

Blackpool Council – Governance and Partnership 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 - DEC £000	2020/21		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		COVID-19	NON-COVID
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000			£000	£000
GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES								
NET EXPENDITURE								
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE	2,282	1,811	467	2,278	(4)	-	-	(4)
CORPORATE LEGAL SERVICES	(594)	1,901	(1,656)	245	839	-	52	787
INFORMATION GOVERNANCE	(3)	93	(86)	7	10	-	-	10
LIFE EVENTS & CUSTOMER CARE	(355)	14	28	42	397	-	414	(17)
GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES	1,330	3,819	(1,247)	2,572	1,242	-	466	776
WARDS	521	88	133	221	(300)	(206)	-	(300)
TOTALS	1,851	3,907	(1,114)	2,793	942	(206)	466	476

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service within Governance and Partnership Services against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 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 the head of service. Of the £942k pressure £466k is attributable to Covid. £524k of disbursement budget previously in Legal Services and associated actual costs have now transferred to Children's Services.

Democratic Governance Service

The Democratic Governance Service is currently forecasting an underspend of £4k. This position has changed slightly due to reduced income forecast.

Corporate Legal Services

This service is now forecasting an overspend of £839k of which £52k is due to Covid (additional spend and lost income). The majority of the remaining overspend of £787k relates to increased spend in Children's Legal. This overspend is to cover the need for additional staff and legal fees due to the increased caseload. The overspend has risen sharply this month, despite the transfer of the disbursement budget to Children's Services, due to Counsel costs currently exceeding previously forecast spend in part due to a few exceptional, complex cases. There is a small overspend elsewhere in Legal however it is hoped that savings may offset this by the year-end.

Information Governance

This service is currently forecasting a £10k pressure due to a loss of income from Academies. This pressure has been reduced by some savings on staffing.

Life Events & Customer Care

This service is forecasting a pressure of £397k. Of this pressure £414k relates to Covid and includes a £289k contribution to mortuaries at Warton and Blackpool Victoria Hospital as well as lost income from weddings. Life Events are now forecasting a saving of £17k which relates to continuing pressures in Coroners and Burials that is offset by increased income in cremations and from public funerals.

Ward Budgets

Ward budgets are expected to underspend in 2020/21.

Budget Holder - Mr M Towers, Director of Governance and Partnership Services.