

# Local Authority Parking Finances in Wales 2016 - 17

## 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 2012-13 to 2016-17 and is based primarily on data reported by Statistics for Wales (Welsh Government (2019)), as well as data reported by English and Scottish Local Government authorities, all of the sources of which are listed in the references.<sup>1</sup>

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 2016-17, 19 councils showed surpluses and three showed deficits (**the same three councils as 2015-16**). 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)

		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Change 2016-17 on 2015-16
Parking	Income	30.42	31.55	33.91	35.82	37.41	4.45 %
	Expenditure	21.75	22.25	21.82	22.00	23.43	6.49 %
	Surplus	8.67	9.30	12.10	13.81	13.98	1.20 %
Total transport	Net expenditure	314.69	306.75	278.89	271.22	270.50	-0.26 %
	Parking surplus as percentage of all transport costs	2.75	3.03	4.34	5.09	5.17	

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

<sup>1</sup>Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

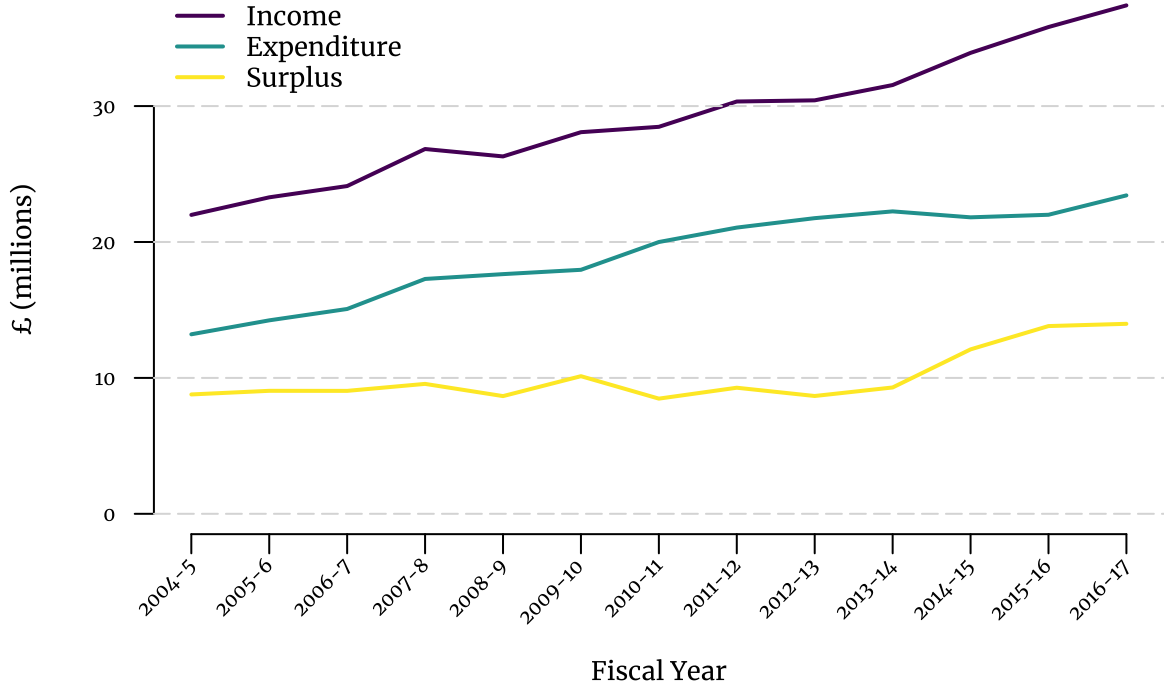


Figure 1: Parking revenues-Wales

parking. The income has increased by 4.4 %, the expenditure has increased by 6.5 % and the surplus has increased by 1.2 % compared to the previous fiscal year. Total transport has fallen by 0.3 % and the surplus now represents 5.2 % of transport costs.

