

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.

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,

Nineteen 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

		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 cost	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 above 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 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 fallen by 1.9 % and the surplus now represents 5.4 % of transport costs.

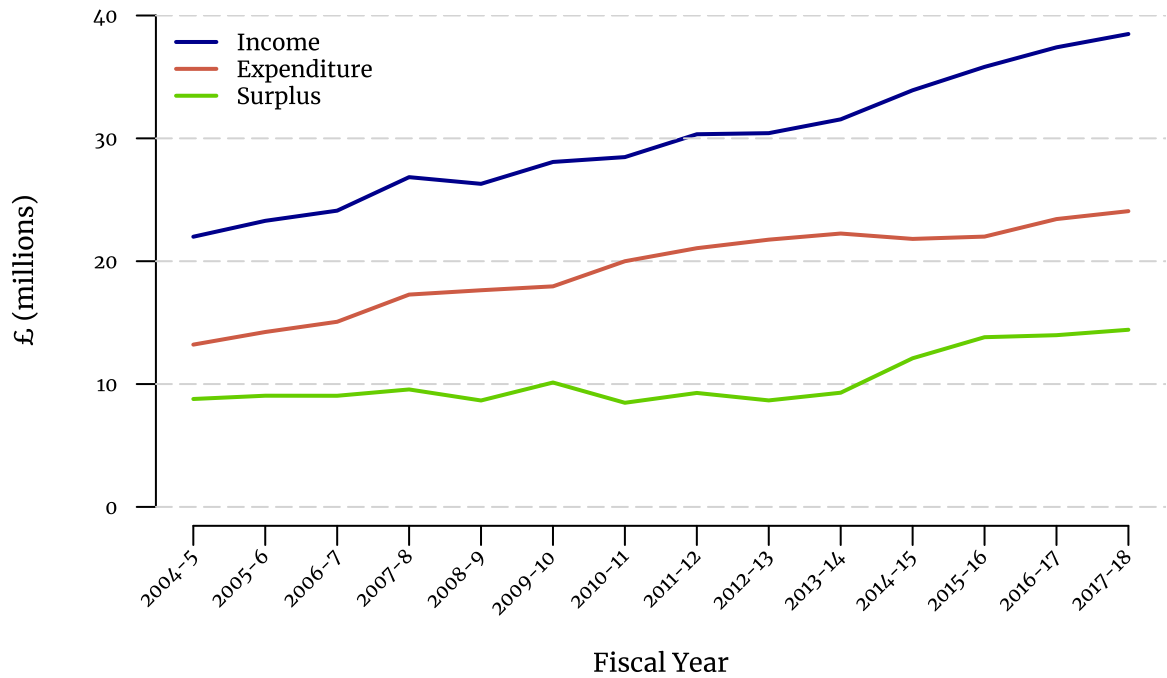


Figure 1: Parking revenues–Wales

Parking makes a smaller contribution to overall transport costs in Wales compared with England where it is around 22 % of total transport. Figure 1 gives a longer term overview of the trends in incomes, expenditures and surpluses.

3 Income

Total council parking income from all sources in 2017-18 was £38 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 2 ranks the Welsh councils in terms of parking income.

Eleven councils increased their income over the past year and eleven decreased their income. Merthyr Tydfil saw income increase by 19 % while Wrexham increased its income by 14 %. The largest falls were in Rhondda Cynon Taf (-18 %), and Denbighshire (-11 %), excluding Torfaen where the income is very low.

Table 2: Parking income for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2017-18 on 2016-17
Cardiff	6,613	6,900	7,257	7,599	8,629	13.6 %
Swansea	4,618	5,171	5,446	5,666	5,932	4.7 %
Carmarthenshire	2,448	2,815	3,106	3,092	3,035	-1.8 %
Gwynedd	2,097	2,027	2,538	2,490	2,539	2.0 %
Pembrokeshire	1,360	1,521	1,783	1,867	1,916	2.6 %
Conwy	1,392	1,419	1,886	1,935	1,903	-1.6 %
Powys	1,196	1,363	1,602	1,684	1,653	-1.9 %
Monmouthshire	1,183	1,250	1,421	1,522	1,535	0.8 %
Denbighshire	1,300	1,251	1,300	1,711	1,517	-11.3 %
Neath Port Talbot	1,507	1,494	1,376	1,375	1,500	9.1 %
Bridgend	1,357	1,268	1,220	1,127	1,139	1.0 %
Wrexham	155	1,045	896	974	1,113	14.2 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,384	1,410	1,291	1,322	1,090	-17.5 %
Ceredigion	1,123	1,150	980	1,109	1,055	-4.8 %
Vale of Glamorgan	955	788	686	764	737	-3.5 %
Merthyr Tydfil	832	745	690	608	725	19.3 %
Caerphilly	702	721	702	675	641	-5.0 %
Isle of Anglesey	388	456	523	605	639	5.6 %
Newport	605	621	640	643	591	-8.0 %
Flintshire	296	450	439	599	571	-4.6 %
Blaenau Gwent	30	38	30	30	30	0.7 %
Torfaen	9	12	5	15	4	-73.3 %
Total	31,549	33,915	35,817	37,410	38,494	2.9 %

4 Expenditures

Table 3 ranks the councils in terms of expenditure on parking.

