be vired from Place to Adult Social Services.

Transfers to and From Reserves - Place

Reserve Name	2025/26 Reserve Movements	
Brief Description of purpose of drawdown		£000's
Planned and Ringfenced Use of Reserves		
Porthkerry Car Parking	Purchase of new battery-operated machinery such as chainsaws, mowers, strimmer's, Hedge trimmers etc. This will replace dilapidated / old equipment and ensure we are meeting Project Zero objectives.	19
Cosmeston Car Parking	Various works including gabion defence, fencing and purchase of battery-operated machinery to replace dilapidated equipment at the park	34
Place reserve	Destination Management Plan (Tourism)	20
Place reserve	Visit The Vale running costs	20
Place reserve	Economy and Trade Events costs, eg.UK Reef/Tourism Trade/Chamber support, eg. Cowbridge	8
Place reserve	Events funding (additional to SPF funded events as no base revenue budget)	5
Place reserve	Smart Towns cost (WG Town Centre initiative, 2 years in development)	20

Place reserve	PMU fees re airport feasibility project	40
Place reserve	Regeneration Graduate post funding (previously approved)	42
Place reserve	Food & Farming post costs (element not funded by SPF). Previously approved.	36
Place reserve	Remaining balance on Levelling Up Grant funding received. Funding professional fees in-year.	54
Place reserve	Placemaking Plans committed spends	54
Place reserve	A Plan for Neighbourhoods grant funding received pre-25/26	211
Place reserve	Local Development Plan 2025/26 spend	59
Place reserve	Potential running costs for 59-71 Holton Road (Wilko's)	150
Total Use of Reserves		772

Savings – Place

Progress against savings is identified in the table below.

2025/26 Savings	Risk	£000's Target	£000's Value Achieved/Projected
Regeneration - Vacant Post review	Green	63	63
Regeneration - Focus on income from business support	Green	15	15
Regeneration - Additional Income commercial lease income	Green	20	20
Sustainable Development - Planning Income target – WG fees increase	Green	70	70
Sustainable Development - New Planning income opportunities- new products (eg. enhanced pre-application fees)	Amber	20	20
Sustainable Development - Fee increases in both Planning and Building Control	Amber	10	10
Sustainable Development - Country Park Leisure commercialisation	Green	40	40
Total		238	238

	%
Proportion of Savings Achieved and Mitigated	100%
Savings not achieved in year	0%

Place Summary

The Place budget is expected at this stage to breakeven at year-end, though the planning fee position will continue to be monitored during the year.

Appendix 7	Quarter Two Monitoring 2025/26
Directorate	Corporate Resources

Corporate Resources Summary

	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Resources	16,246	10	16,256	16,810	(554)	1,096
Housing Benefit	(431)		(431)	(431)	-	-
National Insurance	(338)		(338)	(338)	-	-
Total Corporate Resources	15,477	10	15,487	16,041	(554)	1,096
Unplanned Use of Reserves	-		-	300	300	300
Total Corporate Resources	15,477	10	15,487	15,741	(254)	1,396

A virement is requested as part of the Q2 monitoring to reflect the correction of the Corporate Twin Hat recharges to the Town Hall. These recharges were previously centralised to the General Policy budget.

Resources

	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Resources	16,246	10	16,256	16,810	(554)	1,096

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for Resources

The provisional outturn for the Corporate Resources budget at Quarter 2 2025/26 is an adverse variance of £554k.

- Unrealised savings assigned to Facilities in relation to the Docks Offices, and a projected overspend in utility costs have contributed to the outturn overspend position of £383k.
- Financial Services are projected to be overspent by £120k due to a combination of Agency & apprentice expenditure, and increased costs for Oracle Fusion services due to renewal of contract.
- Legal & Democratic Services outturn position is projected to be overspent by £336k. This is caused by historic income targets now lost, reliance on Consultants and Agency staff, corporate overspend on postages, and an increased contribution required to the Joint Coroner Service.
- Human Resources' is projected to outturn at a £97k overspend due to use of Agency staff within the Service maternity costs with cover, unrealisable historic income targets, and the increasing cost of vaccines.

