

Blackpool Council

28 February 2023

To: Councillors Burdess, Mrs Callow JP, Critchley, Galley, Jackson, Mrs Scott, Stansfield and Walsh

The above members are requested to attend the:

SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD

Wednesday, 8 March 2023 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool FY1 1GB

A G E N D A

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned either a

- (a) personal interest
- (b) prejudicial interest
- (c) disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI)

and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2022 (Pages 1 - 4)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 October 2022 as a true and correct record.

3 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 9 (Pages 5 - 74)

To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council's Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 9 months to 31 December 2022. The report also

includes an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27.

4 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT (Q1 - Q3 2022/23) (Pages 75 - 88)

To present performance against the Council Plan for the period 1 April – 31 December 2022.

5 CHANNEL SHIFT SCRUTINY REVIEW - UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS (Pages 89 - 112)

To consider the updated Channel Shift Scrutiny Review action tracker.

6 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

To note the date and time of the next meeting as 12 July 2023, commencing at 6pm subject to confirmation at Annual Council.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager, Tel: 01253 477213, e-mail sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022

Present:

Councillor Mrs Callow JP (in the Chair)

Councillors

Burdess	Mrs Scott	Walsh
Critchley	Stansfield	

In Attendance:

Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council

Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Mr Scott Butterfield, Strategy, Policy and Research Manager

Ms Rochelle Morris, Research and Intelligence Officer

Ms Lisa Arnold, Strategic Head of Service – Community and Wellbeing

Ms Annie Heslop, Green Infrastructure Development Manager

Mr Paul Hodgson, Parks Development Manager

Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2022

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 July 2022 be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

3 GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ms Anne Heslop, Green Infrastructure Development Manager provided an update on the work undertaken around the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBI) since it was last discussed by the Committee. She noted that an internal audit had recently been carried out which had returned no high risk recommendations. She highlighted key areas of work as ensuring the Town Centre Strategy was developed with the GBI in mind, developing a management plan for Marton Mere and gaining approval for the Greening Supplementary Planning Document.

The Committee discussed tree planting and in particular Christmas tree planting in detail. In response to questions it was noted that the planting period was between October and March and that a tree planting plan was in place. Lessons had been learned from the planting of Christmas trees last year and it was noted that many varieties were not hardy enough to live for a year in exposed places in Blackpool. Therefore following Christmas, it was proposed that trees would be moved to a retirement place where they could thrive.

A new Christmas tree could then be ordered and planted the following year.

Members went on to discuss the development of the new parks website and requested that a demonstration be provided once it was completed. In addition a query was raised regarding whether an audit of all parks had been undertaken. In response, it was noted that such an audit had been undertaken with all information published on the Council's website. Each park had been graded to demonstrate how work would be prioritised and work had commenced on park development plans by empowering 'Friends of' groups to shape long term plans.

4 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Mr Scott Butterfield, Strategy, Policy and Research Manager provided an overview of the report which detailed the response to issues raised in relation to the Council Plan end of year performance report which was considered by the Committee in July 2022. He highlighted the research carried out into town centre vacancies and noted that the core retail area was identified as having a number of sites that had businesses of a temporary nature before becoming vacant in comparison to out of town areas.

The Committee noted the level of vacancies in the town centre and queried whether any more could be done in order to fill these premises. In response, Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council advised that work was ongoing to encourage businesses into the town, however, there were limited resources. It was noted that a Town Centre Strategy was currently in development that would set out the future vision for the town centre.

In response to further questions, it was agreed that Nick Gerard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director be contacted for further detail regarding the production of the strategy, the level of engagement with current businesses in the town centre and how they were being engaged specifically in the development of the Strategy.

Further comments were made regarding the impact of the national press on visits to the town, ensuring the town centre was a nice place to visit by preventing anti-social behaviour and encouraging people into the town to spend.

5 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 4 2022/23 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 - 2026/27

Mr Steve Thompson, Director of Resources provided an overview of the financial monitoring as at month 4 2022/23 and the Medium Term Financial Plan noting that there had never been more uncertainty in the system. He highlighted that the total adverse full-year forecast budget variance as at the end of month 4 of 2022/23 was £11.9 million. Of that overspend, £4.4 million was attributed to Children's Social Care, however, the current management team of the service was having a positive impact and reducing the level of overspend through work to safely reduce the number of children in care.

Other significant areas of overspend included Adult Social Care, however, Mr Thompson advised that he expected the service to return to a break even position by year end.

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022

The overall financial performance had been notably impacted by predicted pay awards including an increase to the living wage, inflation and increasing energy and fuel costs. Interest rates had also had an impact and further pressures were expected as short term lending deals came to an end.

Mr Thompson emphasised the level of uncertainty, noting that the Consumer Price Index was currently at 9.9% and the Retail Price Index at 12.3% with the next announcement due within the following seven days. He also noted how cost increases were having an impact on all aspects of the Council's budget such as external auditor fees which were to increase by approximately 150%. All areas considered it was predicted that the budget gap for the following financial year would be significant.

The Board thanked Mr Thompson and his team for their work and queried how the increases in interest rates were impacting upon the Council's loan fund. In response, Mr Thompson advised that some loans were fixed at the time the loan was drawn whilst others were on a variable rate, but all were covered by asset security. The pooled rate utilised by the Council was slower to react to increases and decreases in interest rate and was currently at 3.5%, however, this would increase as short term borrowing came to an end and new deals were entered into. In response to a further question, Mr Thompson reported that every loan had its own risk register and the Business Loan Group met regularly to monitor affordability of loan repayments and security of debt.

6 SCRUTINY WORKPLANS

The Board considered its workplan and the workplans of the Scrutiny Committees. Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager advised that a referral had been made from the Audit Committee to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on community engagement with schools which that Committee would be requested to consider for inclusion in its workplan.

The Board noted the workplans.

7 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date and time of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 7 March 2023.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.59 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Tel: 01253 477213
E-mail: sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk

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Report to:	SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Date of Meeting:	8 March 2023

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 9

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council's Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 9 months to 31 December 2022. The report also includes an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To independently review the financial and operational performances of the services of the Council.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure financial performance against the Council's Revenue Budget and its reserves and balances is kept under timely review by members.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is: The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.

6.0 Background Information

6.1 See reports and appendices attached to this report.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 3(a): Executive Report
Appendix 1 - Revenue Summary
Appendix 2a - Chief Executive
Appendix 2b - Governance and Partnership Services
Appendices 2b/c - Ward Budgets
Appendix 2d - Resources
Appendix 2e – Communications and Regeneration
Appendix 2f - Strategic Leisure Assets
Appendix 2g – Growth and Prosperity
Appendix 2h - Community and Environmental Services
Appendix 2i - Adult Services
Appendix 2j - Children’s Services
Appendix 2k - Public Health
Appendix 2l - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit
Appendix 2m – Wholly-owned companies
Appendix 3 – Budget Savings performance
Appendix 4 - Capital Monitoring
Appendix 5 - Cash Flow Summary
Appendix 6 - General Fund Balance Sheet Summary

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 See reports and appendices attached to the report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Impact of financial performance against approved Revenue budgets and upon Council reserves and balances.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was produced as a part of the budget-setting process and remains relevant.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None directly from this report.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

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Report to:

EXECUTIVE

Relevant Officer:

Steve Thompson, Director of Resources

Relevant Cabinet Member:

Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council

Date of Meeting:

6 February 2023

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 9 2022/23 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 – 2026/27

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To report the level of spending and exposure against the Council's Revenue budgets and reserves and balances for the first 9 months to 31 December 2022. The report also includes an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the report.

2.2 To require the respective directors and Director of Resources to continue to closely monitor and manage service financial and operational performances, specifically Children's Services, Adult Services, Growth and Prosperity and Community and Environmental Services.

2.3 To prompt the Scrutiny Leadership Board to continue to independently review the financial and operational performances of the services listed in 2.2.

2.4 To continue to lobby central government (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Department for Health and Social Care and Department for Education in particular) along with local authority peers and networks and the Local Government Association for the funding necessary to cope with the burdens and demands presenting as a result of exceptional inflationary pressures and demographic demands upon statutory services.

2.5 To continue to work towards target working balances of £6m by 31 March 2024 rising to £8m by 31 March 2025.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure financial performance against the Council’s Revenue Budget and its reserves and balances is kept under timely review by members.

The Council’s Revenue Budget for 2022/23 set a target level of General Fund working balances of around £6m. However, given the current economic climate it is recommended that this is increased to £8.0m from 2023/24 as part of the setting by the Council of the Revenue Budget for 2023/24 as this would represent of 5% of the net requirement.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council Priority is: “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”.

6.0 Background Information

6.1 The Monthly Financial monitoring including the Revenue Summary and individual service budget reports have been published and distributed to members as a supplement to the Executive agenda.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- Report
- Appendix 1 - Revenue Summary
- Appendix 2a - Chief Executive
- Appendix 2b - Governance and Partnership Services
- Appendices 2b/c - Ward Budgets
- Appendix 2d - Resources
- Appendix 2e – Communications and Regeneration

Appendix 2f - Strategic Leisure Assets
Appendix 2g – Growth and Prosperity
Appendix 2h - Community and Environmental Services
Appendix 2i - Adult Services
Appendix 2j - Children’s Services
Appendix 2k - Public Health
Appendix 2l - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit
Appendix 2m – Wholly-owned companies
Appendix 3 – Budget Savings performance
Appendix 4 - Capital Monitoring
Appendix 5 - Cash Flow Summary
Appendix 6 - General Fund Balance Sheet Summary

All published and distributed to members as a supplement to the Executive agenda.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 See reports and appendices published and distributed to members as a supplement to the Executive agenda.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Impact of financial performance against approved Revenue budgets and upon Council reserves and balances.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was produced as a part of the budget-setting process and remains relevant.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None directly from this report.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? N/A

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1

19.0 Summary of Discussion:

19.1

20.0 Executive decision:

20.1

21.0 Date of Decision:

21.1

22.0 Reason(s) for decision:

22.1

23.0 Date Decision published:

23.1

24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

24.1

25.0 Executive Members present:

25.1

26.0 Call-in:

26.1

27.0 Notes:

27.1

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BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
REPORT
of the
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
to the
EXECUTIVE
6 FEBRUARY 2023

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING AS AT MONTH 9 2022/23 AND MEDIUM TERM
FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 – 2026/27**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Over the 12-year period 2011/12 – 2022/23 cumulative Revenue Budget savings amounting to £194.6m have been required to be made by Blackpool Council. This is greater than the Council's current annual Net Requirement Budget of £160m and even more starkly the compound effect over the same period amounts to nearly £1.4bn of resource that has been removed from the Blackpool economy. This reflects one of the highest cuts per head of population across local authorities in England and in an environment of growing demands upon services as befalling an authority with such recognised pockets of significant deprivation.
- 1.2 The principles of the Medium-Term Financial Sustainability Strategies 2016/17-21/22 and 2021/22-26/27 have been used to successfully keep apace with and deliver budget savings plans year after year. However, in tandem the soaring demand for child protection services and adult social care provision plus the rising costs of providing care are still creating a burden that current levels of local taxation and Government funding struggle to meet. In addition, the financial consequences of Covid have been immense (£3.16m in 2020/21 and £2.59m in 2021/22 both net of Government grants) with little prospect now of any further Government financial support.
- 1.3 The last 12 years has seen unprecedented volatility within local government finance: 9 years of successive central government funding cuts between 2011/12 – 2019/20 were followed by the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, 2 years of a global pandemic with ongoing consequences and now a war within the European continent. This has all conspired to produce a perfect storm of labour and supply shortages, pay demands and spiralling inflation and rising interest rates in an attempt to stem the pressure. During this period the Council has continued to i) deliver its annual budget in line with statutory requirements; ii) maintain its reserves and balances at stable and appropriate levels that reflect the risk environment; iii) consistently fund and deliver the ambitions of successive administrations; and iv) deliver for the people of Blackpool. However, here in the present, sector experts and economic commentators cannot agree how and when these key drivers of the economy will land, which makes medium-term financial planning and financial management extremely challenging.

