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Blackpool Council

26 February 2024

To: Councillors Cartmell, Critchley, Ellison, Flanagan, Galley, B Mitchell, C Mitchell, Roberts, Mrs Scott and Thomas

The above members are requested to attend the:

SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD

Tuesday, 5 March 2024 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool FY1 1GB

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

- (a) personal interest
- (b) prejudicial interest
- (c) disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2023 (Pages 1 - 6)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 October 2023 as a true and correct record.

3 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 9 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 - 2026/27 (Pages 7 - 78)

To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council's Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 9 months to 31 July 2023. The report also

includes an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27.

4 COUNCIL TAX SCRUTINY REVIEW SCOPING DOCUMENT (Pages 79 - 82)

To consider for approval the scoping document for the proposed Council Tax Scrutiny Review.

5 SCRUTINY SELF ASSESSMENT 2024 (Pages 83 - 86)

To consider the proposed questions to be asked as part of the Scrutiny Self-Assessment 2024.

6 SCRUTINY WORKPLANS (Pages 87 - 102)

To receive an update from the Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs on the work of their Committees and consider the workplan of the Scrutiny Leadership Board for the remainder of the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

7 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date and time of the next meeting is subject to confirmation at Annual Council.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager, Tel: 01253 477213, e-mail sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2023

Present:

Councillor Galley (in the Chair)

Councillors

Cartmell	Ellison	B Mitchell	Mrs Scott
Critchley	Flanagan	C Mitchell	

In Attendance:

Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council

Ms Kate Aldridge, Head of Corporate Delivery Performance and Commissioning

Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Ms Anna Fothergill, Customer Relations Manager

Mr Mark Golden, Head of Accountancy and Deputy S151 Officer

Mr Jonathan Pickup, Head of Information Governance

Mr Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships

Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communication

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2023

The Board agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 July 2023 be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

3 CHANNEL SHIFT SCRUTINY REVIEW - UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism and Communication and Ms Kate Aldridge, Head of Corporate Delivery Performance and Commissioning provided an update on the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the Channel Shift Scrutiny Review Panel.

Recommendation 1	It was noted that work continued on creating a single sign on for Council services and that an ICT related solution would be required. With regards to the development of a brand/slogan for Channel Shift at Blackpool further work was needed and it was agreed that the Chair would meet with Mr Welsh outside of the meeting to discuss this further.
Recommendation 2	Ms Aldridge advised that work with the third and community sector was cohesive and services were working well together. The FYI Directory was regularly updated with a good system developed within the resources available. The Board noted the good progress made in implementing the recommendation
Recommendation	The importance of educating people to stay safe when using

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2023

3	social media was noted. The support had continued in order to improve levels of digital literacy. It was considered that the next steps would involve consideration of data access.
Recommendation 4	Mr Welsh advised that the Council website had been completely refreshed, links to the wholly-owned companies had been included with the parks information fully developed by the service. The importance of ensuring the information was regularly updated and refreshed was noted. The Board noted the work undertaken to date and requested that the information regarding the wholly-owned companies, the work they do for the benefit of the town be expanded.
Recommendation 5	The update was noted and it was agreed to meet with Blackpool Coastal Housing outside of the Board meeting.
Recommendation 6	It was noted that a regular staff newsletter incorporating a blog by the Chief Executive was now being distributed. Members considered it important that staff also benefited from Channel Shift.
Recommendation 7	Ms Aldridge reported that Covid had impacted the implementation of the recommendation. It was noted that the number of systems used by services, even with the NHS itself, made the situation complex. The focus was on ensuring that adult social care and health services had access to the information they needed to support a patient. Staff were more integrated than ever and were often co-located to promote information sharing.
Recommendation 8	It was noted that the cost of bin-tags was currently prohibitive.
Recommendation 9	Work was continuing on the Adopt and Alley scheme.
Recommendation 10	It was reported that resource had been put into developing a staff newsletter and an e-newsletter version of Your Blackpool. The newsletters were content rich and offered opportunities to engage and interactivity. There was still a market for the paper version which would continue to be circulated.

The Board agreed:

1. To note the updates provided on the recommendations.
2. That the Chair hold individual meetings with Mr Welsh and Blackpool Coastal Housing to progress some of the recommendations further.
3. To receive a full update on the recommendations to the Board in approximately 12 months time.

4 ANNUAL CUSTOMER FEEDBACK REPORT

Ms Anna Fothergill, Customer Relations Manager and Mr Jonathan Pickup, Head of Information Governance presented the Annual Customer Feedback Report to the Board. It was noted that the comments, complaints and compliments information relating to

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2023

waste services had not been included in the annual report for 2022/2023. This was due to the services now being provided by Blackpool Waste Services Limited, a wholly-owned company which had its own procedures and reporting mechanisms for feedback received. It was noted that complaints related to waste services totalled approximately 20% of all Council complaints in the previous year.

Ms Fothergill advised that the Ombudsman had indicated that the focus should not be on the number of complaints but rather the number upheld in some way and what could be learnt from those experiences. She advised that the Ombudsman was changing the way in which upheld complaints were recorded and all would be described as upheld if they were so in any small part.

Members noted the importance of having open channels of communication with residents and encouraging feedback in all forms.

The Board discussed the future reporting of feedback in detail, suggesting that the elements relating to Children and Young People, Adult Social Care and Health, Levelling Up and Climate Change and Environment be submitted to the individual scrutiny committees in future years. It was noted that the focus would not be on the specific complaints, but any themes that could be identified in order to ascertain service improvement and learning. The Committees would look at how well feedback was responded to and how confident services were regarding changes made to practice.

The Board agreed:

That the Chair meet with Ms Fothergill and Mr Pickup to explore the future reporting of feedback to the Scrutiny Committees.

5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 4 2023/24 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 - 2026/27

Mr Mark Golden, Head of Accountancy (Deputy S151 Officer) provided an update on the financial performance monitoring as at Month 4 and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27. He noted the improvement in the overspend by £627k from Month 3 and that there had been early indications of a further improvement in Month 5.

There were encouraging signs in Children's Social care with a reduction in residential placements and a lower level of agency staff. It was also reported that Council Tax and NNDR collection rates were up year on year.

The Board was informed that working balances had reduced to cover the in-year pressure and that these would need to be reinstated to the target level of £6m.

It was also reported that Earmarked Revenue Reserves (ERR) had fallen in-year mainly due to the planned use of £9.9m to set the 2023/24 budget. ERR remained relatively high at £33m.

In response to a question on the impact of the projected overspend of £4m plus in Children's Services, Mr Golden explained that this would be covered by working balances. These were set aside to provide a cushion for in-year pressures and had been reinstated to £6m at the start of 2023/24. However, he advised that it was imperative to try to

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2023

reduce the overspends across Directorates which in turn would boost working balances. The Leader of the Council added that work was ongoing to review high cost placements and to bring placement costs down. The innovative work being undertaken in this area by the Council was highlighted.

The Board queried the projected position at the end of the year. In response, Mr Golden advised that an overspend of £5.1million was forecasted with working balances at £1.7million at the end of March 2024. He advised that financial procedure rules stated that overspend should not exceed 1% of the gross revenue budget and that working balances should not be below £3million. If the projections were correct the overspend would be marginally below the 1% allowable, however, working balances would be lower than in the rules. Council services were working hard to identify potential savings and reduce costs in year in order to improve the position. He noted that should the position not improve and working balances remain less than in the rules then a revised emergency budget would need to be produced by the end of the financial year. However, he reiterated that he hoped this would not be required due to the ongoing work.

In response to further questions, Mr Golden advised that the budget process for 2024/2025 had commenced in April 2023. Meetings were being held fortnightly with the Corporate Leadership Team in order to identify savings proposals for the next year. It was noted that the Scrutiny Leadership Board was due to feed into the budget process in December 2023 and January 2024 and that a focus on the assumptions being made in the budget would be helpful with any ideas for budget savings welcomed. Mr Golden also agreed to recirculate the guidance note provided in July 2023 on good financial scrutiny.

A key issue was identified as future Council Tax collection, level of income generated, the spread of bands, locations and discounts and it was agreed that the Board set up a review panel in order to consider this issue in more detail. A scoping meeting would be held with a proposal brought back to a future meeting of the Board.

The Board agreed:

To establish a review panel to consider Council Tax and bring back a scoping proposal to a future meeting.

6 SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD WORKPLAN

The Board noted its workplan for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

7 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Board noted the date and time of the next meeting as the informal meeting on the Wednesday 6 December 2023, commencing at 6.00pm.

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2023

(The meeting ended at 7.32 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

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E-mail: sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk

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Report to:	SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Date of Meeting:	5 March 2024

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 9 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 – 2026/27

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council’s Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 9 months to 31 July 2023. The report also includes an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To independently review the financial and operational performances of the services of the Council.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure financial performance against the Council’s Revenue Budget and its reserves and balances is kept under timely review by members.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is: The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.

6.0 Background Information

6.1 See reports and appendices attached to this report.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 3(a): Executive Report

Appendices to the Executive Report:

Appendix 2a - Revenue Summary

Appendix 2b - Chief Executive

Appendix 2c - Governance and Partnership Services

Appendices 2c/d - Ward Budgets

Appendix 2e - Resources

Appendix 2f - Communications and Regeneration

Appendix 2g - Strategic Leisure Assets

Appendix 2h - Growth and Prosperity

Appendix 2i - Community and Environmental Services

Appendix 2j - Adult Services

Appendix 2k - Children's Services

Appendix 2l - Public Health

Appendix 2m - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit

Appendix 2n - Housing Revenue Account

Appendix 2o - Wholly-owned companies

Appendix 2p - Budget Savings performance

Appendix 2q - Capital Monitoring

Appendix 2r - Cash Flow Summary

Appendix 2s - General Fund Balance Sheet Summary

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 See reports and appendices attached to the report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Impact of financial performance against approved Revenue budgets and upon Council reserves and balances.

11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people:

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was produced as a part of the budget-setting process and remains relevant.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None directly from this report.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	5 February 2024

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 9 2023/24 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 – 2026/27

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council’s Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 9 months to 31 December 2023. The report also includes an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the report.

2.2 To require the respective directors, Chief Executive and Director of Resources to continue to closely monitor and manage service financial and operational performances, specifically the social care services, Growth and Prosperity and Community and Environmental Services.

2.3 To prompt the Scrutiny Leadership Board to continue to independently review the financial and operational performances of Council services.

2.4 To continue to lobby central government (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Department for Health and Social Care and Department for Education in particular) along with local authority peers and networks and the Local Government Association for the funding necessary to cope with the burdens and demands presenting as a result of exceptional inflationary pressures and demographic demands upon statutory services.

2.5 To continue to work towards target working balances of £6m by 31 March 2024 rising to £8m by 31 March 2025.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure financial performance against the Council's Revenue Budget and its reserves and balances is kept under timely review by members.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

6.0 Background Information**6.1 Introduction and Context**

Over the 13-year period 2011/12 – 2023/24 cumulative Revenue Budget savings amounting to £218.0m have been required to be made by Blackpool Council in order to balance its Revenue Budget each year. This is greater than the Council's current annual Net Requirement Budget of £176.2m and even more starkly the compound effect over the same period amounts to nearly £1.6bn of resource that has been removed from the Blackpool economy. This reflects one of the highest reductions per head of population across local authorities in England and in an environment of growing demand upon services as befalling an authority with such recognised pockets of significant deprivation.

The principles of the Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategies 2016/17 - 2021/22 and 2021/22 - 2026/27 have been used to successfully keep pace with and deliver budget savings plans year after year. However, in tandem the soaring demand for child protection services and adult social care provision plus the rising costs of providing such care are still creating a burden that current levels of local taxation and Government funding struggle to meet. In addition, the financial consequences of Covid have been material (£3.16m in 2020/21 and £2.59m in 2021/22 both net of Government grants) with little prospect now of any further Government financial support.

The last 13 years have seen unprecedented volatility within local government finance: 9 years of successive central government funding cuts between 2011/12 – 2019/20 were followed by the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union, 2 years of a global pandemic with legacy consequences and a war within the European continent whilst a promised Fair Funding Review has now been delayed by a decade. Indeed the most favourable social care grants currently receivable are based on a relative needs formula of 2013 which themselves are based on 2001 census data. This has all conspired to produce a perfect storm of labour and supply shortages, pay demands, excessive inflation, continually rising interest rates in the Bank of England’s attempt to stem the pressure and a central government funding system that is decades out of synchronisation. During this period the Council has strived to i) deliver its annual budget in line with statutory requirements; ii) maintain its reserves and balances at stable and appropriate levels that reflect the risk environment; iii) consistently fund and deliver the ambitions of successive administrations; and iv) deliver for the people of Blackpool. However, here in the present, sector experts and economic commentators cannot agree how and when these key drivers of the economy will land, which makes medium-term financial planning and financial management extremely challenging.

When the Revenue Budget for 2023/24 was approved by Council on 22 February 2023, realistic service budgets had been agreed and set, an achievable budget savings plan was in place, reasonable levels of working balances and earmarked reserves were available and the medium-term outlook was as favourable as it had been for some time with additional Government support for social care funding having been announced. However, within weeks local government employers had made a pay offer at nearly three times that provided within the Budget, non-pay inflation remained stubbornly high with June CPI at 7.9% and RPI at 10.7% though welcome reductions being seen in electricity and gas costs, the more costlier social care cases experiencing growing demand, the base rate increasing (for the 14th consecutive time in August) and inevitable consequential pressures emerging from some of the Council’s capital schemes.

- 6.2 This report sets out the summary revenue budget position for the Council and its individual directorates for the first 9 months of 2023/24, i.e. the period to 31 December 2023, together with an outlook for the remainder of the year. The report is complemented with an assessment of performance to date of balances and reserves, income collection, the Council’s latest Capital Programme and statements relating to Cash Flow Summary and Balance Sheet Summary. It also incorporates the impact of the Council’s wholly-owned companies for which the Council is parent company and underwriter.

Separate reports have been prepared for each of the Council’s core areas of responsibility:

- Appendix 2b - Chief Executive
- Appendix 2c - Governance and Partnership Services
- Appendices 2c/d - Ward Budgets
- Appendix 2e - Resources
- Appendix 2f - Communications and Regeneration
- Appendix 2g - Strategic Leisure Assets
- Appendix 2h - Growth and Prosperity
- Appendix 2i - Community and Environmental Services
- Appendix 2j - Adult Services
- Appendix 2k - Children's Services
- Appendix 2l - Public Health
- Appendix 2m - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit
- Appendix 2n - Housing Revenue Account
- Appendix 2o - Wholly-owned Companies

These incorporate summary financial statements which continue to be prepared on a full accruals basis and focus on the forecast revenue outturns for 2023/24. There is an accompanying narrative to explain any areas of significant variance from budget and to highlight any areas of potential pressure along with action plans agreed with service managers to address them.

The combined effect of the directorates' financial performances is aggregated in a summary financial statement at Appendix 2a which mirrors the Council's Revenue Budget Book. This summary allows proactive month-on-month monitoring of the Council's forecast working balances to be undertaken to ensure appropriate and prudent levels are maintained.

6.3 Budget Performance

At its meeting on 8 November 2021 the Executive approved the Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy for 2021/22 to 2026/27. As part of the Strategy it was agreed that due to the current level of financial risk and volatility the roll forward of service budget under and overspends is suspended in order that finances can be managed more strategically at corporate level. The exception to this related to any underspend in respect of the scheme commitments on Ward Budgets, however because 2023/24 is an election year there will be no carry-forward in accordance with an earlier overriding Executive decision.

The full-year forecast position at this stage of 2023/24 shows an improvement in the Council's financial standing when compared with the estimated draft unaudited position as at the close of 2022/23 which showed working balances of £2,459k. Working balances are expected to increase to a balance of **£5,021k** by the end of 2023/24 after taking account of the budgeted transfer of £4,335k to working

balances. Plans are being developed to address the in-year pressures identified in this report with fortnightly meetings held between the Chief Executive, Director of Resources and respective directors of the more pressured services.

The Council's Revenue Budget for 2023/24 set a target level of General Fund working balances of around £6m. It is deemed appropriate to maintain this target level of £6m for working balances for the medium term and to continue to work towards target working balances of £6m by 31 March 2024 rising to £8m by 31 March 2025.

