

Action Plan

Corporate Services 2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4a

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
IT Service	0	(100,000)	<p>In the original IT Collaboration Business Plan, £100,000 income was built into the budget to be funded from reserves, with the view that future savings, due to merging of software systems, would produce savings and therefore reduce the need of reserve funding.</p> <p>These savings have not yet been achieved, as the Software Contracts are still Blaenau Gwent's responsibility.</p> <p>A Working Group is being formed to review and re-negotiate all Council contracts; the Software contracts will form a part of this. The bulk of the savings produced from this will not benefit the IT Service until 2020/21, as most of the high value contracts have already been renewed for 2019/20.</p> <p>There is also a Digital Steering Group, which includes the SRS, to look at transferring the Software contract to the SRS and combine them with the other partners, to produce savings.</p>	Not Currently Known	Anne-Louise Clark

Action Plan

Corporate Services 2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4a

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact £	Responsible Officer
Housing Benefits	(137,273)	(107,205)	<p>At this time, the forecast overspend is due to external audit fees (£43,000) for which there is no budget and an anticipated shortfall on the Administration Subsidy grant of £64,000. For the last financial year, these costs were offset by an in year budget virement.</p> <p>Work is currently being undertaken into reviewing the overpayments process with the view of hopefully addressing this cost pressure by quarter 2.</p>	Not Currently Known	Anne-Louise Clark

Action Plan

Education

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4b

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
Fees for Pupils at independent Schools	(169,910)	(60,773)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u></p> <p>Background:</p> <p>There are currently 18 children receiving education in out of county independent school settings. Of these, 78% have been placed as a result of their CLA status.</p> <p>CLA placed in independent out of county provision fall into four education groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children placed in a residential setting with onsite education provision where education can be provided onsite at a cost component of the overall placement cost. • Children placed in a residential setting without onsite education provision where education will have to be sought from an Independent provider. • Children placed in a foster placement where education will have to be sought from an Independent provider. 	Not Known	Gavin Metheringham

Action Plan

Education

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4b

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children placed in Secure Provision (under welfare grounds) where education will be provided onsite as a cost component of the overall placement cost. <p>When a child is placed out of county, all education options are considered by the LAC Education Coordinator (sitting within Children's Services) and the SEN Manager (within Education) to source provision that will meet the child's needs whilst being cost effective. Options are then provided to the ALN Panel for discussion and costings provided to DMT for agreement.</p> <p>However, sometimes education options are limited due to the lack of availability of education spaces or due to the location of the care setting. This can result in the need to consider options which might differ from those considered were the child residing in Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Any Independent out of county education provision will come as an additional cost and require an additional funding commitment.</p>		

Action Plan

Education

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4b

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
			<p>As the number of children placed out of county has risen so has the financial impact on the portfolio resulting in this cost pressure.</p> <p><u>Proposed Action</u></p> <p>Continue to work closely with Children’s Services to ensure statutory education duties are met.</p> <p>Continue to support the development of MYST within Blaenau Gwent which is currently focussed on the return of CLA to Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Work with Penycwm to consider the role of special schools in off-setting out of county placement spend.</p> <p>Support Bridging the Gap in developing closer working, and new ways of working, regarding early identification, intervention and preventative approaches, regardless of context.</p>		

Action Plan

Education

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4b

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
Home to School transport	1,617	(38,401)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u></p> <p>The adverse variance is due to the full year financial impact of new contracts that commenced during the year and new contracts required during this financial year in order to meet the increased demand for Penycwm and the River Centre Special Schools.</p> <p><u>Proposed Action</u></p> <p>The River Centre is currently at capacity and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. Penycwm is also at capacity and has seen a marked increase in demand for places resulting in the need to consider enlarging the school. The transport requirements for both schools are monitored closely and efficiencies made where possible.</p>	Not Known	Lynn Phillips