- The adverse variances of £936k above are offset by favourable variances in the Digital, Strategic Advisory, and Property Services of £245k, £92k, and £45k respectively.

Housing Benefit

	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Housing Benefit	(431)	0	(431)	(431)	0	0

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines

The Housing Benefit budget is projected to outturn on target for 2025/26.

The budget reflects net income to the Council which relates to Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant and grant funding received from DWP in respect of administration of the service.

Key Pressures for 2025/26 in the Housing Benefit budget

- Migration of benefit claims to Universal Credit that will impact on the subsidy the Council receives on its overpayments.
- The collection of overpaid Housing Benefit.
- Reduced administration subsidy.

Transfers to and From Reserves Corporate Resources

Reserve Name	2025/26 Reserve Movements	
Brief Description of purpose of drawdown		£000's
Planned and Ringfenced Use of Reserves		
Graduate Trainee Reserve	Trainee Accountant, 2 x Communication Interns, Strategy Intern	122
Corporate Resources Reserve	Temporary staff engagements (Communications and Strategy & Sustainability)	71
Legal Reserve	Trainee Lawyer	29
Electoral Registration Reserve	Re-grading of post, maternity cover, Modern Democracy poll station licence fee, and iPad fees	53
Reshaping Reserve	Temporary Engagements (BI Team)	119
Reshaping Reserve	Transformation Team	133
Reshaping Reserve	2 x Revenues Assistants	72

Reshaping Reserve	CIPFA Leadership Team event	4
Digital Reserve	Project Manager – Digital Service Delivery and Temporary Junior ICT Officer	87
Digital Reserve	AWS Cloud Migration	280
Digital Reserve	Call Centre Automation	75
Digital Reserve	Magic Notes implementation	15
Digital Reserve	ShareGate software	16
Digital Reserve	AR Module Implementation	20
Planned Use of Reserves		1,096

Savings – Corporate Resources

Progress against savings is identified in the table below.

2025/26 Savings	Risk	£000's Target	£000's Value Achieved/Projected
Digital – Digital Services Operating Model Review		120	120
Comms & Equalities – Welsh Language Translation: Adopt Amazon Translation Services		100	100
Property – Eich Lle: Dock Office		50	0
All Directorate – Income: Income from traded DBS services, Service Level Agreements, Payroll SLAs, Fees & Charges, and Shared Cost AVCs		80	80
Digital – C1V & ICT Budget Reduction: General reduction in non-pay C1V budgets and ICT budgets		305	305
Legal and Democratic – Mayor's Office: Further review expenditure with a view to reduction		5	5
All Directorate – Managed Headcount Reduction (currently x5 roles)		205	205
Comms & Equalities – Communications Licences: Granicus Module		10	10
Total		875	825

	%
Proportion of Savings Achieved and Mitigated	94%
Savings not achieved in year	6%

Corporate Resources Summary

- The savings target in respect of evacuating the Docks Office was increased by a further £50k ahead of 25/26, to a total of £350k. Expecting to only achieve a £40k saving on cleaning & security as a result of centralising the budget.
- There is a projected overspend in gas and electricity costs across Office Accommodation currently projected to be £138k. There was a temporary cost pressure to relieve these costs in 24/25 but removed ahead of 25/26. A water leak was discovered at the Alps Offices at the beginning of the

year. This has now been resolved but has increased the projected water costs at the site by £40k. A refund claim is currently being submitted, and progress will be monitored ahead of Q3.