The impacts of directorates' revenue budget performance and progress in achieving planned savings fall upon the Council's working balances. The main areas accounting for the month 9 forecast overspend of **£1,773k** for 2023/24 are summarised below:

Directorate	Service	Forecast Variance £000
Children's Services	<p>An overspend of £6,537k is forecast. Children's Social Care Placements is forecasting an overspend of £5,830k, mainly due to new-to-care placements being higher than those exiting care and the additional support required following the breakdown of high-cost placements. The actual number of residential placements as at 31 December 2023 is 70 with this forecast to reduce to 68 by 31 March 2024, whereas the plan suggested there would be 63 as at 31 December 2023 reducing to 60 by the end of March 2024. There was also an additional savings target of £1,924k, of which only £1,165k is anticipated to be met this financial year, leaving a budget gap of £759k.</p> <p>However, the number of Children in Care continues to reduce and currently sits at 534 children. This brings Blackpool from a rate of 218 per 0-17 10,000 population to 194. The ambition is to bring ourselves in line with comparator Local Authorities over the next couple of years and we are confident that this ambition will be realised. Officers have seen this reduction as a result of reduced entry into care, and increased numbers exiting our care system. Within the cohort of Children Looked After, the Council has had a higher than national average of children in residential placements. Residential settings, for most children, are not the optimum placement and these children do not usually have the same degree of positive outcomes as children in foster placements, or family placements for example.</p>	6,537

	<p>Residential placements are costly, with unit costs rising year on year by 14.1%. We have seen movement in the numbers of residential placements, from 84 to 70 as a result of a focused, ongoing piece of work led by our newly recruited Head of Service for Supporting our Children. We have reviewed a number of care plans and as a result children have been moved from residential settings to settings that better meet their needs, always ensuring their safety and individual needs are at the forefront when planning.</p> <p>The service has additionally seen a reduction in agency social work staff during the last 12-18 months. In 2021/22 the service had rates of up to 40% agency staff in some teams. A refreshed Workforce Strategy, overseen by a Workforce Board, chaired monthly by the Director of Childrens Services, has seen a reduction of agency staff to under 15% across the social care teams. The national average is now 17% and regionally the rate is much higher. The last set of regional data put Blackpool at the lowest for agency rates. Officers continue to monitor this closely in a challenging and competitive market.</p>	
Adult Services	<p>An overspend of £2,039k is forecast. Adult Commissioning Placements is forecasting an overspend of £2,402k. There are savings shortfalls of £1,012k from the proposal in which the Integrated Care Board (ICB) were expected to provide additional income of £1.6m into the Better Care Fund (BCF) and a further shortfall on additional funding streams of £337K. There is a pressure of £1,607k in Supported Living due to additional packages of care including children's transitions, along with £563k of pressures due to additional packages of short-term care linked to hospital discharge. £439k pressures relates to Out of Area Residential and Nursing Placements fee uplifts being significantly greater than forecast in addition to a further £515k of pressures across this area of service offset by £2,000k additional client contributions. There is a £139k underspend on Homecare whereby 1:1 hours have been recommissioned correctly as Daycare hours resulting in a pressure on Daycare of £143k. Direct payment pressures of £684k are resulting from a forecasted reduction in claw-backs based on year-to-date actuals and a number of ad-hoc payments being made</p>	2,039

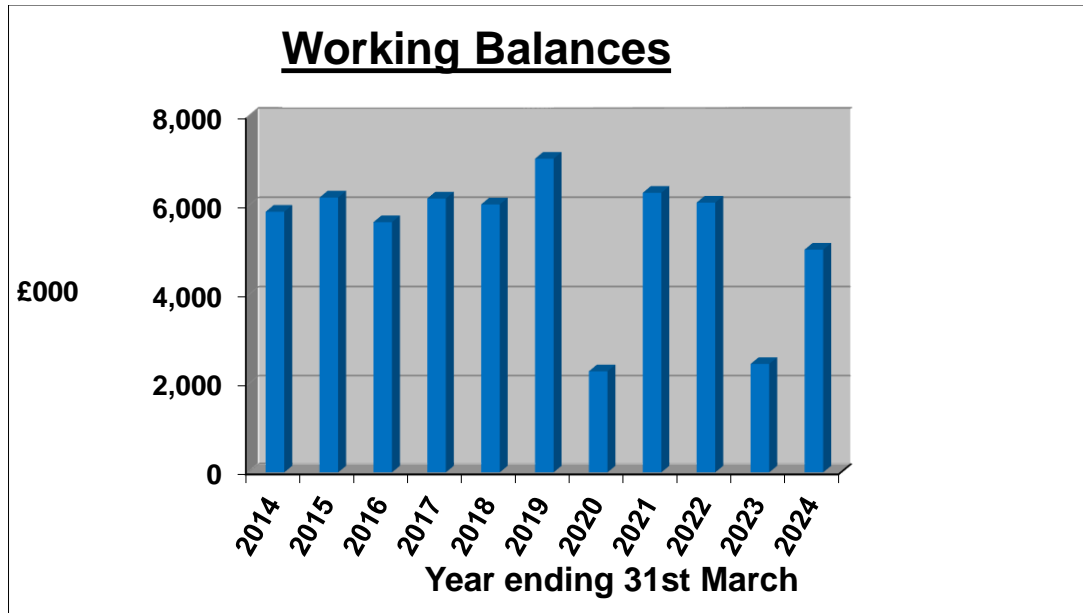
	<p>outside of the Mosaic Interface. There is £602k in the forecast relating to the recently announced Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund which is being used to offset the residential/nursing top-ups and Out of Area fee rates. Savings of £58k have arisen within Supporting People due to additional grant contributions along with a further saving of £99k in Service Management. Adult Social Care and Care and Support are forecasting an underspend of £363k due to the level of vacant positions.</p>	
Community and Environmental Services	<p>An overspend of £690k is forecast. Business Services is reporting a pressure of £1,300k due to ongoing projects being carried out in year by the service. Savings have been identified within the Directorate to deliver these projects. Children's Transport Services is reporting an overspend of £690k due to an increase in demand for Special Educational Needs transport relating to a growth in Education Health and Care Plans. Public Protection is currently forecasting a saving of £50k due to staff vacancies. There are pressures within Licencing, where the income forecast is currently under budget, however, savings have been identified within other areas of Public Protection which will mitigate this. Leisure Services is forecasting a saving of £150k due to savings within staffing and increased income within the Learn to Swim scheme. Catering is facing a pressure due to the increased cost of provisions, but this is expected to be met through reserves. Waste Services are forecasting savings of £200k. An inflationary uplift has been applied to the contract in Public Conveniences, however, Trade Waste income is forecasting an increase against budget to offset this pressure. Highways and Traffic Management Services is currently forecasting an underspend of £400k due to staffing vacancies within Highways & Engineering and the capitalisation of staff costs. Coastal and Environmental Partnerships is currently forecasting a saving of £500k due to additional Coastal income being received.</p>	690
Communications and Regeneration	<p>An overspend of £26k is forecast. Tourism and Communications is forecasting a pressure of £66k due to increased costs of £50k in Visit Blackpool and a £16k pressure in Illuminations due to storm damage to the display. Economic Development and Cultural Services is currently forecasting an underspend of £40k due to vacant posts.</p>	26

Strategic Leisure Assets	Strategic Leisure Assets is forecasting an underspend of £636k due to a reduction in the forecast repair spend and a release from reserves no longer expected to be required. In accordance with the original decision for this programme by the Executive on 7 February 2011 any under or overspend on Strategic Leisure Assets will be transferred to an Earmarked Reserve. The cumulative deficit as at March 2022/23 was £10,690k. In 2023/24 a transfer of £1,420k has been made to Contributions to Reserves reducing this deficit balance to £9,270k. This transfer is in line with the budget. The above underspend will further reduce this deficit to £8,634k. The latest Leisure Assets medium-term financial plan currently expects the service to break-even, in-year, from 2023/24 and cumulatively by 2034/35.	Nil
Growth and Prosperity	An underspend of £2,500k is forecast. This is due to the expectation of proceeds raised from the current work programme exceeding costs including prudential borrowing. This figure has reduced from period 5 due to a revised forecast relating to the costs of regeneration projects. The Executive at its meeting on 8 November 2021 agreed to the approach to transition out the Growth and Prosperity net revenue budget target over a 2-year period, 2022/23-2023/24, with any proceeds subsequently realised from the existing work programme being directed to bolstering reserves and any new proceeds being retained by Growth and Prosperity for re-investment. This surplus will be transferred to Earmarked Reserves to go against the current balance. The cumulative deficit as at March 2022/23 was £10,125k and it is therefore expected that the balance at the end of 2023/24 will be £7,625k.	Nil
Public Health	A break-even position is forecast. The Public Health Directorate is forecasting spending the full grant of £19,858,394 in the financial year to March 2024.	Nil
Governance and Partnership Services	An underspend of £32k is forecast. Corporate Legal Services is forecasting a £50k overspend due to additional staffing costs. Information Governance is forecasting an underspend of £37k due to increased income and a release of reserves that is now deemed as no longer required. Life Events and Democratic Governance are forecasting an underspend of £45k due to staff turnover.	(32)

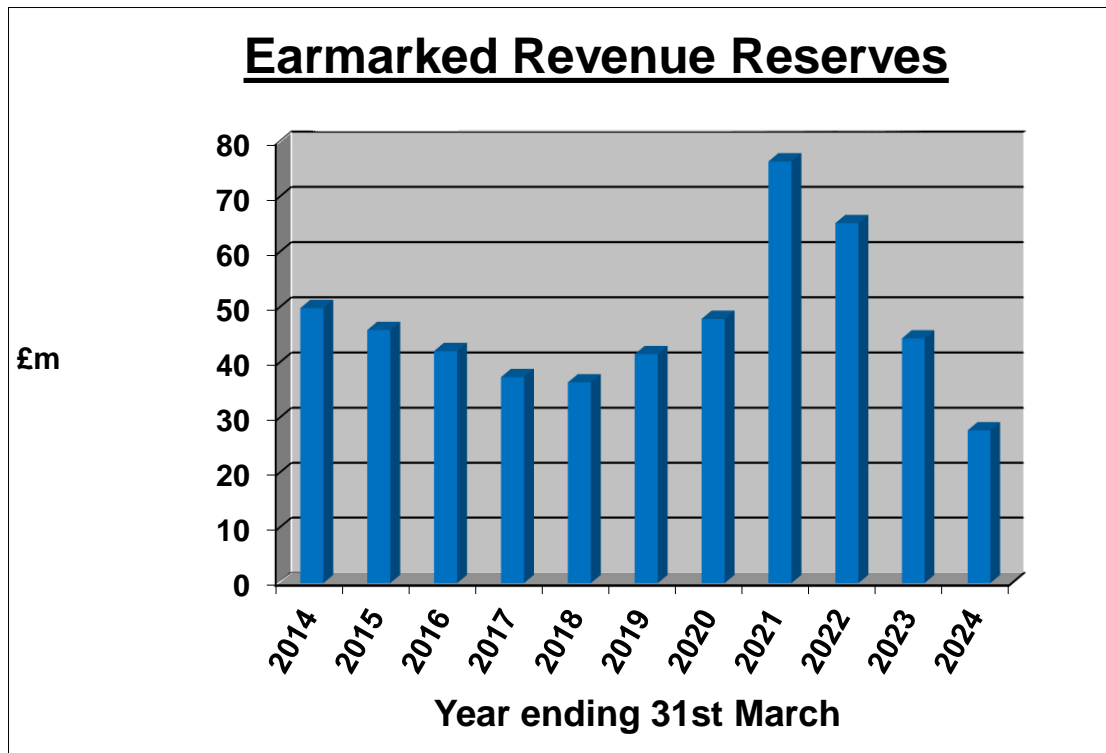
Chief Executive	An underspend of £200k is forecast due to a release of a reserve now deemed as no longer required. Housing is currently forecasting a break-even position. However pressures in Homelessness Services to support people to whom a responsibility is owed are, along with other authorities, high and continue to rise. Despite successful work in year to reduce the number of households requiring emergency temporary accommodation and reducing the time spent in B&B for those for whom another option is not available, the service is projecting to spend over £1m on this accommodation this year alone.	(200)
Resources	An underspend of £276k is forecast. Savings across the Directorate relate to staff vacancies, dis-establishment of posts, additional income from HMRC and other income generation opportunities.	(276)
Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	An underspend of £1,465k is forecast. Parking Services is currently forecasting a £300k overspend due to lower than budgeted income. The ability to maintain this position depends on the impact of the cost of living crisis, the quality of the Easter holiday season, the impact of dynamic parking and the availability of parking due to regeneration projects within the town. Treasury Management is forecasting an underspend of £1,600k, which includes £2,581k of prudential recharges to services and means that the £150k savings target will be met in 2023/24 and an increase in interest received from investments providing additional income of £660k. Offset against this is £1,661k pressure relating to higher interest rates on temporary borrowing and a reduction in the interest charge to the Housing Revenue Account as less borrowing is required in 2023/24 than originally budgeted. However, interest rates are predicted to increase over the duration of the financial year and these increases are likely to have a negative impact on the current position of the service. The Council is currently using 50:50 temporary and long-term borrowing to finance prudentially-funded capital expenditure and this gearing is under continual review by the Treasury Management Panel. The Business Loans Fund has a savings target of £154k and is forecasting a surplus of £20k as new business loans have been awarded at higher repayment rates than originally forecast for 2023/24. The position has worsened since M8 as interest rates have been increased from 4.5% to 5% in the forecast and	(1,465)

	<p>there have been changes in drawdown amounts and dates for certain loans which has resulted in a surplus in year. Following a review of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which was approved by the Executive on 8 February 2021, a saving of £5,158k is forecast to be achieved in 2023/24. Subsidiary Companies is forecasting a £35k saving due to a reduction in charges, mainly relating to debt management. Concessionary Fares is forecasting a £130k saving due to concessionary passenger numbers being 42% lower than pre-Covid levels, though the Council remains committed to paying at a minimum of a 70% safety net level in line with Department for Transport guidance until March 2024. All other services within Budgets Outside the Cash Limit are forecasting no in-year pressures in 2023/24.</p>	
Contingencies and Reserves	<p>The original Contingencies Cash Limited Budget was £7,722k. Movements out of Contingencies since the beginning of the financial year have been reflected in services' Cash Limited Budgets. There is an overspend of £388k relating to Single Persons Discount. Non-pay inflation is expected to underspend by £804k and there are various minor underspends totalling 313k. Adult Services have updated the Adults Reserve forecast and this is reflected in the Reserve tables below. This has also improved the Contingencies position by £1,000k. There is an additional Public Health saving of £200k and a Business Rate refund relating to Central Car Park of £505k. The overall net impact is therefore an underspend of £2,434k. A Capital Reserve of £3,112k has been released into Working Balances as it is no longer needed.</p>	(5,546)
Total		1,773

The graph below shows the stark impact on the level of Council working balances in year together with the last 10 years' year-end balances for comparison:



Whilst the Council maintains working balances to address any in-year volatilities, it also maintains a number of Earmarked Revenue Reserves (ERR) for such longer-term commitments as future Private Finance Initiative payments, uncertainties within the Localised Business Rate system and self-insured risks and insurance excesses. In order to present a complete picture of the Council's financial standing an equivalent graph to that of working balances, including a projection to 31 March 2024, is shown below:



Provisional Available Earmarked Reserves	£m
Provisional Balance at 1 April 2023	47.623
Less: Savings target	(9.946)
Add: Growth and Prosperity Reserve	2.500
Add: Strategic Leisure Assets Underspend	0.636
Less: Savings targets in services to be transferred from reserves	(0.440)
Less: Transfer in 2022/23 to be used in 2023/24	(3.112)
Less: Estimated other movements in 2023/24	<u>(9.394)</u>
Forecast Available Earmarked Revenue Reserves as at 31 March 2024	<u>27.867</u>

6.4 Budget Savings

Appendix 2p comprises a summary schedule showing the progress made by directorates in achieving their revenue budget savings targets for 2023/24 which total £23,395k. As at 31 December 2023 72% of the 2023/24 recurrent savings target has been delivered. The full-year forecast predicts that 88% will be achieved by the year-end. All of the saving has now been found recurrently.

6.5 Collection Rates

Council Tax

Being the most deprived local authority in England per the Office for National Statistics, collection of Council Tax is a challenge but 2022/23 saw an improvement in collection rate to 5th lowest and this progress has continued with the amount collected for Council Tax (excluding Police and Fire precepts) being £52.3m and the collection rate **75.3%** at the end of month 9. This compares to £49.2m and 75.7% at the same point in 2022/23. The amount collected has risen by £3.1m, which is mainly due to increases in both the Council Tax rate and base.

In the light of the reductions in discount and the introduction of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme the target collection rate is still 97.5% over a 4-year collection period as approved on 31 January 2023 as part of the setting of the Council Tax Base for 2023/24.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was introduced on 1 April 2013. It is approved annually to ensure that a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is in place by the start of the following financial year thereby avoiding the financial risks associated with the Government imposing a default scheme. The current 2023/24 Scheme was approved

by the Executive on 23 January 2023 to ensure that Council Tax support is available to pensioners and the working aged based upon a means test.

At the end of month 9 the amount collected (excluding Police and Fire precepts) in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax for those who have to pay CTRS either for the first time or in addition to a proportion of their Council Tax was £1.9m and the collection rate was **54.9%**. This compares to £2.5m and 61.3% at the same point in 2022/23.

The likely impact for 2023/24 is that the underlying rate of collection of Council Tax Reduction Scheme will be under similar pressure to 2022/23 due to accumulated arrears, limits on the amount that can be recovered from Attachment of Benefits and the impact of the cost of living crisis on disposable household income.

Business Rates

Prior to 1 April 2013 Business Rate income was collected by billing authorities on behalf of central government and then redistributed among all local authorities and police authorities as part of Formula Grant. Since then the income relating to Blackpool is shared between central government (50%), the Council (49%) and the Fire Authority (1%) other than for an intermittent period when Blackpool Council participated in a Lancashire-wide pooling arrangement.

During 2022/23 Blackpool's collection rate rose significantly from 21st lowest in England to 32nd lowest and this progress has continued with the amount collected for Business Rates being £29.2m and the collection rate **78.0%** at the end of month 9. This compares to £33.2m and 78.0% at the same point in 2022/23. 2022/23 excludes the s31 Extended Retail/Nurseries, etc. relief provided by central government which reduced to 50% in 2022/23. This will have a slight impact on future collection rates.

From April 2014 Business Ratepayers have been entitled to elect to pay by 12 monthly instalments instead of over 10 months which has allowed businesses more time to pay.

In the 9 months to the end of December 2023 - 845 business rate summonses were issued.

6.6 Capital Monitoring Performance

All active capital schemes have been included within Appendix 2q. The purpose is to present the overall position of capital spend. The schemes are shown individually where total scheme budget is greater than £500k and grouped as "other schemes" otherwise. As in previous financial years, the emphasis regarding capital monitoring will be on scheme variance rather than in-year progress since many schemes cross

financial years such as the major housing developments. Therefore, some degree of flexibility for the management of slippage is necessary in order to balance the overall capital programme each year to the funding allocations available.

The report includes the Capital Programme as approved by the Executive on 6 February 2023. The month 9 report includes this data for comparative purposes. Future reports may show further changes in the Capital Programme, representing schemes that were approved after submission of the 2023/24 capital programme.

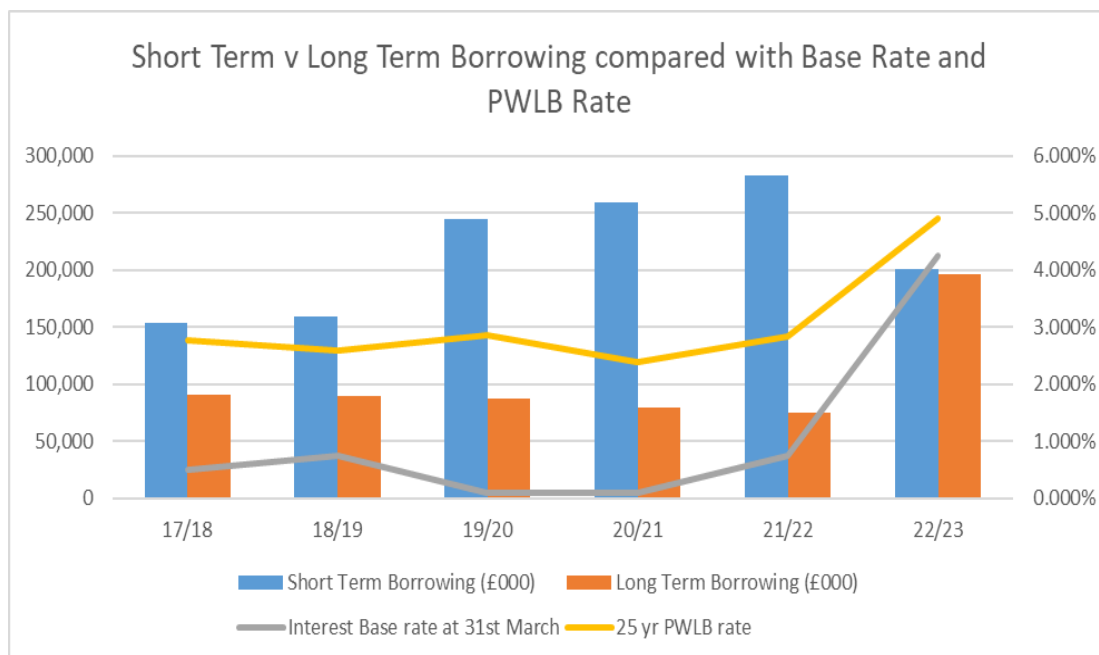
The economic climate remains challenging. High inflation, rising interest rates, supply chain issues (particularly in relation to steel) and a lack of labour are leading to increased costs, primarily on capital schemes that are likely to span a number of years. An ongoing review of capital schemes is therefore being undertaken to establish any schemes where approved budgets may become insufficient and potential overspendings identified. Therefore, in tandem an asset disposal plan is being developed to generate capital receipts that may be applied to offset any such pressures. In some cases, where appropriate, legal challenge/adjudication will be considered to redress the position. Where uncertainties of outcomes (adverse or favourable) still exist, scheme forecast variances are shown as break-even but highlighted as amber.