Action Plan

Education

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4b

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
AWPU Clawback	(81,136)	(81,000)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u></p> <p>The anticipated funding recovered from Schools as a result of the LA providing alternative education provision has reduced due to schools increasingly providing provision to meet pupils needs as an alternative to requiring specialist placement and as a result of the River Centre being at capacity.</p> <p><u>Proposed Action</u></p> <p>Areas have been identified where guidance requires or advises AWPU clawback from schools. This will be taken forward following appropriate awareness raising.</p> <p>Mechanisms for identifying AWPU clawback eligibility are being devised with the River Centre.</p>	Not Known	Gavin Metheringham

Action Plan

Environment

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4c

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
Waste Services	(142,167)	(313,141)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u> The adverse variance is due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The additional revenue costs of the narrow access and rear loading vehicles £70,000. • The Sustainable Waste Management grant is lower than estimated by £45,000, due to the grant reduction being higher than anticipated. • Increased contract costs relating to recycling of wood, inert and hygiene waste. • Security costs at the Household Waste Recycling Centre. • Health & Safety changes to the baler and associated operation method statement at the Waste Transfer Station and under achievement of the income target relating to the Financial Efficiency Project as the baler was not operational until August. <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route optimisation for refuse and recycling rounds are in progress to cope with the demand and new initiatives surrounding the reactive nature of this service. This includes a review of the fleet and staffing levels. This will result in one refuse vehicle taken off this financial year. 	Estimated net saving £185,000	M Perry / M Stent

Action Plan

Environment

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4c

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A fence and CCTV are to be installed at the HWRC to reduce the costs in relation to security. A risk based approach to the security will need to be undertaken, resulting in the security contract being terminated from September 2019• The waste recycling disposal contracts are being monitored and reviewed, prioritising the wood and inert waste streams.• The baler at the Transfer Station will commence operation from 14/08/19 which could generate additional income from the increased levels and quality of recycle.• If the Council meets or exceeds the 64% recycling target, there may be financial savings in relation to the residual waste contract charges, and this is currently estimated around £112,000.• Also, if the Council achieves the 64% recycling target, this will mitigate against any fines imposed by Welsh Government.		

Action Plan

Environment

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4c

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
County Borough Cleansing	(34,319)	(28,237)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u> This is partly due to the cost of the Public Conveniences, including the contribution paid to the management of Public Conveniences towards the running costs and maintenance costs. A one off grant was received in 2018/2019 of £17,200, but this is not anticipated for the current year at this stage.</p> <p>It is also due to an increase in hired vehicle costs.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cease issuing dog waste bags from October following public awareness. • Cease installation of dog waste bins. • Cease spend for Deep cleans at Town Centres. • Review of transport costs of sweeper. Potential to remove one unit • Consideration to reduce the contribution paid to the organisations for running the public toilets, for future years. This is currently £18,000 per annum, but is funded through the Street Cleansing budget. 	<p>£14,000</p> <p>£9,000</p> <p>£15,000</p>	M Perry / D Watkins

Action Plan

Environment

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4c

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
Cemeteries	(37,515)	(37,248)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u> There is a forecast net surplus (income over expenditure) on this budget of £283,000, however, the income target of £537,000 is not being achieved by £75,000.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>The income forecast is based on 2018/2019, and will be monitored during the financial year. Consideration to increase fees and charges for residential and non residential fees, from 01/01/20</p>		M Perry / D Watkins
Meals on Wheels	(53,658)	(25,375)	<p><u>Reason for Adverse variance</u></p> <p>This overspend is due to the income from the sale of meals not achieving the target income. Meal prices have been increased and marketing undertaken to try to increase revenue. Staff hours have been reduced. However, the service continues to struggle to breakeven as a result of the income targets set against this service.</p>		C Rogers / M Price

Action Plan

Environment

2019/20 Forecast Adverse Variances (as at 30 June 2019)

Appendix 4c

Service Area	2018/19 Provisional Outturn Variance £	2019/2020 Variance at June 2019 Forecast £	Action Required & Timescale	Financial Impact	Responsible Officer
			<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to market to try to increase sales • Review of staff hours to deliver the service. 		
Cwmcrachen Caravan Site	(20,578)	(53,713)	<p><u>Reason for Variance</u> Utility bills far higher than anticipated.</p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation into corporate utility bill arrangements at the site to ensure correct billing. • Review to ensure that the council is full cost recovering against these costs. 		D Thompson