2. Report Format

2.1 This report sets out the summary revenue budget position for the Council and its individual directorates for the first 9 months of 2022/23, i.e. the period to 31st December 2022, together with an outlook for the remainder of the year. The report is complemented with an assessment of performance to date of balances and reserves, income collection, the Council's latest Capital Programme and statements relating to Cash Flow Summary and Balance Sheet Summary. It also incorporates the impact of the Council's wholly-owned companies for which the Council is parent company and underwriter. The report also includes an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27.

2.2 Separate reports have been prepared for each of the Council's core areas of responsibility:

- Appendix 2a - Chief Executive
- Appendix 2b - Governance and Partnership Services
- Appendix 2b/c - Ward Budgets
- Appendix 2d - Resources
- Appendix 2e - Communications and Regeneration
- Appendix 2f - Strategic Leisure Assets
- Appendix 2g - Growth and Prosperity
- Appendix 2h - Community and Environmental Services
- Appendix 2i - Adult Services
- Appendix 2j - Children's Services
- Appendix 2k - Public Health
- Appendix 2l - Budgets Outside the Cash Limit
- Appendix 2m - Wholly-owned Companies

These incorporate summary financial statements which continue to be prepared on a full accruals basis and focus on the forecast revenue outturns for 2022/23. There is an accompanying narrative to explain any areas of significant variance from budget and to highlight any areas of potential pressure along with action plans agreed with service managers to address them.

2.3 The combined effect of the directorates' financial performances is aggregated in a summary financial statement at Appendix 1 which mirrors the Council's Revenue Budget Book. This summary allows proactive month-on-month monitoring of the Council's forecast working balances to be undertaken to ensure appropriate and prudent levels are maintained.

3. Budget Performance

3.1 The adverse full-year forecast budget variance as at the end of month 9 of 2022/23 is exceptionally high and can be summarised as follows, categorised as either locally-managed pressures which colleagues are working hard to mitigate or externally-imposed pressures which inevitably will require some central intervention to resolve:

	£m	£m	
Children's Social Care	6.0		} Locally-managed pressures
Education Transport	0.6		
Adults' Social Care	2.2		
Other Service Pressures	(2.9)		
		5.9	
Pay Award 2.5% budgeted -> 6.1% (net of Better Care Fund) based on National Pay Bargaining	2.7		} Externally-imposed pressures
Non-pay Inflation, in particular Energy & Utilities	1.2		
Impact of Interest Rates on Treasury Management recharges	(0.5)		
Impact of rising Interest Rates on Growth and Prosperity	1.5		
Health & Social Care NI Levy reversal (5 mths)	(0.2)		
		4.7	
		10.6	

The 44% that are externally-imposed pressures is mirrored without exception by the experiences of other peer unitary authorities that have been contacted recently via the Society of Unitary Treasurers. This has been further highlighted in the press and media in recent weeks by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, *The Municipal Journal* and *Public Finance*.

- 3.2 At its meeting on 8 November 2021 the Executive approved the Medium Term Financial Sustainability Strategy for 2021/22 to 2026/27. As part of the Strategy it was agreed that due to the current level of financial risk and volatility the roll forward of the service budget under and overspends is suspended in order that finances can be managed more strategically at corporate level. The exception to this is that the underspending of £71k in respect of the scheme commitments on Ward Budgets will be carried forward to 2022/23 in full and this is reflected in Summary financial statements.
- 3.3 The full-year forecast position at this stage of 2022/23 shows a deterioration in the Council's financial standing when compared with the estimated draft unaudited position as at the close of 2021/22 which show working balances of £6,075k. Working balances are expected to fall to a surplus of £1,572k by the end of 2022/23 after taking account of the budgeted transfer of £6,138k to working balances. Plans are still being developed to address the 2022/23 savings targets and also the in-year pressures identified in this report.
- 3.4 The Council's Revenue Budget for 2022/23 set a target level of General Fund working balances of around £6m. It is deemed appropriate to maintain this target level of £6m for working balances for the medium term.
- 3.5 The impacts of directorates' revenue budget performance and progress in achieving planned savings fall upon the Council's working balances. The main areas accounting for the month 9 forecast overspend of **£10,641k** for 2022/23 are summarised below:-

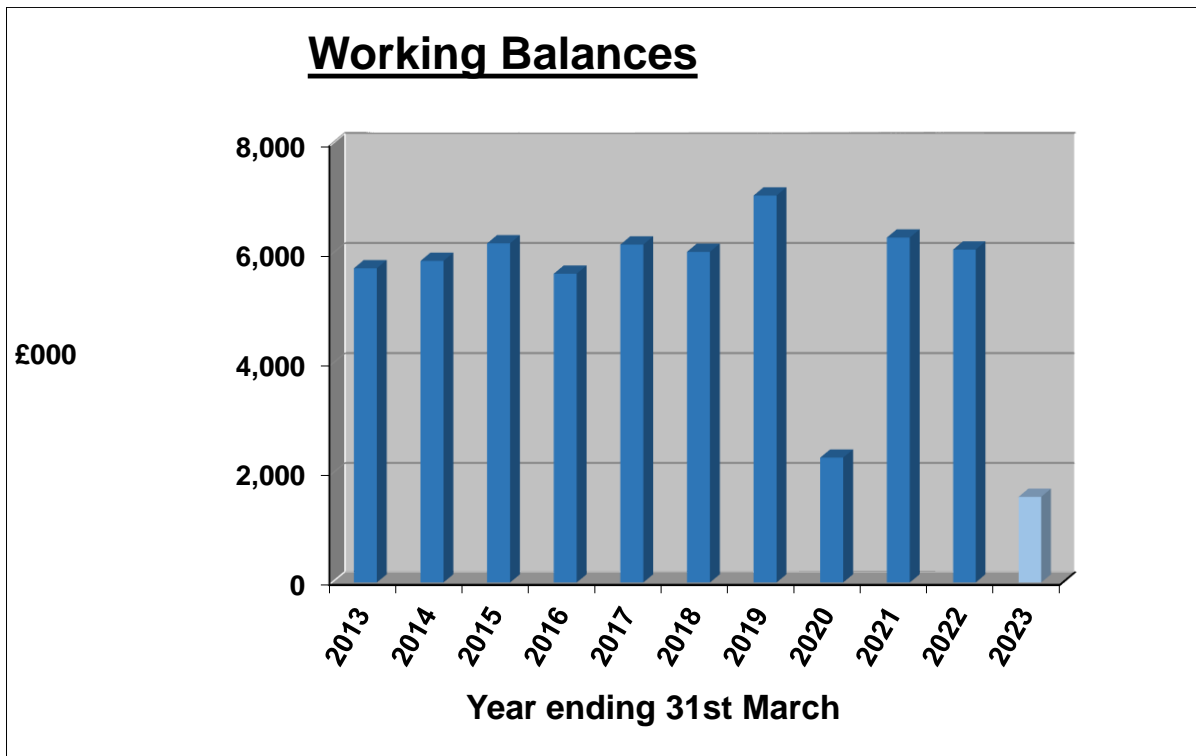
Directorate	Service	Forecast Variance £000
Children's Services	<p>An overspend of £5,924k is forecast. Children's Social Care is forecasting an overspend of £6,043k due mainly to the additional support required following the breakdown of high cost placements and New to Care Placements offsetting the work to step Children down coming in at a greater pace than expected. There is an intention to review the assumptions within the CSMTFS as both the numbers and unit costs have diverted from the original plan. There was also an additional target to bring savings forward of £500k and if the current agency employees remain in post for the full financial year, this will add £741k to the forecast. By December 2022 LAC numbers stand at 562 which is a reduction of 10 compared to October 2022 with early indications that this positive trajectory is set to continue. There is expected to be an overspend in Education of £169k, Transport Service has now transferred to Community & Environmental Services and the remaining overspend relates to some one-off spend on a commissioning contract and unmet vacancy savings. Early Help for Children is expected to underspend by £189k due to vacant posts across the service. The Business Support and Resources Service is forecasting an underspend of £99k due a staffing restructure and some one-off income.</p>	5,924
Adult Services	<p>An overspend of £2,243k is forecast. Adult Commissioning Placements is forecasting a £2,359k overspend on a £51m net expenditure budget. Forecasted pressures of £2,034k on Short Term packages of care linked to hospital discharge, partially offset by £517k Discharge to Assess (D2A) recharges to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for the first 7 months of the year and £188k funding from the £500m Discharge Support Fund. Forecast overspends on Complex Cases of £468k and Residential and Nursing placements of £263k are due to additional packages as at December 2022. Supported Living hours have also increased and at month 9 an additional placement at a forecasted cost of £10k a week has resulted in a £276k overspend. Direct Payments commissioned Personal Assistant hours increased by 1,500 hours per week offset by the claw-back of unspent monies have also resulted in a net forecasted overspend position of £125k. Income for Fairer Charging as at month 9 is resulting in a surplus of £102k. Care and Support is forecasting an overspend of £57k due to income and staffing pressures. Adult Social Care is forecasting an underspend of £170k due to £62k relating to additional income from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) in relation to Direct Payments, a further £41k Community Mental Health Transformation grant income from Lancashire County Council and the</p>	2,243

	remainder of the saving is due to a number of vacant posts across the service.	
Growth and Prosperity	An overspend of £1,510k is forecast. This is due to the increased cost of borrowing. The Executive at its meeting on 8 th November 2021 agreed to the approach to transition out the Growth and Prosperity net revenue budget target over a 2-year period, 2022/23-23/24, with any proceeds subsequently realised from the existing work programme being directed to bolstering reserves and any new proceeds being retained by Growth and Prosperity for their re-investment.	1,510
Contingencies and Reserves	The original Contingencies approved Cash Limited Budget was £10,260k. Movements out of Contingencies since the beginning of the financial year have been reflected in Services Cash Limited Budgets and the remaining Contingency budget is now showing an £4,303k saving. At month 9 there is a forecast pressure of £1,219k in Contingencies relating to an assumption that pay will increase by 6.1% (compared to the 2.5% currently allocated) at an additional cost of £2,658k (net of Better Care Fund) based on National Pay Bargaining, an early estimate that non-pay inflationary costs (covering gas, electricity and street lighting energy) will exceed the current allocation by £1,198k, a saving of £207k due to the reversal of the Health and Social Care Levy from 1 st November 2022 and the release of £2,430k from Adult Reserves to offset the in-year overspend on Adult Services.	1,219
Community and Environmental Services	An overspend of £525k is forecast. Childrens Transport Services have been transferred into Community and Environmental Services and with it, an expected overspend of £550k. This is due to a combination of increased demand pressures and historic savings targets which have not been able to be achieved. The Leisure and Catering service is forecasting a pressure of £175k. Leisure Centres are reporting income pressures of £350k; this, however, is reduced by £300k due to savings within staffing, additional grant income and increased income within the Learn to Swim scheme. In addition, there is a pressure of £25k within the Parks service due to reduced income and £100k within Catering due to the increased cost of provisions. Highways and Traffic Management Services are forecasting an underspend of £45k due to staff vacancies. Waste Services are reporting an underspend of £75k as a result of Trade Waste forecasting increased income of £115k, partially offset by a forecast pressure of £40k within Public Conveniences relating to an inflationary uplift applied to the contract, which is not within the budget. Public Protection is currently forecasting a saving of £80k due to staff vacancies.	525