- The Facilities overspend could increase further with the nature of repairs & maintenance work – as cleaning and security budgets were centralised at actual rates it has left little budget for maintenance works. The current projection for this expenditure is £34k, whereas the actual spend for 24/25 was £94k.
- Legal Services have had to employ Consultancy and Agency staff to cover vacancies, specifically in the Community Services team. The projected overspend for this locum cover is £156k.
- Legal and Democratic Services have historic income targets that are no longer realisable; including a projected £30k shortfall in Land Charge Search Fees, and a £61k agreement to provide Legal Services to Cardiff CC & Town Councils which is no longer in place.
- Corporate postages were centralised ahead of 24/25 and the budget allocated to Legal & Democratic Services. These costs are projected to be £101k overspent for 25/26 but has the potential to reduce with the on-going rollout of hybrid mail.
- The required contribution to the Joint Coroner Service had increased by 15.5% to £495k per annum ahead of 2025/26. The Coroner's budget is currently at £445k and with a small projected service overspend, there will be an overall shortfall of £55k.
- The System Implementation budget is projected to be overspent by £82k. This due to the increased costs of the new three-year Oracle Fusion contract beginning September 2025, and additional service costs incurred.
- The outturn position reflects the mitigation of a number of these items through underspends within the resources budget.

Appendix 8	Quarter Two Monitoring 2025/26
Directorate	Policy

Policy Summary

	Original Budget	Virement Q2	Adjusted Original Budget	Outturn	Variance	Use of Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Members and Democratic	1,729	0	1,729	1,729	-	0
General Policy	552	-145	407	552	-	- 202
Borrowing and Investments	8,122	0	8,122	6,579	1,543	0
Levies and Precepts	8,761	0	8,761	8,761	-	0
Insurance	1,928	0	1,928	1,928	-	0
Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Arrears	12,335	0	12,335	12,335	-	0
Total Policy	33,427	-145	33,282	32,627	1,543	- 202

A number of virements are requested as part of quarter 1 monitoring to correct the transfer of the budget to Policy.

- IAS 19 Accounting Budget (£135k) from Policy to Place.
- To correct budget transfers made for Building and Cleaning (£10k) from Policy to Corporate Resources.

Quarter 2 Monitoring Headlines for Policy

The General Policy projected at quarter 2 reflects a £1.543m surplus relating an £800k surplus relating to charges for external borrowing and a £743k surplus on Investment Income.

There is a small overspend projected against the Council Tax Reduction Scheme of circa £396k and it is currently assumed that this will be offset by the Council Tax Surplus in year although this will be reviewed further as part of the preparation for quarter 3 monitoring and budget setting

The capital charges budget is 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 has a £1.250m income budget for the collection of arrears in 2025/26 and it is currently expected that this will be achieved in 2025/26. The Council Tax team have made significant progress in collecting old year arrears over the past two years, alongside a prudent allowance for empty home premiums and continued development in the County, a further review of the Council Tax position will be undertaken as part of the quarter 2 monitoring report.

Transfers to and From Reserves Policy

Reserve Name	2025/26 Reserve Movements	
	Brief Description of purpose of drawdown	£000's
Planned and Ringfenced Use of Reserves		
Catering Equipment	Transfer to Reserve Leasing Income	-190
Elections	Transfer to Reserve Provide for Local Elections	-42
Cost of Living Reserve	Additional Provision for CAB as part of Cost of Living response	30
Unplanned Use of Reserves-		
None		
Total Use of Reserves		-202