Parking makes a smaller contribution to overall transport expenditure in Wales compared with England where it is around 20.5 % of total transport. Since 2012-13 income has risen by 23.0 % and expenditure has risen by 7.7 %. Over the same period the surplus has risen by 61.3 %. 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	(2016-17)	(2016-17)	(2016-17)	(2016-17)	(2016-17)
Parking income	938.68	638.97	74.54	37.41	1689.59
Parking expenditure	495.60	260.52	35.15	23.43	814.70
Surplus	443.08	378.45	39.39	13.98	874.89
Surplus as proportion of income	47.20%	59.23%	52.84%	37.37%	51.78%

Table 2 provides a comparison with London, England excluding London, and Wales for the most recent available data, while Table 3 shows the annual change over the years 2012-13 and 2016-17.

On average, parking surpluses in Great Britain have risen by about 8.7 % annually over the past four years compared with 1.9 % 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 2012-13 to 2016-17 across the nations of Great Britain

	England without London	London	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Change in income	3.07 %	3.47 %	4.87 %	5.30 %	3.35 %
Change in expenditure	-0.10 %	-3.70 %	1.91 %	1.87 %	-1.19 %
Change in surplus	7.30 %	10.44 %	7.92 %	12.69 %	8.71 %

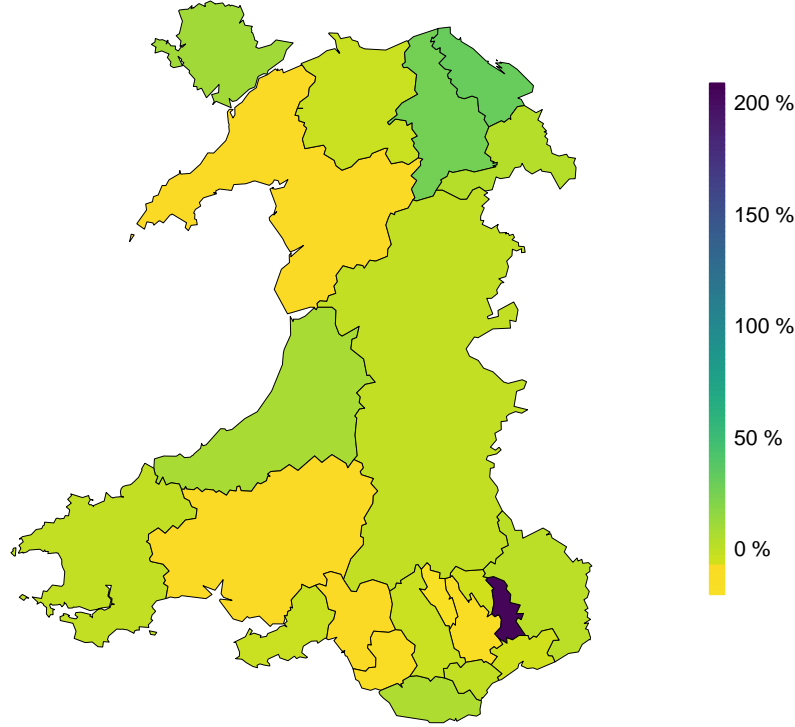


Figure 2: Map of change in parking income since previous fiscal year

### 3 Income

Total council parking income from all sources in 2016-17 was £37.4 million, 4.4 % higher than 2015-16. 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.

16 councils increased their income over the past year and six decreased their income. The changes from 2015-16 are mapped<sup>2</sup> in Figure 2.

The top three Welsh councils by income were Cardiff, Swansea, and Carmarthenshire, and between them accounted for 43.7 % of parking income.

Flintshire increased their income by 36.4 % while Denbighshire and Isle of Anglesey increased by 31.6 % and 15.7 % respectively (excluding Torfaen with income under £30,000). The biggest decreases were in Merthyr Tydfil (11.9 %), and Bridgend (7.6 %).

