

## Blackpool Council - Resources

### Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2018/19 (UNDER)/ OVER SPEND B/FWD  £000
	2019/20					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET	EXPENDITURE APR - JUL	PROJECTED SPEND	FORECAST OUTTURN	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
RESOURCES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PROCUREMENT & PROJECTS	45	776	(757)	19	(26)	-
BENEFITS	(877)	(3,129)	2,161	(968)	(91)	-
REVENUES & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	1,169	534	635	1,169	-	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	(10)	298	(308)	(10)	-	-
ICT SERVICES	30	621	(591)	30	-	-
ACCOUNTANCY	(3)	460	(486)	(26)	(23)	-
RISK SERVICES	(5)	201	(206)	(5)	-	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	2,668	2,549	4	2,553	(115)	-
TOTALS	3,017	2,310	452	2,762	(255)	-

### 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 4 months of 2019/20 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 Procurement and Projects Service is forecasting an underspend of £26k. Staff savings within the Procurement and Energy Management team have contributed towards the underspend.

#### Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting an underspend of £91k against a gross budget of £4.3m. Vacancies across the Benefits service have contributed towards the underspend. Monthly Housing Benefit new claims processing figures for July were 16 days. The cumulative processing time to-date for new claims for Housing Benefit, new claims for Council Tax Reduction and changes in circumstances notifications for July was 14 days; this is still well within the current target of 19 days.

#### Revenues and Exchequer Services

Revenues and Exchequer Services are forecasting a break-even position. The legacy pressure in Payroll services has been reduced through additional income generation. Due to staff absence, additional overtime is resulting in pressures in the service. This is being offset by vacancy savings within Transactional services.

**Customer First**

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

**ICT Services**

ICT is forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £4.9m.

**Accountancy**

Accountancy are forecasting an underspend of £23k against a gross budget of £2.1m. This has been achieved through additional income generation.

**Risk Services**

Risk Services are forecasting a break-even position. The service currently faces an income pressure, and steps are being taken to address this, including seeking additional income opportunities and undertaking a review of the service structure.

**Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)**

Property Services are forecasting an underspend of £115k against a gross expenditure budget of £14.3m. There are various council moves taking place in 2019/20 that will have an impact on the property services budgets. The investment portfolio are working to maximise income generation by undertaking rent reviews and reviewing premises expenditure against investment portfolio properties. The service has benefited from one-off income received in 2019/20 that has contributed towards pressures across the service.

**Summary of the revenue forecast**

After 4 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £255k 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**