Service	Appendix 9i Description of Saving Proposal	Impact on Residents/ Service Users	FTE Impact 2025/26	Saving Category	2025/26 Proposed £000's	Amount Achieved/Project to be achieved in Year	Amount Mitigated Other	% Achieved/ Mitigated	RAG Rating	Impact on Residents Rating	Notes
Learning and Skills											
ALN and Wellbeing	5% cut to Resource Base Budgets	Y	Y	Tactical	16	16		100%	Green	Amber	Cut has been made for 2025/26 budgets need to keep under review
ALN and Wellbeing	Vacant Post Review ALN	Y	Y	Tactical	196	196		100%	Green	Amber	Posts were vacant and have not been filled
ALN and Wellbeing	Remove Y Deri respite catering budget , respite provision previously stopped	N	N	Tactical	12	12		100%	Green	Amber	Unutilised Budget
ALN and Wellbeing	Remove Early Years Provision Budget	Y	Y	Tactical	31	31		100%	Green	Amber	Budget deleted.
ALN and Wellbeing	Review Sensory Team Level of Provision	Y	Y	Tactical	19	19		100%	Green	Amber	Provision reduced but dependent on need coming through.
Strategy, Com. Learning and R	Remove Non-Maintained Nursery placements residual budget	N	N	Tactical	11	11		100%	Green	Amber	Year two of saving implemented in 2024/25
Standards and Provision	Central South Consortium reduced contribution	N	N	Tactical	14	14		100%	Green	Amber	Delivered
Standards and Provision	Reduction in Out of School Tuition service	Y	Y	Tactical	30	30		100%	Green	Amber	Delivered
Standards and Provision	Alternative use of Local Authority Education Grant matchfunding budget	N	N	Tactical	183	183		100%	Green	Amber	Delivered
Total Learning and Skills					512	512	-	100%			
Social Services											
Adults	Telecare Expansion & fee review	Y	N	TOM - Income	20	20		100%	Green	Green	Review completed for 25/26
Adults	Adult Transport Review	Y	N	Tactical	15	15		100%	Green	Green	Day service runs reduced. Policy Development completed needs roll out and implementation as people are assessed / reviewed. Proposal being developed to use RIF for a transport officer to extend this project and rationalise provision further
Adults	Releasing time to care	Y	N	Service Transform	350	190		54%	Green	Green	Year 2 of Saving it is projected that this saving will be achieved in full by year end.
Adults	Complex Cases Review	Y	N	Service Transform	250	250		100%	Green	Green	Reviews being completed and on target
Adults	Agency Review	N	N	Tactical	10	1		10%	Green	Green	Peripetetic social worker now in post
Adults	Reablement "intake" model of care	Y	N	Service Transform	200	200		100%	Green	Green	Pathways of care grant submission completed and inception meeting held. Award letter of £1.25M recieved 12/08/25
Adults	Property payments growth in income (Finance Ref Additional Deferred Income)	N	N	Tactical	500	300		60%	Amber	Amber	Requires monitoring throughout year and is dependent on properties being sold
Adults	Debt Recovery	N	N	Tactical	200	27		14%	Red	Amber	New system implementation has caused some delay in the identification of debt and recovery - improvements in this area will be seen in Q2.
Adults	Direct Payment Processes	N	N	Tactical	50	7		14%	Amber	Amber	Policy redrafted & reconciliation of accounts implemented. Annual Managed banking reviews now due
Adults	Increase Income	Y	N	Tactical	75	25		33%	Amber	Amber	Financial assessments underway & on target
Resource Management and Sa	Vacant Post and Unutilised Budget Review	N	Y	Tactical	81	81		100%	Green	Green	Post deleted
Adults	Advocacy contract	N	N	Tactical	10	10		100%	Green	Green	Achieved by retender
Adults	Non-residential max charge uplift	N	N	Tactical	83	83		100%	Green	Green	WG Grant
Children and Young People	Residential Accommodation for children	N	N	Service Transform	790	580		73%	Red	Red	Dependent on CLA population. Significant challenges in this area. This saving has been applied but Childrens placements budgets are £300k overspent.

