

Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	2023/24		FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
		EXPENDITURE APR - JAN £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000			
RESOURCES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PROCUREMENT & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	85	41	(55)	(14)	(99)	-
BENEFITS	(1,393)	2,129	(3,522)	(1,393)	-	-
REVENUES SERVICES	1,862	2,318	(456)	1,862	-	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	88	35	45	80	(8)	-
ICT SERVICES	861	1,436	(576)	860	(1)	-
ACCOUNTANCY	221	133	(5)	128	(93)	-
RISK SERVICES	50	(98)	81	(17)	(67)	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	2,597	1,902	641	2,543	(54)	-
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	1	(26)	29	3	2	-
TOTALS	4,372	7,870	(3,818)	4,052	(320)	-

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 2023/24 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 Exchequer Services

Procurement and Exchequer Services are forecasting an underspend of £99k. This position has been achieved as a result of measures to deliver savings through dis-establishment of posts and increased income opportunities. Additional one-off, ad-hoc income has been secured in year and there is currently a vacant post within the Procurement team.

Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting a break-even position. The cumulative Housing Benefit new claims processing outturn figure for January was 22 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 9 days.

Revenue Services

Revenue Services are forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £2.64m.

Customer First

Customer First is forecasting an underspend of £8k against a gross budget of £1.19m, this is due to unfilled vacancies and additional SLA income has been achieved in year.

ICT Services

ICT is forecasting an underspend of £1k and a contribution to the ICT Infrastructure reserve of £24k on a gross budget of £5.95m. The budget is currently under pressure from inflationary increases in software licences and the hardware supply chain, this is being offset with additional income generation and staff turnover.

Accountancy

Accountancy is forecasting an underspend of £93k due to freezing of vacant posts and additional income from HMRC.

Risk Services

Audit and Risk Services are forecasting an underspend of £67k. The majority of the movement relates to staffing slippage due to recruitment struggles and also the generation of additional income.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

Property Services are forecasting an underspend of £54k against a gross budget of £14.28m, savings arising from staff vacancies across the service.

Equality and Diversity

Equality and Diversity are forecasting an overspend of £2k on a gross budget of £198k.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 10 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £320k 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