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<sup>2</sup>Boundary 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)

Local Authority	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Change 2016-17 on 2015-16
Cardiff	6,178	6,613	6,900	7,257	7,599	4.71 %
Swansea	4,422	4,618	5,171	5,446	5,666	4.04 %
Carmarthenshire	2,137	2,448	2,815	3,106	3,092	-0.45 %
Gwynedd	2,098	2,097	2,027	2,538	2,490	-1.89 %
Conwy	1,368	1,392	1,419	1,886	1,935	2.61 %
Pembrokeshire	1,297	1,360	1,521	1,783	1,867	4.71 %
Denbighshire	1,458	1,300	1,251	1,300	1,711	31.59 %
Powys	1,207	1,196	1,363	1,602	1,684	5.12 %
Monmouthshire	1,147	1,183	1,250	1,421	1,522	7.13 %
Neath Port Talbot	1,736	1,507	1,494	1,376	1,375	-0.11 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,290	1,384	1,410	1,291	1,322	2.36 %
Bridgend	1,138	1,357	1,268	1,220	1,127	-7.58 %
Ceredigion	1,032	1,123	1,150	980	1,109	13.10 %
Wrexham	847	155	1,045	896	974	8.69 %
Vale of Glamorgan	318	955	788	686	764	11.37 %
Caerphilly	659	702	721	702	675	-3.85 %
Newport	660	605	621	640	643	0.41 %
Merthyr Tydfil	885	832	745	690	608	-11.91 %
Isle of Anglesey	330	388	456	523	605	15.68 %
Flintshire	209	296	450	439	599	36.41 %
Blaenau Gwent	0	30	38	30	30	0.00 %
Torfaen	7	9	12	5	15	200.00 %
Total	30,423	31,549	33,915	35,817	37,410	4.45 %

## 4 Expenditure

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

Overall expenditure has risen by £1.4 million (6.5 %) after a rise of £0.2 million last year, with 17 councils having increased their costs and five having reduced their costs. The changes from 2015-16 are mapped in Figure 3.

The largest increase in expenditure occurred in Blaenau Gwent where it increased by 154.4 % while Wrexham and Caerphilly increased by 44.4 % and 28.5 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Ceredigion (39.0 %), and Flintshire (15.8 %).

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs in 2016-17. Nationally in Wales it is 62.6 % with Cardiff at 51.9 %.

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

Local Authority	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Change 2016-17 on 2015-16	Expenditure as proportion of income
Cardiff	3,592	3,688	3,474	3,763	3,941	4.73 %	51.86 %
Swansea	3,166	3,362	3,220	3,044	3,199	5.09 %	56.46 %
Carmarthenshire	1,650	1,652	2,026	1,712	1,764	3.05 %	57.06 %
Pembrokeshire	1,033	984	1,029	1,200	1,270	5.83 %	68.02 %
Neath Port Talbot	1,489	1,262	1,308	1,168	1,256	7.58 %	91.40 %
Gwynedd	1,294	1,300	1,100	1,130	1,135	0.44 %	45.58 %
Denbighshire	781	759	767	842	1,053	25.02 %	61.53 %
Conwy	808	812	760	828	916	10.65 %	47.33 %
Blaenau Gwent	311	274	262	340	866	154.43 %	2887.25 %
Wrexham	607	304	580	580	838	44.41 %	86.03 %
Bridgend	838	861	1,156	988	833	-15.76 %	73.84 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	812	991	864	794	791	-0.45 %	59.84 %
Powys	849	761	748	763	789	3.41 %	46.85 %
Flintshire	309	807	458	862	726	-15.76 %	121.25 %
Caerphilly	497	491	523	512	658	28.51 %	97.46 %
Newport	867	589	556	503	633	25.96 %	98.53 %
Vale of Glamorgan	556	902	637	578	632	9.34 %	82.72 %
Monmouthshire	686	598	510	490	594	21.14 %	38.99 %
Ceredigion	745	845	825	964	589	-38.97 %	53.09 %
Merthyr Tydfil	545	631	651	519	504	-2.83 %	82.93 %
Isle of Anglesey	275	303	299	337	358	6.23 %	59.17 %
Torfaen	46	77	63	86	87	1.16 %	580.00 %
Total	21,755	22,253	21,816	22,003	23,431	6.49 %	62.63 %

Table 6 shows the proportion of income taken up by expenditure. Across Wales it was 62.6 %

