

BUDGET PRESSURES 2026-27 TO 2029-30

RECURRENT BUDGET PRESSURES

Ref	Directorate	Service	Pressure	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
				£000	£000	£000	£000
1	Education, Early Years and Young People	ALN	Recoupment Expenditure at Heronsbridge / YBC. Whilst numbers have remained stable in inter-authority recoupment placements, with 20 at Summer 2025, down to 18 in Autumn 2025, the pressure is due to additional support being provided at Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell to mitigate further external placements.	250			
2	Social Services and Wellbeing	Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care pressures including physical disabilities homecare, learning disabilities and physical disabilities residential care, as a result of increased placements and increased costs due to changing needs.	250			
3	Social Services and Wellbeing	Children's	There is an overspend of £560k for supported accommodation. The Placement Commissioning Strategy and the Children and Young People's Transitional Strategy outline the need to grow supported accommodation options in response to the increasing number of children aged 10-15 becoming looked after, as well as ongoing responsibilities under the mandated National Transfer Scheme.	250			
4	Communities	Highways	Highways Services - insufficient budget in respect of staffing and hire charges for vehicles and equipment.	40			
5	Communities	Parks and Playing Fields	Parks and Playing Fields - maintenance budgets on cemeteries.	50			
6	Chief Executive	Finance	Funding to reinstate MTFs Budget Reduction CEX25 Finance Senior Management Savings from 2024-25. A full restructure was proposed and consulted on but it did not proceed.	70			
7	Chief Executive	Finance	Benefits - shortfall on Department for Work and Pension (DWP) subsidy contributions towards housing benefit payments in Bridgend. Any Housing Benefit award paid over the subsidy level is borne by the Council as the DWP does not fully fund all Housing Benefit expenditure – for example, there are a number of tenancy arrangements whereby the subsidy is limited to historic local housing allowance rates or restricted by rent officer determinations.	91			
8	Chief Executive	Legal	Historical shortfall on income generated from legal fees for property transactions, S106 Agreements and Highway Agreements.	58			
Total Recurrent Budget Pressures				1,059	0	0	0

EMERGING DIRECTORATE PRESSURES

Ref	Directorate	Service	Pressure	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
				£000	£000	£000	£000
SCHNEW 1	Education, Early Years and Young People	Individual Schools Budget	Increase to delegated funding for schools required for energy, cleaning, building maintenance, caretaking and rates as a result of planned extensions to existing premises and proposed new build/replacement schools.	29	293	220	0
EDNEW1	Education, Early Years and Young People	Home to School Transport	Home to school transport for pupil transport for Welsh Immersion provision which supports pupils up to Year 7. The late immersion unit based in Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr was established in March 2025 and all newcomers to Welsh-medium education will be immersed in the language within the unit from Monday to Thursday and spend Friday at their home-school. In line with the transport policy, pupils who are eligible to receive school transport also receive transport to the late immersion unit.	47			

				2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Ref	Directorate		Pressure	£000	£000	£000	£000
EDNEW2	Education, Early Years and Young People	School Improvement	The budget pressure funding (£225k in 2025-26 and 2026-27) is required to support the creation of a School Improvement Group within the local authority's Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate. This additional resource has been necessary following the reorganisation of regional school improvement arrangements across Wales. This funding has facilitated the appointment of a team of school improvement partners supported by three professional officers to support digital learning and strategic development in primary and secondary schools.	225			
EDNEW3	Education, Early Years and Young People	Early Years - Additional Learning Needs	Additional Learning Needs pressures, including additional resource bases in schools, particularly for communication autism, due to the significant increase in the number of pupils with emotional, social and behavioural needs, and pupils with complex medical needs and physical disabilities.	800			
SSW1	Social Services & Wellbeing	Children's Services	<p>The Health and Social Care Bill is designed to rebalance and reform the children's social care system, specifically by eliminating for-profit providers of residential and foster care. There are significant revenue (and capital) pressures associated with meeting the requirements of this legislation against an overall significantly overspent children's placement budget. The current in-house provision and services supporting families to stay together are already dependent on grant funding.</p> <p>Due to new statutory responsibilities under the Health and Social Care (Wales) Act, which require local authorities to ensure sufficient local placement options for children, while reducing and eliminating reliance on private providers. This requirement is supported by our Placement Commissioning Strategy, which identifies the need to establish at least four additional residential homes to meet current and anticipated levels of demand.</p> <p>The 2026-27 figure includes the shortfall on homes 1 & 2, and 3 months of home 3.</p>	1,498	585	1,642	
SSW2	Social Services & Wellbeing	Adult Social Care	Front Door - Increasing demand for assessment for adults with social care needs. There is an increase in costs due to increasing demand for assessment within our Early Intervention and Prevention Service (EIPH) which is the front door to adult services. 2742 new contacts were received during April-August 2025/26 compared to 2422 for the same period in 2024/25. Undertaking a timely and accurate assessment is a key part of our sustainable and strengths based model. With the surge in demand for the service we are unable to maintain this level of service which will result in delays in the system and increased risk, and higher care costs. This will ensure we can meet the demand and prevent unnecessary escalation of need.	86			
SSW3	Social Services & Wellbeing	Adult Social Care	Complex Needs and Continuing Health Care. Increasing pressure from meeting the full care costs of people with complex needs. There is an increase in care costs to the local authority as people with complex needs, including learning disabilities and dementia, become older. Whilst they may be entitled to continuing health care contributions from the health board, this requires a high degree of expertise, persistence and a focussed assessment from our social workers to obtain this.	60			
SSW4	Social Services & Wellbeing	Adult Social Care	Transition. Learning Disabilities - Residential. An increased demand for high cost accommodation/residential care for young people with complex needs transitioning to adult social care at 18. There has been an increase in cost due to increasing numbers of young people with complex needs transitioning from Child and Family services to Adult Social Care at 18. As well as an increase in demand from young people with high levels of complexity, adults with a learning disability are also living longer. This places greater pressure on our residential budget.	800			