6.7 **Summary Cash Flow Statement**

As part of the reporting format for this financial year a summary cash flow statement is included at Appendix 2r. This provides a comparison of the actual cash receipts and payments compared to forecast for 2023/24.

During the first 9 months of the year the Council's net cashflow has resulted in fluctuations in short-term net investment/borrowing balances due to the receipt of up-front grant income in this financial year. The Council fixed £125m of temporary loans in August 2022 at around 3.0%, which resulted in an increase in investment balances and over the next few months short-term borrowing will be repaid using the fixed-term borrowing taken.

The graph below demonstrates the changes in the profile of the Council's borrowings over the last 6 years. It shows that Council borrowing has increased from less than £250m at the end of 2017/18 to nearly £400m at the end of 2022/23. The profile of this borrowing has also changed as we now have a 50:50 split between long-term and short-term borrowing as interest rates have rapidly risen with uncertainties on where they will land and with consequences of increased borrowing costs.



6.8 Summary Balance Sheet

In order to provide a complete picture of the Council's financial performance Appendix 2s provides a snapshot of the General Fund balance sheet as at the end of month 9. The key areas of focus are any significant movements in debtors, cash and cash equivalents, bank overdraft and creditors as these impact upon the Council's performance in the critical areas of debt recovery, treasury management and Public Sector Payment Policy.

The balance sheet has been prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS/IASs). Each year an accounting adjustment under IAS 19 is made for the value of the pension fund at year-end. In 2022/23, for the first time, this produced a pension asset rather than a pension liability. Paragraph 64 of IAS 19 limits the measurement of a net defined benefit asset to the lower of the surplus in the defined benefit plan and the asset ceiling. This calculation has now been received from the actuary and £42m has been recognised in the balance sheet as a pension asset.

Usable reserves include unallocated General Fund reserves and revenue reserves. Unusable reserves are those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets were sold.

Due to statutory changes regarding the accounting treatment of infrastructure assets

which were approved in Parliament in late November 2022, the 2020/21 accounts were not signed off until November 2023. This has meant that the completion of the audits for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 accounts have been delayed. As the audits are still ongoing the balance sheet as at 31 March 2023 may require amendment, therefore the figures should be treated as draft.

Over the 9-month period there has been an increase in Property, Plant and Equipment of £81.8m due to capital expenditure which is in line with the Council's approved capital programme for 2023/24. Infrastructure assets have decreased by £10.5m which is the net effect of spend to date less depreciation at month 9. Long-term debtors has increased by £5.9m due to new approved business loans. Cash and cash equivalents have increased by £29.4m and short-term borrowing has increased by £58.4m due to the timing of capital and revenue grants and ensuring that sufficient funds are available between Christmas and New Year.

6.9 Medium-Term Financial Plan Update and Earmarked Reserves Forecast

The 6-year Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategy (MTFSS) covering 2021/22 – 2026/27 was approved by the Executive on 8 November 2021 and whilst the principles still stand the current economic climate has had a significant impact on the supporting Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

Officers are meeting regularly to review and continuously update the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Corporate Leadership Team were meeting on 26 September 2023 and fortnightly thereafter as part of the budget planning process for 2024/25. An updated position will be reported to a future Executive as part of the financial monitoring, but a latest indication of future Budget gaps based on current information including the announcements in the Autumn Statement, the Provisional Settlement 2024/25 and the Office of Budgetary Responsibility (OBR) CPI forecasts is given below:

Medium Term Financial Plan v1.7		
2024/25	Budget Gap	2026/27
£m	2025/26	£m
	£m	
16.3	14.8	6.0

As part of this budget planning process which consolidates the individual MTFPs of the Children's, Adult and Growth and Prosperity services, a detailed exercise has also been undertaken on their consequences upon Earmarked Revenue Reserves to check the validity of amounts held and a forecast of when funds will be drawn down over the same period as the latest MTFSS. A summary table is shown below:

Reserves Summary						
Directorate	Draft 31/03/22	Est Balance 31/03/23	Est Balance 31/03/24	Est Balance 31/03/25	Est Balance 31/03/26	Est Balance 31/03/27
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Total	(65.4)	(47.6)	(27.9)	(22.2)	(22.9)	(24.9)

In addition to General Fund Earmarked Revenue Reserves the Council holds a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Reserve to manage the Schools, High Needs and Early Years Blocks of grant. Under a Statutory Override to 2025/26 this reserve is maintained separately from the Council's portfolio of revenue reserves as many local authorities are in significant deficit and their consolidation could tip their overall financial standing into deficit. In Blackpool's case the DSG Reserve stood at a deficit of £2,784k as at 31 March 2023 but with the support of the Department for Education's Safety Valve Programme this reserve is planned to return to surplus in 2024/25.

A further reserve to note is the Council's Housing Revenue Account (Appendix 2n), a ringfenced account for the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock. As at 31 March 2023 this reserve was at a level of £1,721k and is forecast to be £1,303k at the end of the financial year; still ahead of its minimum agreed level of £1m.

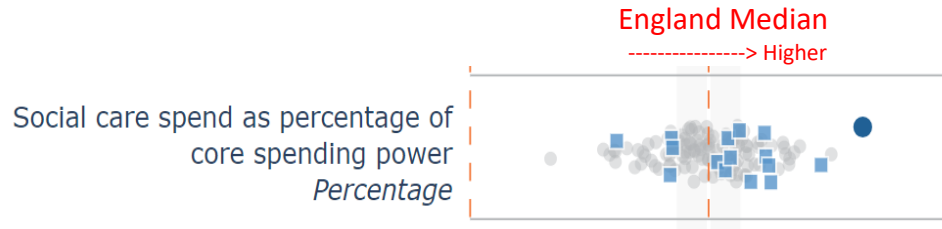
6.10 **Central Government Monitoring and Oversight**

Local government finance is clearly in a fragile and precarious position. There are at least 36 local authorities who have been outed in the media recently for challenges with their financial standing and there are many others who are known to be struggling. In addition, 8 have already filed Section 114 (s114) Notices. Councils are required by law to have balanced budgets. The issuing of a s114 notice stops all but essential spending, making sure that vital services can continue to be provided to the most vulnerable residents. External oversight exists via periodic Local Government Association peer reviews and CIPFA financial healthchecks but local public audit has been unable to keep up the pace with 504 external audits outstanding in England between 2015/16-2021/22 at the last count. On top of this central government does require 29 financial monitoring returns from local authorities each year.

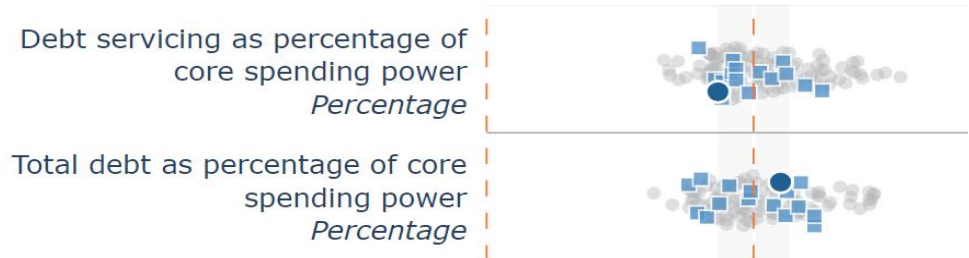
As a result of this perilous climate the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities launched the Office for Local Government (Oflog) in July this year, whose purpose is to increase transparency, foster accountability and use data to further improve performance and help identify problems at an earlier stage. Using most recent financial data from the 2021/22 Revenue Outturn (RO) returns, Oflog has published benchmarking data for local authorities against others and particularly nearest neighbours. These can be found within the following link:

[Local Authority Data Explorer - DLUHC Data Dashboards](#)

As an example of what is available and relevant, the following dashboard shows Blackpool’s social care spend as a percentage of its core spending power which unsurprisingly is in the highest quartile as would be expected for a local authority with such deprivation and demand. The blue circle is Blackpool, blue squares are Blackpool’s statistical neighbours and the grey circles are all other local authorities:



Again, unsurprisingly the level of debt reflecting the magnitude of the generational programme of capital investment is above the median though not significantly, whilst the debt financing is below the median illustrating effective treasury management:



Officers will endeavour to employ this tool in future monthly financial monitoring reports.

6.11 Conclusions and Recommendations

The Council’s Revenue Budget for 2023/24 set a target level of General Fund working balances of around £6m. However, given the current economic climate it is recommended that work continues towards target working balances of £6m by 31 March 2024 rising to £8m by 31 March 2025. Earmarked revenue reserves at the start of the financial year stood at £47.6m, though with known in-year commitments against this the balance will fall to an estimated £27.9m by the end of the year. This should still be sufficient to underwrite the current year’s financial risks with a financial plan in place for the Council’s wholly-owned companies (ref. Appendix 2o).

If the 2023/24 forecast position became the actual outturn, then in accordance with the Council’s Financial Procedure Rules within its Constitution the forecast revenue outturn 2023/24 within this report contravenes neither of the

two specific conditions that excess spending does not:

1. exceed 1% (= £5m) of the authority's total gross revenue expenditure; or
2. have the effect of reducing the authority's Working Balances below 50% of their normal target level (= £3m).

However, these are still unprecedented times for the whole of the local government sector and in the context of relatively healthy levels of Earmarked Revenue Reserves and with 3 months of the financial year still remaining officers are working continuously to improve the position - revised service and financial plans are being developed including the review of technical accounting treatments, a continuing policy of freezing non-essential spend, a robust approach at weekly Resourcing Panel meetings to only allow the filling of critical vacant posts and the prospective redesignation of earmarked reserves should they need to be used.

6.12 Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 2a - Revenue Summary
 Appendix 2b - Chief Executive
 Appendix 2c - Governance and Partnership Services
 Appendices 2c/d - Ward Budgets
 Appendix 2e - Resources
 Appendix 2f - Communications and Regeneration
 Appendix 2g - Strategic Leisure Assets
 Appendix 2h - Growth and Prosperity
 Appendix 2i - Community and Environmental Services
 Appendix 2j - Adult Services
 Appendix 2k - Children's Services
 Appendix 2l - Public Health
 Appendix 2m - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit
 Appendix 2n - Housing Revenue Account
 Appendix 2o - Wholly-owned companies
 Appendix 2p - Budget Savings performance
 Appendix 2q - Capital Monitoring
 Appendix 2r - Cash Flow Summary
 Appendix 2s - General Fund Balance Sheet Summary

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 As outlined in this report and appendices.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Impact of financial performance against approved Revenue budgets and upon Council reserves and balances.

11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people:

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was produced as a part of the budget-setting process and remains relevant.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None directly from this report.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? N/A

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process?

No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1

19.0 Summary of Discussion:

19.1

20.0 Executive decision:

20.1

21.0 Date of Decision:

21.1

22.0 Reason(s) for decision:

22.1

23.0 Date Decision published:

23.1

24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

24.1

25.0 Executive Members present:

25.1

26.0 Call-in:

26.1

27.0 Notes:

27.1

Blackpool Council

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

BLACKPOOL COUNCIL							
FORECAST GENERAL FUND POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024							
SUMMARY							
APP.	GENERAL FUND NET REQUIREMENTS	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
		ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
				PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
2(b)	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	1,871	(350)	2,021	1,671	(200)	-
2(c)	GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES	2,250	1,929	289	2,218	(32)	-
2(c/d)	WARD BUDGETS	269	(31)	300	269	-	-
2(e)	RESOURCES	4,372	6,259	(2,163)	4,096	(276)	-
2(f)	COMMUNICATIONS AND REGENERATION	4,256	3,230	1,052	4,282	26	-
2(g)	STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS	1,976	5,080	(3,740)	1,340	(636)	-
	STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS - TRANSFER TO/(FROM) RESERVES	-	-	636	636	636	-
2(h)	GROWTH & PROSPERITY	(7,806)	1,325	(11,631)	(10,306)	(2,500)	-
	GROWTH & PROSPERITY - TRANSFER TO/(FROM) RESERVES	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,500	-
2(i)	COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	52,480	36,710	16,460	53,170	690	-
2(j)	ADULT SERVICES	64,515	46,166	20,388	66,554	2,039	-
2(k)	CHILDREN'S SERVICES	69,428	45,111	30,854	75,965	6,537	-
2(l)	PUBLIC HEALTH	3	(4,924)	4,927	3	-	-
2(m)	BUDGETS OUTSIDE THE CASH LIMIT	17,564	(2,130)	18,229	16,099	(1,465)	-
	CAPITAL CHARGES	(30,209)	(22,657)	(7,552)	(30,209)	-	-
	NET COST OF SERVICES:	180,969	115,718	72,570	188,288	7,319	-
	CONTRIBUTIONS:						
	- TO / (FROM) RESERVES	(13,102)	(11,638)	(4,576)	(16,214)	(3,112)	
	- 2022/23 SERVICE OVER/(UNDERSPENDS)	-	-	-	-	-	
	- REVENUE CONSEQUENCES OF CAPITAL OUTLAY	500	-	500	500	-	
	CONTINGENCIES	3,059	(530)	1,155	625	(2,434)	
	LEVIES	457	74	383	457	-	
	CONTRIBUTIONS, etc.	(9,086)	(12,094)	(2,538)	(14,632)	(5,546)	
	TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE TO BE MET FROM PUBLIC FUNDS	171,883	103,624	70,032	173,656	1,773	
	ADDED TO/(TAKEN FROM) BALANCES	4,335	-	2,562	2,562	(1,773)	
	NET REQUIREMENT AFTER WORKING BALANCES	176,218	103,624	72,594	176,218	-	
GENERAL BALANCES AS AT 1st APRIL 2023 PER UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23							2,459
Budgeted In-year (reduction in) / addition to General Fund Working Balances							4,335
							6,794
Forecast In-year (reduction in) / addition to General Fund Working Balances							(1,773)
ESTIMATED UNEARMARKED WORKING BALANCES AS AT 31st MARCH 2024							5,021

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Blackpool Council - Chief Executive

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE NET EXPENDITURE						
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	647	571	76	647	-	-
HUMAN RESOURCES, ORGANISATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	85	(438)	523	85	-	-
CHIEF EXECUTIVE TOTAL	732	133	599	732	-	-
CORPORATE DELIVERY UNIT	93	(1,579)	1,472	(107)	(200)	-
HOUSING	1,046	1,096	(50)	1,046	-	-
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE	1,139	(483)	1,422	939	(200)	-
TOTALS	1,871	(350)	2,021	1,671	(200)	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service within the Chief Executive's Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year.

Chief Executive

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Human Resources, Organisation and Workforce Development

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Corporate Delivery Unit

This service is currently forecasting a £200k underspend due to the release of a reserve now deemed as no longer required.

Housing

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position. However pressures in Homelessness Services to support people to whom a responsibility is owed are, along with other authorities, high and continue to rise. Despite successful work in year to reduce the number of households requiring emergency temporary accommodation and reducing the time spent in B&B for those for whom another option is not available, the service is projecting to spend over £1m on this accommodation this year alone.

Budget Holder – Mr N Jack, Chief Executive

Blackpool Council – Governance and Partnership Services

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE	2,429	2,145	264	2,409	(20)	-
CORPORATE LEGAL SERVICES	31	(399)	480	81	50	-
INFORMATION GOVERNANCE	102	(44)	109	65	(37)	-
LIFE EVENTS	(312)	227	(564)	(337)	(25)	-
GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES	2,250	1,929	289	2,218	(32)	-
WARDS	269	(31)	300	269	-	-
TOTALS	2,519	1,898	589	2,487	(32)	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service within Governance and Partnership Services against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with the head of service.

Democratic Governance Service

The Democratic Governance Service is now forecasting an underspend of £20k due to staff turnover.

Corporate Legal Services

This service is forecasting a £50k overspend due to increasing additional staffing costs.

Information Governance

This service is forecasting an underspend of £37k due to increased income and a release of reserves that is now deemed as no longer required.

Life Events

This service is forecasting an underspend of £25k due to staff turnover.

Ward Budgets

Ward budgets are expected to break-even in 2023/24.

Budget Holder - Mr M Towers, Director of Governance and Partnership Services.

