

Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2019/20 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JAN £000	2020/21		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000		
RESOURCES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PROCUREMENT & PROJECTS	8	750	(828)	(78)	(86)	-
BENEFITS	(872)	(1,249)	373	(876)	(4)	-
REVENUES SERVICES	1,729	1,637	70	1,707	(22)	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	17	(222)	172	(50)	(67)	-
ICT SERVICES	23	(1,245)	1,268	23	-	-
ACCOUNTANCY & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	53	(29)	26	(3)	(56)	-
RISK SERVICES	21	(177)	154	(23)	(44)	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	1,727	(2,718)	4,190	1,472	(255)	-
TOTALS	2,706	(3,253)	5,425	2,172	(534)	-

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 10 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 £86k. Staff savings within the Procurement and Energy Management team have contributed towards the underspend.

Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting a £4k underspend. Monthly Housing Benefit new claims processing figures for January 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.

Revenue Services

Revenue Services are forecasting a £22k underspend on a gross budget of £2.3m.

Customer First

Customer First is forecasting an underspend of £67k against a gross budget of £1.2m. This is due to vacancy savings within the service.

ICT Services

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

Accountancy & Exchequer Services

Accountancy & Exchequer services are forecasting an underspend of £56k. Accountancy are forecasting an underspend of £26K. Additional expenses incurred by extending the Finance Contract with Advanced until March 2023 has added pressure to the budget, however these have been offset by vacancy savings within the team. Transactional Services are forecasting an underspend of £27k. Additional costs due to upgrades to the CIVICA system have been offset by vacancy savings. Payroll is forecasting an underspend of £3k as a result of staffing savings.

Risk Services

Risk Services are forecasting an underspend of £44k against a gross budget of £1.1m. This is due to additional income generation during the year.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

Property Services are forecasting an underspend of £255k against a gross budget of £13.6m. Pressures against income generation have been offset by vacancy savings and utilities and maintenance savings as a result of under occupancy of some Council buildings. 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.

Covid

Resources has a gross pressure of £327k relating to Covid. Following the reallocation of Covid funding relating to government grants tranches 1-4, and sales, fees and charges compensation claims amounting to £169k, the net Covid pressure is £158k, which is included in the above table. Covid costs include a significant expenditure on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements, additional staffing costs and loss/reduction in income streams in particular on the Investment Portfolio.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 10 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £534k 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