Overall expenditure has risen by £0.6m (2.7 %) after a rise of £1.4m last year, with twelve councils having increased their and ten reduced their costs.

Cardiff increased expenditure by 21 % while Carmarthenshire and Rhondda Cynon Taf increased by 20 % and 15 % respectively. The biggest decreases were in Newport (-55 %), and Blaenau Gwent (-44 %). **Newport's expenditure is likely to rise when they take over parking management from Gwent Police.**

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 3: Parking expenditure for Wales (£,000)

Local Authority	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2017-18 on 2016-17	Expenditure as proportion of income
Cardiff	3,688	3,474	3,763	3,941	4,764	20.9 %	55.2 %
Swansea	3,362	3,220	3,044	3,199	3,087	-3.5 %	52.0 %
Carmarthenshire	1,652	2,026	1,712	1,764	2,115	19.9 %	69.7 %
Neath Port Talbot	1,262	1,308	1,168	1,256	1,332	6.0 %	88.8 %
Pembrokeshire	984	1,029	1,200	1,270	1,319	3.9 %	68.8 %
Gwynedd	1,300	1,100	1,130	1,135	1,157	1.9 %	45.6 %
Denbighshire	759	767	842	1,053	1,053	0.0 %	69.4 %
Conwy	812	760	828	916	954	4.2 %	50.1 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	991	864	794	791	906	14.5 %	83.1 %
Bridgend	861	1,156	988	833	889	6.7 %	78.0 %
Powys	761	748	763	789	822	4.1 %	49.7 %
Wrexham	304	580	580	838	812	-3.1 %	73.0 %
Vale of Glamorgan	902	637	578	632	686	8.5 %	93.1 %
Flintshire	807	458	862	726	678	-6.5 %	118.8 %
Monmouthshire	598	510	490	594	671	13.0 %	43.7 %
Ceredigion	845	825	964	589	567	-3.6 %	53.8 %
Caerphilly	491	523	512	658	550	-16.3 %	85.8 %
Merthyr Tydfil	631	651	519	504	510	1.3 %	70.4 %
Blaenau Gwent	274	262	340	866	483	-44.2 %	1599.7 %
Isle of Anglesey	303	299	337	358	351	-2.0 %	54.9 %
Newport	589	556	503	633	286	-54.9 %	48.3 %
Torfaen	77	63	86	87	82	-5.7 %	2050.0 %
Total	22,253	21,816	22,003	23,431	24,074	2.7 %	62.5 %

5 Surpluses

Table 4 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.

Table 4: 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	5.7 %	17.5 %
Swansea	1,256	1,951	2,402	2,467	2,845	15.3 %	13.1 %
Gwynedd	797	927	1,408	1,355	1,382	2.0 %	9.4 %
Conwy	580	659	1,058	1,019	949	-6.9 %	10.7 %
Carmarthenshire	795	790	1,394	1,328	920	-30.7 %	5.5 %
Monmouthshire	585	741	931	929	864	-7.0 %	14.4 %
Powys	436	615	839	895	831	-7.1 %	7.1 %
Pembrokeshire	376	492	583	597	597	0.0 %	7.2 %
Ceredigion	278	325	16	520	488	-6.2 %	4.4 %
Denbighshire	541	484	458	658	464	-29.5 %	5.0 %
Newport	16	65	137	9	306	3129.9 %	3.0 %
Wrexham	-149	465	316	136	301	121.0 %	3.5 %
Isle of Anglesey	85	157	186	247	288	16.6 %	3.3 %
Bridgend	496	111	232	295	250	-15.2 %	2.2 %
Merthyr Tydfil	201	93	171	104	215	107.0 %	4.2 %
Rhondda Cynon Taf	393	545	497	531	184	-65.3 %	1.1 %
Neath Port Talbot	245	186	208	118	168	42.3 %	1.2 %
Caerphilly	211	198	190	17	91	430.3 %	0.5 %
Vale of Glamorgan	53	151	108	132	51	-61.4 %	0.5 %
Torfaen	-68	-51	-81	-72	-78	8.3 %	-1.0 %
Flintshire	-511	-8	-423	-127	-108	-15.4 %	-0.6 %
Blaenau Gwent	-244	-223	-310	-836	-453	-45.8 %	-7.2 %
Total deficit	-972	-282	-814	-1,035	-639	-38.3 %	-1.9 %
Total surplus	10,268	12,381	14,628	15,015	15,059	0.3 %	6.5 %
Total	9,296	12,099	13,814	13,979	14,420	3.2 %	5.4 %

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

Total parking surpluses amount to £15.1m between 19 authorities of which Cardiff, Swansea and Gwynedd contribute 53.7%. **Newport increased its surplus significantly because of the sharp reduction in cost.** Three councils made a loss with the total of parking deficits falling

to £0.6m from 1.0 last year mainly because of a reduction in the loss in Blaenau Gwent with its big fall in expenditure.

References

Still to come