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Children and Young People	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Supported Accommodation	N	N	Service Transform	75	75		100%	Amber	Amber	Impacted by uncertainty re new arrivals and timing of accommodation developments may slip
Children and Young People	Pre Birth Pathway	N	N	Service Transform	147	74	74	100%	Amber	Amber	Development of new project
Children and Young People	Regional projects review	Y	N	Tactical	75		75	100%	Red	Red	Extraction from existing arrangements may be some delay on implementation in 2025/26 but currently projected to be mitigated within the service
Children and Young People	Children's Transport Review	N	N	Tactical	65	65		100%	Amber	Amber	Some transport arrangements won't be amendable given children's ages / needs currently projected to outturn on budget but will need to be kept under review
Children and Young People	Eliminate Programme	N	N	Tactical	250	63	188	100%	Amber	Amber	Indicative grant funding for 25% received
Children and Young People	Agency Review	N	N	Tactical	136			0%	Red	Amber	Dependent on achieving permanent appointments, including where possible converting agency post holders to permanent.
Children and Young People	Staffing Review	N	Y	Tactical	48	48		100%	Green	Green	Achieved by Youth Justice and Early Support Service
Children and Young People	Independent Fostering Agency placements for children	N	N	Service Transform	90			0%	Red	Red	Dependent on Children Looked After population. This saving has been applied but Childrens placements budgets are £300k overspent.
Children and Young People	Maximise impact of Additional funding	N	N	Tactical	104	104		100%	Amber	Amber	Will continue to be kept under review as we progress through the year.
Total Social Services					3,624	2,217	337	70%			
Neighbourhood Services	Restructure of Neighbourhood Services management	N	N	Service Transform	100		100	100%	Green	Amber	Not restructured yet but the savings are being met from vacant position and phased retirement in the service.
Street Cleansing	Reduce litter bins by a further 25% (post 25% reduction) and reduce service standards for cleaning and public convenience provision across the Vale	Y	Y	Service Transform	200		200	100%	Amber	Amber	Currently working through a reshaping project that will deliver the savings. Consideration of a new approach utilising the additional waste grant funding to mitigate the impact of this change.
Street Cleansing	Reduction of service standards across Resorts	Y	Y	Service Transform	50			0%	Amber	Amber	Subject to same reshaping programme as Street Cleansing. Reduced use of agency workers. Keeping as amber due to concerns about good weather and how this could impact resort staffing levels. This area will be subject to an Autumn Report.
Parks	Alternative delivery model for Parks and Open Spaces - A full service Transformation.	Y	Y	Service Transform	270			0%	Amber	Amber	Currently going through a reshaping programme that will deliver the savings. A number of posts being held unfilled. Also currently spending circa £1m on contracted services (all depts). This work has now been brought back in-house.
Waste Management	Resource reduction (Vehicles and Staffing)	Y	Y	Tactical	100	100		100%	Green	Amber	Completed.
Winter Maintenance	Review of service routes and resources	Y	Y	Tactical	15	15		100%	Amber	Amber	Reduced gritting routes, delegation in place to cover up to 10% reduction or increase in treatment. Currently treat 43%, could reduce to 39% if needed.
Car Parks	Permanent closure of car park Court Road Multistorey (residual budget)	Y	Y	Tactical	38		0	0%	Red	Amber	These costs are likely to continue for the remainder of this financial year, as the site will be subject to an options appraisal linked to Place plans for Barry.

