

Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2020/21 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - JUNE £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		NON-COVID £000	COVID-19				
								GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000
RESOURCES												
NET EXPENDITURE												
PROCUREMENT, PROJECTS & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	1	1,122	(1,102)	20	19	-	10	25	-	-	(16)	9
BENEFITS	(1,033)	685	(1,718)	(1,033)	-	-	(2)	2	-	-	-	2
REVENUES SERVICES	1,538	445	1,093	1,538	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	(13)	191	(190)	1	14	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
ICT SERVICES	19	559	(540)	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACCOUNTANCY	2	451	(435)	16	14	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
RISK SERVICES	(4)	173	(152)	21	25	-	24	2	-	-	(1)	1
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	1,587	2,416	(876)	1,540	(47)	-	(135)	104	-	-	(16)	88
TOTALS	2,097	6,042	(3,920)	2,122	25	-	(75)	133	-	-	(33)	100

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 3 months of 2021/22 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, Projects and Exchequer Services

Procurement, Projects and Exchequer Services are forecasting an overspend of £19k. Procurement and Projects are forecasting an overspend of £9k including a net Covid pressure of £7k which is due to no Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) dividend now being expected. Exchequer Services are forecasting an overspend of £10k including a Covid pressure of £2k; Transactional Services underspending by £9k due to vacancy savings and Payroll overspending by £19k due to a reduction in Schools SLA income offset in part by vacancy savings.

Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting a break-even position. Monthly Housing Benefit new claims processing figures for June was 12 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 7 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 break-even position on a gross budget of £2.25m.

Customer First

Customer First is forecasting an overspend of £14k against a gross budget of £1.08m. This is due to unachieved vacancy savings within the service.

ICT Services

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

Accountancy

Accountancy is forecasting an overspend of £14k. This is due to a forecast reduction in SLA income offset in part by vacancy savings within the service.

Risk Services

Risk Services are forecasting an overspend of £25k against a gross budget of £1.15m. This is due to a forecast reduction in additional income generation during the year and £24k unachieved PLB savings target, in addition to a £1k net Covid pressure relating to a loss of training course income.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

Property Services are forecasting an underspend of £47k against a gross budget of £13.4m, including a net Covid pressure of £88k. 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. In addition, a new rental agreement for Bond Street car park generating £90k (£75k arrears and an additional £15k pa) has been included in the forecasts for period 3. 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 £133k relating to Covid. Covid funding relating to Sales, Fees and Charges compensation claims amounts to £33k reducing the net Covid pressure to £100k, which is included in the above table. Covid costs include a loss/reduction in income streams within Risk Services, room hire income in Property Services and dividend payments in Procurement Services.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 3 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £25k overspend. 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