

## Blackpool Council - Resources

### 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	
<b>RESOURCES</b>						
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>						
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	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,372</b>	<b>6,259</b>	<b>(2,163)</b>	<b>4,096</b>	<b>(276)</b>	<b>-</b>

### 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**