

Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2015/16 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND £000
	2016/17					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - NOV £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
RESOURCES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PROCUREMENT & PROJECTS	(11)	(223)	151	(72)	(61)	-
BENEFITS	(1,053)	(1,718)	661	(1,057)	(4)	-
REVENUES & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	1,405	1,087	369	1,456	51	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	(61)	(387)	331	(56)	5	-
ICT SERVICES	174	(1,370)	1,488	118	(56)	-
ACCOUNTANCY	(25)	(722)	695	(27)	(2)	-
RISK SERVICES	69	(280)	331	51	(18)	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	2,857	543	2,586	3,129	272	-
TOTALS	3,355	(3,070)	6,612	3,542	187	-

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 8 months of 2016/17 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 Projects

- The favourable variance of £61k is due to an over-achievement against current and prior years' Priority Led Budgeting (PLB) targets in respect of staff savings and additional income.

Benefits

- Currently within budget, the Benefits Service is processing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme new claims and changes in circumstances in an average of 20 days.

Revenues and Exchequer Services

- The 2016/17 budget savings target has not yet fully been met however the service is currently reviewing options.

Customer First

- As a way of streamlining processes and encouraging customers to embrace digital services and 'self-serve', thereby relieving pressure on face-to-face and telephone-based customer contact points, a 'Channel Shift' project is underway.

ICT Services

- Following the disaggregation of the Deputy Chief Executive's Directorate, ICT Services has transferred into the Resources Directorate. This service is forecasting a small underspend as a result of staffing vacancies.

Accountancy

- Accountancy is forecasting to achieve the PLB savings target.

Risk Services

- Risk Services are forecasting to achieve the PLB savings target with one-off staffing savings and additional income.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

- Property Services is forecasting an overspend of £272k. This projection is based on the current pace of property rationalisation. There is also a forecast pressure from rental income within the Central Business District until all units are filled and any rent-free periods lapse. The Gym in Talbot Road Multi-story Car Park has now opened.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 8 months of the financial year Resources is forecasting a £187k overspend. 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