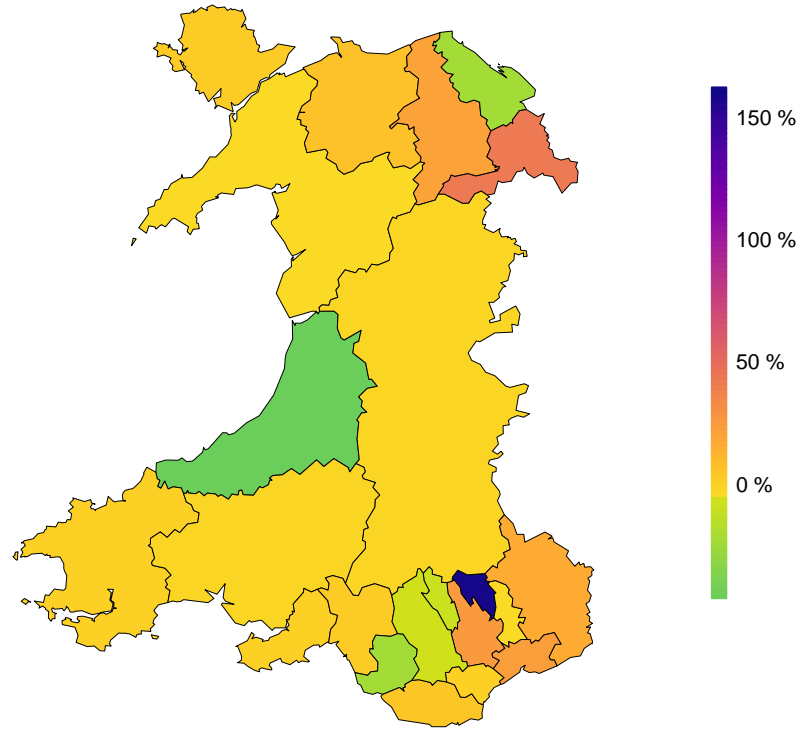


Figure 3: Map of change in parking expenditure since previous fiscal year

compared to 61.4 % in the previous year, suggesting declining efficiency in operations.

Cardiff's expenditure was 51.9 % of its income having risen since last year, while Swansea's has risen to 56.5 %.

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	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Cardiff	58.14 %	55.78 %	50.35 %	51.85 %	51.86 %
Swansea	71.60 %	72.80 %	62.27 %	55.89 %	56.46 %
Carmarthenshire	77.19 %	67.51 %	71.95 %	55.12 %	57.06 %
Pembrokeshire	79.65 %	72.35 %	67.65 %	67.30 %	68.02 %
Neath Port Talbot	85.80 %	83.71 %	87.55 %	84.86 %	91.40 %
Gwynedd	61.68 %	61.99 %	54.27 %	44.52 %	45.58 %
Denbighshire	53.57 %	58.38 %	61.31 %	64.77 %	61.53 %
Conwy	59.04 %	58.35 %	53.55 %	43.89 %	47.33 %
Blaenau Gwent		913.75 %	679.63 %	1134.79 %	2887.25 %
Wrexham	71.62 %	196.26 %	55.50 %	64.75 %	86.03 %

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

Local Authority	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Bridgend	<b>73.63 %</b>	<b>63.45 %</b>	<b>91.22 %</b>	<b>81.01 %</b>	<b>73.84 %</b>
Rhondda Cynon Taf	<b>62.96 %</b>	<b>71.60 %</b>	<b>61.32 %</b>	<b>61.53 %</b>	<b>59.84 %</b>
Powys	<b>70.34 %</b>	<b>63.58 %</b>	<b>54.88 %</b>	<b>47.63 %</b>	<b>46.85 %</b>
Flintshire	<b>147.96 %</b>	<b>272.27 %</b>	<b>101.84 %</b>	<b>196.35 %</b>	<b>121.25 %</b>
Caerphilly	<b>75.39 %</b>	<b>69.90 %</b>	<b>72.51 %</b>	<b>72.92 %</b>	<b>97.46 %</b>
Newport	<b>131.25 %</b>	<b>97.37 %</b>	<b>89.61 %</b>	<b>78.54 %</b>	<b>98.53 %</b>
Vale of Glamorgan	<b>174.84 %</b>	<b>94.45 %</b>	<b>80.84 %</b>	<b>84.26 %</b>	<b>82.72 %</b>
Monmouthshire	<b>59.82 %</b>	<b>50.56 %</b>	<b>40.76 %</b>	<b>34.48 %</b>	<b>38.99 %</b>
Ceredigion	<b>72.19 %</b>	<b>75.24 %</b>	<b>71.73 %</b>	<b>98.38 %</b>	<b>53.09 %</b>
Merthyr Tydfil	<b>61.53 %</b>	<b>75.86 %</b>	<b>87.45 %</b>	<b>75.18 %</b>	<b>82.93 %</b>
Isle of Anglesey	<b>83.33 %</b>	<b>78.09 %</b>	<b>65.57 %</b>	<b>64.44 %</b>	<b>59.17 %</b>
Torfaen	<b>657.14 %</b>	<b>855.56 %</b>	<b>525.00 %</b>	<b>1720.00 %</b>	<b>580.00 %</b>
Total	<b>71.51 %</b>	<b>70.53 %</b>	<b>64.33 %</b>	<b>61.43 %</b>	<b>62.63 %</b>

