

Local Authority Parking Finances in Wales 2017 - 18

1 Introduction

This note covers parking finances for the 22 local authorities in Wales. As in England and Scotland, local authorities are required to submit details of all their finances to the Welsh Government in a standard format. They are normally published in October, seven months after the financial year end. This report looks at the section on parking income and expenditure from 2013-14 to 2017-18 and is based primarily on data reported by Statistics for Wales (Welsh Government (2018)), as well as data reported by English and Scottish Local Government authorities, all of the sources of which are listed in the references.¹

The published data is less comprehensive than in England and does not split out on- and off-street parking or show penalty income separately. The figures do not include any commercial off-street parking. In 2017-18, 19 councils showed surpluses and three showed deficits (**the same three councils as 2016-17**). All councils are now receiving income from parking, **although councils such as Blaenau Gwent (Ebbw Vale and Abertillery) and Torfaen (Pontypool and Cwmbran) offer free parking but still issue penalty charge notices**.

2 Summary

Table 1: Summary of parking accounts for Wales (£ millions)

		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2017-18 on 2016-17
Parking	Income	31.55	33.91	35.82	37.41	38.49	2.90 %
	Expenditure	22.25	21.82	22.00	23.43	24.07	2.74 %
	Surplus	9.30	12.10	13.81	13.98	14.42	3.15 %
Total transport	Net expenditure	306.75	278.89	271.22	270.50	265.29	-1.93 %
	Parking surplus as percentage of all transport costs	3.03	4.34	5.09	5.17	5.44	

Table 1 shows the summary accounts for local authorities in Wales of the incomes and expenditures arising from parking charges and penalty income both for on- and off-street

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parking. The income has increased by 2.9 %, the expenditure has increased by 2.7 % and the surplus has increased by 3.2 % compared to the previous fiscal year. Total transport has fallen by 1.9 % and the surplus now represents 5.4 % of transport costs.

Parking makes a smaller contribution to overall transport expenditure in Wales compared with England where it is around 21.8 % of total transport. Since 2013-14 income has risen by 22.0 % and expenditure has risen by 8.2 %. Over the same period the surplus has risen by 55.1 %. Figure 1 gives a longer term overview of the trends in incomes, expenditures and surpluses.

Table 2: Comparison of parking income and expenditure in across the nations of Great Britain (£ millions)

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Fiscal year	(2017-18)	(2017-18)	(2017-18)	(2017-18)	(2017-18)
Parking income	980.43	679.97	88.15	38.49	1787.05
Parking expenditure	513.33	273.76	43.58	24.07	854.74
Surplus	467.10	406.22	44.57	14.42	932.30
Surplus as proportion of income	47.64%	59.74%	50.56%	37.46%	52.17%

Table 2 provides a comparison with London, England excluding London, and Wales for for the most recent available data, while Table 3 compares the changes between 2017-18 and 2016-17 with the average annual change over the four-year period from 2013-14.

On average, parking surpluses in Great Britain have risen by about 7.3 % annually over the past four years compared with 2.1 % annually for the Retail Prices Index during the same period (Office for National Statistics (2019a)).

Table 3: Annual changes in parking income and expenditure from 2013-14 to 2017-18 across the nations of Great Britain

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Average annual change in income	3.79 %	4.74 %	4.70 %	5.10 %	4.22 %
Change in income since previous year	4.45 %	6.42 %	6.75 %	2.90 %	5.27 %
Average annual change in expenditure	1.65 %	0.47 %	2.22 %	1.99 %	1.30 %
Change in expenditure since previous year	3.58 %	5.08 %	9.03 %	2.74 %	4.30 %
Average annual change in surplus	6.44 %	8.20 %	7.45 %	11.60 %	7.31 %
Change in surplus since previous year	5.42 %	7.34 %	4.61 %	3.15 %	6.17 %