Transport	Fleet reduction and efficiency	N	Y	Service Transform	50		50	100%	Amber	Amber	Update to follow, will involve a full assessment of the utilisation of the Council's fleet to establish which vehicles are under utilised. These should then be disposed of or reutilised into a higher use area.
Neighbourhood Services	Fees and Charges Increase to full cost recovery or 3%	Y	Y	Tactical	25	25		100%	Green	Amber	Completed.
Waste Management	Income - Increase garden waste subscription charges for 2025/26	Y	Y	TOM - Income	20	20		100%	Green	Amber	Completed.
Waste Management	Income - Increased market share Commercial Waste	N	Y	TOM - Income	50	50		100%	Amber	Amber	On track to increase market share and currently discussing with Schools to take them back in house to increase income. Additionally marketing commercial services to retail businesses this summer.
Car Parks	Car Parking Income Coastal locations	Y	Y	TOM - Income	320	0		0%	Red	Red	Cabinet 3 July, limited objections to date. Total saving at risk.
Highway Construction	Income from capital projects	N	Y	Tactical	50	0	50	100%	Amber	Amber	Reasonable expectation of delivery, will need to identify specific projects.
Highway Development	Annual income target	N	Y	Tactical	190	0	190	100%	Amber	Amber	Reasonable expectation of delivery, will need to identify specific projects.
Enforcement	New camera car and increased enforcement opportunities	Y	Y	TOM - Income	225	175		78%	Amber	Amber	Cars being delivered May, phased staffing increases agreed. Although the full savings may not be fully met.
Waste Management	Waste Income	N	Y	Tactical	400	400		100%	Green	Amber	EPR Funding expected October 2025.
Lifeguard Buildings	Declare all Lifeguard buildings surplus for Community Asset Transfer consideration or closure	Y	Y	TOM - Assets	10			0%	Amber	Amber	Started discussions with some clubs and in the process of handing back Rhose Lifeguard club and changing coastal watch centre lease to a full repair and maintenance agreement. Unlikely to be delivered until towards the end of 2025/26.
Concessions	Introduce additional concessions across Neighbourhood Services assets	N	N	TOM - Assets	25			0%	Green	Amber	An EP and a Cabinet Report was agreed to enable the advertisement of new concessions and some are now in place.
Other Assets	Community Asset Transfer of assets (Vale wide)	Y	N	TOM - Assets	25			0%	Amber	Amber	The assets identified for transfer are being managed through the reshaping assets board and will be progressed throughout 2025.
General Fund Housing	Vacant Post review	N	Y	Tactical	103	103		100%	Green	Amber	Budget adjusted
General Fund Housing	Reduction in agency staffing budget	N	Y	Tactical	6	6		100%	Green	Amber	Budget adjusted
General Fund Housing	Reduction in management charges for leased accommodation	Y	N	Tactical	50	50		100%	Green	Amber	Budget adjusted
Total Environment and Housing					2,322	944	590	66%			
Corporate Resources											
Digital	Digital Services Operating Model Review	N	Y	Service Transform	120	60	60	100%	Amber	Green	Amber: Delay to restructure however likely to be mitigated by other savings in year
Comms and Equalities	Welsh Language Translation: Adopt Amazon Translation Services.	N	N	Digital	100		100	100%	Amber	Amber	Proof of Concept due to go live April/May. Significant volume of translations are being processed using this service currently.
Property	Eich Lle: Docks Office	N	N	TOM - Assets	50			0%	Amber	Amber	Pending Dock Office decant - to be realised in due course. Place moving summer 2025, Social Services dependent upon future property negotiations. Further saving in NNDR will be possible later in the year.
All Directorate	Income: Income from traded DBS services, Service Level Agreements, Payroll SLAs, Fees and Charges and Shared Cost AVCs.	Y	N	TOM - Income	80	80		100%	Green	Amber	SLAs adjusted and notably, Payroll have secured additional clients from new secondary schools.

Digital	C1V and ICT Budget Reduction: General reduction in non-pay C1V budgets and ICT Budgets.	N	N	Tactical	305	305		100%	Green	Green	Savings are based on rebuild of IT budget - currently on target .
Legal and Democratic	Mayor’s Office: Further review expenditure with a view to reduction.	N	N	Tactical	5	5		100%	Green	Amber	Budgets adjusted.
All Directorate	Managed Headcount Reduction (currently x5 roles)	Y	Y	Tactical	205	170	35	100%	Amber	Amber	Roles identified and work progressing to ensure these are realised, with any timing issues to be mitigated within the year from other underspends.
Comms and Equalities	Communications Licences: Granicus Module	N	N	Tactical	10	10		100%	Green	Amber	Contracts being negotiated to ensure this module is realised in terms of savings from overall Granicus products.
Total Corporate Resources					875	630	195	94%	-	-	-
Place											
Regeneration	Vacant Post review	N	N	Tactical	63	63		100%	Green	Amber	Post deleted
Regeneration	Focus on income from business support	N	N	Tactical	15	15		100%	Green	Amber	Fees from managing grant programmes and other schemes.
Regeneration	Additional Income commercial lease income	N	N	TOM - Other	20	20		100%	Green	Amber	BSC 2 due to open in June - massive interest in space already.
Sustainable Development	Planning Income target – WG fees increase	Y	N	TOM - Income	70		70	100%	Amber	Amber	Welsh Gov due to advise shortly. Will be happening but timing still uncertain, preferred option still in play.
Sustainable Development	New Planning income opportunities- new products	Y	N	TOM - Income	20	20		100%	Green	Amber	New products in place
Sustainable Development	Fee increases in both Planning and Building Control	Y	N	TOM - Income	10	10		100%	Green	Amber	Fees due to go up
Sustainable Development	Country park Leisure commercialisation	Y	N	TOM - Income	40		40	100%	Amber	Amber	Ongoing - working with operator to test feasibility. May need to identify alternative savings. Mitigated in year
Total Place					238	128	110	100%	-	-	-
Total 2025/26					7,571	4,431	1,232	75%			
Schools					1,200	1,200		100%			
Total 2025/26 Incl Schools					8,771	5,631	1,232	78%			