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



## 5 Surpluses

Table 7 shows the parking surpluses from from 2012-13 to 2016-17 and the change from 2015-16 to 2016-17. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure.

The total *surpluses* for Wales amounted to £15.0 million between 19 authorities of which Cardiff, Swansea, and Gwynedd contributed 49.8%. Three councils made a loss with the total of parking deficits rising to £1.0 million from £0.8 million last year.

Overall, parking contributed £14.0 million to local authority finances in Wales in 2016-17 compared with £13.8 million in 2016-17, an increase of 1.2 %.

Ceredigion increased their surplus by 3178.0 % while Blaenau Gwent and Denbighshire increased by 169.4 % and 43.7 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Flintshire (69.9 %), and Wrexham (56.9 %) (excluding Caerphilly, and Newport with a surplus/deficit under £30,000).

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

Local Authority	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Change 2016-17 on 2015-16	Surplus as pro- portion of trans- port spending
Cardiff	2,586	2,924	3,426	3,494	3,658	4.69 %	14.94 %
Swansea	1,256	1,256	1,951	2,402	2,467	2.71 %	9.85 %
Gwynedd	804	797	927	1,408	1,355	-3.76 %	8.44 %
Carmarthenshire	487	795	790	1,394	1,328	-4.76 %	8.05 %
Conwy	560	580	659	1,058	1,019	-3.68 %	11.84 %
Monmouthshire	461	585	741	931	929	-0.24 %	14.91 %
Powys	358	436	615	839	895	6.67 %	8.04 %
Denbighshire	677	541	484	458	658	43.68 %	7.66 %
Pembrokeshire	264	376	492	583	597	2.40 %	6.20 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	478	393	545	497	531	6.86 %	3.16 %
Ceredigion	287	278	325	16	520	3178.01 %	4.95 %
Bridgend	300	496	111	232	295	27.32 %	2.63 %
Isle of Anglesey	55	85	157	186	247	32.80 %	2.91 %
Wrexham	240	-149	465	316	136	-56.94 %	1.49 %
Vale of Glamorgan	-238	53	151	108	132	22.22 %	1.41 %
Neath Port Talbot	247	245	186	208	118	-43.23 %	0.91 %
Merthyr Tydfil	340	201	93	171	104	-39.41 %	1.81 %
Caerphilly	162	211	198	190	17	-90.97 %	0.12 %
Newport	-206	16	65	137	9	-93.11 %	0.08 %
Torfaen	-39	-68	-51	-81	-72	-11.11 %	-0.80 %

Flintshire	-100	-511	-8	-423	-127	<i>-69.91 %</i>	<i>-0.69 %</i>
Blaenau Gwent	-311	-244	-223	-310	-836	<i>169.35 %</i>	<i>-13.34 %</i>
Total deficit	-895	-972	-282	-814	-1,035	<i>27.15 %</i>	<i>-3.07 %</i>
Total surplus	9,563	10,268	12,381	14,628	15,015	2.64 %	6.34 %
Total	8,668	9,296	12,099	13,814	13,979	1.20 %	5.17 %

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

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