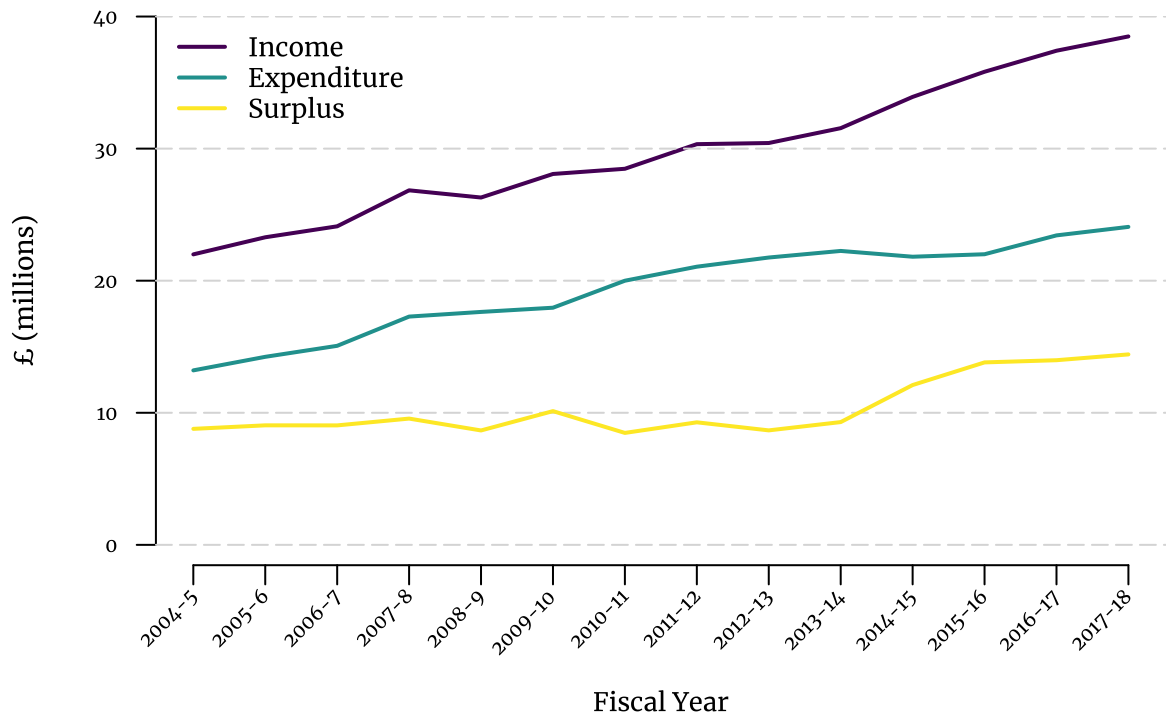


Figure 1: Parking revenues–Wales

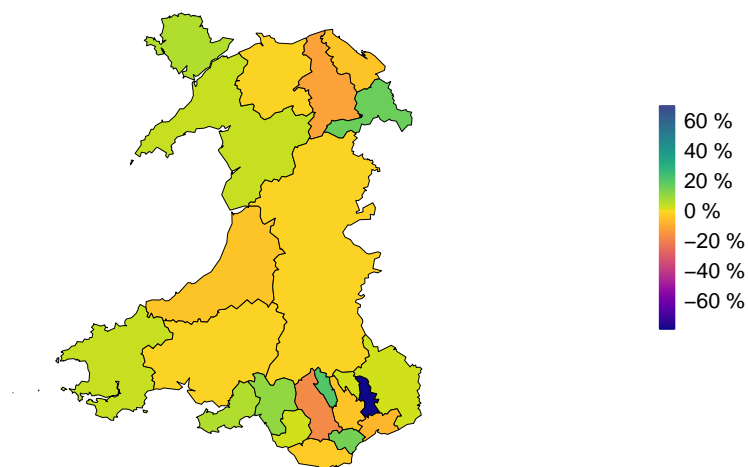


Figure 2: Map of change in parking income since previous fiscal year

3 Income

Total council parking income from all sources in 2017-18 was £38.5 million, 2.9 % higher than 2016-17. Note that this includes penalty income, which is not shown separately, but does not include off-street income received by commercial off-street parking facilities. Table 4 ranks the Welsh councils in terms of parking income.