Blackpool Council
Ward Budgets
2023/24
Month 9

Wards

Ward	Councillors	Total No. of Requisitions Submitted	No. of Requisitions Approved	No. Awaiting Approval	Total No. of Requisitions Completed	Total 2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Budget Committed to Approved Schemes	Remaining 2023-24 Budget
Anchorsholme Ward 61008/61030	Cllr. Galley Cllr. Cooper	1 1	1 1	0 0	1 1	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£282.00 £282.00	£6,718.00 £6,718.00
Bispham Ward 61009/61031	Cllr. Warne Cllr. Wilshaw	0 1	0 1	0 0	0 1	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £449.00	£7,000.00 £6,551.00
Bloomfield Ward 61010/61032	Cllr. Fenlon Cllr. Hobson	6 12	6 12	0 0	5 10	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£746.41 £2,272.26	£6,253.59 £4,727.74
Brunswick Ward 61033/61011	Cllr. Marshall Cllr. Thomas	5 4	5 4	0 0	3 3	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£2,705.42 £2,692.35	£4,294.58 £4,307.65
Claremont Ward 61012/61034	Cllr. Taylor Cllr. L Williams	7 6	7 6	0 0	5 4	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£4,321.77 £4,156.77	£2,678.23 £2,843.23
Clifton Ward 61035/61013	Cllr. Burdess Cllr. Humphries	8 6	8 6	0 0	7 5	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£4,570.17 £4,384.16	£2,429.83 £2,615.84
Greenlands Ward 61014/61036	Cllr. Flanagan Cllr. Jones	0 2	0 2	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £1,173.00	£7,000.00 £5,827.00
Hawes Side Ward 61015/61037	Cllr. N Brookes Cllr. Critchley	4 4	4 4	0 0	3 3	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£1,397.47 £1,396.47	£5,602.53 £5,603.53
Highfield Ward 61038/61016	Cllr. Hunter Cllr. B Mitchell	3 0	3 0	0 0	1 3	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£5,970.00 £0.00	£1,030.00 £7,000.00
Ingthorpe Ward 61017/61039	Cllr. Bamborough MBE Cllr. Farrell	5 6	5 6	0 0	0 5	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£1,799.57 £1,851.19	£5,200.43 £5,148.81
Layton Ward 61018/61040	Cllr. Benson Cllr. Boughton	12 11	12 11	0 0	9 9	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£3,916.06 £3,898.05	£3,083.94 £3,101.95
Marton Ward 61019/61041	Cllr. S Brookes Cllr. S Smith	1 2	1 2	0 0	1 1	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£321.00 £1,571.00	£6,679.00 £5,429.00
Norbreck Ward 61020/61042	Cllr. Ellison Cllr. Sloman	3 1	3 1	0 0	3 2	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£1,151.00 £1,075.00	£5,849.00 £5,925.00
Park Ward 61021/61043	Cllr. Campbell Cllr. Hoyle	2 1	2 1	0 0	2 1	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£2,426.00 £1,176.00	£4,574.00 £5,824.00
Squires Gate Ward 61022/61044	Cllr. C Mitchell MBE Cllr. Walsh	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00
Stanley Ward 61023/61045	Cllr. Baker Cllr. Roberts	0 1	0 1	0 0	0 1	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £1,926.00	£7,000.00 £5,074.00
Talbot Ward 61024/61046	Cllr. Hugo Cllr. M Smith	10 10	10 10	0 0	4 4	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£3,814.38 £3,814.37	£3,185.62 £3,185.63
Tyldesley Ward 61047/61025	Cllr. Webb Cllr. Roe	5 5	5 5	0 0	4 4	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£751.70 £751.70	£6,248.30 £6,248.30
Victoria Ward 61026/61048	Cllr. Jackson Cllr. P Brookes	4 4	4 4	0 0	3 3	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£430.70 £430.70	£6,569.30 £6,569.30
Warbreck Ward 61027/61049	Cllr. D Scott Cllr. Mrs M Scott	9 9	9 9	0 0	8 8	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£5,545.30 £5,545.30	£1,454.70 £1,454.70
Waterloo Ward 61028/61050	Cllr. Cartmell Cllr. D Mitchell MBE	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£7,000.00 £7,000.00	£0.00 £0.00	£7,000.00 £7,000.00

Ward Totals	171	171	0	126	£294,000.00	£78,994.27	£215,005.73
Unallocated Budget	-	-	-	-	(£25,000.00)	£0.00	(£25,000.00)
Income Budget	-	-	-	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Area Ward Totals	171	171	0	126	£269,000.00	£78,994.27	£190,005.73

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Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
RESOURCES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PROCUREMENT & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	85	(295)	316	21	(64)	-
BENEFITS	(1,393)	1,861	(3,256)	(1,395)	(2)	-
REVENUES SERVICES	1,862	2,215	(353)	1,862	-	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	88	(34)	115	81	(7)	-
ICT SERVICES	861	842	19	861	-	-
ACCOUNTANCY	221	2	126	128	(93)	-
RISK SERVICES	50	(169)	173	4	(46)	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	2,597	1,872	661	2,533	(64)	-
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	1	(35)	36	1	-	-
TOTALS	4,372	6,259	(2,163)	4,096	(276)	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service within Resources against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

Procurement and Exchequer Services

Procurement and Exchequer Services are forecasting an underspend of £64k. This position has been achieved as a result of measures to deliver savings through dis-establishment of posts and increased income opportunities. Additional one-off, ad-hoc income has been secured in year and there is currently a vacant post within the Procurement team.

Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting a £2k underspend. The cumulative Housing Benefit new claims processing outturn figure for November was 24 days. The cumulative processing time to-date for new claims for Housing Benefit, new claims for Council Tax Reduction and changes in circumstances notifications was 9 days.

Revenue Services

Revenue Services are forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £2.64m.

Customer First

Customer First is forecasting an underspend of £7k against a gross budget of £1.19m, this is due to unfilled vacancies and additional SLA income has been achieved in year.

ICT Services

ICT is forecasting a contribution to the ICT Infrastructure reserve of £21k on a gross budget of £5.95m. The budget is currently under pressure from inflationary increases in software licences and the hardware supply chain. The budget is currently being balanced from additional income generation and staff turnover.

Accountancy

Accountancy is forecasting an underspend of £93k due to freezing of vacant posts and additional income from HMRC.

Risk Services

Audit and Risk Services are forecasting an underspend of £46k. The majority of the movement relates to staffing slippage due to recruitment struggles and also the generation of additional income.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

Property Services are forecasting an underspend of £64k against a gross budget of £14.28m, savings arising from staff vacancies across the service.

Equality and Diversity

Equality and Diversity are forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £198k.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 9 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £276k underspend. The Directorate continues to operate on the basis of not filling staff vacancies other than in exceptional circumstances.

Budget Holder - Mr S Thompson, Director of Resources

Blackpool Council – Communications & Regeneration

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
COMMUNICATIONS & REGENERATION						
NET EXPENDITURE						
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CULTURAL SERVICES	785	896	(151)	745	(40)	-
PLANNING	582	(146)	728	582	-	-
TOURISM AND COMMUNICATIONS	2,889	2,480	475	2,955	66	-
TOTALS	4,256	3,230	1,052	4,282	26	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service area within the Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn is based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

Economic Development and Cultural Services

This service is currently forecasting an underspend of £40k due to vacant posts.

Planning

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Tourism & Communications

This service is forecasting a £66k pressure. This is made up of a £50k pressure in Tourism and Communications due to increased costs in Visit Blackpool as well as a £16k pressure in Illuminations due to storm damage to the display.

Budget Holder – Mr A Cavill, Director of Communications & Regeneration

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Blackpool Council – Strategic Leisure Assets

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS						
NET EXPENDITURE						
STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS	1,976	5,080	(3,740)	1,340	(636)	-
TOTALS	1,976	5,080	(3,740)	1,340	(636)	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for the Service against its respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn is based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with the head of service.

Key Issues

As at month 9 Strategic Leisure Assets is forecasting an £636k underspend. This is due to a reduction in the forecast repair spend and a release from reserves no longer expected to be required. The underspend reduced in month 8 due to a revised income forecast offset by a reduction in expected borrowing cost due to the timing of capital spend.

In accordance with the original decision for this programme by the Executive on 7 February 2011, any under or overspend on Strategic Leisure Assets will be transferred to Earmarked Reserves to go against the current balance. The cumulative deficit as at March 2022/23 was £10,690k. In 2023/24, a transfer of £1,420k has been made to Contributions to Reserves reducing this deficit balance to £9,270k. This transfer is in line with the budget. The above underspend will further reduce this deficit to £8,634k.

The latest Leisure Assets medium-term financial plan currently expects the service to break-even, in-year, from 2023/24 and cumulatively by 2034/35.

Budget Holder – Mr A Cavill, Director of Communications & Regeneration

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Blackpool Council – Growth & Prosperity

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
GROWTH & PROSPERITY						
NET EXPENDITURE						
GROWTH & PROSPERITY	(7,806)	1,325	(11,631)	(10,306)	(2,500)	-
TOTALS	(7,806)	1,325	(11,631)	(10,306)	(2,500)	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for the Service against its respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn is based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with the head of service.

Key Issues

As at month 9, the service is forecasting a surplus of £2,500k. This is due to the expectation of proceeds raised from the current work programme exceeding costs including prudential borrowing. This figure has reduced from period 5 due to a revised forecast relating to the costs of regeneration projects.

The Executive, at its meeting on 8 November 2021, agreed to the approach to transition out the Growth and Prosperity net revenue budget target over a 2-year period, 2022/23-2023/24, with any proceeds subsequently realised from the existing work programme being directed to bolstering reserves and any new proceeds being retained by Growth and Prosperity for their re-investment. It is therefore assumed that this surplus will be transferred to Earmarked Reserves to go against the current balance. The cumulative deficit as at March 2022/23 was £10,125k. It is therefore expected that the balance at the end of 2023/24 will be £7,625k.

Budget Holder – Mr A Cavill, Director of Communications & Regeneration

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Blackpool Council – Community and Environmental Services

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
BUSINESS SERVICES	(866)	942	(508)	434	1,300	-
LEISURE AND CATERING	4,729	3,124	1,455	4,579	(150)	-
PUBLIC PROTECTION	1,950	909	991	1,900	(50)	-
HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES	17,639	13,491	3,748	17,239	(400)	-
STREET CLEANSING AND WASTE	19,815	8,138	11,477	19,615	(200)	-
COASTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS	6,249	6,700	(951)	5,749	(500)	-
INTEGRATED TRANSPORT	2,964	3,406	248	3,654	690	-
TOTALS	52,480	36,710	16,460	53,170	690	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service area within the Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn overspend of £690k is based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

Business Services

There is a pressure within Business Services of £1.3m due to ongoing projects being carried out in year by the service. Savings have been identified within the Directorate to deliver these projects.

Leisure and Catering

Leisure and Catering is currently forecasting a saving of £150k. Leisure is reporting a saving of £150k due to savings within staffing and increased income within the Learn to Swim scheme. Catering is facing a pressure due to the increased cost of provisions, but this is expected to be met through reserves.

Public Protection

The service is currently forecasting a saving of £50k due to staff vacancies within Public Protection. There are pressures within Licencing, where the income forecast is currently under budget, however, savings have been identified within other areas of Public Protection which will mitigate this.

Highways and Traffic Management Services

This service is currently forecasting an underspend of £400k due to staffing vacancies within Highways & Engineering and the capitalisation of staff costs.

Street Cleansing and Waste

Waste Services are reporting a saving of £200k. Trade Waste income is expected to be £300k better than budget. There is, however, a £100k pressure within Public Conveniences, where an inflationary uplift has been applied to the contract.

Coastal and Environmental Partnerships

This service is currently forecasting a saving of £500k due to additional Coastal income being received.

Integrated Transport

This service is currently forecasting an overspend of £690k. Childrens Transport Services is reporting an overspend of £690k, due to an increase in demand for Special Educational Needs transport relating to a growth in Education Health and Care Plans.

Conclusion – Community and Environmental Services financial position

At the end of December 2023, the Community and Environmental Services Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £690k. The major pressure is within Integrated Transport where the Childrens Transport Service is forecasting a pressure of £690k. There are other pressures within the Directorate, but these are expected to be covered through other means.

Budget Holder - Mr J Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Blackpool Council - Adult Services

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
ADULT SERVICES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	9,697	7,804	1,630	9,434	(263)	-
CARE & SUPPORT	4,460	3,739	621	4,360	(100)	-
ADULT COMMISSIONING PLACEMENTS	50,282	34,591	18,093	52,684	2,402	-
ADULT SAFEGUARDING	76	32	44	76	-	-
TOTALS	64,515	46,166	20,388	66,554	2,039	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service within the Adult Services Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care is forecasting an underspend of £263k at month 9 due to a high volume of vacant positions.

Adult Commissioning Placements (Social Care Packages)

The Adult Commissioning Placements budget is forecasting an overspend of £2,402k. There are savings shortfalls of £1,012k from the proposal in which the Integrated Care Board (ICB) were expected to provide additional income of £1.6m into the Better Care Fund (BCF) and a further shortfall on additional funding streams of £337k. There is a pressure of £1,607k in Supported Living due to additional packages of care including children's transitions, along with £563k of pressures due to additional packages of short-term care linked to hospital discharge. £439k pressures relates to Out of Area Residential and Nursing Placements fee uplifts being significantly greater than forecast in addition to a further £515k of pressures across this area of service offset by £2,000k additional client contributions. There is a £139k underspend on Homecare whereby 1:1 hours have been recommissioned correctly as Daycare hours resulting in a pressure on Daycare of £143k. Direct payment pressures of £684k are resulting from a forecasted reduction in claw-backs based on year-to-date actuals and a number of ad-hoc payments being made outside of the Mosaic Interface. There is £602k in the forecast relating to the recently announced Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund which is being used to offset the residential/nursing top-ups and Out of Area fee rates. Savings of £58k have arisen within Supporting People due to additional grant contributions along with a further saving of £99k in Service Management.

Care and Support

Care and Support is forecasting an underspend of £100k at month 9 due to slippage on vacant positions.

Adults Safeguarding

Adults Safeguarding is forecasting a break-even position at month 9.

Summary of the Adult Services financial position

As at the end of December 2023 the Adult Services Directorate is forecasting an overall overspend of £2,039k for the financial year to March 2024 on a gross budget of £107m.

Budget Holder – K Smith, Director of Adult Services

Blackpool Council – Children’s Services

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
CHILDREN'S SERVICES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - ISB	20,112	17,094	3,018	20,112	-	-
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - NON DELEGATED	281	161	72	233	(48)	-
EDUCATION	27,385	11,349	16,112	27,461	76	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	182	137	45	182	-	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	9,330	5,782	3,548	9,330	-	-
DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT	(57,977)	(40,162)	(17,815)	(57,977)	-	-
CARRY FORWARD OF DSG UNDER/(OVER) SPEND	687	-	659	659	(28)	-
TOTAL DSG FUNDED SERVICES	-	(5,639)	5,639	-	-	-
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPRECIATION	1,748	-	1,748	1,748	-	-
EDUCATION	2,061	3,304	(1,186)	2,118	57	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	6,402	1,828	4,554	6,382	(20)	-
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	59,556	44,977	20,409	65,386	5,830	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	(155)	641	(126)	515	670	-
LOCAL SERVICES SUPPORT GRANT	(18)	-	(18)	(18)	-	-
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT	(166)	-	(166)	(166)	-	-
TOTAL COUNCIL FUNDED SERVICES	69,428	50,750	25,215	75,965	6,537	-
TOTALS	69,428	45,111	30,854	75,965	6,537	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service within the Children’s Services Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each Head of Service.

Children’s Social Care

Children’s Social Care Placements is forecasting an overspend against the budget of £5,830k, mainly due to new-to-care placements being higher than those exiting care and the additional support required following the breakdown of high-cost placements. The actual number of residential placements as at 31 December 2023 is 70 with this forecast to reduce to 68 by 31 March 2024, whereas the plan suggested there would be 63 as at 31 December 2023 reducing to 60 by the end of March 2024.

However, the number of Children in Care continues to reduce and currently sits at 534 children. This brings Blackpool from a rate of 218 per 0-17 10,000 population to 194. The ambition is to bring ourselves in line with comparator Local Authorities over the next couple of years and we are confident that this ambition will be realised. Officers have seen this reduction as a result of reduced entry into care, and increased numbers exiting our care system. Within the cohort of Children Looked After, the Council has had a higher than national average of children in residential placements. Residential settings, for most children, are not the optimum placement and these children do not usually have the

same degree of positive outcomes as children in foster placements, or family placements for example. Residential placements are costly, with unit costs rising year on year by 14.1%. We have seen movement in the numbers of residential placements, from 84 to 70 as a result of a focused, ongoing piece of work led by our newly recruited Head of Service for Supporting our Children. We have reviewed a number of care plans and as a result children have been moved from residential settings to settings that better meet their needs, always ensuring their safety and individual needs are at the forefront when planning.

The service has additionally seen a reduction in agency social work staff during the last 12-18 months. In 2021/2022 the service had rates of up to 40% agency staff in some teams. A refreshed Workforce Strategy, overseen by a Workforce Board, chaired monthly by the Director of Childrens Services, has seen a reduction of agency staff to under 15% across the social care teams. The national average is now 17% and regionally the rate is much higher. The last set of regional data put Blackpool at the lowest for agency rates. Officers continue to monitor this closely in a challenging and competitive market.

Dedicated Schools Grant Funded Services

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the funding stream that supports the Schools Budget, which includes amounts that are devolved through the Individual School Budget (ISB), together with centrally-retained pupil-related services as listed in the revenue summary. Any under or overspends against services funded by the DSG will be carried forward to 2024/25 and, in the case of overspends, become the first call on the grant in that year.

Business Support and Resources

Business Support and Resources is forecasting an overspend of £670k. There was an additional Children's Services savings target of £1,924k, of which, only £1,165k is anticipated to be met this financial year, leaving a budget gap of £759k. There is expected to be a £74k underspend on staffing.

Education

Education is expected to be £57k overspent due to unachieved vacancy factor and a SEND contract came in higher than originally planned.

Summary of the Children's Services financial position

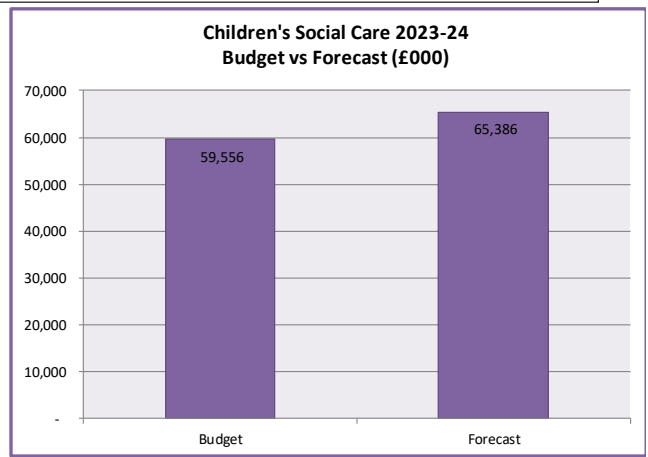
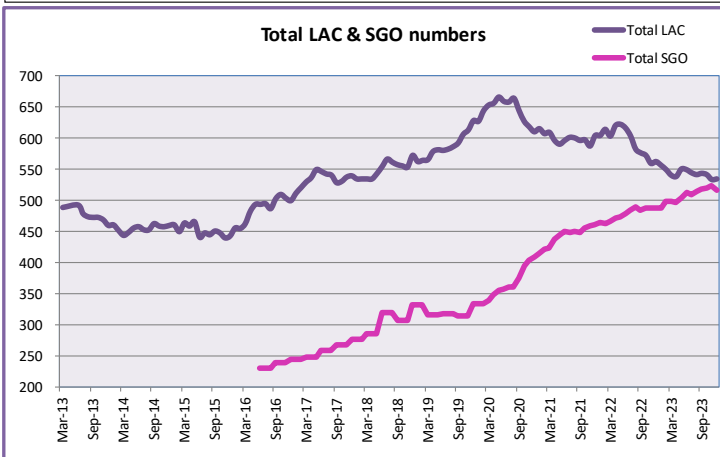
As at the end of December 2023 the Children's Services Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £6,537k for the financial year to March 2024.

