

RAC Foundation for Motoring

Local Authority Parking Finances in Wales

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 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 2007-8 to 2012-13.

The published data are less comprehensive than in England and do not split on- and off-street parking or show penalty income separately.

In 2012-13, 17 showed surpluses and 5 showed deficits. Two councils, Blaenau Gwent (Ebbw Vale and Abertillery) and Torfaen (Pontypool and Cwmbran) do not charge for on-street parking and their off-street car parking is free or managed privately.

2. Summary

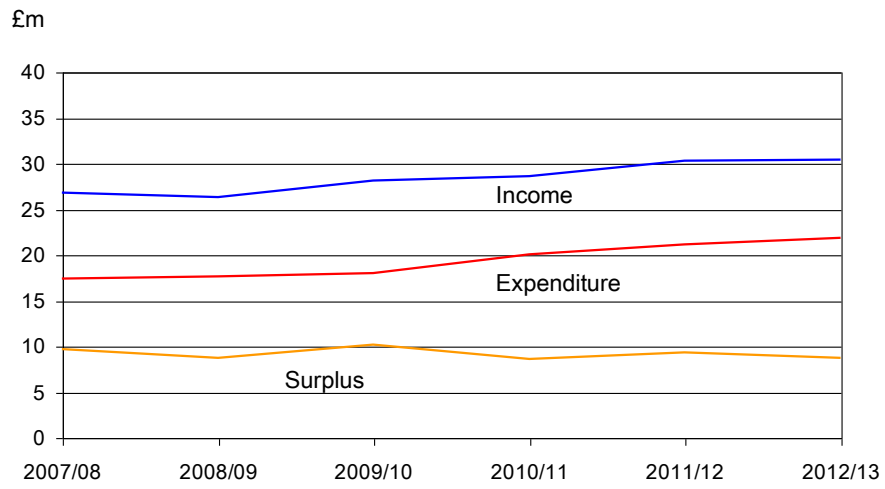
Table 1 below shows the summary accounts for local authorities in Wales.

Table 1 Summary of parking accounts for Wales

	£million	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Parking	Income	26.8	26.3	28.1	28.5	30.3	30.4
	Costs	17.3	17.6	18.0	20.0	21.1	21.8
	Surplus	9.6	8.7	10.1	8.5	9.3	8.7
All transport	Net cost	296.4	329.8	325.3	330.7	317.9	314.7
	Net cost before parking surplus	306.0	338.5	335.5	339.2	327.2	323.4

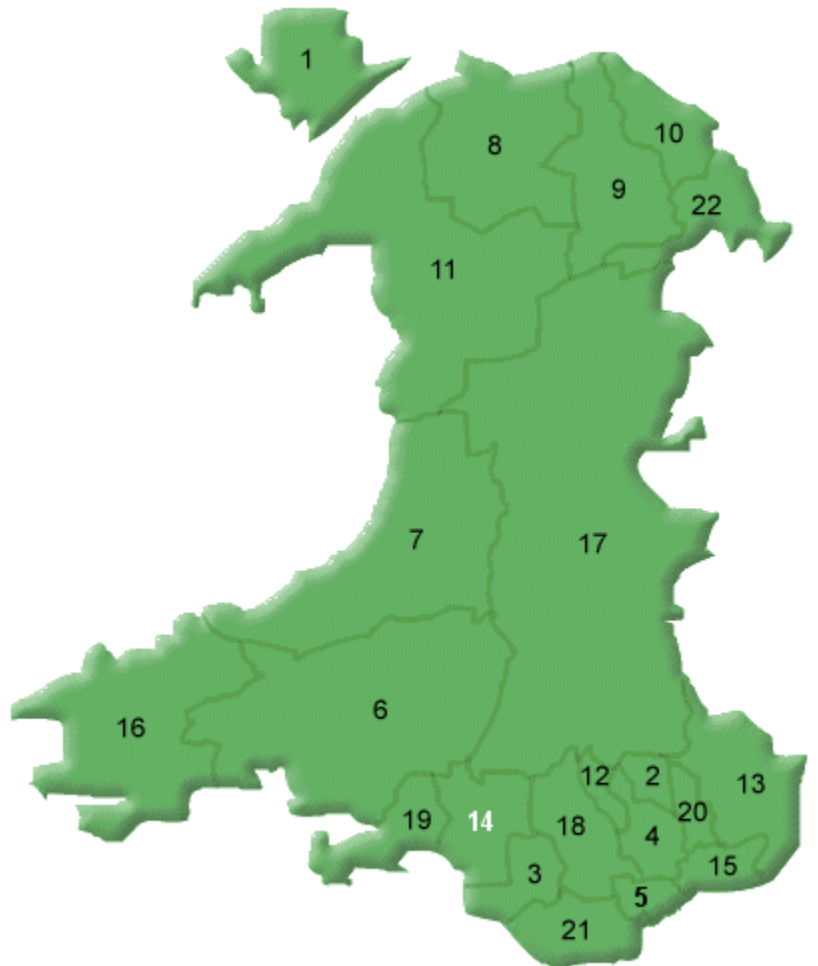
Income (meter and penalty income both for on- and off-street parking) and expenditure have both risen in line so the net surplus has remained relatively static, although it has fallen as a % of total transport expenditure. Parking makes a much smaller contribution to overall transport costs in Wales compared with England where it is 12% of total transport before capital charges and 6% after.