11 councils increased their income over the past year and 11 decreased their income. The changes from 2016-17 are mapped² in Figure 2.

The top three Welsh councils by income were Cardiff, Swansea, and Carmarthenshire, and between them accounted for 45.7 % of parking income.

Merthyr Tydfil increased their income by 19.3 % while Wrexham and Cardiff increased by 14.2 % and 13.6 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Rhondda Cynon Taf (17.5 %), and Denbighshire (11.3 %) (excluding Torfaen with income under £30,000).

Table 4: Parking income for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2017-18 on 2016-17	Average annual change from 2013-14
Cardiff	6,613	6,900	7,257	7,599	8,629	13.56 %	6.88 %
Swansea	4,618	5,171	5,446	5,666	5,932	4.69 %	6.46 %
Carmarthenshire	2,448	2,815	3,106	3,092	3,035	-1.84 %	5.53 %
Gwynedd	2,097	2,027	2,538	2,490	2,539	1.97 %	4.90 %
Pembrokeshire	1,360	1,521	1,783	1,867	1,916	2.62 %	8.95 %
Conwy	1,392	1,419	1,886	1,935	1,903	-1.64 %	8.14 %
Powys	1,196	1,363	1,602	1,684	1,653	-1.85 %	8.41 %
Monmouthshire	1,183	1,250	1,421	1,522	1,535	0.82 %	6.73 %
Denbighshire	1,300	1,251	1,300	1,711	1,517	-11.34 %	3.93 %
Neath Port Talbot	1,507	1,494	1,376	1,375	1,500	9.13 %	-0.12 %
Bridgend	1,357	1,268	1,220	1,127	1,139	0.99 %	-4.29 %
Wrexham	155	1,045	896	974	1,113	14.25 %	63.70 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,384	1,410	1,291	1,322	1,090	-17.54 %	-5.80 %
Ceredigion	1,123	1,150	980	1,109	1,055	-4.84 %	-1.54 %
Vale of Glamorgan	955	788	686	764	737	-3.53 %	-6.27 %
Merthyr Tydfil	832	745	690	608	725	19.32 %	-3.37 %
Caerphilly	702	721	702	675	641	-4.97 %	-2.23 %
Isle of Anglesey	388	456	523	605	639	5.62 %	13.28 %
Newport	605	621	640	643	591	-7.97 %	-0.57 %
Flintshire	296	450	439	599	571	-4.64 %	17.80 %

²Boundary data for this and all further maps is from Office for National Statistics (2017a). Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Table 4: Parking income for Wales (£,000) (*continued*)

Local Authority	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2017-18 on 2016-17	Average annual change from 2013-14
Blaenau Gwent	30	38	30	30	30	0.70 %	0.18 %
Torfaen	9	12	5	15	4	-73.33 %	-18.35 %
Total	31,549	33,915	35,817	37,410	38,494	2.90 %	5.10 %

4 Expenditure

Table 5 ranks the councils in terms of expenditure on parking.

Overall expenditure has risen by £0.6 million (2.7 %) after a rise of £1.4 million last year, with 12 councils having increased their costs and ten having reduced their costs. The changes from 2016-17 are mapped in Figure 4.

The largest increase in expenditure occurred in Cardiff where it increased by 20.9 % while Carmarthenshire and Rhondda Cynon Taf increased by 19.9 % and 14.5 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Newport (54.9 %), and Blaenau Gwent (44.2 %).

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs in 2017-18. Nationally in Wales it is 62.5 % with Cardiff at 55.2 %.