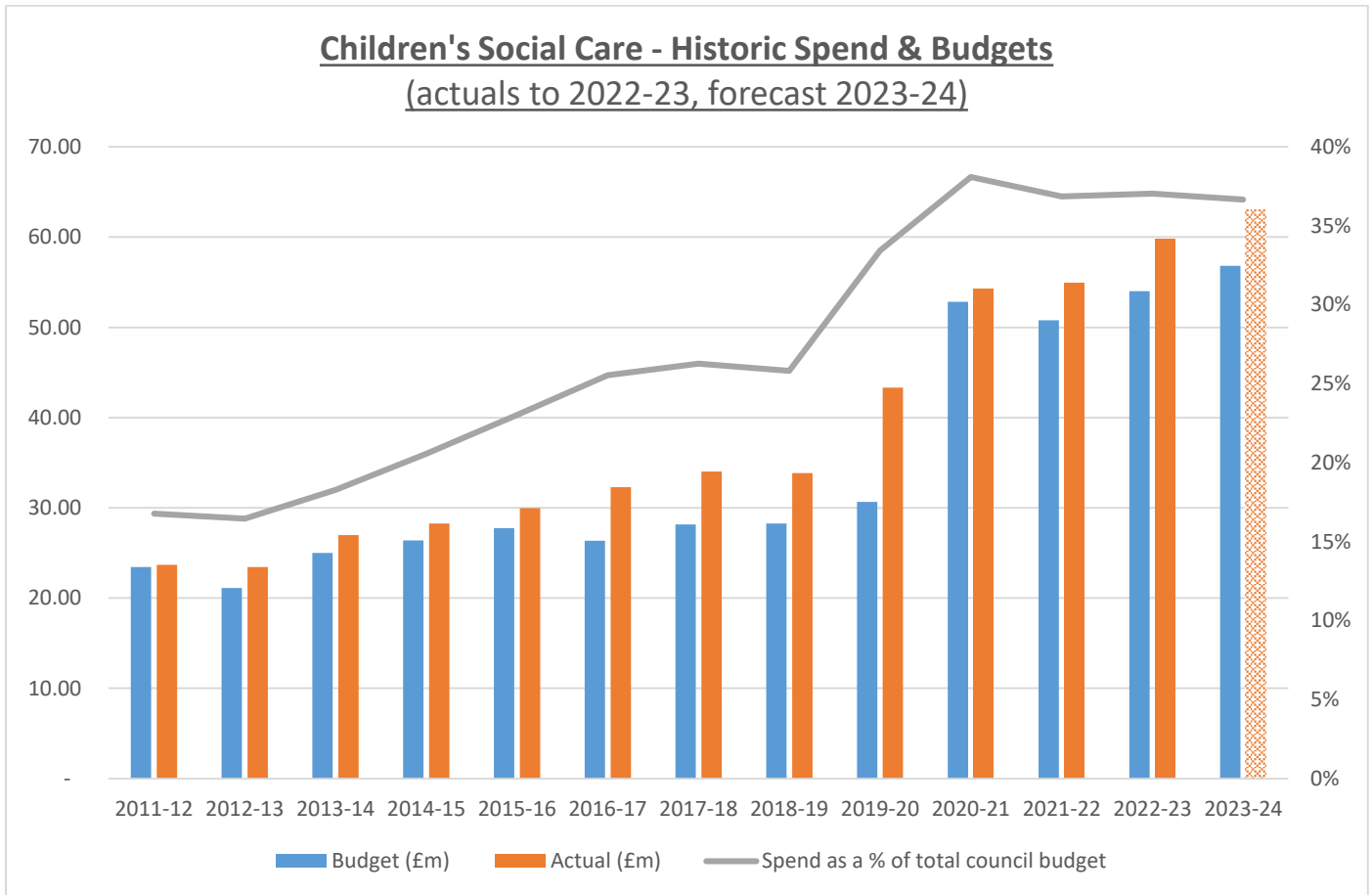
Budget Holder – Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services

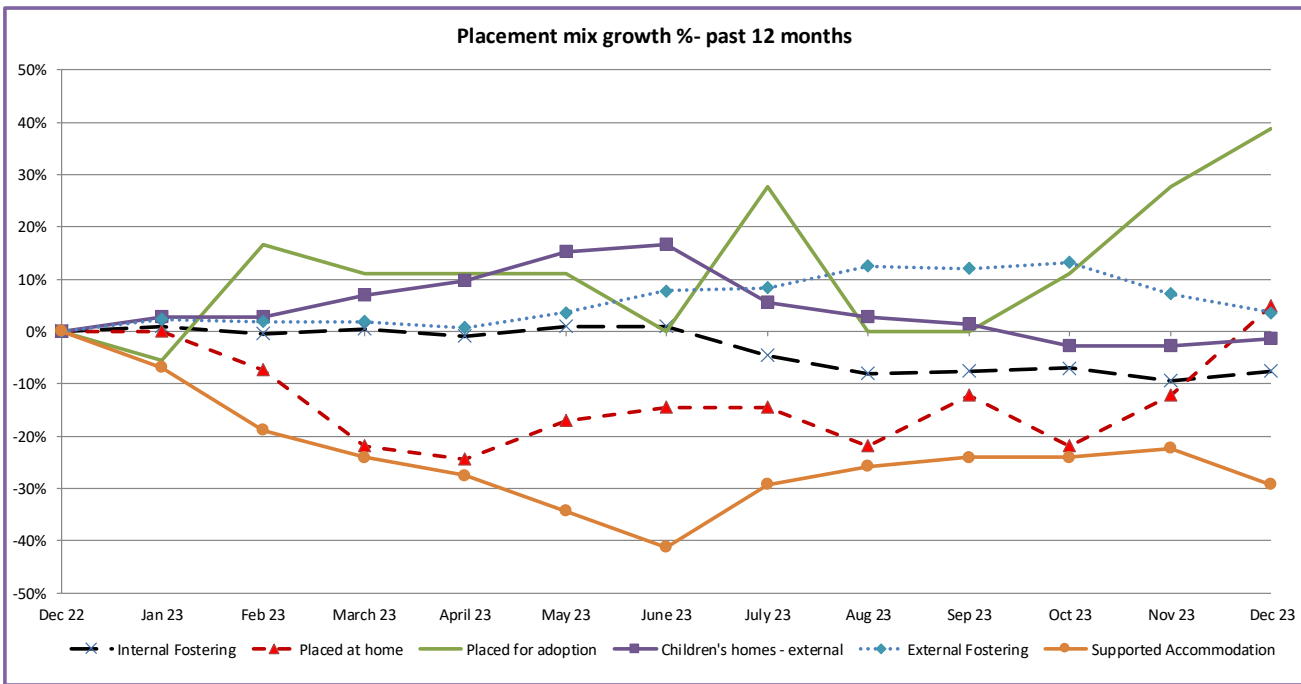
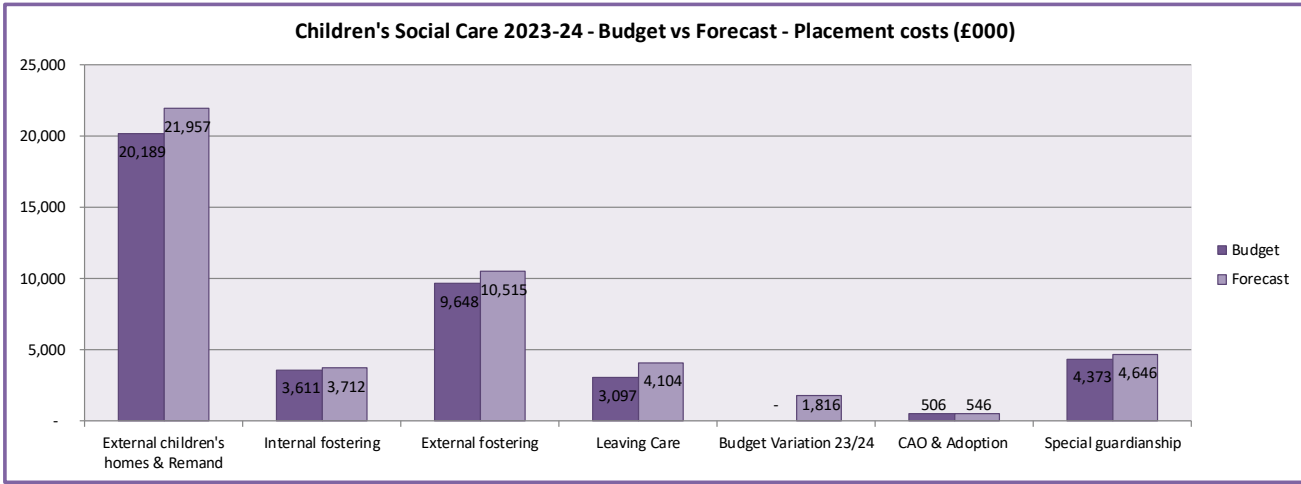
Children's Social Care Trends

Date	External Placements Projection						Internal Fostering			Supported Accommodation			LAC number	SGO	
	Residential			Fostering inc M&B			Number	% of LAC	£ per placement	Number	% of LAC	£ per placement	No.	Number	£ per placement
	Number	% of LAC	£ per placement	Number	% of LAC	£ per placement									
Jun-13	41	8%	111,596	72	15%	36,202	263	53%	11,887	16	3%	no data	492	no data	
Sep-13	33	7%	111,523	66	14%	35,667	272	58%	11,908	17	4%	no data	472	no data	
Dec-13	30	7%	117,073	69	15%	36,560	260	57%	11,828	17	4%	no data	459	no data	
Mar-14	27	6%	118,473	64	14%	34,058	248	56%	11,757	15	3%	no data	443	no data	
Jun-14	25	5%	102,561	74	16%	35,928	250	55%	12,833	18	4%	no data	457	no data	
Sep-14	21	5%	121,210	75	16%	37,655	237	51%	12,570	27	6%	no data	462	no data	
Dec-14	18	4%	124,281	70	15%	38,760	243	53%	12,474	23	5%	no data	459	no data	
Mar-15	23	5%	128,868	73	16%	40,155	244	53%	12,374	19	4%	no data	463	no data	
Jun-15	25	6%	147,777	74	17%	40,625	219	50%	12,541	20	5%	no data	440	no data	
Sep-15	25	6%	142,934	73	16%	40,040	225	50%	12,549	16	4%	no data	450	no data	
Dec-15	27	6%	145,196	70	16%	41,243	217	49%	12,428	17	4%	no data	442	no data	
Mar-16	29	6%	146,120	69	15%	42,215	257	56%	12,453	22	5%	no data	462	no data	
Jun-16	34	7%	157,136	77	16%	42,145	259	53%	12,630	28	6%	38,608	493	230	5,472
Sep-16	32	6%	169,996	84	17%	42,750	254	51%	12,688	27	5%	41,376	502	240	5,582
Dec-16	36	7%	175,954	89	18%	43,038	258	52%	12,857	28	6%	41,037	499	245	5,562
Mar-17	44	8%	179,669	103	19%	43,502	269	51%	12,872	26	5%	42,416	529	249	5,555
Jun-17	49	9%	151,450	100	18%	40,933	272	50%	13,227	26	5%	60,946	546	258	5,576
Sep-17	35	7%	161,487	95	18%	40,991	270	51%	13,213	36	7%	57,928	528	267	5,383
Dec-17	43	8%	162,623	103	19%	41,277	272	50%	13,169	36	7%	58,358	539	277	5,281
Mar-18	44	8%	165,935	98	18%	41,099	273	51%	13,116	30	6%	55,728	534	286	5,109
Jun-18	45	8%	164,794	97	18%	40,083	297	54%	13,403	24	4%	48,006	554	320	5,512
Sep-18	45	8%	159,388	97	17%	40,425	302	54%	13,441	28	5%	46,073	557	308	5,294
Dec-18	47	8%	169,287	99	17%	40,227	305	53%	13,430	33	6%	46,167	572	332	5,175
Mar-19	53	9%	177,477	94	17%	39,536	306	54%	13,289	23	4%	45,845	565	317	5,238
Jun-19	53	9%	172,929	107	18%	42,426	305	53%	13,014	26	4%	68,367	580	318	5,988
Sep-19	58	10%	180,014	116	20%	43,981	294	50%	12,649	32	5%	56,148	592	315	5,693
Dec-19	62	10%	184,396	145	23%	45,812	300	48%	12,854	31	5%	60,289	628	334	5,670
Mar-20	65	10%	183,892	167	26%	45,201	292	45%	13,166	33	5%	61,076	653	339	5,624
Jun-20	69	10%	207,288	175	27%	47,565	284	43%	12,877	32	5%	92,575	659	357	5,882
Sep-20	75	12%	211,328	173	27%	47,125	277	43%	12,979	30	5%	97,225	644	376	6,056
Dec-20	72	12%	209,062	178	29%	47,361	248	41%	14,343	32	5%	105,274	610	410	6,551
Mar-21	72	12%	209,953	189	31%	47,883	230	38%	14,234	25	4%	107,561	609	424	6,685
Jun-21	68	11%	225,246	200	34%	45,809	213	36%	16,619	26	4%	78,324	596	450	7,650
Sep-21	64	11%	229,272	194	33%	47,303	221	37%	17,059	39	7%	70,834	596	448	7,752
Dec-21	66	11%	238,266	186	31%	47,535	219	36%	17,064	40	7%	68,328	604	461	7,884
Mar-22	70	12%	247,935	184	30%	47,718	214	35%	17,348	47	8%	68,576	608	467	8,076
Jun-22	69	11%	251,588	174	28%	50,006	221	36%	17,030	50	8%	74,397	616	479	8,093
Sep-22	70	12%	255,469	164	28%	48,674	193	34%	16,646	57	10%	72,203	576	484	8,186
Dec-22	72	13%	264,844	168	30%	52,295	199	35%	16,770	58	10%	69,007	562	487	8,175
Mar-23	77	14%	267,333	171	32%	52,073	200	37%	16,785	44	8%	67,462	540	499	8,205
Jun-23	84	15%	287,055	181	33%	56,473	201	37%	19,532	34	6%	75,503	549	513	8,873
Sep-23	73	13%	296,811	188	35%	56,747	184	34%	19,615	44	8%	71,339	543	519	8,921
Oct-23	70	13%	292,641	190	35%	59,030	185	34%	19,597	44	8%	69,743	541	520	8,926
Nov-23	70	13%	293,050	181	34%	59,094	180	34%	19,849	45	8%	69,743	533	523	8,972
Dec-23	71	13%	290,033	174	33%	59,151	184	34%	19,711	41	8%	70,539	534	517	9,059

Note:
The variance between the current total number of Looked After Children (534) and the total internal fostering and external placement numbers (470) is children with care orders, adoption placements etc. They are still classed as LAC but do not incur any commissioned costs. SGO = Special Guardianship Order.







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Blackpool Council – Public Health

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2023/24		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
PUBLIC HEALTH						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE & CORPORATE SUPPORT	688	532	156	688	-	-
NHS HEALTH CHECKS - MANDATED	100	(117)	217	100	-	-
CHILDREN (5-19) - PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMMES	628	523	105	628	-	-
CHILDREN'S 0-5 SERVICES	2,499	2,065	434	2,499	-	-
TOBACCO CONTROL	363	336	27	363	-	-
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING	15	15	-	15	-	-
SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES - MANDATED	1,785	1,165	620	1,785	-	-
SUBSTANCE MISUSE (DRUGS AND ALCOHOL)	2,790	2,337	453	2,790	-	-
HARM REDUCTION (SEXUAL HEALTH, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL)	783	716	67	783	-	-
HEALTHY WEIGHT/WEIGHT MANAGEMENT	120	95	25	120	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES	10,090	2,303	7,787	10,090	-	-
GRANT	(19,858)	(14,894)	(4,964)	(19,858)	-	-
TOTALS	3	(4,924)	4,927	3	-	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual scheme against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with the service leads.

Public Health Grant

The Public Health Grant is a central government grant which is ring-fenced.

The grant conditions require quarterly financial reporting of spend against a prescribed set of headings and spend of the grant must link explicitly to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Public Health Outcomes Framework and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Public Health Directorate are forecasting an overall spend of the full grant, £19,858,394, for the financial year to March 2024.

Payment by Results (PbR)/ Activity-based Commissioning

A number of Public Health schemes' payments are linked to activity. The aim of Payment by Results (PbR) is to provide a transparent, rules-based system for payment. It rewards outputs, outcomes and supports patient choice and diversity. Payment will be linked to activity. This does, however, raise a number of challenges when determining accurate budgetary spend/forecast spend.

Summary of the Public Health Directorate financial position

As at the end of December 2023, the Public Health Directorate are forecasting a break-even position for the financial year to March 2024.

Budget Holder – Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Blackpool Council – Budgets Outside the Cash Limit

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
BUDGETS OUTSIDE THE CASH LIMIT						
NET EXPENDITURE						
TREASURY MANAGEMENT	16,282	(1,189)	15,871	14,682	(1,600)	-
PARKING SERVICES	(5,331)	(3,591)	(1,440)	(5,031)	300	-
CORPORATE SUBSCRIPTIONS	135	88	47	135	-	-
HOUSING BENEFITS	1,849	1,390	459	1,849	-	-
COUNCIL TAX & NNDR COST OF COLLECTION	1,894	1,420	474	1,894	-	-
SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES	(926)	(823)	(138)	(961)	(35)	-
LAND CHARGES	(50)	(49)	(1)	(50)	-	-
CONCESSIONARY FARES	4,064	1,654	2,280	3,934	(130)	-
EMPLOYERS PREVIOUS YEARS' PENSION LIABILITY	(331)	(1,013)	682	(331)	-	-
NEW HOMES BONUS	(22)	(17)	(5)	(22)	-	-
TOTALS	17,564	(2,130)	18,229	16,099	(1,465)	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service categorised as falling 'outside the cash limit' and thereby exempt from the cash limited budget regime. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and savings in the remainder of the financial year, which have been agreed by each designated budget manager.