2025/26 Savings Targets

Directorate	Amount Proposed	Amount Achieved in Year	Amount Mitigated Other	% Achieved/ Mitigated	RAG
Learning and Skills	512	512	-	100%	Green
Social Services	3,624	2,217	337	70%	Red
Neighbourhood Services and General Fund Housing	2,322	944	590	66%	Red
Place	238	128	110	100%	Amber
Corporate Resources and Policy	875	630	195	94%	Amber
Delegated Schools	1,200	1,200		100%	Red
Total 2025/26	8,771	5,631	1,232	78%	-

Outstanding Prior Year Targets 2023/24 and 2024/25

Directorate	Amount Proposed	Amount Achieved Prior Year	Amount Achieved /Mitigated 2025/26	% Achieved	RAG
Learning and Skills	247	36	211	100%	Green
Social Services	700	300	250	79%	Amber
Neighbourhood Services and General Fund Housing	776	251	175	55%	Red
Place	20	0	20	100%	Amber
Corporate Resources and Policy	598	40	243	47%	Red
Total Prior Year	2,341	627	899	65%	-

11,112	6,258	2,131	75%	
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Appendix 9ii	Outstanding Prior Year	Amount Proposed	Amount Achieved Prior Year	Amount Achieved/Mitigated 2025/26	% Achieved	RAG	Impact on Residents Rating	
Learning and Skills								
Strategy, Com. Learning and Resou	Review Arts Provision	65	0	65	100%	Red	Amber	Although this saving was mitigated in 2024/25 the saving remains unmet for the 2025/26 financial year and the service remains under review.
Strategy, Com. Learning and Resou	Move to full cost recovery position for ACL	142	22	120	100%	Amber	Amber	Although this saving was mitigated in 2024/25, the full budget saving has not yet been identified on an ongoing basis. £55k has been identified for 2025/26 to date via flexible use of grant and reduction of agency and premises costs. The service remains under review in order to achieve the remaining £75k of budget savings.
Strategy, Com. Learning and Resou	Old Hall - 20% loss overall in Cowbridge consider alternative funding	40	14	26	100%	Amber	Amber	This saving has been partially met through the reduction of premises costs (£20k). The Service remains under review to identify the remaining £20k shortfall.
Total Learning and Skills Prior Year		247	36	211	100%			
Social Services								
Children and Young People	Closer to Home Residential Care (C&YPs)	100		100	100%	Amber	Amber	This saving has been applied but Childrens placements budgets and is projected to be achieved at the end of quarter 1
Children and Young People	UASC Supported Accommodation	75		75	100%	Green	Amber	This is achieved in 2025/26
Children and Young People	Pop up Accommodation	75		75	100%	Amber	Amber	This saving has been applied but Childrens placements budgets and is projected to be achieved at the end of quarter 1
Adult Services	Reduced building rental	50	0		0%	Red	Amber	This has been moved to the Commissioning budget whilst alternative accommodation options are explored this saving will not be achieved and will need to be mitigated within the budget.
Adult Services	Closer to Home Supported Living (LD)	100			0%	Red	Amber	
Adult Services	Releasing time to care	300	300		100%	Green	Amber	Achieved on a part year basis in 2024/25 and through a variety of measures achieved for 2025/26.
Total Social Services Prior Year		700	300	250	79%			
Neighbourhood Services and Housing								
Car Parks	Parking Charging Review	100		100	100%	Amber	Amber	Part year contribution to 2025/26 savings above. Income from ANPR car parks will be higher in 2025 and this should cover this amount.
Other Assets	Jenner Park alternative model	65			0%	Red	Amber	Still discussing reshaping and asset transfer and will be added to the reshaping and asset board to take forward. As the asset transfer will take time, a report will be tabled to Cabinet for both Jenner Park and Llantwit Major AFC suggesting a 5 year lease for all buildings, with all utilities paid by the clubs. Also pitch fees at the highest point possible to seek a break-even position.
Garage	Garage Generation of additional income	10		10	100%	Green	Amber	Should have been delivered through MOT increases.
Leisure	Parkwood VAT relief	70			0%	Red	Amber	Discussion still ongoing, Parkwood seeking legal advice.
Concessions	Additional concessions	20	20	0	100%	Green	Amber	Not met last year and has been added to current year's programme.

