

Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2016/17 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2017/18					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JAN £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
RESOURCES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PROCUREMENT & PROJECTS	141	(29)	141	112	(29)	-
BENEFITS	(948)	(1,349)	403	(946)	2	-
REVENUES & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	1,231	932	361	1,293	62	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	20	(138)	158	20	-	-
ICT SERVICES	301	(487)	785	298	(3)	-
ACCOUNTANCY	51	(187)	229	42	(9)	-
RISK SERVICES	82	(186)	281	95	13	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	5,533	4,466	1,179	5,645	112	-
TOTALS	6,411	3,022	3,537	6,559	148	-

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 10 months of 2017/18 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 £29k is due to an over-achievement against current and prior years' savings targets in respect of staff savings and additional income.

Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting an overspend of £2k on a gross budget of £3.8m. Monthly new claims processing figures have improved recently and the average days to process a Housing Benefit claim in December was 21 days. The overall processing time for new claims for Housing Benefit, new claims for Council Tax Reduction and changes in circumstances notifications is 19 days; this is within the current target of 21 days.

Revenues and Exchequer Services

Revenues and Exchequer Services are forecasting an overspend of £62k. This is in part due to a service re-structure in 2017/18 within the Revenues Service and a long-standing income pressure in Payroll. This has been addressed within the review of budgets for 2018/19.

Customer First

Customer First is forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £1.1m.

ICT Services

ICT is forecasting an underspend of £3k on a gross budget of £4.4m.

Accountancy

Accountancy is forecasting an underspend of £9k on a gross budget of £1.8m.

Risk Services

Risk Services are forecasting a £13k budget pressure but additional income opportunities are continuously being pursued.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

Property Services are forecasting an overspend of £112k. This projection is based on the current pace of property rationalisation and demolition delays to redundant properties. 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.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 10 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £148k 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