Fig 1 Parking Revenues -Wales



Source: Welsh Government

1. Anglesey
2. Blaenau Gwent
3. Bridgend
4. Caerphilly
5. Cardiff
6. Carmarthenshire
7. Ceredigion
8. Conwy
9. Denbighshire
10. Flintshire
11. Gwynedd
12. Merthyr Tydfil
13. Monmouthshire
14. Neath Port Talbot
15. Newport
16. Pembrokeshire
17. Powys
18. Rhondda Cynon Taff
19. Swansea
20. Torfaen
21. Vale of Glamorgan
22. Wrexham



3. Income

Total parking income from all sources in 2012-3 was £30.4m, 13% higher than 2007-08. 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. Eleven councils have increased their income over the past six years and nine decreased, ignoring Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent. Cardiff, Neath and Rhondda have all increased their parking income by over 65%, while Newport has reduced its income by a similar amount.

Cardiff, Swansea and Carmarthen account for 42% of parking income, although the cities only represent 25% of Wales' population.

As a crude measure of parking intensity, the 2012-13 income has been divided by the 2011 population for each authority, although this does not allow for any commuters. The average is £10 per head but the two larger cities are nearly double this. For comparison, in London the equivalent figure is £68, the rest of England £19 and Scotland £12.

Table 2 Parking income

	£000	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% change 2012-13/ 2011-12	Income per head £
1 Cardiff		3738	4386	4419	5012	6063	6178	2%	18
2 Swansea		3323	3217	4097	4266	4610	4422	-4%	19
3 Carmarthenshire		2214	1949	1997	2022	2148	2137	-1%	12
4 Gwynedd		2171	1881	2152	1899	1968	2098	7%	30
5 Neath Port Talbot		956	1045	1030	1245	1664	1736	4%	12
6 Denbighshire		1572	1462	1532	1507	1495	1458	-2%	16
7 Conwy		1538	1437	1497	1453	1382	1368	-1%	12
8 Pembrokeshire		748	708	767	1055	1334	1297	-3%	11
9 Rhondda Cynon Taf		809	817	1111	1132	1085	1290	19%	6
10 Powys		1377	1351	1436	1264	1251	1207	-4%	9
11 Monmouthshire		1252	1197	1176	1189	1260	1147	-9%	13
12 Bridgend		1454	1248	1151	1031	1058	1138	8%	8
13 Ceredigion		593	645	794	871	879	1032	17%	14
14 Merthyr Tydfil		753	723	737	689	727	885	22%	15
15 Wrexham		910	1030	971	1006	1132	847	-25%	6
16 Newport		1921	1790	1676	1302	746	660	-12%	5
17 Caerphilly		593	597	596	619	647	659	2%	4
18 Isle of Anglesey		450	357	361	366	344	330	-4%	3
19 Vale of Glamorgan		233	228	321	321	319	318	0%	3
20 Flintshire		237	220	242	217	219	209	-5%	1
21 Torfaen		0	5	16	7	5	7		
22 Blaenau Gwent		0	2	0	0	0	0		
Total		26842	26297	28080	28474	30336	30423	0%	10

4. Costs

Table 3 below ranks councils in terms of expenditure on parking; capital charges (interest, depreciation and capital repayments) are not shown separately.

It also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs in 2012-13. Nationally in Wales it is 72% with Cardiff at only 58%. Newport has reduced its income significantly but has not reduced its costs which represent 135% of income.