Other Assets	New Model for Community Centres to include full maintain of buildings	20			0%	Amber	Amber	Some progress being made, won't deliver in full.
Waste Management	Waste Maintenance collections at Flats and Apartments	150	100	50	100%	Green	Amber	Flats and apartments did not change in 2024 but the service reduced a vehicle so achieved the savings in a different way.
Waste Management	Expansion of Commerical Recycling Collections	50	35	15	100%	Amber	Amber	Not met in 2024/25 but carried over into current year. New customers in 2025, including schools should realise this amount.
Street Cleansing	Review of Street Cleansing Service	191	96		50%	Red	Amber	Only half the savings met in 2024/25 and has been carried forward into the reshaping programme in current year.
Other Assets	Asset Transfers Single use Facilities	100			0%	Red	Amber	Not met in 2024/25 but carried over into current year. Will be addressed via the asset board.
Total Neighbourhood Services and Housing Prior Year		776	251	175	55%			
Place								
Sustainable Development	ANPR Income Country Parks	20		20	100%	Amber	Amber	Increased enforcement should bring in more income. ANPR on hold while assessment of installation in other areas. Will review at the end of the summer.
Total Place Prior Year		20	-	20	100%			
Corporate Resources		Amount	Amount	Amount	%	RAG	Impact on Residents	
Property	Review C1V Office Accommodation	50		50	100%	Green	Amber	Building vacated and handed to Legacy.
Property	Review Docks Office Site	300	40		13%	Amber	Amber	Pending Dock Office decant - to be realised in due course. Place moving summer 2025, Social Services dependent upon future property negotiations. Saving on cleaning & security costs as we did not transfer the element included in the £350k saving target to the trading account.
Comms and Equalities	Communications, Participation & Equalities Group. Media Monitoring . Saving has been deferred to 2025/26.	13		13	100%	Green	Amber	Green: Contract cancelled.
Property	Corporate Office Accommodation Facilities Management	95		90	95%	Red	Amber	Outstanding - to progress relating to courier provision and have made some FM changes within Dock Office. Saving removed as a result of the new trading account arrangements but problem will come back to Resources in the form of Corporate Landlord. At Q1 it is assumed that this is mitigated by underspends from within the service.
Property	Property Fees & Charges	50			0%	Red	Amber	Issue due to change in capital fee recovery model. Recalculating the hourly charge to reflect feasibility work agreed. However, this will not be sufficient to recover this additional income.
Digital	Managed Print Service	80		80	100%	Red	Green	Will not achieve - Savings in 2025/26 to be modelled. Will not be realised and needs to be added in as a cost pressure.
Finance	Open Banking & Payments	10	0	10	100%	Amber	Amber	Welsh translation issues being addressed. Merchant fees savings - will save the £10k on transaction fees if impl. by Dec/Jan 26.
Total Corporate Resources Prior Year		598	40	243	47%	-	-	-
Tota Prior Year		2,341	627	899	65%	-	-	-