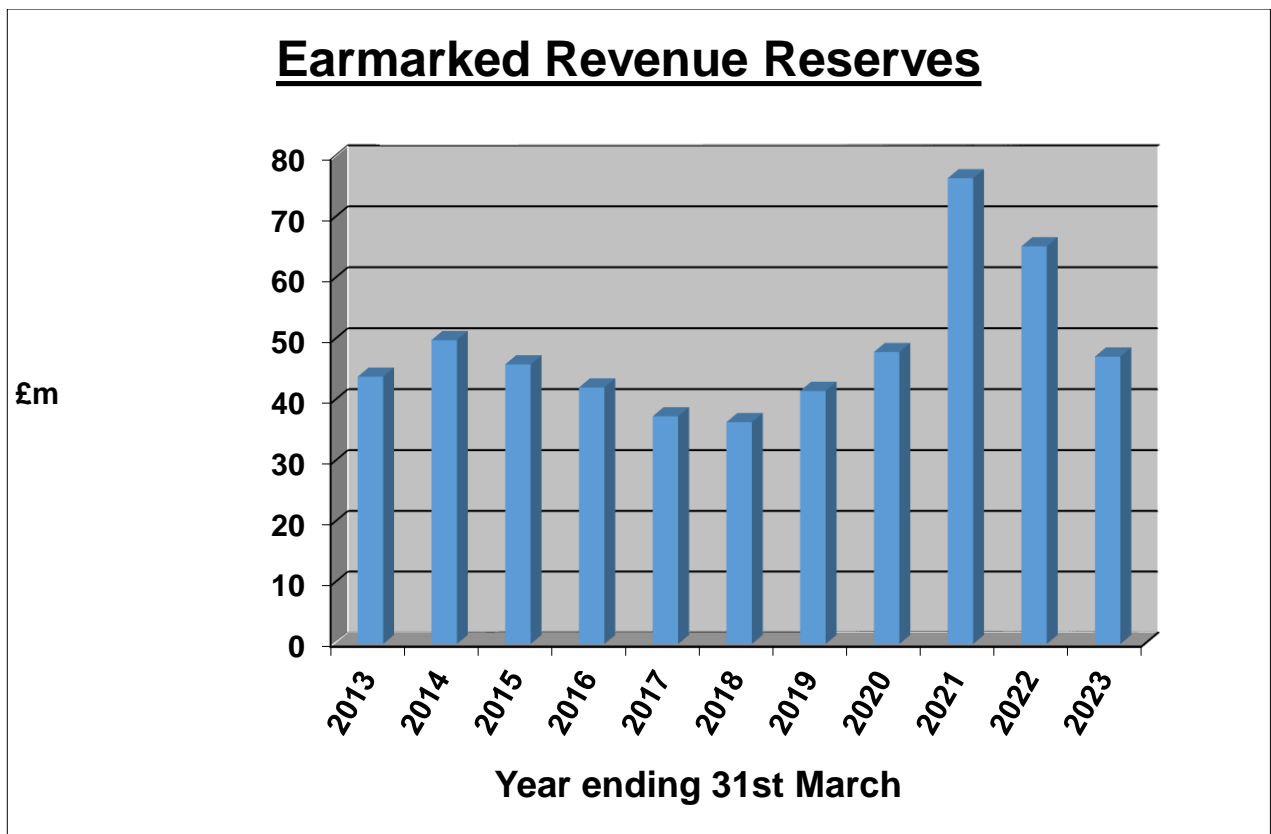
Communications and Regeneration	An overspend of £190k is forecast. Economic Development and Cultural Services is currently forecasting an overspend of £124k relating to the 2% Directorate saving target towards which no savings have been identified. This has been partially offset by a forecast saving of £30k in Economic Development. Visit Blackpool is expecting a pressure of £117k relating to increased marketing costs for which there is no expected increase in income and the cost of crowd safety equipment for which there is no budget. Planning is expecting an underspend of £39k due to increased income and vacant posts.	190
Governance and Partnership Services	An overspend of £125k is forecast. Corporate Legal Services is expecting a £83k overspend in Children's Legal Services due to the large number of complex cases. A net overspend of £42k relates to reduced income partially offset by staff savings. Ward budgets are expected to break-even.	125
Chief Executive	A break-even position is forecast.	Nil
Strategic Leisure Assets	Strategic Leisure Assets is forecasting a saving of £126k due to improved attraction performance. In accordance with the original decision for this programme by the Executive on 7 th February 2011 the projected underspend on Strategic Leisure Assets of £126k (excluding Covid costs) will be carried forward and transferred back to Earmarked Reserves. The forecast cumulative deficit as at 31 st March 2023 is £10,592k after accounting adjustments in 2021/22. The Leisure Assets medium-term financial plan currently expects the service to break-even, in-year, in 2025/26.	Nil
Public Health	A break-even position is forecast. The Public Health team are supporting the vaccination programme delivery, aiming to get the most vulnerable people in Blackpool fully vaccinated. The spend relating to this work is estimated to be £1,024k in 2022/23 and is being funded through a ring-fenced Test and Trace service support grant and Contain Outbreak Management Fund from the Department of Health and Social Care, and therefore has no financial impact on the budgetary position for the directorate. There has been reduced activity against some Payment By Results contracts as a result of Covid impacting our providers' ability to offer routine treatments and these savings have offset a shortfall in income generation for the directorate.	Nil
Resources	An underspend of £388k is forecast. Property Services are forecasting an underspend of £210k against a gross budget of £12.18m which is an improvement due to new lease agreements. A saving of £178k relates to vacancy savings across services and a restructure in Accountancy.	(388)

Budgets Outside the Cash Limit	<p>An underspend of £707k is forecast. Parking Services is forecasting an overspend of £39k for 2022/23. This is as a consequence of lost parking spaces due to regeneration projects, with the effect reduced by an increase in charges. Treasury Management is forecasting an underspend of £546k. This figure includes £2,621k of prudential recharges to services and means that the £742k savings target will be met in 2022/23. The Council is currently using temporary and long-term borrowing to finance prudentially-funded capital expenditure. With interest rates currently rising and in order to mitigate the impacts of any future interest rate rises, the Council has taken out £125m of long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board. This long-term borrowing will replace the temporary borrowing when it is repaid. The Business Loans Fund has a savings target of £3,309k and is forecasting a pressure of £2,002k due to increases in interest rates and slippage in business loans awarded. Following a review of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which was approved by the Executive on 8th February 2021, a total of £6.7m of saving has been forecast to be achieved in 2022/23. Concessionary Fares is forecasting an underspend of £165k based on paying the compensation rate as per Department for Transport (DFT) guidance till March 2023. Subsidiary Companies are expected to underspend by £20k due to reduction in charges, mainly relating to debt management. Land Charges is expected to have a £15k underspend due to increased income.</p>	(707)
Total		10,641

3.6 The graph on the next page shows the stark impact on the level of Council working balances in-year together with the last 10 years' year-end balances for comparison:



3.7 Whilst the Council maintains working balances to address any in-year volatilities, it also maintains a number of Earmarked Revenue Reserves for such longer-term commitments as future Private Finance Initiative payments and uncertainties within the Localised Business Rate system. In order to present a complete picture of the Council’s financial standing an equivalent graph to that of working balances, including a projection to 31st March 2023, is shown below:



3.8 Earmarked Revenue Reserves (ERR)

Provisional Available Earmarked Reserves

	£m
Provisional Balance at 1 st April 2022	65.382
Plus: Strategic Leisure Assets non-Covid element of underspend	0.126
Less: Contributions to/from Reserves on Budget Book summary	(3.614)
Less: Ward budget underspend 2021/22	(0.071)
Less: Growth & Prosperity recovery of 2021/22 overspend	0
Less: Transfers from ERR in months 1 to 9 (inclusive)	(9.553)
Less: Transfer from Support to Adult Social Care Reserve to Contingencies	(2.430)
Plus: Pension BTS clawback	0.200
Plus: Enterprise Zone per budget	0.347
Plus: Contingency Contribution to Reserves	<u>1.801</u>
Forecast Available Earmarked Revenue Reserves as at Month 9 2022/23	52.188
Less: estimated net movement in Other Reserves Mths 10-12	<u>(4.884)</u>
Forecast Available Earmarked Revenue Reserves as at 31 st March 2023	<u>47.304</u>

Provisional Other Earmarked Reserves

Balance at 1 st April 2022	8.400
Less: Use to fund NNDR deficit in 2022/23	<u>(8.400)</u>
Forecast Balance at 31 st March 2023	<u>Nil</u>

4.0 Covid-19

- 4.1 The current forecast effect on the Council's 2022/23 outturn due to the effects of Covid stands at £1,024k gross. It has been assumed that this will be met from the Contain Outbreak Management fund.

5.0 Budget Savings

- 5.1 Appendix 3 comprises a summary schedule showing the progress made by directorates in achieving their revenue budget savings targets for 2022/23 which total £8,629k. As at 31st December 2022 85% of the 2022/23 recurrent savings target has already been delivered. The full-year forecast predicts that 99% will be achieved by the year-end. All the savings have been found recurrently. 92% of the non-recurrent saving have been delivered and it is expected that 100% of the non-recurrent saving will be achieved by the year-end.

6.0 Collection Rates

- 6.1 Council Tax

At the end of month 9 the amount collected for Council Tax (excluding Police and Fire precepts) was £49.2m and the collection rate was **75.7%**. This compares to £46.8m and 74.8% at the same point in 2021/22. The amount collected has risen by £2.4m, which is mainly due to increases in both the Council Tax rate and base.

In the light of the reductions in discount and the introduction of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme the target collection rate is still 97.5% over a 4-year collection period as approved on 28th January 2022 as part of the setting of the Council Tax Base for 2022/23.

6.2 Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme was introduced on 1st April 2013. It is approved annually to ensure that a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme is in place by the start of the following financial year thereby avoiding the financial risks associated with the Government imposed default Scheme. The 2022/23 scheme was approved by the Executive on 6th December 2021. The Scheme ensures that support to pensioners continues at existing levels. Working-age claimants are means-tested to establish entitlement and a percentage reduction (currently 27.11%) is applied at the end of the assessment to establish the level of support provided. In recent years the scheme has been amended so that certain vulnerable groups would have the 27.11% reduced to 13.56%. In addition, amendments have been made to provide additional support for certain low income groups of claimants or partners so that they would also have the 27.11% reduced to 13.56%. Other claimants will continue to have a 27.11% reduction applied to their award and all applicants who were protected and paid 13.56% under the previous scheme will continue to pay 13.56% when they move to Universal Credit. These have the effect of reducing the amount to be collected.

At the end of month 9 the amount collected (excluding Police and Fire precepts) in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax for those who have to pay CTRS either for the first time or in addition to a proportion of their Council Tax was £2.48m and the collection rate was **61.3%**. This compares to £2.37m and 52.4% at the same point in 2021/22.

The likely impact for 2022/23 is that the underlying rate of collection of Council Tax Reduction Scheme will be under greater pressure than 2021/22 due to accumulated arrears, limits on the amount that can be recovered from Attachment of Benefits, the impact of Covid and the ending of both furlough payments and the temporary £20 uplift to Universal Credit in 2021/22.

6.3 Business Rates

Prior to 1st April 2013 Business Rate income was collected by billing authorities on behalf of central government and then redistributed among all local authorities and police authorities as part of Formula Grant. From 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2019 the income relating to Blackpool is shared between central government (50%), the Council (49%) and the Fire Authority (1%). Consequential adjustments were made to the Formula Grant equivalent.

On 13th December 2018 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) approved the establishment of a Lancashire-wide 75% Business Rate Pilot Pool (including Blackpool) in 2019/20 to share risk and reward. As part of this, the 50% rate retention scheme increased to 75% and authorities in the pool forego Revenue Support Grant. The value of the Revenue Support Grant was taken into account when revised business rate tariffs and top-ups for the pilot authorities were set. The Government also increased the Safety Net from 92.5% to 95% for the new pilot pools. Consequently, from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 the income relating to Blackpool is shared between central government (25%), the Council (73.5%) and the Fire Authority (1.5%).

From 1st April 2020, the Pilot scheme ceased and the percentage shares and Safety Net reverted back to the previous original shares. Revenue Support Grant was also reinstated.