Table 3 Total expenditure

	£000	Costs						Costs as
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% of income
1	Cardiff	1416	1513	1510	3084	3275	3592	58%
2	Swansea	2716	2750	2525	3012	3184	3166	72%
3	Carmarthenshire	1453	1591	1709	1781	1761	1650	77%
4	Neath Port Talbot	1104	1259	1301	1329	1381	1489	86%
5	Gwynedd	1285	1116	1257	1331	1276	1294	62%
6	Pembrokeshire	670	669	665	921	1072	1033	80%
7	Newport	1057	1306	1068	885	937	867	131%
8	Powys	766	766	781	624	1006	849	70%
9	Bridgend	554	542	530	659	622	838	74%
10	Rhondda Cynon Taf	641	589	655	665	732	812	63%
11	Conwy	1030	869	1205	985	924	808	59%
12	Denbighshire	789	788	825	767	754	781	54%
13	Ceredigion	471	484	539	541	527	745	72%
14	Monmouthshire	366	481	551	595	542	686	60%
15	Wrexham	589	670	568	515	612	607	72%
16	Vale of Glamorgan	404	354	419	339	442	556	175%
17	Merthyr Tydfil	353	345	398	381	590	545	62%
18	Caerphilly	389	399	377	562	415	497	75%
19	Blaenau Gwent	285	309	231	245	285	311	*
20	Flintshire	371	350	457	299	331	309	148%
21	Isle of Anglesey	476	388	290	277	293	275	83%
22	Torfaen	97	98	94	201	99	46	*
	Total	17282	17635	17954	19998	21059	21755	72%

* no income recorded

5. Surpluses

Table 4 shows the parking surpluses from 2007-8 and the change from 2007-8 to 2012-13. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure (before deduction of parking surpluses).

Table 4 Parking surpluses

		Surplus							% of transport expenditure
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% change 2012-13 on 2011-12	2012-13
1	Cardiff	2322	2873	2909	1928	2788	2586	-7%	6.3%
2	Swansea	607	467	1572	1254	1426	1256	-12%	7.0%
3	Gwynedd	886	765	895	568	692	804	16%	4.1%
4	Denbighshire	783	674	707	740	741	677	-9%	6.9%
5	Conwy	508	568	292	468	458	560	22%	5.7%
6	Carmarthenshire	761	358	288	241	387	487	26%	2.4%
7	Rhondda Cynon Taf	168	228	456	467	353	478	35%	2.7%
8	Monmouthshire	886	716	626	593	719	461	-36%	5.8%
9	Powys	611	585	655	641	245	358	46%	2.0%
10	Merthyr Tydfil	400	378	340	309	137	340	148%	5.7%
11	Bridgend	900	706	621	372	436	300	-31%	2.6%
12	Ceredigion	122	161	255	330	351	287	-18%	2.4%
13	Pembrokeshire	78	39	102	134	262	264	1%	2.2%
14	Neath Port Talbot	-148	-214	-271	-84	283	247	-13%	1.6%
15	Wrexham	321	361	403	491	520	240	-54%	2.1%
16	Caerphilly	204	198	219	57	232	162	-30%	0.7%
17	Isle of Anglesey	-26	-31	71	89	51	55	8%	0.5%
18	Torfaen	-97	-93	-78	-194	-94	-39	-59%	-0.4%
19	Flintshire	-134	-130	-215	-82	-112	-100	-11%	-0.6%
20	Newport	864	484	608	417	-191	-206	8%	-1.9%
21	Vale of Glamorgan	-171	-126	-98	-18	-123	-238	93%	-2.3%
22	Blaenau Gwent	-285	-307	-231	-245	-285	-311	9%	-5.0%
Total		9561	8661	10126	8476	9277	8668	-7%	2.7%

Total parking *surpluses* amount to £9.6 m between 17 authorities of which Cardiff, Swansea and Gwynedd contribute 50%. The surpluses in 2012/3 were 5% lower than in 2011-12. The total of parking *deficits* is £0.9m (£0.8 m) between 5 authorities. Newport which made a surplus of £0.8m in 2007-8 made a deficit of £0.2m in 2012-13 as its income fell by 66% but its costs by only 18%.

Cardiff's parking surplus of £2.6m provides 6% of Cardiff's total transport expenditure (contrast Edinburgh where it was 50% in 2011-12) while Swansea's covers 7%. For the rest of Wales, excluding Cardiff and Swansea, parking surpluses/deficits of £4.8m provide only 2% of total transport expenditure.

David Leibling

4 April 2014

Full tables: <https://stats.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue/Transport/RoadsAndTransportRevenueExpenditure-by-Service>