

Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2014/15 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND £000
	2015/16					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - SEP £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
RESOURCES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PROCUREMENT & PROJECTS	26	168	(235)	(67)	(93)	-
REVENUES, BENEFITS & TRANSACTIONAL SERVICES	251	(2,026)	2,255	229	(22)	-
CORPORATE LEGAL SERVICES	(447)	235	(662)	(427)	20	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	(39)	406	(438)	(32)	7	-
ACCOUNTANCY	(77)	649	(684)	(35)	42	-
RISK SERVICES	73	198	(127)	71	(2)	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	2,442	(2,028)	5,187	3,159	717	-
TOTALS	2,229	(2,398)	5,296	2,898	669	-

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 6 months of 2015/16 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 £93k is due to an over achievement against current and prior years Priority Led Budgeting targets in respect of staff savings and additional income.

Revenues, Benefits and Transactional Services

- The service is forecast to meet its savings requirement in 2015/16. Additional income has been received from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for welfare reform, Universal Credit and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). This income is to provide the funding to assist Councils in their statutory duty to administer and process extra Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB) workload during the economic downturn, implementation of welfare reforms and implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

This funding will be used in part for software changes, process changes, additional staff and equipment due to the increased caseload. The head of service is managing this extra workload by using existing employees and overtime with some filling of posts on a temporary basis.

- The Local Discretionary Support Scheme is forecast to break even in-year.

Corporate Legal Services

- Corporate Legal Services is forecasting a £20k overspend for 2015/16 as a result of staffing and printing cost pressures, additional income is being targeted which may partially offset these costs.

Customer First

- Customer First is forecasting a £7k pressure in 2015/16. The majority of this pressure falls within the staffing budget due to the need to keep as many staff as possible answering the phones and the extra duties involved in staffing the reception at Bickerstaffe House.

Accountancy

- Accountancy is forecasting a £42k pressure mainly due to a one-off staffing cost.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

- Property Services is forecasting an overspend of £717k. 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, however, negotiations are progressing with new tenancies expected to be announced soon.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 6 months of the financial year, Resources is forecasting a £669k overspend. The Directorate continues to operate on the basis of not filling staff vacancies other than in exceptional circumstances.

Budget Holder - Steve Thompson, Director of Resources.