Table 5: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2017-18 on 2016-17	Average annual change since 2013-14	Expenditure as propor- tion of income
Cardiff	3,688	3,474	3,763	3,941	4,764	20.89 %	6.61 %	55.21 %
Swansea	3,362	3,220	3,044	3,199	3,087	-3.51 %	-2.11 %	52.04 %
Carmarthenshire	1,652	2,026	1,712	1,764	2,115	19.87 %	6.36 %	69.68 %
Neath Port Talbot	1,262	1,308	1,168	1,256	1,332	6.00 %	1.36 %	88.78 %
Pembrokeshire	984	1,029	1,200	1,270	1,319	3.86 %	7.60 %	68.84 %
Gwynedd	1,300	1,100	1,130	1,135	1,157	1.94 %	-2.87 %	45.57 %
Denbighshire	759	767	842	1,053	1,053	0.00 %	8.52 %	69.40 %
Conwy	812	760	828	916	954	4.17 %	4.11 %	50.13 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	991	864	794	791	906	14.52 %	-2.23 %	83.10 %
Bridgend	861	1,156	988	833	889	6.74 %	0.79 %	78.04 %
Powys	761	748	763	789	822	4.12 %	1.94 %	49.71 %
Wrexham	304	580	580	838	812	-3.09 %	27.83 %	72.98 %
Vale of Glamorgan	902	637	578	632	686	8.54 %	-6.61 %	93.08 %

Table 5: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000) (*continued*)

Local Authority	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2017-18 on 2016-17	Average annual change since 2013-14	Expenditure as propor- tion of income
Flintshire	807	458	862	726	678	-6.53 %	-4.25 %	118.84 %
Monmouthshire	598	510	490	594	671	13.01 %	2.92 %	43.71 %
Ceredigion	845	825	964	589	567	-3.63 %	-9.48 %	53.76 %
Caerphilly	491	523	512	658	550	-16.33 %	2.91 %	85.81 %
Merthyr Tydfil	631	651	519	504	510	1.26 %	-5.16 %	70.38 %
Blaenau Gwent	274	262	340	866	483	-44.21 %	15.23 %	1599.67 %
Isle of Anglesey	303	299	337	358	351	-1.96 %	3.74 %	54.93 %
Newport	589	556	503	633	286	-54.86 %	-16.54 %	48.32 %
Torfaen	77	63	86	87	82	-5.75 %	1.59 %	2050.00 %
Total	22,253	21,816	22,003	23,431	24,074	2.74 %	1.99 %	62.54 %

Table 6 shows the proportion of income taken up by expenditure. Across Wales it was 62.5 % compared to 62.6 % in the previous year, suggesting improving efficiency in operations.

Cardiff's expenditure was 55.2 % of its income having risen since last year, while Swansea's has fallen to 52.0 %.

Most of the medium-sized councils spend 50–90% of their income on parking management, which includes enforcement. Care should be taken in interpreting the percentages towards the bottom of the table, as the very low parking incomes can lead to extreme values which are less meaningful.

Table 6: Parking expenditure for as proportion of parking income

Local Authority	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Cardiff	55.78 %	50.35 %	51.85 %	51.86 %	55.21 %
Swansea	72.80 %	62.27 %	55.89 %	56.46 %	52.04 %
Carmarthenshire	67.51 %	71.95 %	55.12 %	57.06 %	69.68 %
Neath Port Talbot	83.71 %	87.55 %	84.86 %	91.40 %	88.78 %
Pembrokeshire	72.35 %	67.65 %	67.30 %	68.02 %	68.84 %
Gwynedd	61.99 %	54.27 %	44.52 %	45.58 %	45.57 %
Denbighshire	58.38 %	61.31 %	64.77 %	61.53 %	69.40 %
Conwy	58.35 %	53.55 %	43.89 %	47.33 %	50.13 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	71.60 %	61.32 %	61.53 %	59.84 %	83.10 %
Bridgend	63.45 %	91.22 %	81.01 %	73.84 %	78.04 %
Powys	63.58 %	54.88 %	47.63 %	46.85 %	49.71 %
Wrexham	196.26 %	55.50 %	64.75 %	86.03 %	72.98 %
Vale of Glamorgan	94.45 %	80.84 %	84.26 %	82.72 %	93.08 %

Table 6: Parking expenditure for as proportion of parking income
(*continued*)