Treasury Management

Treasury Management is forecasting an underspend of £1,600k. This figure includes £2,581k of prudential recharges to services and means that the £150k savings target will be met in 2023/24 and an increase in interest received from investments providing additional income of £660k. Offset against this is £1,661k pressure relating to higher interest rates on temporary borrowing and a reduction in the interest charge to the Housing Revenue Account as less borrowing is required in 2023/24 than originally budgeted. However, interest rates are predicted to increase over the duration of the financial year and these increases are likely to have a negative impact on the current position of the service. The Council is currently using 50:50 temporary and long-term borrowing to finance prudentially-funded capital expenditure and this gearing is under continual review by the Treasury Management Panel.

The Business Loans Fund has a savings target of £154k and is forecasting a surplus of £20k as new business loans have been awarded at higher repayment rates than originally forecast for 2023/24. The position has worsened since M8 as interest rates have been increased from 4.5% to 5% in the forecast and there have been further changes in drawdown amounts and dates for certain loans which has resulted in a surplus in year.

Following a review of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which was approved by the Executive on 8th February 2021, a total of £5,158k of saving has been forecast to be achieved in 2023/24.

Parking Services

Parking Services is forecasting a £300k overspend position for 2023/24. This pressure is due to lower than budgeted income. The service's ability to hold this position will depend on the impact of the cost of living crisis, the quality of the Easter holiday season, the impact of dynamic parking and the availability of parking due to regeneration projects within the town.

As at Week 41 (w/e 7th January) parking income is at £5.1m with patronage at 1,022,066. Car Park patronage is down by 14,733 and income up by £37k on 2022/23. On-Street Pay and Display patronage is down by 3,564 and income up by £10k.

The graphs below show, for comparison, the patronage and income figures for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Housing Benefit

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

Council Tax and NNDR Cost of Collection

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

Subsidiary Companies

This service is forecasting a £35k saving due to a reduction in charges, mainly relating to debt management.

Land Charges

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

Concessionary Fares

The Concessionary Fares Service is currently forecasting a saving of £130k. This is due to concessionary passenger numbers being 42% lower than pre-Covid levels, though the Council remains committed to paying at a minimum of a 70% safety net level in line with Department for Transport guidance until March 2024.

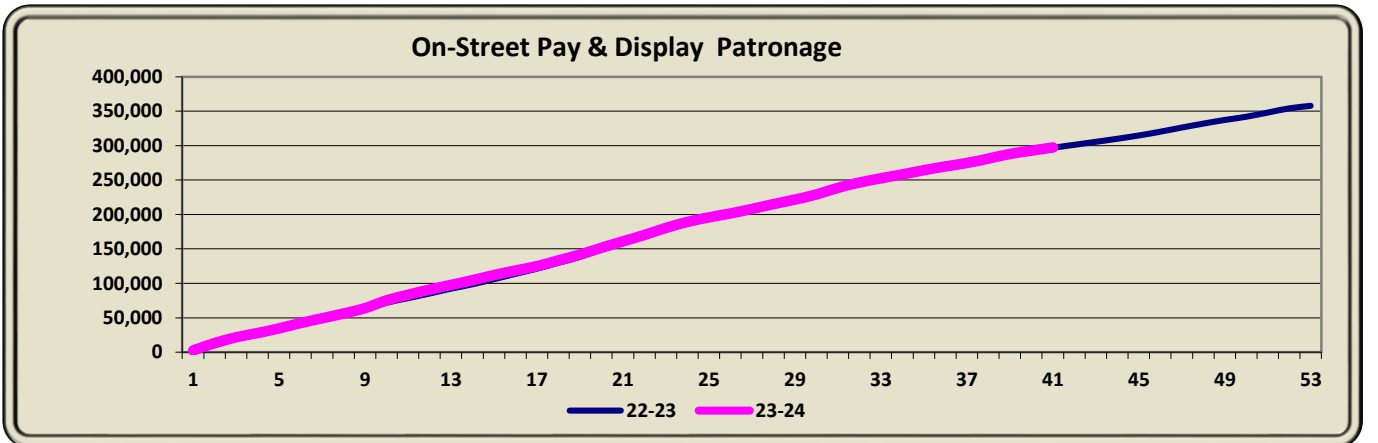
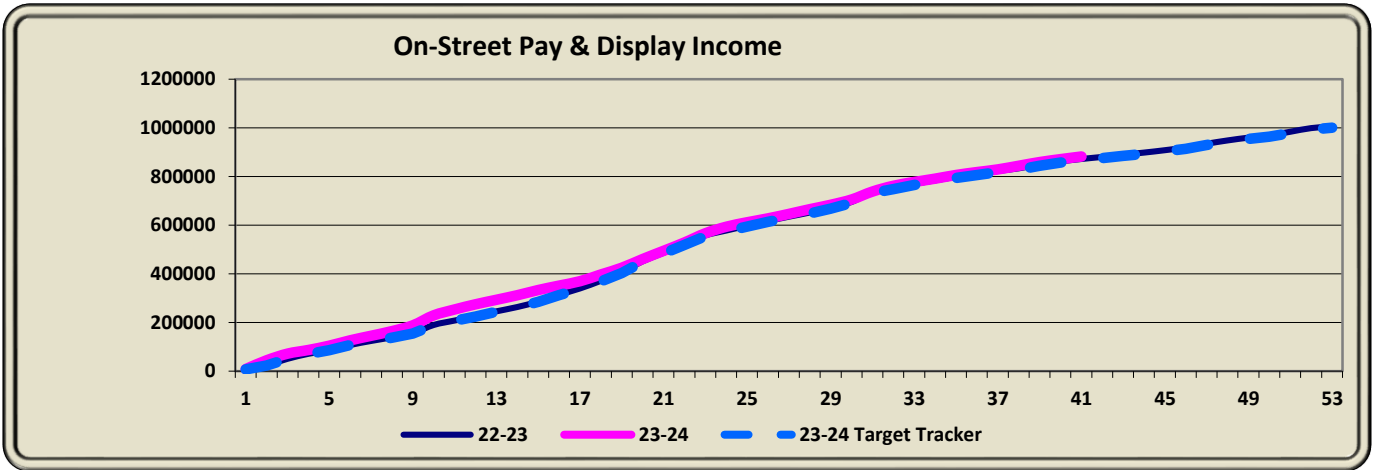
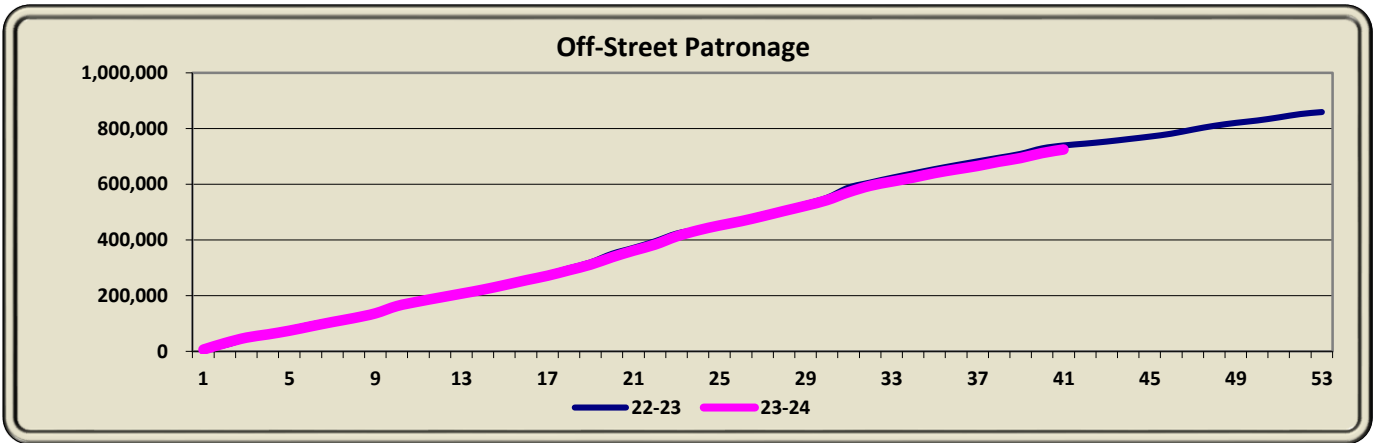
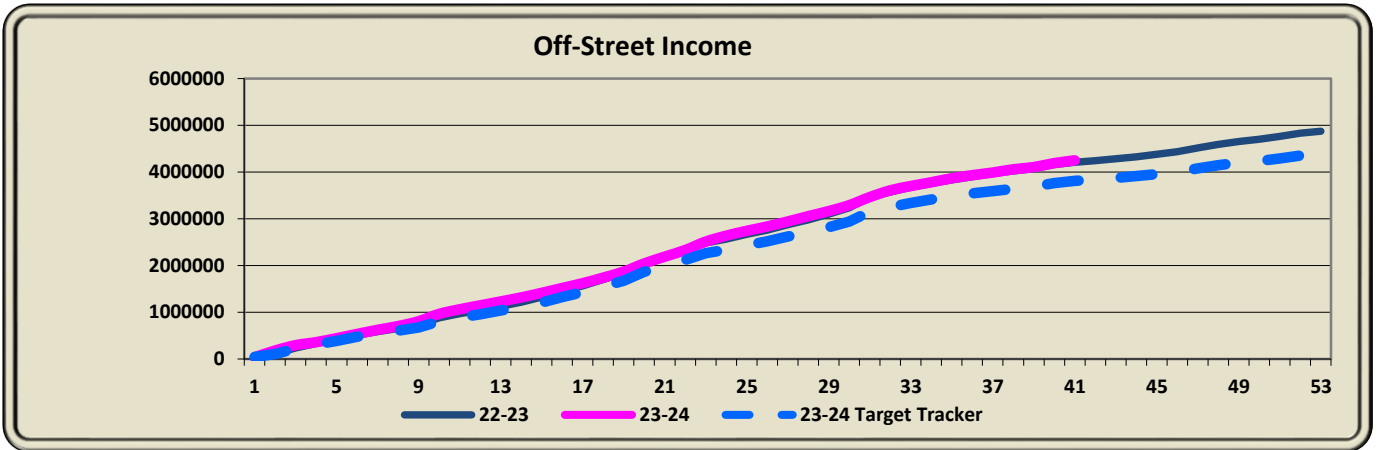
New Homes Bonus

This service is forecasting break-even position.

Summary of the revenue forecasts

After 9 months of the financial year, the Budgets Outside the Cash Limit services are forecasting a £1,465k underspend.

Car Parking Trends



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HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

Appendix 2 (n)

BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 9 2023/2024

FUNCTIONS	2023/2024 BUDGET MONTH 9	2023/2024 ACTUAL MONTH 9	2023/2024 VARIANCE MONTH 9	2023/2024 FULL YEAR BUDGET	2023/2024 PROJECTED OUTTURN	2023/2024 VARIATION
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<u>RENT & SERVICE CHARGE INCOME DUE</u>						
Rental Income	14,623	14,538	(85)	19,497	19,369	(128)
Sheltered Housing	551	549	(2)	734	732	(2)
Emergency Housing	475	500	25	668	778	110
Resilience Housing	175	197	22	542	791	249
Other Supported Housing	153	124	(29)	204	165	(39)
Satellite Television Systems	60	60	-	80	80	-
Community Cleaning	20	20	-	27	27	-
Community Lighting	25	25	-	33	33	-
Door Entry Systems	7	7	-	9	9	-
Gardening Scheme	50	49	(1)	67	67	-
Grounds Maintenance	190	190	-	253	253	-
<u>OTHER RENTS & CHARGES</u>						
Garages	65	65	-	86	86	-
Leasehold	189	171	(18)	189	171	(18)
Commercial/Other Rents	54	52	(2)	72	72	-
Other Income	90	179	89	120	179	59
<u>INTEREST INCOME</u>						
Interest on Revenue Balances	-	-	-	185	185	-
TOTAL INCOME	16,727	16,726	(1)	22,766	22,997	231
MANAGEMENT FEE	8,870	8,870	-	11,826	12,206	380
GENERAL FUND SERVICES	-	-	-	2,114	2,114	-
OTHER HRA COSTS	-	-	-	30	30	-
CAPITAL CHARGES	-	-	-	8,681	8,681	-
PROVISION FOR BAD AND DOUBTFUL DEBTS	-	-	-	384	384	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8,870	8,870	-	23,035	23,415	380
CONTRIBUTION TO / (FROM) WORKING BALANCES	7,857	7,856	(1)	(269)	(418)	(149)

WORKING BALANCES	2023/2024 FULL YEAR BUDGET	2023/2024 PROJECTED OUTTURN	2023/2024 VARIATION
	£000	£000	£000
BALANCE AT 1ST APRIL	1,399	1,721	322
CONTRIBUTION TO / (FROM) WORKING BALANCES	(269)	(418)	(149)
BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH	1,130	1,303	173

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Blackpool Council

Wholly-Owned Companies

Covid Support to Council Wholly-Owned Companies

The Coronavirus pandemic led to a number of Council Wholly-Owned Companies (WOCs) facing significant income losses as a result of lockdown and subsequent social distancing restrictions. This impacted both company profitability and cashflow. It looked likely that without Council support some would not be able to recover within a reasonable timeframe, which could leave the Council without an operator for assets of significant financial value and importance to the town and its tourist economy.

In November 2020 the Executive approved the establishment of a £24m Covid Recovery Fund (PH46/2020), £20m plus a 20% contingency, ringfenced for WOCs only, from within the existing Business Loans Fund.

To be eligible to access the Covid Recovery Fund facility companies needed to produce a 5-year Covid recovery plan (2020/21 year + 4) and to demonstrate a cumulative break-even income and expenditure position by the end of year 5 of their recovery plan, or as close as possible to this term.

Loans were offered at a fixed rate over 5 years, thereby providing the WOCs with certainty over future repayments requirements and were tailored to the individual circumstances of the company and its recovery plan, offers being made on either an interest-only basis with balloon principal repayment or with monthly repayments of interest and principal.

To date there have been loan approvals of £16.11m against that facility of which £9.52m has been drawn down. £2.32m of this has subsequently been repaid. The Council's Business Loans Fund Panel monitors progress against the WOCs' respective recovery plans on a regular basis.

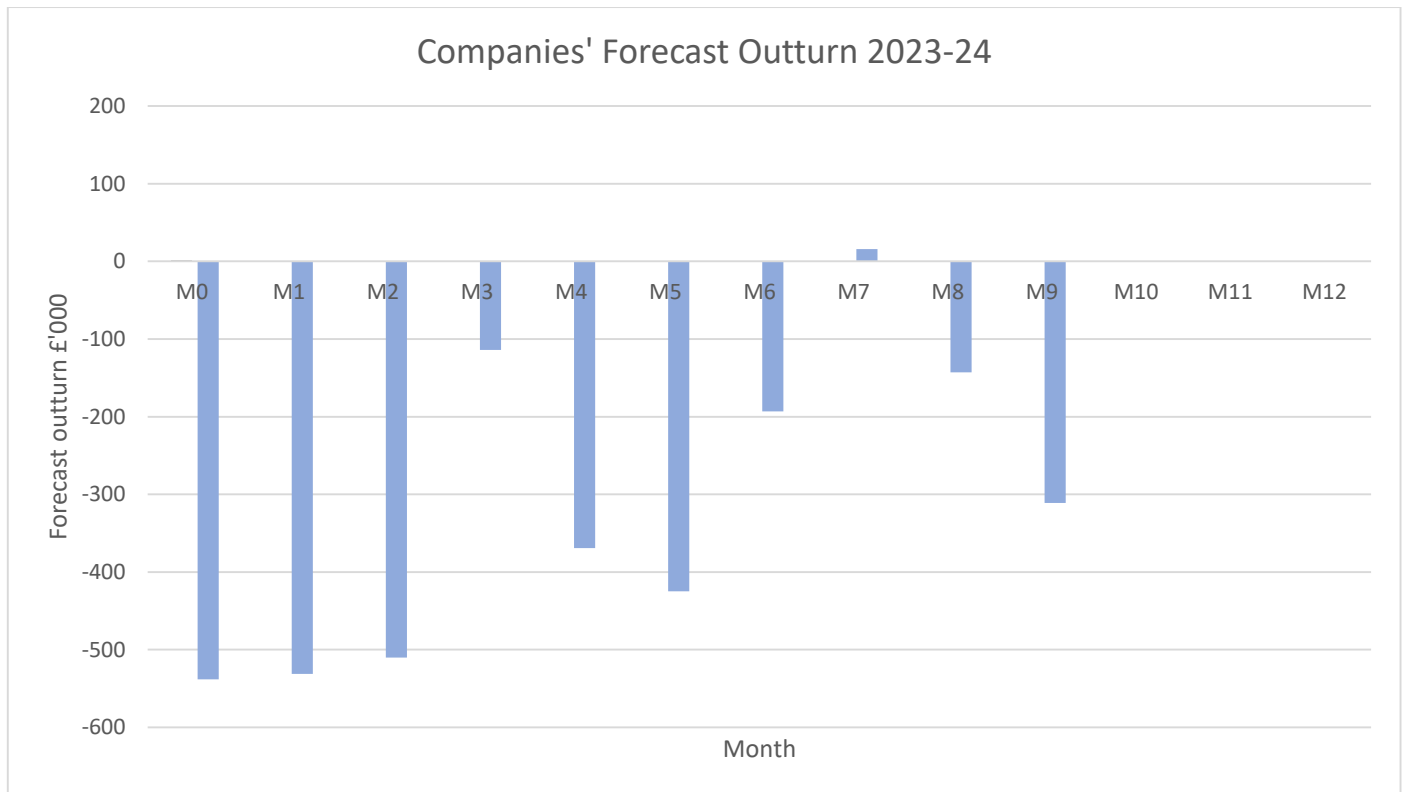
Non Covid-related loan support to WOCs

The Council also supports its WOCs' capital spending (capex) requirements where there is a robust business case demonstrating either a valid 'Spend to Save' initiative or an opportunity to spend to generate income. The Council's exposure to principal and capitalised interest in respect of such WOC capex loans is currently £47.84m.

There are currently no short-term cash flow loans outstanding in respect of Council Wholly-owned companies.

Wholly-owned companies financial performance as at Month 9 2023/24

The consolidated forecast financial position of the Council's wholly-owned subsidiary companies is a loss of £311k based on their Month 9 financial monitoring reports. This represents a deterioration of £168k from the position reported at Month 8. The major factors contributing to this deterioration are the impact of the 2023/24 local government pay award offset by additional income – a combination of increased customer receipts and central government support.



