

## 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 £000	EXPENDITURE APR - OCT £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
<b>RESOURCES</b>						
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>						
PROCUREMENT & PROJECTS	45	534	(532)	2	(43)	-
BENEFITS	(882)	(2,307)	1,334	(973)	(91)	-
REVENUES & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	1,167	735	432	1,167	-	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	(10)	(429)	419	(10)	-	-
ICT SERVICES	(50)	(945)	645	(300)	(250)	-
ACCOUNTANCY	(3)	(437)	411	(26)	(23)	-
RISK SERVICES	(6)	(369)	336	(33)	(27)	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	4,302	10,346	(6,159)	4,187	(115)	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,563</b>	<b>7,128</b>	<b>(3,114)</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>(549)</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 7 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 £43k. 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 October was 13 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 13 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 an underspend of £250k on a gross budget of £4.9m. The service has released £250k of ICT investment funding which will be deferred to future years.

### **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 £27k underspend. A review of the service structure has been undertaken which has resulted in savings this financial year. Additional income has also been generated by the Health and Safety team.

### **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 7 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £549k 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**