Local Authority	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Flintshire	272.27 %	101.84 %	196.35 %	121.25 %	118.84 %
Monmouthshire	50.56 %	40.76 %	34.48 %	38.99 %	43.71 %
Ceredigion	75.24 %	71.73 %	98.38 %	53.09 %	53.76 %
Caerphilly	69.90 %	72.51 %	72.92 %	97.46 %	85.81 %
Merthyr Tydfil	75.86 %	87.45 %	75.18 %	82.93 %	70.38 %
Blaenau Gwent	913.75 %	679.63 %	1134.79 %	2887.25 %	1599.67 %
Isle of Anglesey	78.09 %	65.57 %	64.44 %	59.17 %	54.93 %
Newport	97.37 %	89.61 %	78.54 %	98.53 %	48.32 %
Torfaen	855.56 %	525.00 %	1720.00 %	580.00 %	2050.00 %
Total	70.53 %	64.33 %	61.43 %	62.63 %	62.54 %

* Empty cells indicate the council reported no income and/or no expenditure

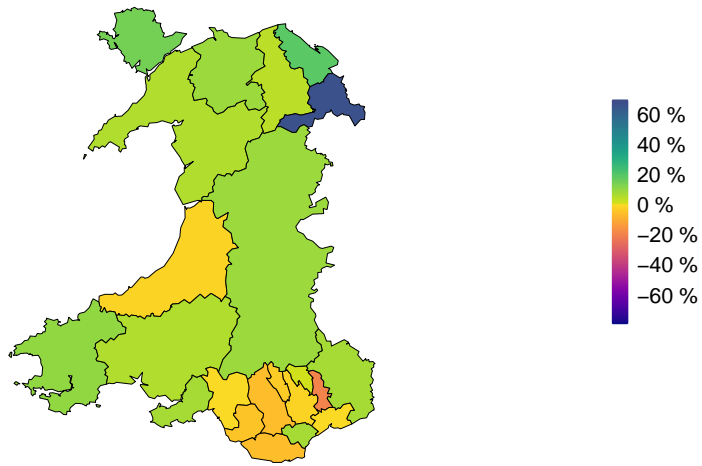


Figure 3: Map of average annual change in parking income over the past four years