The Council has taken advice from CIPFA regarding the proper accounting treatment in respect of company forecast losses. CIPFA has advised that the Council does not need to include the forecast losses in its forecast revenue outturn; the company losses will be included in the Council's consolidated financial position.

Blackpool Council

Budget Savings Target 2023/24

Summary of progress as at 31 December 2023.

	Target	Achieved	Not yet achieved	To be achieved before year-end	Not able to be achieved	Amount of saving not yet found recurrently
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<u>Recurrent Savings</u>						
Corporate Services	12,975	(12,387)	588	0	588	0
Adult Services	3,337	(2,325)	1,012	0	1,012	0
Chief Executive	159	(159)	0	0	0	0
Children's Services	2,044	0	2,044	(1,278)	766	0
Governance & Partnership Services	507	(131)	376	(326)	50	0
Community & Environmental Services	367	0	367	(367)	0	0
Outside Cash Limit	1,349	(949)	400	(100)	300	0
Public Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
Communications & Regeneration	497	(316)	181	(115)	66	0
Growth & Prosperity	1,510	0	1,510	(1,510)	0	0
Resources	650	(583)	67	(67)	0	0
Recurrent Saving	23,395	(16,850)	6,545	(3,763)	2,782	0

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**2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING
MONTH 9**

Key:
Forecast scheme variance undeterminable at this stage

	Total Scheme Budget	Spend as at 31/3/23	Budget Brought Forward 2022/23	Capital Programme 2023/24	Total Available Budget 2023/24	Spend to Date April - December	Forecast to Year End	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Director Responsible for Resources								
Property and Asset Management								
Central Business District Phase 1	40,432	38,142	2,290	-	2,290	-	2,290	-
ICT Refresh	924	-	-	924	924	307	617	-
Core CCTV Replacement	2,000	1,179	821	-	821	168	653	-
Finance, HR, Payroll System	3,225	2,535	187	503	690	522	168	-
Central Library/ Grundy Gallery Roof	525	188	337	-	337	279	58	-
South King Street	597	320	277	-	277	287	(10)	-
Other Resources Schemes	828	-	208	620	828	269	559	-
Total Resources	48,531	42,364	4,120	2,047	6,167	1,832	4,335	-
Director Responsible for Adult Services								
Support to Vulnerable Adults - Grants	2,384	-	398	2,159	2,557	1,657	900	-
I-Switch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Adult Services Schemes	2,561	1,233	770	558	1,328	602	726	-
Total Adult Services	4,945	1,233	1,168	2,717	3,885	2,259	1,626	-
Director Responsible for Community and Environmental Services								
Anchorsholme Seawall	30,966	26,632	4,334	-	4,334	10	4,324	-
Coastal Protection Strategy 2021-2025	61,265	1,206	94	7,790	7,884	3	881	-
Coastal Protection Studies	4,520	3,562	958	-	958	115	843	-
Beach Nourishment	57,010	-	-	500	500	17	483	-
Others	1,101	498	396	207	603	648	(45)	-
Total Community and Environmental Services	154,862	31,898	5,782	8,497	14,279	793	6,486	-

**2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING
MONTH 9**

	Total Scheme Budget	Spend as at 31/3/23	Budget Brought Forward 2022/23	Capital Programme 2023/24	Total Available Budget 2023/24	Spend to Date April - December	Forecast to Year End	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Chief Executive								
Housing								
Foxhall Village	12,797	13,471	(674)	-	(674)	7	(681)	-
Work towards Decent Homes Standard	3,985	-	-	3,985	3,985	3,792	193	-
Queens Park Redevelopment Ph2	13,453	13,453	-	-	-	(386)	386	-
Troutbeck Redevelopment	11,970	11,675	295	-	295	(31)	326	-
Grange Park	24,206	11,776	190	12,240	12,430	8,200	4,230	-
Dunsop Court	1,233	1,227	6	-	6	112	(106)	-
Feasibility/ Infill site	2,750	231	2,389	130	2,519	-	2,519	-
Haweside Masterplan	562	82	480	-	480	-	480	-
Garstang Road West	3,495	3,495	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acquisition and Refurbishment	4,871	1,775	3,096	-	3,096	4	-	-
Argosy Avenue	-	-	-	477	477	508	(31)	-
Hornby Road	-	-	-	233	233	1	232	-
Clare Street	-	-	-	318	318	72	246	-
Others	7,101	-	-	6,073	6,073	138	935	-
Total Chief Executive	86,423	57,185	5,782	23,456	29,238	12,417	8,729	-

**2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING
MONTH 9**

	Total Scheme Budget	Spend as at 31/3/23	Budget Brought Forward 2022/23	Capital Programme 2023/24	Total Available Budget 2023/24	Spend to Date April - December	Forecast to Year End	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Director Responsible for Communications and Regeneration								
Regeneration								
College Relocation/Illumination Depot	13,505	13,924	(519)	100	(419)	-	(419)	-
Leisure Assets	68,579	66,346	2,233	-	2,233	808	1,425	-
Tower Steel Replacement	11,000	-	-	3,500	3,500	911	2,589	-
Conference Centre	30,562	31,025	(463)	-	(463)	13	(476)	-
CBD Phase 2 - Hotel	24,500	24,213	287	-	287	6,337	(6,050)	-
CBD Phase 3	99,750	14,631	85,119	-	85,119	28,765	12,902	-
Land Release Fund	3,204	845	2,359	-	2,359	692	1,667	-
Enterprise Zone	29,720	15,123	14,597	-	14,597	860	737	-
Town Centre Parking Strategy	16,000	1,889	14,111	-	14,111	373	738	-
Museum	9,653	8,016	1,637	-	1,637	2,121	(484)	-
Abingdon Street Market	3,634	4,067	(433)	-	(433)	368	(801)	-
HoundsHill Ph2	20,190	13,879	6,311	-	6,311	5,135	1,176	-
Heritage Action Zone	1,566	1,179	387	-	387	96	291	-
Devonshire Road Hospital Land	1,447	1,447	-	-	-	-	-	-
Town Deal	57,190	5,888	51,302	40,000	91,302	5,351	12,353	-
Land Acqn Alfred, Leopold & Adelaide Streets	1,790	1,787	3	-	3	4	(1)	-
Marks and Spencers Acquisition	4,800	4,687	113	-	113	-	113	-
Town Centre Investments	57,100	51,208	5,892	-	5,892	(100)	-	-
Multi-Storey Car Park	1,782	-	-	1,782	1,782	1,516	266	-
Transport								
Local Transport Plan 2021/22	2,630	2,630	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Transport Plan Project 30 2021/22	283	283	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Transport Plan 2022/23	2,690	413	2,277	-	2,277	1,566	711	-
Local Transport Plan Project 30 2022/23	223	223	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Transport Plan 2023/24	2,690	-	-	2,690	2,690	13	2,677	-
Local Transport Plan Project 30 2023/24	223	-	-	223	223	163	60	-
Blackpool/Fleetwood Tramway	99,990	99,990	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tramway Extension	17,054	16,780	274	-	274	791	(517)	-
Tramway Refurbishment	1,053	713	340	-	340	-	340	-
Total Communications and Regeneration	582,808	381,186	185,827	48,295	234,122	55,783	29,297	-

**2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING
MONTH 9**

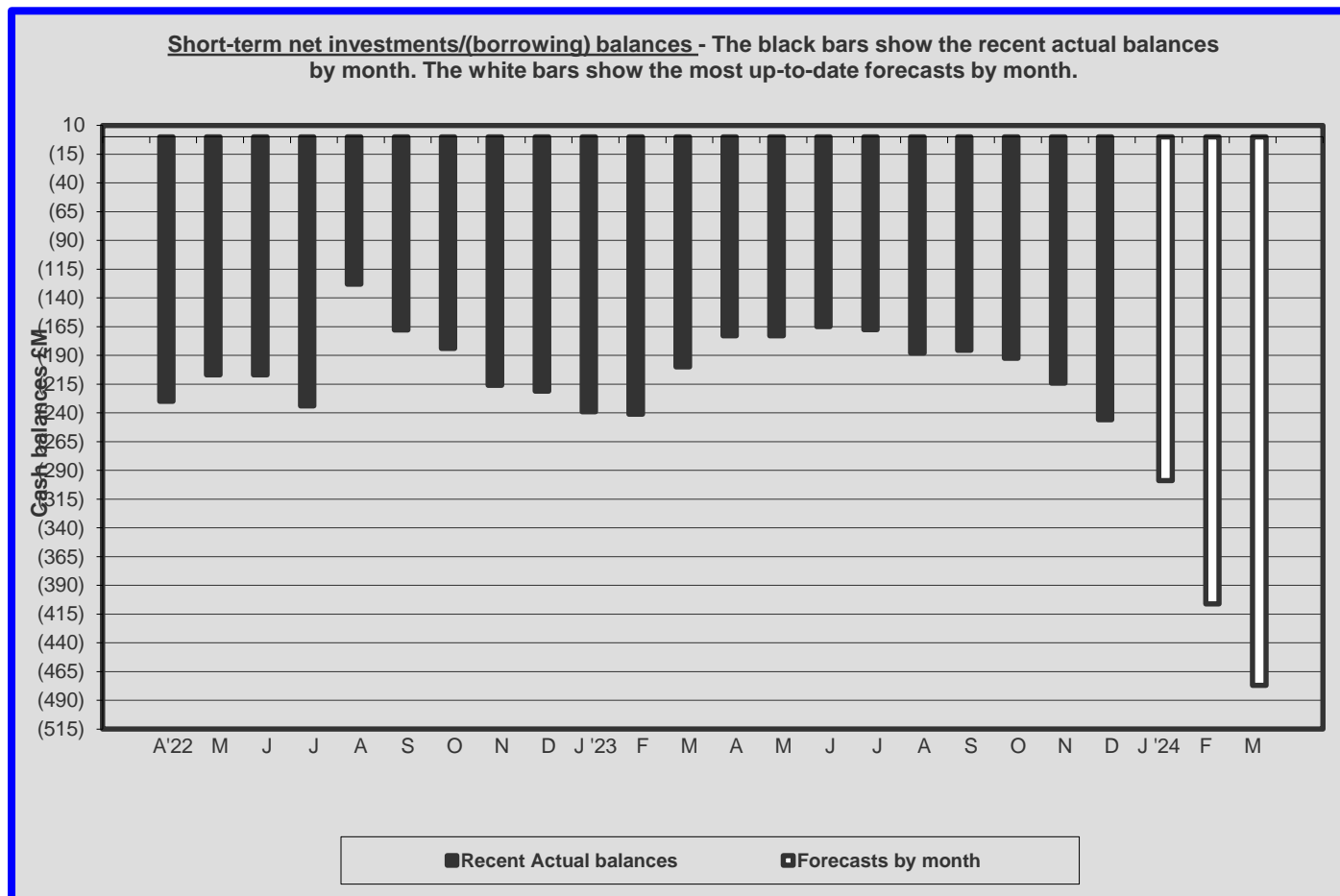
	Total Scheme Budget	Spend as at 31/3/23	Budget Brought Forward 2022/23	Capital Programme 2023/24	Total Available Budget 2023/24	Spend to Date April - December	Forecast to Year End	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Director Responsible for Children's Services								
Devolved Capital to Schools	846	711	135	-	135	52	83	-
Park Expansion	610	412	198	-	198	-	198	-
Basic Need	1,309	3	933	373	1,306	-	1,306	-
Condition	1,878	527	845	506	1,351	535	816	-
Highfurlong Expansion	4,800	-	-	4,800	4,800	1,255	3,545	-
Pegasus Expansion	800	9	791	-	791	-	791	-
Others	1,852	152	611	1,089	1,700	346	1,354	-
Total Children's Services	12,095	1,814	3,513	6,768	10,281	2,188	8,093	-
CAPITAL TOTAL	889,664	515,680	206,192	91,780	297,972	75,272	58,566	-

Blackpool Council

Cash summary - budget, actual and forecast:

CASH FLOW - SUMMARY - 23/24							
FULL YEAR CASH FLOW ORIGINAL BUDGET (*)	APR-DEC CASH FLOW ORIGINAL BUDGET (*)	APR-DEC CASH FLOW ACTUAL	JAN-MAR CASH FLOW FORECAST	(*) THE CASH FLOW BUDGET IS CONSISTENT WITH THE REVENUE BUDGET AND THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME IN TOTAL. THE BUDGETED CASH FLOW PHASING IS BASED ON DETAILED EXPECTATIONS AND PAST EXPERIENCE	APR-DEC MORE / (LESS) CASH ACTUAL vs ORIGINAL BUDGET	JAN-MAR MORE / (LESS) CASH FORECAST vs ORIGINAL BUDGET	FULL YEAR MORE / (LESS) AS NOW FORECAST vs ORIGINAL BUDGET
£M	£M	£M	£M		£M	£M	£M
42	31	30	10	RECEIPTS			
118	93	73	24	Housing Benefit & Subsidy	(1)	(1)	(2)
22	17	15	8	Council tax and NNDR	(20)	(1)	(21)
46	35	76	10	VAT	(2)	3	1
136	99	117	48	RSG & BRR	41	(1)	40
149	111	109	38	Other Grants	18	11	29
-	-	-	-	Other Income	(2)	-	(2)
25	25	515	65	Money Market Transactions Received	-	-	-
				Receipt of Loans	490	65	555
538	411	935	203	RECEIPTS - NORMAL ACTIVITIES	524	76	600
				PAYMENTS			
13	9	11	4	Police & Fire	(2)	-	(2)
421	312	327	126	General Creditors	(15)	(17)	(32)
-	-	-	-	RSG & BRR	-	-	-
127	96	83	32	Salaries & wages	13	(1)	12
37	28	23	9	Housing Benefits	5	-	5
215	120	492	210	Money Market Transactions Paid Out	(372)	(115)	(487)
813	565	936	381	PAYMENTS - NORMAL ACTIVITIES	(371)	(133)	(504)
(275)	(154)	(1)	(178)	NET CASH FLOW IN/(OUT)	153	(57)	96
A	B	C	D		= C less B	= D less (A-B)	

Cash - short-term net investments/(borrowing) balances:



Commentary on Cash Movements during the year:

The summary on the previous page provides a comparison of the actual cash receipts and payments compared to the forecasted cash receipts and payments.

During the first nine months of the financial year, the Council's net cashflow resulted in fluctuations in short-term net investment/borrowing balances due to the receipt of up-front grant income in this financial year. The Council fixed £125m of temporary loans in August 2022 at around 3.0%, which resulted in an increase in investment balances and over the next few months, short-term borrowing will be repaid using the fixed-term borrowing taken.

The chart of actual and forecast month-end balances shows temporary investment and borrowing levels throughout the year. The forecast shows the level of borrowing that may be required to cover planned and approved capital expenditure up to 31 March 2024. Due to the high levels of interest it is likely that the council will fund this expenditure through short-term borrowing until interest rates have fallen.

Blackpool Council

Balance Sheet / Working Capital:

BALANCE SHEET 2023/24				
LAST Y/END		CURRENT	CHANGE	NEXT Y/END
Draft Unaudited 31 Mar 23		31 Dec 23	Movement since 31 Mar 23	31 Mar 24
£000s		Actual £000s	£000s	Forecast £000s
587,812	Property, Plant and Equipment	669,631	81,819	801,448
279,731	Infrastructure Assets	269,209	(10,522)	283,712
8,540	Heritage Assets	8,540	-	8,600
2,401	Intangible Assets	2,228	(173)	2,171
27,399	Long-term Investments	29,399	2,000	29,650
77,306	Long-term Debtors	83,201	5,895	87,000
42,000	Pension Asset	42,000	-	42,000
	Current Assets			
76,409	Debtors	78,700	2,291	78,000
836	Inventories	607	(229)	850
14,284	Cash and cash equivalents	43,688	29,404	15,000
1,116,718	Total Assets	1,227,203	110,485	1,348,431
	Current Liabilities			
(200,475)	Borrowing Repayable within 12 months	(258,900)	(58,425)	(203,256)
(81,773)	Creditors	(82,500)	(727)	(82,000)
	Long-term Liabilities			
(196,052)	Borrowing Repayable in excess of 12 months	(196,052)	-	(192,796)
(90,961)	Long-term Creditors	(90,961)	-	(88,131)
(50,576)	Capital Grants in Advance	(50,576)	-	(40,000)
(6,106)	Provisions	(6,152)	(46)	(6,100)
(2,566)	Other Long-term Liabilities	(2,566)	-	(62)
488,209	Total Assets less Liabilities	539,496	51,287	736,086
(83,614)	Usable Reserves	(66,701)	16,913	(71,392)
(404,595)	Unusable Reserves	(472,795)	(68,200)	(664,694)
(488,209)	Total Reserves	(539,496)	(51,287)	(736,086)

Commentary on the key issues:

In order to provide a complete picture of the Council's financial performance, the above table provides a snapshot of the General Fund balance sheet as at the end of month 9. The key areas of focus are any significant movements in debtors, cash and cash equivalents, bank overdraft and creditors as these impact upon the Council's performance in the critical areas of debt recovery, treasury management and Public Sector Payment Policy.

The balance sheet has been prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS/IAS's). Each year an accounting adjustment under IAS 19 is made for the value of the pension fund at year-end. In 2022/23, for the first time, this produced a pension asset rather than a pension liability. Paragraph 64 of IAS 19 limits the measurement of a net defined benefit asset to the lower of the surplus in the defined benefit plan and the asset ceiling. This calculation has now been received from the actuary and £42m has been recognised in the balance sheet as a pension asset.

Usable reserves include unallocated General Fund reserves and revenue reserves. Unusable reserves are those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets were sold.

Due to statutory changes regarding the accounting treatment of infrastructure assets which were approved in Parliament in late November 2022, the 2020/21 accounts were not signed off until November 2023. This has meant that the completion of the audits for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 accounts have been delayed. As the audits are still ongoing the balance sheet as at 31 March 2023 may require amendment, therefore the above figures should be treated as draft.

Over the 9-month period there has been an increase in Property, Plant and Equipment of £81.8m due to capital expenditure which is in line with the Council's approved capital programme for 2023/24. Infrastructure assets have decreased by £10.5m which is the net effect of spend to date less depreciation at month 9. Long-term debtors has increased by £5.9m due to new approved business loans. Cash and cash equivalents have increased by £29.4m and short-term borrowing has increased by £58.4m due to the timing of capital and revenue grants and ensuring that sufficient funds are available between Christmas and New Year.

