

BUDGET PRESSURES 2026-27 TO 2029-30

BASE BUDGET PRESSURES

Ref	Directorate	Service	Pressure	2026-27 £000	2027-28 £000	2028-29 £000	2029-30 £000
1	Education, Early Years and Young People	Additional Learning Needs	Recoupment Expenditure at Heronsbridge / Ysgol Bryn Castell. 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.	133			
8	Chief Executive	Legal	Historical shortfall on income generated from legal fees for property transactions, S106 Agreements and Highway Agreements.	58			
9	Chief Executive	ICT	Funding to reinstate savings not achieved in respect of MTFs Budget Reduction Proposals (CEX22 2024-25 and CEX10 2025-26) following the Panel Performance Assessment, as they are counter-productive to the transformation agenda and will be required to support digital transformation proposals.	181			
10	Chief Executive	ICT	Shortfall in historical service level agreement income from schools which is no longer being realised as the Welsh Government School Hwb project now includes the services previously being re-charged.	177			
Total Recurrent Budget Pressures				1,459	0	0	0

EMERGING DIRECTORATE PRESSURES

Ref	Directorate	Service	Pressure	2026-27 £000	2027-28 £000	2028-29 £000	2029-30 £000
SCH1	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	

Ref	Directorate		Pressure	2026-27 £000	2027-28 £000	2028-29 £000	2029-30 £000
ED1	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			
ED2	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			
ED3	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	<p>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.</p>	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			

Ref	Directorate		Pressure	2026-27 £000	2027-28 £000	2028-29 £000	2029-30 £000
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			
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 in November 2024. 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			

Ref	Directorate		Pressure	2026-27 £000	2027-28 £000	2028-29 £000	2029-30 £000
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. It is proposed that this is a Graduate role where existing skills can be developed and the role can be flexible enough to react to any changes in administration.	50			
CEX4	Chief Executive's	Legal Services	In the MTFs 2025-2029 additional revenue funding was granted for the appointment of a dedicated S106 officer and an assistant in the Communities Directorate. The establishment of an Infrastructure Management Board to develop and implement an Infrastructure Management Plan has also been agreed in principle. The purpose behind these actions is to ensure the Council obtains maximum benefit from S106 funding, particularly as the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) will generate around £155 million in S106 income over the course of the plan period. The implication is that there will be a greater demand on legal advice on S106s going forward and therefore additional revenue funding will be required over and above the current budget for Legal Services to meet this work in-house.	65			
CEX5	Chief Executive's	Human Resources	Permanent funding for additional resource to ensure we meet our mandatory pension reporting requirements that have significantly changed in recent years due to greater reporting requirement for both Teachers and LGPS with separate monthly returns. There is also additional work following the McCloud ruling.	81			
CEX6	Chief Executive's	Human Resources	Previous savings against the Learning & Development were mitigated by vacancies that now need to be filled to ensure we meet operational payroll deadlines.	57			
CEX7	Chief Executive's	Transformation	Following the outcome of the Panel Performance Assessment, the development of a multi-skilled transformation team to take forward transformation across the Council, to progress change at pace, leading to deliverable savings in the medium to longer term.	500			

Ref	Directorate		Pressure	2026-27 £000	2027-28 £000	2028-29 £000	2029-30 £000
CW1	Council Wide	Capital Financing	Revenue Funding to meet the costs of unsupported borrowing, to support the capital programme, not least the Sustainable Learning for Communities Programme and capital expenditure for communities.		500	500	
Total Budget Pressures				8,135	2,343	2,362	0