At the end of month 9 the amount collected for Business Rates was £33.2m and the collection rate was **78.0%**. This compares to £23.1m and 68.4% at the same point in 2021/22. 2021/22 excludes the significant s31 'Extended Retail/Nurseries etc.' relief provided by central government which provided 3 months' relief (April 2021 to June 2021) at 100% and 9 months' relief (July 2021 to March 2022) at 66%. This relief reduces to 50% in 2022/23. This will impact on future collection rates.

From April 2014 Business Ratepayers have been entitled to elect to pay by 12 monthly instalments instead of over 10 months. This has allowed businesses more time to pay. 1,207 business rate summonses were issued in the 9 months to the end of December 2022.

Subject to audit, the Business Rate cumulative deficit as at 31st March 2021 was £28,578k. The Council's share of this deficit is £13,687k (£1,293k surplus @ 73.5% + £29,871k deficit @ 49%). The 2020/21 deficit has been offset by the s31 'Extended Retail/Nurseries etc.' relief provided by central government.

In 2020/21 s31 grants for Business Rate Reliefs totalling £14.599m were received which have been applied in 2021/22 to the Collection Fund. This caused Earmarked Revenue Reserves to be overstated at year-end.

Subject to audit, the Business Rate cumulative deficit as at 31st March 2022 was £14,049k. The Council's share of this deficit is £6,884k (49% of deficit). The 2021/22 deficit will be offset by the s31 'Extended Retail/Nurseries etc.' relief provided by central government.

In 2021/22 s31 grants for Business Rate Reliefs totalling £8,400k were received which are to be applied in 2022/23 to the Collection Fund. This has been treated as a separate Earmarked Revenue Reserve in 2021/22.

7. Capital Monitoring Performance

- 7.1 All active capital schemes have been included within Appendix 4. The purpose is to present the overall position of capital spend. The schemes are shown individually where total scheme budget is greater than £500k and grouped as "other schemes" otherwise. As in previous financial years, the emphasis regarding capital monitoring will be on scheme variance rather than in-year progress since many schemes cross financial years such as the major housing developments. Therefore, some degree of flexibility for the management of slippage is necessary in order to balance the overall capital programme each year to the funding allocations available.
- 7.2 The report includes the capital programme as approved by the Executive in February 2022. The month 9 report includes this data for comparative purposes. Future reports may show further changes in the capital programme, representing schemes that were approved after submission of the 2022/23 capital programme.
- 7.3 The current economic climate is the most challenging of recent times. High inflation, rising interest rates, supply chain issues (particularly in relation to steel) and a lack of labour are leading to increased costs, primarily on capital schemes that are likely to span a number of years. A full review of capital schemes is therefore being undertaken to establish any schemes where approved budgets may become insufficient, and potential overspends identified. Despite the pressures, all schemes are assumed to proceed.

8. Summary Cash Flow Statement

- 8.1 As part of the reporting format for this financial year a summary cash flow statement is included at Appendix 5. This provides a comparison of the actual cash receipts and payments compared to forecast for 2022/23.
- 8.2 During the first 9 months of the year the Council's net cashflow has resulted in fluctuations in short-term net investment/borrowing balances due to the receipt of up-front grant income in this financial year. The Council fixed £125m of temporary loans in August 2022, which resulted in an increase in investment balances and over the next few months, short-term borrowing will be repaid using the fixed-term borrowing taken.

9. Summary Balance Sheet

- 9.1 In order to provide a complete picture of the Council's financial performance Appendix 6 provides a snapshot of the General Fund balance sheet as at the end of month 9. The key areas of focus are any significant movements in debtors, cash and cash equivalents, bank overdraft and creditors as these impact upon the Council's performance in the critical areas of debt recovery, treasury management and Public Sector Payment Policy.
- 9.2 Due to a consultation regarding the accounting treatment of infrastructure assets the 2020/21 accounts have not been signed off by the Council's external auditors. The consultation is now complete and the 2020/21 accounts are currently being audited for the changes to the infrastructure assets. As soon as the audit is complete the 2021/22 and 2022/23 balance sheet will require amendment, therefore the figures above should be treated as draft and will be subject to change.
- 9.3 Over the 9-month period there has been an increase in Property, Plant and Equipment of £49.9m due to capital expenditure which is in line with the Council's approved capital programme for 2022/23. Due to low interest rates, the Council has been using temporary borrowing to finance prudentially-funded capital expenditure. With interest rates currently rising and in order to mitigate the impacts of any future interest rate rises, the Council has taken out £125m of long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board. This long-term borrowing will replace the temporary borrowing when it is repaid and is the reason for the increase in long-term borrowing of £125m and reduction in short-term borrowing of £128.9m. Cash and Cash equivalents have decreased by £17.8m due to the timing of capital and revenue grants.

10. Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Earmarked Reserves Forecast

- 10.1 The 6-year Medium Term Financial Sustainability Strategy (MTFSS) covering 2021/22 – 2026/27 was approved by the Executive on 8th November 2021 and whilst the principles still stand the current economic climate has had a significant impact on the supporting Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- 10.2 The continuing impact of Covid-19 on Council services through additional expenditure and reducing income, alongside inflationary pressures on both pay and prices not seen since the 1970s due at least in part to the war in Ukraine, and the effect of the cost of living crisis on demand for Council services have now altered the outlook for the worse, and created a great deal of additional uncertainty. Recent years have also seen a significant growth in demand for Children's Social Care nationally which has also been experienced in Blackpool.

Challenges in recruitment and retention, and pressures in adult social care are also contributing to a situation in which Council finances are under considerable strain.

- 10.3 Following a detailed refresh of the MTFP the table below illustrates the impact the current conditions have had on the annual forecast budget gaps:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Reduction / (Increases) in funding /income	(14.4)	(12.8)	(3.7)	(3.2)
Pay awards, increments, NI and pensions	5.0	3.2	3.3	2.8
Non-Pay Inflation	6.5	2.7	2.7	2.9
Service pressures/Demand and demographic pressures	26.2	13.5	2.5	4.1
Prior year non-recurrent savings	0.1	0	0	0
Budget Gap	23.4	6.6	4.8	6.6
Total Cumulative Budget Gap since 2011/12	218.0	224.6	229.4	236.0

- 10.4 These financial pressures are compounded by repeated delays to Government reforms of Local Government finance such as business rates reset and Fair Funding formula review implementation, which are expected to result in additional funding for Blackpool. Failure to implement these measures has resulted in further financial pressures above those that would otherwise have been the case.

- 10.5 Despite consistently delivering a balanced budget in previous years, the factors outlined within this report have created a forecast budget gap that the Council will struggle to address without significant funding.

- 10.6 The revised MTFP identifies for planning purposes a financial gap of c£23m in 2023/24 reducing to c£7m in 2024/25, c£5m in 2025/26 and c£7m in 2026/27. Given the level of uncertainty, a number of assumptions have had to be made, and these will need to be revised throughout the budget planning process.

- 10.7 As part of this budget planning process a detailed exercise has also been undertaken on Earmarked Revenue Reserves to check the validity of amounts held and a forecast of when funds will be drawn down covering the same period as the latest MTFSS. A summary table is shown below:

Reserves Summary						
Directorate	Draft 31/03/22	Est Balance 31/3/23	Est Balance 31/3/24	Est Balance 31/3/25	Est Balance 31/3/26	Est Balance 31/3/27
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Total	(65.4)	(47.3)	(38.8)	(40.7)	(40.1)	(39.7)

11. Conclusions and Recommendations

11.1 The Council's Revenue Budget for 2022/23 set a target level of General Fund working balances of around £6m. However, given the current economic climate it is recommended that work continues towards target working balances of £6m by 31st March 2024 rising to £8m by 31st March 2025 being 5% of the net requirement. Earmarked revenue reserves at the start of the financial year stood at £65.4m, though with known in-year commitments against this the balance will fall to an estimated £47.3m by the end of the year. This is still sufficient to underwrite the current year's financial risks with a separate financial plan in place for the Council's wholly-owned companies (ref. appendix 2m).

11.2 If the 2022/23 forecast position became the actual outturn, then in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules within its Constitution the forecast revenue outturn 2022/23 within this report contravenes both of the two specific conditions that excess spending does not:

1. exceed 1% (= £5m) of the authority's total gross revenue expenditure; or
2. have the effect of reducing the authority's Working Balances below 50% of their normal target level (= £3m).

However, these are still unprecedented times for the whole of the local government sector and in the context of relatively healthy levels of Earmarked Revenue Reserves per CIPFA's Financial Resilience Index and with 3 months of the financial year still remaining officers are working continuously to improve the position - revised service and financial plans are being developed including the review of technical accounting treatments, freezing of non-essential spend, delays to filling non-front line vacancies and the prospective redesignation of earmarked reserves should they need to be used.

11.3 The Executive is asked:

1. To note the report.
2. To require the respective directors and Director of Resources to continue to closely monitor and manage service financial and operational performances, specifically Children's Services, Adult Services, Growth and Prosperity and Community and Environmental Services.
3. To prompt the Scrutiny Leadership Board to continue to independently review the financial and operational performances of the services listed in 11.3.2.
4. To continue to lobby central government (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Department for Health and Social Care and Department for Education in particular) along with local authority peers and networks and the Local Government Association for the funding necessary to cope with the burdens and demands presenting as a result of exceptional inflationary pressures and demographic demands upon statutory services.
5. To continue to work towards target working balances of £6m by 31st March 2024 rising to £8m by 31st March 2025.

Steve Thompson
Director of Resources

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Blackpool Council

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

BLACKPOOL COUNCIL						FORECAST GENERAL FUND POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2023							
SUMMARY													
APP.	GENERAL FUND NET REQUIREMENTS	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD	VARIANCE					
		ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2022/23 PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OVERTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		NON-COVID £000	GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	COVID-19 CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000
2(a)	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	1,921	63	1,858	1,921	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2(b)	GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES	2,255	1,896	484	2,380	125	-	125	-	-	-	-	-
2(b/c)	WARD BUDGETS	361	24	337	361	-	(71)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2(d)	RESOURCES	3,720	1,698	1,634	3,332	(388)	-	(388)	-	-	-	-	-
2(e)	COMMUNICATIONS AND REGENERATION	4,134	5,149	(825)	4,324	190	-	190	-	-	-	-	-
2(f)	STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS	2,870	5,445	(2,701)	2,744	(126)	-	(126)	-	-	-	-	-
	STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS - TRANSFER TO/(FROM) RESERVES	-	-	126	126	126	-	126	-	-	-	-	-
2(g)	GROWTH & PROSPERITY	(7,893)	(17)	(6,366)	(6,383)	1,510	-	1,510	-	-	-	-	-
	GROWTH & PROSPERITY - TRANSFER TO/(FROM) RESERVES	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2(h)	COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	50,038	33,186	17,377	50,563	525	-	525	-	-	-	-	-
2(i)	ADULT SERVICES	65,760	47,571	20,432	68,003	2,243	-	2,243	-	-	-	-	-
2(j)	CHILDREN'S SERVICES	64,269	48,290	21,903	70,193	5,924	-	5,924	-	-	-	-	-
2(k)	PUBLIC HEALTH	5	(20,707)	20,712	5	-	-	1,024	(1,024)	-	-	-	-
2(l)	BUDGETS OUTSIDE THE CASH LIMIT	3,837	1,047	2,083	3,130	(707)	-	(707)	-	-	-	-	-
	CAPITAL CHARGES	(30,008)	(22,506)	(7,502)	(30,008)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NET COST OF SERVICES:	161,269	101,139	69,552	170,691	9,422	(71)	9,422	1,024	(1,024)	-	-	-
	CONTRIBUTIONS:												
	- TO / (FROM) RESERVES	(3,614)	-	(3,614)	(3,614)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	- 2021/22 SERVICE OVER/(UNDERSPENDS)	(71)	-	(71)	(71)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	- REVENUE CONSEQUENCES OF CAPITAL OUTLAY	400	-	400	400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	- CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	- SALES, FEES & CHARGES - COVID COMPENSATION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CONTINGENCIES	(4,303)	-	(3,084)	(3,084)	1,219	-	1,219	-	-	-	-	-
	LEVIES	457	-	457	457	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	CONTRIBUTIONS, etc.	(7,131)	-	(5,912)	(5,912)	1,219	-	1,219	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE TO BE MET FROM PUBLIC FUNDS	154,138	101,139	63,640	164,779	10,641	-	10,641	1,024	(1,024)	-	-	-
	ADDED TO/(TAKEN FROM) BALANCES	6,138	-	(4,503)	(4,503)	(10,641)	-	(10,641)	(1,024)	1,024	-	-	-
	NET REQUIREMENT AFTER WORKING BALANCES	160,276	101,139	59,137	160,276	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GENERAL BALANCES AS AT 1st APRIL 2022 PER UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22						6,075	6,075	-	-	-	-	-	-
Budgeted In-year (reduction in) / addition to General Fund Working Balances						6,138	6,138	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forecast In-year (reduction in) / addition to General Fund Working Balances						(10,641)	(10,641)	(1,024)	1,024	-	-	-	-
ESTIMATED UNEARMARKED WORKING BALANCES AS AT 31st MARCH 2023						1,572	1,572	(1,024)	1,024	-	-	-	-

