

Blackpool Council – Community and Environmental Services

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
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES								
NET EXPENDITURE								
BUSINESS SERVICES	437	514	(77)	437	-	-	-	-
LEISURE AND CATERING	3,238	2,578	3,428	6,006	2,768	-	2,770	(2)
PUBLIC PROTECTION	758	(351)	1,109	758	-	-	5	(5)
HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES	16,771	(4,745)	21,621	16,876	105	-	182	(77)
STREET CLEANSING AND WASTE	18,301	1,536	17,280	18,816	515	-	534	(19)
COASTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS	4,765	(104)	4,869	4,765	-	-	-	-
INTEGRATED TRANSPORT	692	948	58	1,006	314	-	208	106
TOTALS	44,962	376	48,288	48,664	3,702	-	3,699	3

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service area within the Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn of £3,702k overspend is 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. Of the £3,702k overspend, £3,699k is attributable to Covid-19.

Business Services

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Leisure and Catering

This service is currently forecasting a pressure of £2,768k. Leisure Services are reporting a pressure of £2,162k as there has been no income forecast for the financial year due to the uncertainty surrounding the re-opening of leisure centres. Parks are forecasting a pressure of £100k due to lost sports income and potential bad debt from rental invoices. Catering Services are facing a pressure of £505k due to reduced income for school meals. All of the pressures facing the service are related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and both Leisure and Catering Services are looking at options to reduce this pressure.

Public Protection

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Highways and Traffic Management Services

This service is currently forecasting a pressure of £105k. There is an anticipated shortfall in Road and Street Works Act (RASWA) income of £162k due to work being halted during the Covid-19 lockdown and the expectation that this income will be slow to resume, so will not be at the same levels as previous years. Highways & Engineering is forecast to save £57k, due to staffing vacancies and increased scheme income, which will help to off-set some of the Covid-19 related pressures within the service.

Street Cleansing and Waste

Waste Services are reporting a pressure of £515k due to a reduction in forecast income within Trade Waste where income has been reduced significantly due to the pandemic. The service is continuing to monitor the situation and is working hard to alleviate the pressure.

Coastal and Environmental Partnerships

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Integrated Transport

This service is forecasting a pressure of £314k. £250k is mainly due to the loss of Rideability income during lockdown and reduced income in the future due to social distancing measures reducing the capacity of the service. There is a target saving of £60k for school crossing patrols, but this will not be met and the re-opening of schools will lead to an additional staff cost pressure of £20k, due to the need for variable starts, so more requirement for crossing patrols. There are, however, one-off small savings identified within other areas, but the pressure within Travel and Road Safety will still amount to £64k. Other savings have helped to mitigate the pressures overall.

Conclusion – Community and Environmental Services financial position

At the end of July 2020, the Community and Environmental Services Directorate is forecasting a £3,702k pressure. £3,699k of this pressure relates to Covid-19. The pressures within Leisure, Catering, and Waste are entirely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is hoped that when these services can fully resume operations this pressure will be reduced. Some Leisure services have resumed operations, but the income generated is low and will need time to build up. Within the other services, there are Covid-19 related pressures of £395k and other pressures/savings unrelated to the pandemic totalling £24k.

Budget Holder - Mr J Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services