Agenda Item 4

Scrutiny Review Scope	
Proposed Title	Scoping Date
Review of Blackpool Council's Council Tax income (to help support future strategies including Housing and Investment).	06/01/2023
Criteria and reasons for selecting topic	
<p>Council Tax generated in the 2022/2023 Budget provided 40.9% of Blackpool Councils income. Not only is it a significant contributor to Blackpool Council's income, it reflects the very nature of Blackpool's housing supply and subsequent issues in other services including but not limited to Revenues, Housing, Children's and Adult Services.</p> <p>Understanding the nature of the Council Tax landscape in Blackpool for both Elected Members and Officers will support long term strategic development of policy areas around the services affected by the Housing supply in Blackpool as well as a clearer understanding of Blackpool's income generation (including potential) from it.</p> <p>The review is not to determine what those strategies should be, rather provide the information to support elected members and officers in their decision making.</p>	
Which priority within the Council Plan does this topic address?	
Priority 1 - The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool	
What are the main objectives of the scrutiny?	
<p>Profile Blackpool Council Tax base and current collection rates Understand how Future Housing schemes will impact on Council Tax Impact of Fraud on Council Tax returns</p>	
What specific issues will be addressed as part of the scrutiny?	
<p>1) Current Collections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Which bands pay what and which locations are paying what b) Review Discounts including Single Person discount and Council Tax Reduction schemes to include the optimum amount of Council Tax return based on the number of houses in the scheme if they contributed 100% c) Impact of Empty Properties and Short Term Lets d) Collection Rates <p>Establish trends on all of the above by reviewing figures from 2010 and 2015 alongside 2023</p> <p>2) Fraud:</p> <p>How much Council Tax income is lost to fraud</p> <p>3) New Housing Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Impact of new housing schemes on Council Tax bases and impact of futures schemes b) Impact of properties refurbished by MyBlackpool Homes 	
What possible outcomes are envisaged in terms of service improvements / benefits to the community?	
<p>Support Future Medium and longer range Financial Strategies Housing and Investment strategies consider this review when undertaking development work</p>	

Better communications with public on Council income Support Team with Council Tax Fraud Improved Council Tax collection
How will the public be involved? (consider invitations / press releases for meetings, consultation with community groups / clubs, etc)
The public will not be specifically included within this review.
How will the scrutiny achieve value for money for the Council / Council Tax payers?
It will support the development of strategies that will in the long run reduce costs and improve income.
What primary / new evidence is needed for the scrutiny?
Geographical General Returns Data from Capita CT System Housing Data Fraud Data
What secondary / existing information will be needed? (include background information / existing reports (consider Internal Audit) / legislation / central government information and reports, etc.
To be determined.
Which Council officers / departments will provide information, advice and assistance for the scrutiny?
Louise Jones, Head of Revenues and Benefits Antony Lockley / Vikki Piper, Director of Strategy and/or Head of Housing Tracy Greenhalgh, Head of Audit and Risk Steve Thompson, Director of Resources/ Mark Golden, Head of Accountancy
What expert witnesses will the panel request input from outside of the Council?
None
What type of meetings (e.g. fact finding, evidence gathering, consultations, questioning, site visits), and how many in number are envisaged for the scrutiny?
Two fact finding meetings by the Scrutiny Leadership Board with a clear terms of reference to support a better level of discussion and information gathering.
Timescales / likely duration of enquiry
April to July 2024
Lead Scrutiny Officer
Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Scrutiny Panel Members
Cllrs Cartmell, Ellison, Smith, B. Mitchell, Flanagan, C. Mitchell, Critchley, Scott, Roberts and Galley

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Self-assessment of Overview and Scrutiny Good Practice – 2024

Good Practice Questions		Yes	Partly	No
Scrutiny Purpose and Governance				
1	Does a facility exist for Scrutiny to regularly report to full Council regarding its work?			
2	Do the terms of reference for the Council’s Scrutiny Committees clearly set out the purpose of the committees?			
3	Is the role and purpose of scrutiny understood and accepted across the authority?			
4	Does scrutiny provide support to the authority in meeting the requirements of good governance?			
5	Are the arrangements to hold the committee to account for its performance satisfactorily?			
6	Does a protocol for the relationship between Scrutiny Members and the Cabinet exist?			
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If “Yes”, is it understood? 			
8	Does Scrutiny at the Council act as a “Critical Friend” in scrutinising Council functions?			
The work of Scrutiny Committees				
9	Is Scrutiny a member led process?			
10	Do members lead in the identification of topics for the committee workplans? Are members proactive in the identification of topics?			
11	Are the Chairs of the Council Scrutiny Committees involved in the identification of items for workplans?			
12	Are members involved in how information is presented to Committees?			
13	Are Scrutiny workplans flexible documents? Are they able to react to challenges that may arise?			
14	Is the process for selecting items for the workplan satisfactory?			
15	Is there are process for prioritising topics included on the workplans?			
16	Do Scrutiny workplans satisfactorily cover all service areas within committee remits?			
17	Is the Council’s Policy Framework used to identify items for Scrutiny?			
Membership and Support				
18	<p>Has an effective committee structure and composition of the committees been selected to effectively scrutinise the Council and its functions?</p> <p>This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Committees • Separation from the executive • An appropriate mix of knowledge and skills among the membership 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A size of committee that is not unwieldy • Where independent members are used, that they have been appointed using an appropriate process. 			
	If you answered partly/no, please give further details on what issues with the Committee structure exist below:			
19	Are Scrutiny Committee meetings held regularly enough?			
20	Does the chair of the committee have appropriate knowledge and skills?			
21	Are arrangements in place to support the committee with briefings and training?			
22	Has the membership of the committee been assessed against the core knowledge and skills framework and found to be satisfactory?			
23	Does the committee have good working relations with key people and organisations, including the Executive and Corporate Leadership Team			
24	Are Officer and Cabinet Members proactive in highlighting issues and topic for additional scrutiny?			
25	Do Scrutiny Committees identify key lines of inquiry and questioning in advance of their meetings?			
26	Is adequate secretariat and administrative support to the committee provided?			
Effectiveness of the Committee				
27	Has the committee obtained feedback on its performance from those interacting with the committee or relying on its work?			
28	Are Committee meetings well chaired and led?			
29	Are Committee Members sufficiently knowledgeable to undertake			
30	Has the committee evaluated whether and how it is adding value to the organisation?			
31	Does the Scrutiny function effectively communicate it work to the rest of the Council and the wider public?			
32	Do Scrutiny Committees activity contribute to the decision making process and the development of new policy?			
33	Are examples of best practice captured and used by Scrutiny Committees?			
34	Is the "Voice" of the local community heard? Does Scrutiny have process for the involvement of the public?			
Additional Comments				
	If you have any additional comments regarding Scrutiny at the Council please include them here:			

Additional Questions	Responses
As a member of a Scrutiny Committee what training / development would you benefit from?	
What do you think the key strengths of the Scrutiny are?	
What improvements could be made to further develop Scrutiny at the Council?	

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Report to:	SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Date of Meeting:	5 March 2024

SCRUTINY WORKPLANS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To receive an update from the Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs on the work of their Committees and consider the workplan of the Scrutiny Leadership Board for the remainder of the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

2.0 Recommendations:

- 2.1 To confirm the workplan for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 To consider the updates from the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations:

- 3.1 To ensure the Workplans are robust and fit for purpose.
- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

- 4.1 None.

5.0 Council Priority:

- 5.1 The relevant Council Priority is:
- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background Information

6.1 Scrutiny Workplans

The workplans are a flexible document that set out the work that will be undertaken by the Board and Committees over the course of the year, both through scrutiny review and Committee meetings.

Board Members are also invited to suggest topics at any time that might be suitable for scrutiny review through completion of the Scrutiny Review Checklist. The checklist forms part of the mandatory scrutiny procedure for establishing review panels and must therefore be completed and submitted for consideration by the Committee, prior to a topic being approved for scrutiny outside of the workplanning workshop.

A key role of the Scrutiny Leadership Board is to join up the work of the Committees and oversee their work. Chairs and Vice Chairs are asked to provide an overview of the ongoing focus of the Committees at the meeting, comment on what has gone well, areas of improvement and identify any training and development needs for Members.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 6(a) – Scrutiny Leadership Board Workplan
- Appendix 6(b) – Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee Workplan
- Appendix 6(c) – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Workplan
- Appendix 6(d) – Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee Workplan
- Appendix 6(e) – Levelling Up Scrutiny Committee Workplan

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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Scrutiny Leadership Board Workplan 2023/2024

5 March 2024 Formal Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corporate Financial Performance Monitoring 2. <i>Referral from Audit Committee - That a report on progress of the interventions outlined in the Directorate Medium Term Financial Plans to address the overspend in Children's and Adults social care be brought to a meeting of the Scrutiny Leadership Board 12 months on (from January 2022). DEFERRED</i> 3. Committee updates
Informal meeting 7 May 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2. Scrutiny Self-Assessment Results
TBC July 2024 Formal Committee	Corporate Financial Performance Monitoring Committee updates

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Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2023-2024	
21 March 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ICB update to include the development of the vision and strategy 2. Mental Health Provision for Young Men Scrutiny Review - update on the implementation of the recommendations. To include Suicide prevention and awareness update on ongoing work 3. Stroke update – to consider the new materials developed to promote rapid stroke treatment, to receive Blackpool data and an update on the implementation of the programme including any changes to the business case identified following its review. 4. BTH Update - improvements made following new work streams identified and implemented, long Covid treatment and current pressures. Staff retention / Staff conditions / Bank staff cost and implications to the quality of service
11 July 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adult Services update / Adult Services Care packages – costs and procedure with regards to remodelling packages when health 2. Population Health Team – requested 16/11/23 – to understand how the projection data was collated 3. Initial Response Service update on the development of the service. <i>(ADO for urgent and access who will present)</i> 4. LSCFT – CQC inspection outcome (Tracey C)
September / October 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Complaints Report (annual item) 2. Maternity Services progress update and overview of patient feedback. 3. NWAS Update 4. ICB Update <i>(Alternate meetings with Adults Services)</i> 5. Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2023/24
November / December 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adult Services update 2. Living with Dementia Service Update – 12 mth update requested 16/11/23(Andy Williams LSCFT and KS) 3. LSCFT – Mental Health Services Provision 4. Blackpool Teaching Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust Finance Report - 12 mth update requested 16/11/23 (Mark Brearley) 5. Annual KPI / Performance data (Ruth Henshaw)
January 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 Conversations Update - specific information on what worked well, what did not work so well, service demand and budget implications. 2. ICB Update 3. Access to Dentistry –Update from NHS England following the Committee’s review of access to dentistry in Blackpool <i>(Deferred from July 2024)</i>. 4. Carers Strategy – Update following implementation <i>(Deferred from September)</i>
Feb / March 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adult Services Update 2. Healthwatch – Annual Report

Scrutiny Review	
TBC 2024	Adult Services Care packages – To undertake a detailed review with regards to the Care packages. (costs / procedure regarding to remodelling packages when health improves / deteriorates.
TBC 2024	Scrutiny review of population health management to also include long covid.
Strategy Development Work	
TBC	Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy

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Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2023/2024	
27 March 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Born into care – to receive an update on Born into Care 2. Young Inspectors Team update including detail of the resources allocated to the team 3. Blackpool Families Rock – how the money has been spent and what has been achieved, how to ensure sustainability. 4. Placement Stability for Foster Carers To consider the specific issue of placements stability and the impact on children, families and foster carers
June/July TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children’s Services Performance data – update on performance against the Council Plan Key Performance Indicators 2. CSAP Annual Report 3. Children’s and Young People Strategic Partnership Plan 4. Children’s Social Care Update including improvement, transformation and key subject areas such as neglect, permanency of placement, family hubs, financial performance of the service against the MTFs 5. Young People Classed as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) To review the progress and impact of the work outlined at the NEET Review Panel held 26 September 2022. To also include Young People Aged 16-18 referral from the SLB, to look at what the law says, the options for young people at this age and what support is provided to those that are NEET by the Council.
September 2024 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family Safeguarding Model a report on the implementation and initial impact 2. Annual Children’s Services Complaints report 3. Corporate Parent Panel Annual Report 4. Mental Health and Wellbeing in Schools To review the provisions within schools to support the mental health and wellbeing of pupils. Potential link to SEND target of: <i>‘Children and young people with SEND to enjoy good physical and mental health and wellbeing emotional health.’</i>
November 2024 TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better Start – to receive an annual update on the work of Better Start. Additional two years funding, links to the family hubs, creating sustainability. 2. Educational Attainment – an overview of attainment for 23/24 3. Children’s Services Performance data – update on performance against the Council Plan Key Performance Indicators 4. Children’s Social Care Update including improvement, transformation and key subject areas such as neglect, permanency of placement, family hubs, financial performance of the service against the MTFs

Scrutiny Review Work	
2 October 2023	Children, Young People and Families Plan - Completed To consider and input into the development of the plan.
21 November 2023	Place Based Safeguarding Approach - Completed To receive information on the new approach to the Children’s Safeguarding Assurance Partnership. To then review the effectiveness of the approach in a further 12 months.

TBC 2024	Sufficiency Strategy To feed into the development of the new strategy. To potentially cover viability of Council run children's homes.
TBC	Effectiveness of Partnership working across services To hold a general meeting with all partners to discuss partnership working, whilst also considering the issue of partnership working through individual issues at Committee meetings such as Early Help and Youth Justice.
TBC	Looked After Children in Blackpool – Children's Homes Consideration of the viability of Council-run children's homes. To potentially be included within the Sufficiency Strategy meeting.
TBC	Transition of Young Adults with SEND
TBC	Community Engagement in Schools – To consider work to engage with local communities in schools (Referred by 15 September 2022 Audit Committee)
TBC	Early Help Strategy Development

CYP Scrutiny Training	
TBC September 2023	Journey of the Child
18 September 2023 (at the start of the pre Committee briefing)	15 minute briefing on: Legislation in Education
6 November 2023 (at the start of the pre Committee briefing)	15 minute briefing on: the role of the LADO
23 January 2024 (at the start of the pre Committee briefing)	15 minute briefing on: Special Guardianship Orders
12 March 2024 (at the start of the pre Committee briefing)	15 minute briefing on: TBC

Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2023-2024	
20 March 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BSafe Blackpool Annual Performance Report – To receive the annual report of the BSafe Partnership in 2023/2024 2. Public Protection Annual Performance Report To receive the annual report of the Public Protection in 2023/2024, including Licensing and Trading Standards. 3. Tree Strategy – Details of the implementation of the strategy and work to plant, protect and maintain trees in Blackpool 4. Shared Prosperity Fund – To receive an overview of climate related SPF funded projects 5. Climate Communications Plan – To consider the details of the communications plan.
TBC June/July 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Rights of Way Annual Report – To a report on work to maintain and reopen Blackpool’s Public Rights of Way. 2. Parks and Green Environment Annual Report 3. Service Sustainability Planning –Regular reporting from Council directorates/services and their approach to delivery. 4. Highways – To receive an overview of highways issues in Blackpool. 5. Staff Travel Plan – Action Plan – To receive the draft action plan. 6. Annual performance data TBC
TBC Sept/Oct 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parking Services Annual Report – To receive the annual report of Parking Services (including details of consideration of a commuter pass for residents, an EV Charging App and the role of major attractions in EV charging)

Scrutiny Review and Policy Development Work	
19 Sept 2023	Beach Management and Sea Defences – To receive details of the use of Beach Management and Coastal Defence funding.
12 Oct 2023	CCTV Scrutiny - Details of work being undertaken in relation to the second stage of CCTV infrastructure development in Blackpool.
14 Dec 2023	Climate Adaptation Action Plan – To consider draft proposals for the Adaption Plan consultation and proposed strategic goals/aims.
6 Dec 2023	Serious Violence Duty and Draft Strategy – To consider the draft strategy and work in relation to serious violence
16 April 2024	Blackpool Modal Shift Plan – To receive details of the plan and feed into its development
March 2024	Anti-Social Behaviour – A deep dive review of work in relation to the work being undertaken in relation to the CSP Plan priority (Excluding Youth ASB work)
TBC 2024	Un-Adopted Alleys – To consider proposals for the addressing of issues in relation to Un-Adopted Alleys.
Joint Scrutiny	
2023/2024	Sea Water Sewage Discharge – <i>with Levelling Up Scrutiny</i> - To receive details of the environmental and economic impact of the discharge of sewage into the sea water around Blackpool.
TBC 2024	Youth Anti-Social Behaviour – <i>with Children and Young People Scrutiny</i> – To receive details of work to address youth ASB
TBC	Empty Properties – <i>with Levelling Up Scrutiny</i> – To receive details of work to address crime and disorder issues related to empty and derelict properties
TBC	Reducing Reoffending – <i>with Adults Social Care and Health</i> – To receive details of work to reduce reoffending in adults

Levelling Up Scrutiny Committee - Work Plan 2023-2024	
17 April 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Levelling Up, Exceptions Report – (verbal every meeting) 2. Growth and Prosperity Programme Update – To include Multiversity update 3. Leisure Services Annual Report 4. Vaping – impact on Health etc
3 July 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Levelling Up, Exceptions Report – (verbal every meeting) 2. Annual KPI / Performance report 3. Tourism Update – to include additional information regarding the true value and impact of providing the free events in Blackpool and how this would be measured. 4. Levelling Up, Housing - Decent Homes Standard 5. Alcohol Services and Stigma/Alcohol Deaths and Covid - To receive an update, report to include local service data.
September 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Levelling Up, Exceptions Report – (verbal every meeting) 2. Annual Complaints Report (annual item) 3. Growth and Prosperity Programme Update - To include Multiversity update
October / November 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Levelling Up, Exceptions Report – (verbal every meeting) 2. Tourism Performance 3. Engagement of Consultants Annual Report - details of the individual procurement process used for each. 4. Housing and Homelessness Annual Report
January 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Levelling Up, Exceptions Report – (verbal every meeting) 2. Growth and Prosperity Programme Update - To include Multiversity update 3. Arts and Culture Plan – Update following introduction of the strategy
March 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Levelling Up, Exceptions Report – (verbal every meeting) 2. Levelling Up, Housing 3. Tourism Performance 4. Empty Property Data

Future Work:

Scrutiny Review Work	
April / May 2025	Shared Prosperity Fund - Deep Dive– Evaluation report on lessons learnt etc
TBC	Historic – Major Projects – Deep Dive, how are projects monitored and how are the learnings captured and make a difference to future projects
TBC	Oral Health Strategy – Alan Shaw