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Blackpool Council - Chief Executive

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR-DEC £000	2022/23		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		NON-COVID	COVID-19				
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000			£000	GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000
CHIEF EXECUTIVE												
NET EXPENDITURE												
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	668	554	114	668	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HUMAN RESOURCES, ORGANISATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	150	(440)	590	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHIEF EXECUTIVE TOTAL	818	114	704	818	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CORPORATE DELIVERY UNIT	305	(806)	1,111	305	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HOUSING	798	755	43	798	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE	1,103	(51)	1,154	1,103	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1,921	63	1,858	1,921	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for each individual service within the Chief Executive's Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2022/23 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year.

Chief Executive

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Human Resources, Organisation and Workforce Development

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Corporate Delivery Unit

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Housing

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Budget Holder – Mr N Jack, Chief Executive

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Blackpool Council – Governance and Partnership Services

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE				
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR-DEC £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		NON-COVID	COVID-19			
							£000	GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000
GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES											
NET EXPENDITURE											
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE	2,283	1,955	277	2,232	(51)	-	(51)	-	-	-	-
CORPORATE LEGAL SERVICES	121	(290)	494	204	83	-	83	-	-	-	-
INFORMATION GOVERNANCE	44	(66)	86	20	(24)	-	(24)	-	-	-	-
LIFE EVENTS & CUSTOMER CARE	(193)	297	(373)	(76)	117	-	117	-	-	-	-
GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES	2,255	1,896	484	2,380	125	-	125	-	-	-	-
WARDS	361	24	337	361	-	(71)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2,616	1,920	821	2,741	125	(71)	125	-	-	-	-

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 2022/23 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.

Democratic Governance Service

The Democratic Governance Service is currently forecasting an underspend of £51k. This is due to staff vacancies and additional income. This has increased this month due to staff vacancies continuing longer than expected.

Corporate Legal Services

This service is forecasting an overspend of £83k. This relates to an expected overspend in Children's legal services due to the large number of complex cases. This has reduced this period due to reducing counsel costs.

Information Governance

This service is now forecasting a £24k underspend. This is due to increased income.

Life Events & Customer Care

This service is forecasting a £117k pressure. Income has dropped over the past month forcing a revised income forecast.

Ward Budgets

The underspend from 2021/22 of £71k has been brought forward as per the Executive decision of the 13th June 2022. Ward budgets are expected to break-even in 2022/23.

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

Blackpool Council
Ward Budgets
2022/23
Month 9

Wards

Ward	Councillors	Total No. of Requisitions Submitted	No. of Requisitions Approved	No. Awaiting Approval	Total No. of Requisitions Completed	Total 2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Budget Committed to Approved Schemes	Remaining 2022-23 Budget
Anchorsholme Ward BC1001/BC1101	Cllr. Galley Cllr. A Williams	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	£10,000.00 £9,999.99	£0.00 £0.00	£10,000.00 £9,999.99
Bispham Ward BC1002/BC1102	Cllr. Clapham Cllr. Wilshaw	5 5	5 5	0 0	2 2	£7,538.38 £7,538.38	£6,075.00 £6,075.00	£1,463.38 £1,463.38
Bloomfield Ward BC1003/BC1103	Cllr. Cain Cllr. Hobson	3 15	3 15	0 0	2 13	£9,102.68 £10,000.00	£1,058.50 £4,036.00	£8,044.18 £5,964.00
Brunswick Ward BC1004/BC1104	Cllr. Blackburn Cllr. G Coleman	2 1	2 1	0 0	2 1	£10,000.00 £10,000.00	£9,923.85 £1,650.00	£76.15 £8,350.00
Claremont Ward BC1005/BC1105	Cllr. Taylor Cllr. L Williams	9 7	9 7	0 0	8 6	£8,503.80 £9,483.81	£3,080.91 £2,618.75	£5,422.89 £6,865.06
Clifton Ward BC1006/BC1106	Cllr. Burdess Cllr. Hutton	7 2	7 2	0 0	3 2	£7,856.75 £9,056.76	£3,486.98 £1,469.00	£4,369.77 £7,587.76
Greenlands Ward BC1007/BC1107	Cllr. R Scott Cllr. Wright	3 2	3 2	0 0	2 1	£8,338.68 £8,338.69	£1,657.48 £1,994.33	£6,681.20 £6,344.36
Hawes Side Ward BC1008/BC1108	Cllr. Brookes Cllr. Critchley	5 5	5 5	0 0	5 5	£7,985.04 £9,570.05	£4,726.60 £4,726.60	£3,258.44 £4,843.45
Highfield Ward BC1009/BC1109	Cllr. Hunter Cllr. B Mitchell	2 0	2 0	0 0	2 0	£9,720.93 £10,000.00	£656.00 £0.00	£9,064.93 £10,000.00
Ingthorpe Ward BC1010/BC1110	Cllr. Cross Cllr. Farrell	3 8	3 8	0 0	2 7	£9,690.97 £9,500.87	£3,611.65 £5,436.30	£6,079.32 £4,064.57
Layton Ward BC1011/BC1111	Cllr. Mrs Benson Cllr. M Mitchell	12 3	12 3	0 0	11 3	£9,271.36 £7,741.36	£6,638.00 £728.00	£2,633.36 £7,013.36
Marton Ward BC1012/BC1112	Cllr. D Coleman Cllr. Stansfield	1 1	1 1	0 0	1 1	£9,926.93 £9,926.93	£450.00 £450.00	£9,476.93 £9,476.93
Norbreck Ward BC1013/BC1113	Cllr. Mrs Callow Cllr. Sloman	4 4	4 4	0 0	4 4	£10,000.00 £10,000.00	£2,867.88 £2,867.88	£7,132.12 £7,132.12
Park Ward BC1014/BC1114	Cllr. Campbell Cllr. Kirkland	3 3	3 3	0 0	2 2	£9,978.72 £9,978.72	£6,211.75 £6,211.75	£3,766.97 £3,766.97
Squires Gate Ward BC1015/BC1115	Cllr. Cox Cllr. Walsh	1 1	1 1	0 0	1 1	£8,228.65 £8,228.65	£712.50 £712.50	£7,516.15 £7,516.15
Stanley Ward BC1016/BC1116	Cllr. Baker Cllr. Roberts	1 1	1 1	0 0	0 0	£10,000.00 £10,000.00	£232.20 £232.20	£9,767.80 £9,767.80
Talbot Ward BC1017/BC1117	Cllr. Hugo Cllr. Smith	7 7	7 7	0 0	5 5	£8,352.72 £8,352.71	£4,356.69 £4,356.69	£3,996.03 £3,996.02
Tyldesley Ward BC1018/BC1118	Cllr. Collett Cllr. Matthews	2 2	2 2	0 0	2 2	£10,000.00 £10,000.00	£190.00 £190.00	£9,810.00 £9,810.00
Victoria Ward BC1019/BC1119	Cllr. Jackson Cllr. Owen	7 4	7 4	0 0	6 4	£8,597.46 £8,777.47	£1,658.27 £518.99	£6,939.19 £8,258.48
Warbreck Ward BC1020/BC1120	Cllr. D Scott Cllr. Mrs M Scott	4 4	4 4	0 0	4 4	£8,340.30 £8,340.30	£2,854.00 £2,854.00	£5,486.30 £5,486.30
Waterloo Ward BC1021/BC1121	Cllr. O'Hara Cllr. Robertson BEM	2 1	2 1	0 0	2 1	£10,000.00 £10,000.00	£2,636.00 £2,500.00	£7,364.00 £7,500.00

Ward Totals	159	159	0	130	£386,268.06	£112,712.25	£273,555.81
Unallocated Budget	-	-	-	-	(£25,000.00)	£0.00	(£25,000.00)
Income Budget	-	-	-	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Area Ward Totals	159	159	0	130	£361,268.06	£112,712.25	£248,555.81

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Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2022/23		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		NON-COVID £000	COVID-19				
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000				GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000
RESOURCES												
NET EXPENDITURE												
PROCUREMENT & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	160	221	(126)	95	(65)	-	(65)	-	-	-	-	-
BENEFITS	(1,132)	(1,613)	481	(1,132)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REVENUES SERVICES	1,698	1,615	83	1,698	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	52	(166)	211	45	(7)	-	(7)	-	-	-	-	-
ICT SERVICES	59	(464)	523	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACCOUNTANCY	305	106	88	194	(111)	-	(111)	-	-	-	-	-
RISK SERVICES	28	(191)	210	19	(9)	-	(9)	-	-	-	-	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	2,467	2,130	127	2,257	(210)	-	(210)	-	-	-	-	-
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	83	60	37	97	14	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3,720	1,698	1,634	3,332	(388)	-	(388)	-	-	-	-	-

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 9 months of 2022/23 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 £65k due to additional income in relation to Town Deal, Opportunity Area, Housing Support Fund, Chorley BC Payroll and Practical Support (PH) and staff vacancy savings.

Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting a break-even position. Monthly Housing Benefit new claims processing figures for December was 13 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 8 days

Revenue Services

Revenue Services are forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £2.37m.

Customer First

Customer First is forecasting an underspend of £7k against a gross budget of £1.01m due to vacancy savings within the service.

ICT Services

ICT is forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £6.05m.

Accountancy

Accountancy is forecasting an underspend of £111k. Savings have been achieved through vacancy savings and a restructure of the service.

Risk Services

Risk Services are forecasting an underspend of £9k against a gross budget of £1.04m. This is due to vacancy savings within the service.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

Property Services are forecasting an underspend of £210k against a gross budget of £12.18m, an improvement due to new lease agreements. The potential lease to be agreed for Flagstaff Garden food court will now be 2023/24.

Equality and Diversity

Equality and Diversity are forecasting an overspend of £14k. This is due to unachieved savings within the service.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 9 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £388k 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

Blackpool Council – Communications & Regeneration

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND £000	VARIANCE					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2022/23		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		NON-COVID	COVID-19				
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000			GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000	
COMMUNICATIONS & REGENERATION												
NET EXPENDITURE												
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CULTURAL SERVICES	273	750	(380)	370	97	-	97	-	-	-	-	-
PLANNING	600	461	100	561	(39)	-	(39)	-	-	-	-	-
TOURISM AND COMMUNICATIONS	3,261	3,938	(545)	3,393	132	-	132	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4,134	5,149	(825)	4,324	190	-	190	-	-	-	-	-

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 £190k overspend is based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2022/23 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.

Economic Development and Cultural Services

This service is currently forecasting an overspend of £97k. A now predicted £30k saving in Economic Development is offsetting the £124k pressure which is the 2% Directorate saving target towards which no savings have been identified.

Planning

This service is expecting to underspend by £39k. This is due to increased income and vacant posts.

