

Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2017/18 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2018/19					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - AUG £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
RESOURCES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PROCUREMENT & PROJECTS	131	149	(99)	50	(81)	-
BENEFITS	(833)	(2,813)	1,924	(889)	(56)	-
REVENUES & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	1,164	617	541	1,158	(6)	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	15	273	(266)	7	(8)	-
ICT SERVICES	450	763	(310)	453	3	-
ACCOUNTANCY	14	561	(563)	(2)	(16)	-
RISK SERVICES	9	245	(224)	21	12	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	5,308	3,233	2,128	5,361	53	-
TOTALS	6,258	3,028	3,131	6,159	(99)	-

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 5 months of 2018/19 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 £81k is due to an over-achievement against the current year's income prediction and a staffing vacancy within the Energy area.

Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting an underspend of £56k on a gross budget of £4.1m. Monthly new claims processing figures continue to be good with the average days to process a Housing Benefit claim for August being 21 days. The overall cumulative processing time for new claims for Housing Benefit, new claims for Council Tax Reduction and changes in circumstances notifications for August was 15 days; this is still well within the current target of 19 days.

Revenues and Exchequer Services

Revenues and Exchequer Services are forecasting an underspend of £6k, although 2 vacant posts are yet to be filled. The legacy pressure in the Payroll department has been fully offset by efficiencies in Revenues and additional forecast income expected into the Payroll department is contributing to the underspending position.

Customer First

Customer First is forecasting an underspend of £8k on a gross budget of £1.1m.

ICT Services

ICT is forecasting an overspend of £3k on a gross budget of £4.3m.

Accountancy

Accountancy is forecasting an underspend of £16k on a gross budget of £2m.

Risk Services

Risk Services are forecasting a £12k budget pressure but additional income opportunities are continuously being pursued.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

Property Services are forecasting an overspend of £53k on a gross expenditure budget of £17m. The £800k Property Rationalisation target set in 2015/16 has now been achieved.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 5 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £99k 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