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SSW5	Social Services & Wellbeing	Adult Social Care	Transition - Independent Domiciliary Care. An increased demand for high cost accommodation/residential care for young people with complex needs transitioning to adult social care at 18. The pressure is based on increasing numbers of placements (and increasing complexities of need) made in long-term homecare services over the past 18 months, due to demographic pressures, such as an ageing population and increasing dementia.	151			
SSW6	Social Services & Wellbeing	Commissioned Services	Implications of Real Living Wage (RLW) uplifts on commissioned contracts within Social Services and Wellbeing, to meet Welsh Government's commitment to the real living wage in social care, based on the announced increase to RLW from £12.60 in 2025 to £13.45 (6.7% increase) in 2026.	3,000			
SSW7	Social Services & Wellbeing	Directorate Wide	Establishment of an accommodation unit, similar to the school modernisation team, to develop business cases, seek funding and manage social services accommodation proposals for in-house services. This will initially focus on children's accommodation, to meet the requirements of the Health and Social Care (Wales) Act 2025 in terms of eliminating profit from the care of looked after children, but will also manage changes in provision for adult services, with a view to investing to achieve longer term budget savings.	250			
COM1	Communities	Waste	Additional revenue funding required, over and above the current budget, to operate the waste service as an in-house service from July 2027, as agreed by Cabinet. Separate one-off mobilisation costs that are required eg ICT system costs, legal and HR costs, are being funded by an earmarked reserve, and some may be funded from the Extended Producer Responsibility contribution. An element of the funding is required in 2026-27 to enable containers and personal protective equipment to be pre-ordered in time for the July 2027 start date.	275	965		
COM2	Communities	Transport	Bus Subsidies: to include provision to undertake pilot schemes on routes no longer served by bus operators.	50			
CEX1	Chief Executive's	Taxation	Shortfall in Court Cost Income from council tax and Non Domestic Rates, both historically and as a consequence of changes to the legislation for the administration and enforcement of council tax which are due to be introduced by Welsh Government from 01/04/2026 (The Council Tax (Discount, Disregards and Exemptions) Regulations 2026).	75			
CEX2	Chief Executive's	Democratic Services	The current Welsh Government consultation on committee meetings, ending on 28 November 2025, proposes extending the mandatory broadcasting of council meetings to include all statutory committees like Democratic Services and Planning, as well as Cabinet meetings (presently it is just full council). Additional revenue funding, over and above the current budget would be needed to increase capacity to comply with this requirement and the infrastructure needed to support this approach. Furthermore, the new conferencing system for the Chamber and Committee Rooms aligned with the Council's digital transformation project will require more resource. Furthermore, the recent Panel Performance Assessment identified that a critical component of any emerging transformation plan will be our approach to the digital function. Resources will therefore be required to provide ongoing support to our Elected Members to help them understand and champion these digital initiatives. A key area of support will be the Member Referral System providing an effective digital platform for handling constituents' cases and effectively manage their workload.	36			
CEX3	Chief Executive's	Democratic Services	Strengthening Democratic Services capacity to assist with policy advice, support and development.	50			

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			£000	£000	£000	£000
CEX4	Chief Executive's	Legal Services	65			
CEX5	Chief Executive's	Human Resources	81			
CEX6	Chief Executive's	Human Resources	57			
CEX7	Chief Executive's	Transformation	500			
CW1	Council Wide	Capital Financing		500	500	
Total Budget Pressures			8,135	2,343	2,362	0

TOTAL ALL BUDGET PRESSURES	9,194	2,343	2,362	0
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TOTAL PRESSURES

Schools	29	293	220	0
Education, Early Years and Young People	1,322	0	0	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	6,345	585	1,642	0
Communities	415	965	0	0
Chief Executives	1,083	0	0	0
Council Wide	0	500	500	0

9,194	2,343	2,362	0
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