Tourism & Communications

As at month 9 there is a £117k pressure in the Visit Blackpool service which relates to increased marketing costs for which there is no expected increase in income and the cost of crowd safety equipment (£35k) for which there is no budget. A £12k pressure relating to income is now expected in Print Services as well as £3k in Beach Patrol relating to staffing.

Budget Holder – Mr A Cavill, Director of Communications & Regeneration

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Blackpool Council – Strategic Leisure Assets

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE				
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2022/23		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		NON-COVID	COVID-19			
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000			GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000
STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS											
NET EXPENDITURE											
STRATEGIC LEISURE ASSETS	2,870	5,445	(2,701)	2,744	(126)	(126)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2,870	5,445	(2,701)	2,744	(126)	(126)	-	-	-	-	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for the Service against its respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn is based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2022/23 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.

Key Issues

In month 9, Strategic Leisure Assets are reporting an in-year saving of £126k. The position has improved due to improved attraction performance.

In accordance with the original decision for this programme by the Executive on 7th February 2011, the projected underspend on Strategic Leisure Assets of £126k (i.e. excluding Covid costs) will be transferred to Earmarked Reserves to go against the current balance. This brings the expected cumulative deficit as at 2022/23 to £10,592k after accounting adjustments in 2021/22.

The latest Leisure Assets medium-term financial plan currently expects the service to break-even, in-year, in 2025/26.

Budget Holder – Mr A Cavill, Director of Communications & Regeneration

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Blackpool Council – Growth & Prosperity

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2022/23		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		NON-COVID £000	COVID-19				
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000				GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000
GROWTH & PROSPERITY												
NET EXPENDITURE												
GROWTH & PROSPERITY	(7,893)	(17)	(6,366)	(6,383)	1,510	-	1,510	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	(7,893)	(17)	(6,366)	(6,383)	1,510	-	1,510	-	-	-	-	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the outturn projection for the Service against its respective, currently approved, revenue budget. The forecast outturn is based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2022/23 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.

Key Issues

As at month 9, the service is forecasting a pressure of £1,510k. This is an increase from month 6 due to the increased cost of borrowing.

The Executive, at its meeting on 8th November 2021, agreed to the approach to transition out the Growth and Prosperity net revenue budget target over a 2-year period, 2022/23-23/24, with any proceeds subsequently realised from the existing work programme being directed to bolstering reserves and any new proceeds being retained by Growth and Prosperity for their re-investment.

Budget Holder – Mr A Cavill, Director of Communications & Regeneration

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Blackpool Council – Community and Environmental Services

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2022/23		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000		NON-COVID £000	COVID-19				
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000				GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES												
NET EXPENDITURE												
BUSINESS SERVICES	(807)	813	(1,620)	(807)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LEISURE AND CATERING	5,040	4,418	797	5,215	175	-	175	-	-	-	-	-
PUBLIC PROTECTION	1,280	769	431	1,200	(80)	-	(80)	-	-	-	-	-
HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES	18,005	13,458	4,502	17,960	(45)	-	(45)	-	-	-	-	-
STREET CLEANSING AND WASTE	18,249	8,418	9,756	18,174	(75)	-	(75)	-	-	-	-	-
COASTAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS	5,664	3,912	1,752	5,664	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTEGRATED TRANSPORT	2,607	1,398	1,759	3,157	550	-	550	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	50,038	33,186	17,377	50,563	525	-	525	-	-	-	-	-

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 overspend of £525k is based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2022/23 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.

Business Services

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Leisure and Catering

Leisure and Catering is currently forecasting a pressure of £175k. Leisure Centres are reporting income pressures of £350k; this, however, is reduced by £300k due to savings within staffing, additional grant income and increased income within the Learn to Swim scheme. There is a small pressure of £25k within the Parks service due to reduced football pitch income and loss of lake revenue. Catering is reporting a £100k pressure due to the increased cost of provisions.

Public Protection

The service is currently forecasting a saving of £80k due to staff vacancies within Public Protection.

Highways and Traffic Management Services

This service is currently forecasting an underspend of £45k due to staff vacancies within Highways & Engineering.

Street Cleansing and Waste

Waste Services are reporting an underspend of £75k. Trade Waste is forecasting an increase in income of £115k, but there is a forecast pressure of £40k within Public Conveniences where an inflationary uplift has been applied to the contract, which is not within the budget.

Coastal and Environmental Partnerships

This service is currently forecasting a break-even position.

Integrated Transport

Childrens Transport Services have been transferred into Community and Environmental Services and with it, an expected overspend of £550k. This is due to a combination of increased demand pressures and historic savings targets which have not been able to be achieved.

Conclusion – Community and Environmental Services financial position

At the end of December 2022, the Community and Environmental Services Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £525k. There are pressures within the Leisure service, but savings have been identified within the Directorate to mitigate this pressure. There is, however, a £550k pressure within Integrated Transport with the Childrens Transport Service transferring into the Directorate.

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

Blackpool Council - Adult Services

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET		EXPENDITURE		VARIANCE		2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2022/23		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	NON-COVID £000		COVID-19					
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000				GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000	
ADULT SERVICES													
NET EXPENDITURE													
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	9,002	6,924	1,908	8,832	(170)	-	(170)	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARE & SUPPORT	5,415	5,514	(42)	5,472	57	-	57	-	-	-	-	-	-
ADULT COMMISSIONING PLACEMENTS	51,188	35,044	18,503	53,547	2,359	-	2,359	-	-	-	-	-	-
ADULT SAFEGUARDING	155	89	63	152	(3)	-	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	65,760	47,571	20,432	68,003	2,243	-	2,243	-	-	-	-	-	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service within the Adult Services Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2022/23 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.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care is forecasting an overall underspend of £170k, £62k of this relates to additional income from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) in relation to Direct Payments, a further £41k Community Mental Health Transformation grant income from Lancashire County Council and the remainder of the saving is due to a number of vacant posts across the service.

Adult Commissioning Placements (Social Care Packages)

The Adult Commissioning Placements budget is forecasting a £2,359k overspend on a £51m net expenditure budget. Forecasted pressures sit within Short Term packages of care linked to hospital discharge of £2,034k in which the Council are supporting a minimum of an additional 40 residential packages and 120 care at home packages which are in part being offset by the Discharge to Assess (D2A) recharges to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for the first 7 months of the year (£517k), and funding from the £500m Discharge Support Fund (£188k). The forecasted overspend on Complex Cases of £468k is due to an additional 6 packages as at December on top of the 125 packages used to set this financial year's budget. There is a pressure in Residential and Nursing placements of £263k due to 12 additional long-term packages which are over and above the numbers used to set this year's budget. Supported Living hours have also increased and at month 9 an additional placement at a forecasted cost of £10k a week has resulted in a £276k overspend. Direct Payments commissioned Personal Assistant hours increasing by 1,500 hours per week offset by the claw-back of unspent monies have also resulted in a net forecasted overspend position of £125k. Income for Fairer Charging as at month 9 is resulting in a surplus (£102k).

Care and Support

Care and Support is forecasting an overall overspend of £57k made up of Nibbles income shortfall pressures of £13k, re-grade pressures of £12k, a £22k overspend on Langdale in relation to the use of Emergency Workforce provision and an additional member of staff used short-term from within Extra Support service. There is a forecasted overspend of £31k on the Provider Hub due to the provision of single handed care training offsetting with slippage on vacancies of £21k in the Shared Lives and Volunteers team.

Adults Safeguarding

Adults Safeguarding is forecasting an underspend of £3k due to savings on non-staffing overheads. The DOLS and Safeguarding teams have now moved into Adult Social Care.

Summary of the Adult Services financial position

As at the end of December 2022 the Adult Services Directorate is forecasting an overall overspend of £2,243k for the financial year to March 2023 on a net budget of £66m.

Budget Holder – K Smith, Director of Adult Services

Blackpool Council – Children’s Services

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE				
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £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
CHILDREN'S SERVICES											
NET EXPENDITURE											
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - ISB	19,828	16,673	3,155	19,828	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LOCAL SCHOOLS BUDGET - NON DELEGATED	276	115	154	269	(7)	(7)	-	-	-	-	-
EDUCATION	23,959	13,835	11,257	25,092	1,133	1,133	-	-	-	-	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	182	137	45	182	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	8,760	6,423	2,418	8,841	81	81	-	-	-	-	-
DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT	(54,610)	(39,368)	(15,232)	(54,600)	10	10	-	-	-	-	-
CARRY FORWARD OF DSG UNDER/(OVER) SPEND	1,605	-	388	388	(1,217)	(1,217)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL DSG FUNDED SERVICES	-	(2,185)	2,185	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPRECIATION	1,748	1,748	-	1,748	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EDUCATION	1,844	1,922	91	2,013	169	169	-	-	-	-	-
EARLY HELP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	5,820	2,880	2,751	5,631	(189)	(189)	-	-	-	-	-
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	54,031	42,353	17,721	60,074	6,043	6,043	-	-	-	-	-
BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES	1,010	1,572	(661)	911	(99)	(99)	-	-	-	-	-
LOCAL SERVICES SUPPORT GRANT	(18)	-	(18)	(18)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT	(166)	-	(166)	(166)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL COUNCIL FUNDED SERVICES	64,269	50,475	19,718	70,193	5,924	5,924	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	64,269	48,290	21,903	70,193	5,924	5,924	-	-	-	-	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service within the Children’s Services Directorate against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2022/23 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.

Children’s Social Care

The Children’s Social Care budget was increased by £8.173m in August 2020 following the approval of the refreshed Children’s Services Medium Term Financial Strategy (CSMTFS). The additional investment was required to cover the increase in numbers and unit costs of Looked After Children (LAC) between 2020/21 budget setting and 31st May 2020 and also to develop the placements market and increase the capacity within internal fostering. The CSMTFS aimed to reverse the current trend and this investment alongside other service improvements aimed to ensure the service can pay back the budget increase by 2026/27.

However, Children’s Social Care Placements had a worsening position since May 2020 of £4,802k, mainly due to the additional support required following the breakdown of high cost placements and New to Care Placements offsetting the work to step Children down coming in at a greater pace than expected. There is an intention to review the assumptions within the CSMTFS as both the numbers and unit costs have diverted from the original plan. There was also an additional target to bring savings forward of £500k and if the current agency employees remain in post for the full financial year, this will add £741k to the forecast.

Dedicated Schools Grant Funded Services

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the funding stream that supports the Schools Budget, which includes amounts that are devolved through the Individual School Budget (ISB), together with centrally-retained pupil-related services as listed in the revenue summary. Any under or overspend against services funded by the DSG will be carried forward to 2023/24 and, in the case of overspend, become the first call on the grant in that year.

Education

Transport Service has now transferred to Community & Environmental Services. The remaining overspend of £169k relates to some one-off spend on a commissioning contract and vacancy savings unmet.

Business Support and Resources

The Business Support and Resources Service is forecasting an underspend of £99k due a staffing restructure and some one-off income.

Early Help

The Early Help Service is expected to underspend by £189k mainly due to vacant posts across the service.

