

Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2019/20 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE	
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUL £000	2020/21		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		COVID-19	NON-COVID
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000			£000	£000
RESOURCES								
NET EXPENDITURE								
PROCUREMENT & PROJECTS	3	990	(1,020)	(30)	(33)	-	-	(33)
BENEFITS	(910)	(2,608)	1,698	(910)	-	-	-	-
REVENUES & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	1,631	546	1,116	1,662	31	-	21	10
CUSTOMER FIRST	11	326	(315)	11	-	-	7	(7)
ICT SERVICES	9	875	(866)	9	-	-	4	(4)
ACCOUNTANCY	7	582	(520)	62	55	-	-	55
RISK SERVICES	7	286	(279)	7	-	-	2	(2)
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	1,554	(3,597)	5,151	1,554	-	-	65	(65)
TOTALS	2,312	(2,600)	4,965	2,365	53	-	99	(46)

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 2020/21 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 £33k. Staff savings within the Procurement and Energy Management team have contributed towards the underspend.

Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting a break-even position. Monthly Housing Benefit new claims processing figures for July was 11 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 6 days. It is anticipated that there will be a further significant increase in new claims for Council Tax Reduction over the coming months.

Revenues and Exchequer Services

Revenues and Exchequer Services are forecasting an overspend of £31K. Additional expenses due to upgrades to the CIVICA system has added pressure to the budget.

Customer First

Customer First is forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £1.2m.

ICT Services

ICT is forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £5.2m.

Accountancy

Accountancy are forecasting an overspend of £55K, mainly due to additional expenses incurred by extending the Finance Contract with Advanced until March 2023 which has added pressure to the budget. This has been partly offset by vacancy savings within the team.

Risk Services

Risk Services are forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £1.1m.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

Property Services are forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £13.6m. Property Services are currently reviewing its income streams within the Investment Portfolio and dual use council/commercial buildings such as Bickerstaffe House to assess the impact of Covid-19 on rental income. This will be reviewed on a regular basis and pressures brought into the forecast if/when they are realised. A decision has been made to continue to bill tenants in line with their rental agreement, whilst offering deferred payment terms to businesses where appropriate.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 4 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting an £53K overspend. The Directorate continues to operate on the basis of not filling staff vacancies other than in exceptional circumstances.

There has been an impact on services such as ICT, Revenues, Property Services, Benefits & Customer First as a result of Covid-19 totalling £99k to date. This additional cost has been offset mainly by savings as a result of staff vacancies.

Budget Holder - Mr S Thompson, Director of Resources