FINAL SETTLEMENT ADDITIONAL GROWTH / PRESSURES

Ref	Directorate		Pressure	2026-27 £000	2027-28 £000	2028-29 £000	2029-30 £000
ED4	Education, Early Years and Young People	Youth Service	A recurrent allocation of £250,000 subject to a review of the service and where this would have most impact and ensure key youth provision is protected as Shared Prosperity Funding is withdrawn.	250			
SSW8	Social Services and Wellbeing	Mental Health	Preventative mental health and wellbeing support to communities - a small grants scheme for third sector community organisations to support local access to preventative mental health and wellbeing support for a range of groups including veterans, accessible in local communities.	80			
SSW9	Social Services and Wellbeing	Community Sports Development	Capacity to support community sports development to increase participation, accessibilities and work with partners to address health and wellbeing inequalities and support the development of clubs to develop funding bids and participation. This will include a small sports fund (community chest) to support sports clubs to purchase new equipment / match fund grant bids.	183			
COM3	Communities	Public Realm	This will be used to fund multi purpose teams in the Communities Directorate that will work across the Borough to improving public areas. This will include providing a coordinated approach to work on greening and planting, biodiversity improvements, cleaning and repairing assets, care of public spaces and small scale environmental improvements that will support flood prevention. This recurring funding will enable these teams to undertake direct action to improve local environments and to support the ongoing care of our neighbourhoods, towns and green spaces.	1,500			
COM4	Communities	Town Centres	To develop and expand the Town centre management and events capacity across our towns to better support business as some Shared Prosperity Funding is reduced and provide a function to develop markets and events in our town centres.	150			
COM5	Communities	Transport	Funding to support additional pilot schemes on routes no longer served by bus operators (£100k total with COM2).	50			
CEX8	Chief Executive	Digital Transformation	The Council has committed to accelerate the pace of change across the Authority in response to the Panel Performance Assessment findings. One area for priority is the use of digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. This funding will support this, including the replacement of key systems that support services to ensure efficient working processes going forward.	500			
CEX9	Chief Executive	Transformation	The Council has committed to accelerate the pace of change across the Authority in response to the Panel Performance Assessment findings. To support this, additional capacity is required to develop a programme and project management function that can support services to deliver invest to save initiatives and service change (in addition to CEX7). Without this the level of change to deliver efficiencies required and the associated risk cannot be managed.	600			

Ref	Directorate		Pressure	2026-27 £000	2027-28 £000	2028-29 £000	2029-30 £000
CEX10	Chief Executive	Housing	The demand for Housing services, in particular homelessness presentations, has continued at a high level since Covid, and is not reducing. The capacity in the team has not been increased for many years therefore additional capacity is required to deal with the level of referrals to ensure individuals are not waiting for the support required.	150			
CEX11	Chief Executive	Human Resources	Funding to support internal investigations within the Council. The current lack of officers to undertake investigations is causing delays in investigations which leads to additional anxiety for employees and criticism from Trade Unions and Tribunals. This will also ensure we maintain independence in all investigations that require it.	100			
CEX12	Chief Executive	Procurement	To enhance progress on procurement work with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and local suppliers.	55			
CEX13	Chief Executive	Workforce Development	There is currently one workforce development officer within the Council who works within the Social Services and Wellbeing directorate. Additional capacity is sought across the Council to support the reduction of agency workers by developing more resilient long term solutions and focussing on workforce planning and development.	65			
CEX14	Chief Executive	Legal	The budget for a planning lawyer was removed a number of years ago, but workload has increased in this area, and it is difficult to recruit on temporary funding. The volume and complexity of work is increasing so a permanent full time officer is required.	65			
CW2	Council Wide	Fire and Rescue Authority Levy	Increase in Fire Service Precept of 2.99% to cover pay and price increases. The final budget is subject to approval by the Fire and Rescue Authority at its budget meeting in February 2026. This is in addition to the £12,660 funding transferred into the settlement towards the FRA increased pay and national insurance contributions.	260			
Total Budget Pressures				4,008	0	0	0

TOTAL ALL BUDGET PRESSURES

13,602 2,343 2,362 0

TOTAL PRESSURES

Schools	29	293	220	0
Education, Early Years and Young People	1,572	0	0	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	6,608	585	1,642	0
Communities	2,115	965	0	0
Chief Executives	3,018	0	0	0
Council Wide	260	500	500	0

13,602 2,343 2,362 0