Summary of the Children's Services financial position

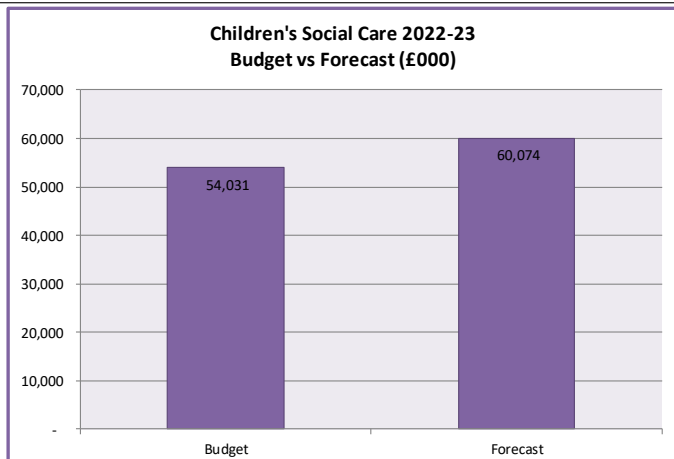
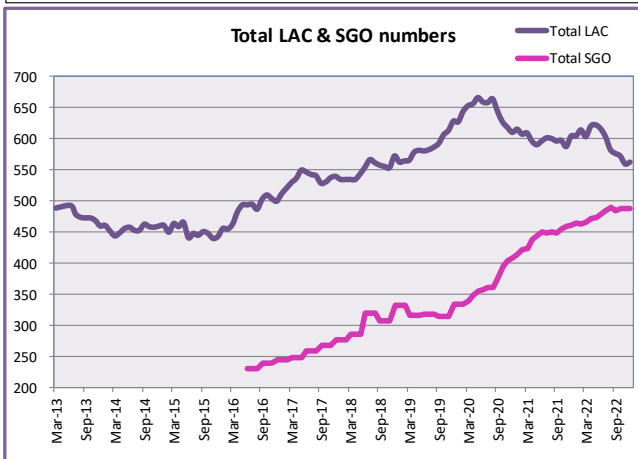
As at the end of December 2022 the Children's Services Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £5,924k for the financial year to March 2023.

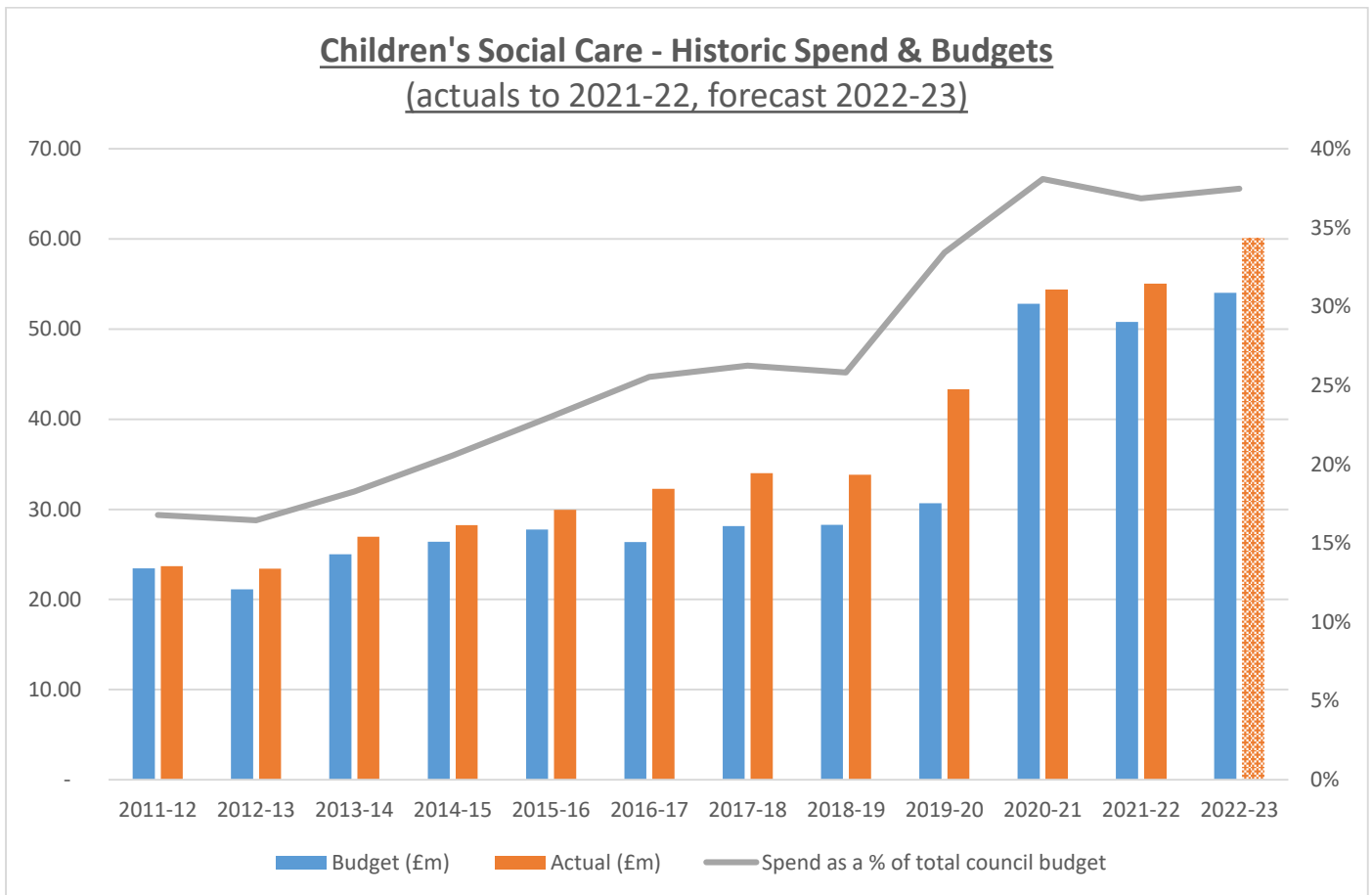
Budget Holder – Victoria Gent, Director of Children's Services

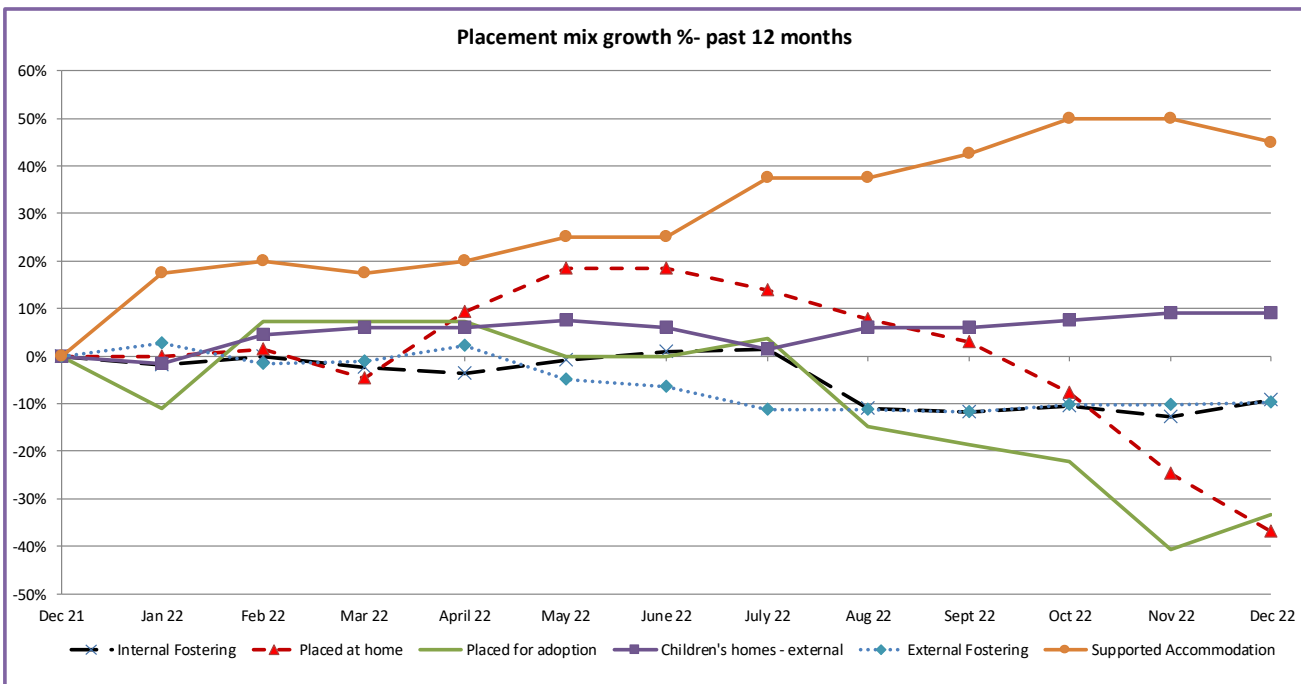
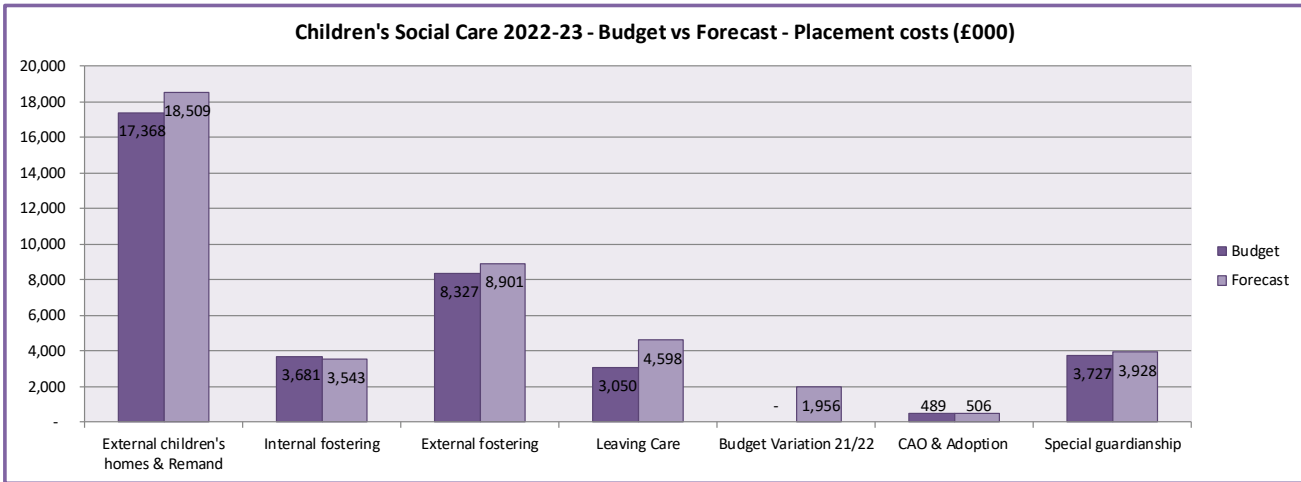
Children's Social Care Trends