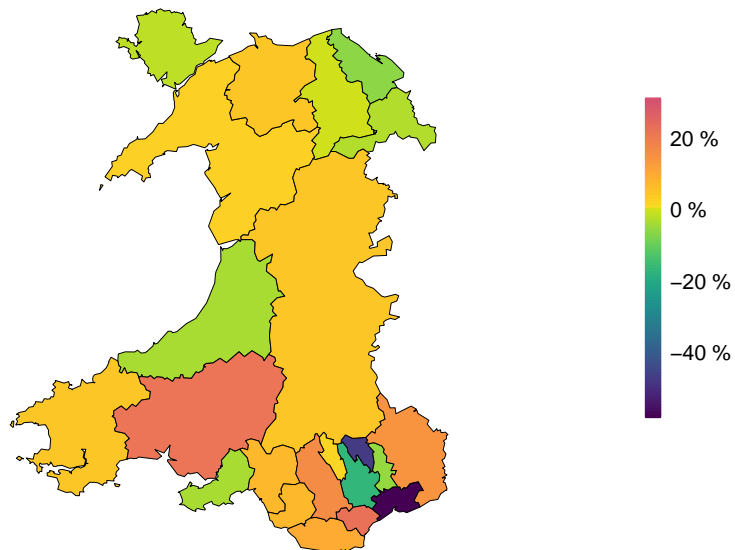


Figure 4: Map of change in parking expenditure since previous fiscal year

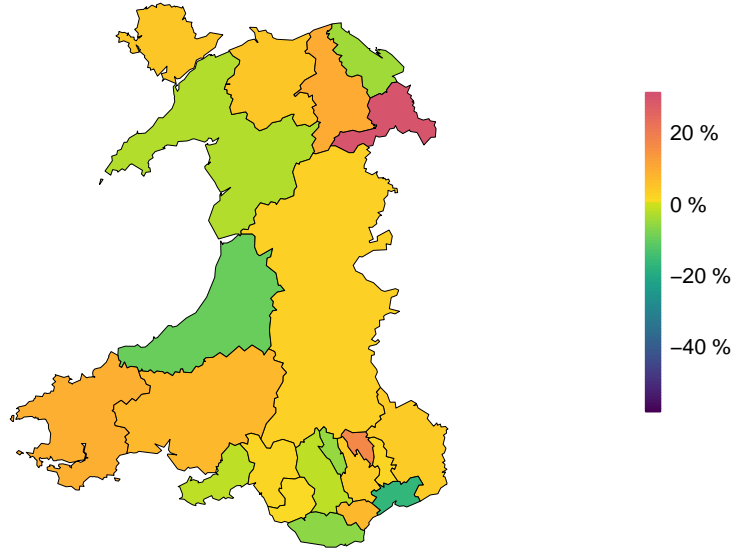


Figure 5: Map of average annual change in parking expenditure over the past four years

5 Surpluses

Table 7 shows the parking surpluses from from 2013-14 to 2017-18 and the change from 2016-17 to 2017-18. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure.

The total *surpluses* for Wales amounted to £15.1 million between 19 authorities of which Cardiff, Swansea, and Gwynedd contributed 53.7%. Three councils made a loss with the total of parking deficits falling to £0.6 million from £1.0 million last year.

Overall, parking contributed £14.4 million to local authority finances in Wales in 2017-18 compared with £14.0 million in 2017-18, an increase of 3.2 %.

Newport increased their surplus by 3129.9 % while Caerphilly and Wrexham increased by 430.3 % and 121.0 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Rhondda Cynon Taf (65.3 %), and Vale of Glamorgan (61.4 %).

Table 7: Parking surpluses for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2017-18 on 2016-17	Surplus as pro- portion of trans- port spending
Cardiff	2,924	3,426	3,494	3,658	3,865	5.66 %	17.52 %
Swansea	1,256	1,951	2,402	2,467	2,845	15.32 %	13.09 %
Gwynedd	797	927	1,408	1,355	1,382	1.99 %	9.41 %
Conwy	580	659	1,058	1,019	949	-6.87 %	10.73 %

Carmarthenshire	795	790	1,394	1,328	920	-30.69 %	5.54 %
Monmouthshire	585	741	931	929	864	-6.96 %	14.42 %
Powys	436	615	839	895	831	-7.12 %	7.11 %
Pembrokeshire	376	492	583	597	597	0.00 %	7.19 %
Ceredigion	278	325	16	520	488	-6.20 %	4.42 %
Denbighshire	541	484	458	658	464	-29.48 %	5.01 %
Newport	16	65	137	9	306	3129.92 %	3.00 %
Wrexham	-149	465	316	136	301	121.03 %	3.55 %
Isle of Anglesey	85	157	186	247	288	16.60 %	3.28 %
Bridgend	496	111	232	295	250	-15.23 %	2.25 %
Merthyr Tydfil	201	93	171	104	215	107.03 %	4.17 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	393	545	497	531	184	-65.30 %	1.07 %
Neath Port Talbot	245	186	208	118	168	42.28 %	1.22 %
Caerphilly	211	198	190	17	91	430.27 %	0.53 %
Vale of Glamorgan	53	151	108	132	51	-61.36 %	0.51 %
Torfaen	-68	-51	-81	-72	-78	8.33 %	-0.98 %
Flintshire	-511	-8	-423	-127	-108	-15.44 %	-0.57 %
Blaenau Gwent	-244	-223	-310	-836	-453	-45.82 %	-7.19 %
Total deficit	-972	-282	-814	-1,035	-639	-38.32 %	-1.93 %
Total surplus	10,268	12,381	14,628	15,015	15,059	0.29 %	6.49 %
Total	9,296	12,099	13,814	13,979	14,420	3.15 %	5.44 %

* Where the change in surplus is actually a change in deficit, the values are in italics

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