Date	External Placements Projection						Internal Fostering			Supported Accommodation			LAC number	SGO	
	Residential			Fostering inc M&B			Number	% of LAC	£ per placement	Number	% of LAC	£ per placement	No.	Number	£ per placement
	Number	% of LAC	£ per placement	Number	% of LAC	£ per placement									
Jun-13	41	8%	111,596	72	15%	36,202	263	53%	11,887	16	3%	no data	492		no data
Sep-13	33	7%	111,523	66	14%	35,667	272	58%	11,908	17	4%	no data	472		no data
Dec-13	30	7%	117,073	69	15%	36,560	260	57%	11,828	17	4%	no data	459		no data
Mar-14	27	6%	118,473	64	14%	34,058	248	56%	11,757	15	3%	no data	443		no data
Jun-14	25	5%	102,561	74	16%	35,928	250	55%	12,833	18	4%	no data	457		no data
Sep-14	21	5%	121,210	75	16%	37,655	237	51%	12,570	27	6%	no data	462		no data
Dec-14	18	4%	124,281	70	15%	38,760	243	53%	12,474	23	5%	no data	459		no data
Mar-15	23	5%	128,868	73	16%	40,155	244	53%	12,374	19	4%	no data	463		no data
Jun-15	25	6%	147,777	74	17%	40,625	219	50%	12,541	20	5%	no data	440		no data
Sep-15	25	6%	142,934	73	16%	40,040	225	50%	12,549	16	4%	no data	450		no data
Dec-15	27	6%	145,196	70	16%	41,243	217	49%	12,428	17	4%	no data	442		no data
Mar-16	29	6%	146,120	69	15%	42,215	257	56%	12,453	22	5%	no data	462		no data
Jun-16	34	7%	157,136	77	16%	42,145	259	53%	12,630	28	6%	38,608	493	230	5,472
Sep-16	32	6%	169,996	84	17%	42,750	254	51%	12,688	27	5%	41,376	502	240	5,582
Dec-16	36	7%	175,954	89	18%	43,038	258	52%	12,857	28	6%	41,037	499	245	5,562
Mar-17	44	8%	179,669	103	19%	43,502	269	51%	12,872	26	5%	42,416	529	249	5,555
Jun-17	49	9%	151,450	100	18%	40,933	272	50%	13,227	26	5%	60,946	546	258	5,576
Sep-17	35	7%	161,487	95	18%	40,991	270	51%	13,213	36	7%	57,928	528	267	5,383
Dec-17	43	8%	162,623	103	19%	41,277	272	50%	13,169	36	7%	58,358	539	277	5,281
Mar-18	44	8%	165,935	98	18%	41,099	273	51%	13,116	30	6%	55,728	534	286	5,109
Jun-18	45	8%	164,794	97	18%	40,083	297	54%	13,403	24	4%	48,006	554	320	5,512
Sep-18	45	8%	159,388	97	17%	40,425	302	54%	13,441	28	5%	46,073	557	308	5,294
Dec-18	47	8%	169,287	99	17%	40,227	305	53%	13,430	33	6%	46,167	572	332	5,175
Mar-19	53	9%	177,477	94	17%	39,536	306	54%	13,289	23	4%	45,845	565	317	5,238
Jun-19	53	9%	172,929	107	18%	42,426	305	53%	13,014	26	4%	68,367	580	318	5,988
Sep-19	58	10%	180,014	116	20%	43,981	294	50%	12,649	32	5%	56,148	592	315	5,693
Dec-19	62	10%	184,396	145	23%	45,812	300	48%	12,854	31	5%	60,289	628	334	5,670
Mar-20	65	10%	183,892	167	26%	45,201	292	45%	13,166	33	5%	61,076	653	339	5,624
Jun-20	69	10%	207,288	175	27%	47,565	284	43%	12,877	32	5%	92,575	659	357	5,882
Sep-20	75	12%	211,328	173	27%	47,125	277	43%	12,979	30	5%	97,225	644	376	6,056
Dec-20	72	12%	209,062	178	29%	47,361	248	41%	14,343	32	5%	105,274	610	410	6,551
Mar-21	72	12%	209,953	189	31%	47,883	230	38%	14,234	25	4%	107,561	609	424	6,685
Jun-21	68	11%	225,246	200	34%	45,809	213	36%	16,619	26	4%	78,324	596	450	7,650
Sep-21	64	11%	229,272	194	33%	47,303	221	37%	17,059	39	7%	70,834	596	448	7,752
Dec-21	66	11%	238,266	186	31%	47,535	219	36%	17,064	40	7%	68,328	604	461	7,884
Mar-22	70	12%	247,935	184	30%	47,718	214	35%	17,348	47	8%	68,576	608	467	8,076
Jun-22	69	11%	251,588	174	28%	50,006	221	36%	17,030	50	8%	74,397	616	479	8,093
Sep-22	70	12%	255,469	164	28%	48,674	193	34%	16,646	57	10%	72,203	576	484	8,186
Dec-22	72	13%	264,844	168	30%	52,295	199	35%	16,770	58	10%	69,007	562	487	8,175

Note: The variance between the current total number of Looked After Children (562) and the total internal fostering and external placement numbers (497) is children with care orders, adoption placements etc. They are still classed as LAC but do not incur any commissioned costs. SGO = Special Guardianship Order.







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Blackpool Council – Public Health

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET		EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE						
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £000	2022/23		F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER)/ OVER £000	NON-COVID £000		COVID-19						
			PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000				GROSS £000	DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS £000	CCG CONTRIBUTION £000	SALES, FEES & CHARGES £000	NET £000		
PUBLIC HEALTH														
NET EXPENDITURE														
PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE & CORPORATE SUPPORT	730	1,277	(547)	730	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NHS HEALTH CHECKS - MANDATED	100	66	34	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHILDREN (5-19) - PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMMES	617	468	149	617	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHILDREN'S 0-5 SERVICES	2,520	1,799	721	2,520	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOBACCO CONTROL	374	250	124	374	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING	15	(229)	244	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES - MANDATED	1,845	798	1,047	1,845	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUBSTANCE MISUSE (DRUGS AND ALCOHOL)	2,744	1,558	1,186	2,744	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HARM REDUCTION (SEXUAL HEALTH, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL)	773	639	134	773	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HEALTHY WEIGHT/WEIGHT MANAGEMENT	266	86	180	266	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES	9,252	(13,003)	22,255	9,252	-	-	-	1,024	(1,024)	-	-	-	-	-
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT	-	7	(7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRANT	(19,231)	(14,423)	(4,808)	(19,231)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	5	(20,707)	20,712	5	-	-	-	1,024	(1,024)	-	-	-	-	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary – basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual scheme against their respective, currently approved, revenue budget. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2022/23 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with the service leads.

Public Health Grant

The Public Health Grant is a central government grant which is ring-fenced.

The grant conditions require quarterly financial reporting of spend against a prescribed set of headings and spend of the grant must link explicitly to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Public Health Outcomes Framework and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Public Health Directorate are forecasting an overall spend of the full grant, £19,231,130, for the financial year to March 2023.

Payment by Results (PbR)/ Activity-based Commissioning

A number of Public Health schemes' payments are linked to activity. The aim of Payment by Results (PbR) is to provide a transparent, rules-based system for payment. It rewards outputs, outcomes and supports patient choice and diversity. Payment will be linked to activity. This does, however, raise a number of challenges when determining accurate budgetary spend/forecast spend.

Summary of the Public Health Directorate financial position

As at the end of December 2022, the Public Health Directorate are forecasting a break-even position for the financial year to March 2023.

Since March 2020 Public Health has been responding to the outbreak of Covid to protect the population of Blackpool. A single point of contact has been established to respond to calls/e-mails actioned by appropriately qualified and informed Public Health staff. A Public Health Duty Desk has been set up to respond to incident and outbreaks offering specialist guidance, advice and support. During the pandemic, the team have developed Community Hubs, including supporting the homeless population, to ensure that those left vulnerable from Covid receive the support they need, for example food, welfare checks, medication, accommodation, etc.

The Public Health team opted to support the Government's NHS Test and Trace service by contact tracing and providing support for all positive cases in Blackpool. More recently the Public Health team are supporting with the vaccination programme delivery, aiming to get the most vulnerable people in Blackpool fully vaccinated.

The spend relating to this work is estimated to be £1,024k in 2022/23 and is being funded through a ring-fenced Test and Trace service support grant and Contain Outbreak Management Fund from the Department of Health and Social Care, and therefore has no financial impact on the budgetary position for the directorate.

There has been reduced activity against some of our Payment by Results (PbR) contracts as a result of Covid impacting our provider's ability to offer routine treatments. These savings have offset a shortfall in income generation for the directorate.

Budget Holder – Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health

Blackpool Council – Budgets Outside the Cash Limit

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2021/22 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000	VARIANCE				
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - DEC £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
BUDGETS OUTSIDE THE CASH LIMIT											
NET EXPENDITURE											
TREASURY MANAGEMENT	4,170	2,718	906	3,624	(546)	-	(546)	-	-	-	-
PARKING SERVICES	(5,687)	(4,319)	(1,329)	(5,648)	39	-	39	-	-	-	-
CORPORATE SUBSCRIPTIONS	135	116	19	135	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HOUSING BENEFITS	1,458	1,095	363	1,458	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COUNCIL TAX & NDR COST OF COLLECTION	1,105	829	276	1,105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES	(933)	(989)	36	(953)	(20)	-	(20)	-	-	-	-
LAND CHARGES	(51)	(68)	2	(66)	(15)	-	(15)	-	-	-	-
CONCESSIONARY FARES	3,734	1,735	1,834	3,569	(165)	-	(165)	-	-	-	-
EMPLOYERS PREVIOUS YEARS' PENSION LIABILITY	117	88	29	117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW HOMES BONUS	(211)	(158)	(53)	(211)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3,837	1,047	2,083	3,130	(707)	-	(707)	-	-	-	-

Commentary on the key issues:

Directorate Summary - basis

The Revenue summary (above) lists the latest outturn projection for each individual service categorised as falling 'outside the cash limit' and thereby exempt from the cash limited budget regime. Forecast outturns are based upon actual financial performance for the first 9 months of 2022/23 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and savings in the remainder of the financial year, which have been agreed by each designated budget manager.

Treasury Management

Treasury Management is forecasting an underspend of £546k. This figure includes £2,621k of prudential recharges to services and means that the £742k savings target will be met in 2022/23. The Council is currently using temporary and long-term borrowing to finance prudentially-funded capital expenditure. With interest rates currently rising and in order to mitigate the impacts of any future interest rate rises, the Council has taken out £125m of long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board. This long-term borrowing will replace the temporary borrowing when it is repaid.

The Business Loans Fund has a savings target of £3,309k and is forecasting a pressure of £2,002k due to increases in interest rates and slippage in business loans awarded.

Following a review of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), which was approved by the Executive on 8th February 2021, a total of £6.7m of saving has been forecast to be achieved in 2022/23.

Parking Services

Parking Services is forecasting a shortfall of income of £39k for 2022/23. This is as a consequence of lost parking spaces due to regeneration projects, with the effect reduced by an increase in charges.

As at Week 37 (w/e 11th December) parking income is at £4.8m with patronage at 957,729. Car Park patronage is down by 54,416 but up on income by £199k on 2021/22. On-Street Pay and Display patronage is down by 34,998 and income is down by £2k.

The graphs below show, for comparison, the patronage and income figures for 2019/20, 2021/22 and 2022/23. 2020/21 is excluded as figures distorted due to Covid.

Housing Benefit

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

Council Tax and NNDR Cost of Collection

This service is forecasting a break-even position.

Subsidiary Companies

This service is expected to have a £20k saving due to reduction in charges, mainly relating to debt management.

Land Charges

This service is expected to have a £15k underspend due to increased income. This expected increased income has reduced from previous months.

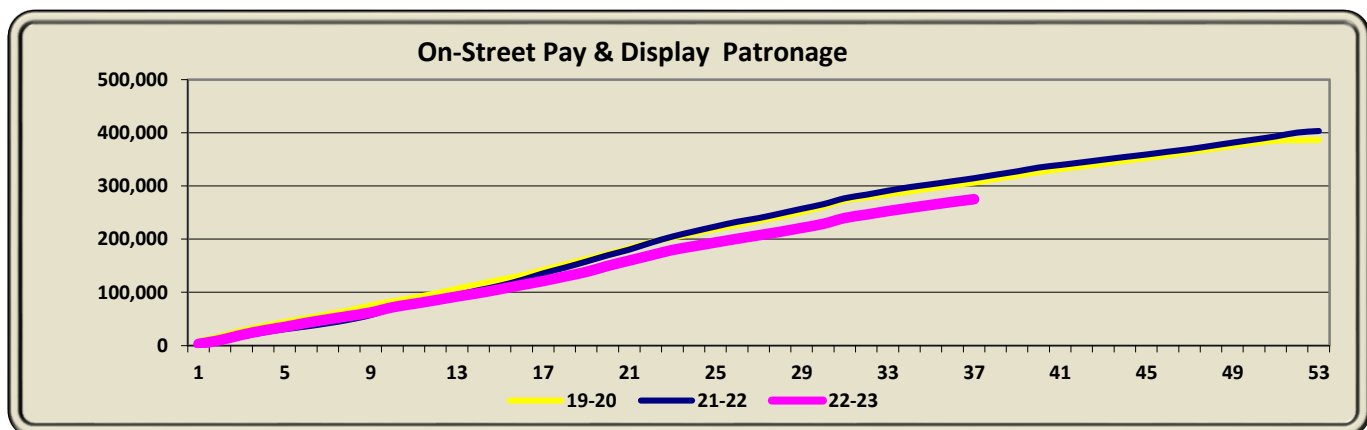
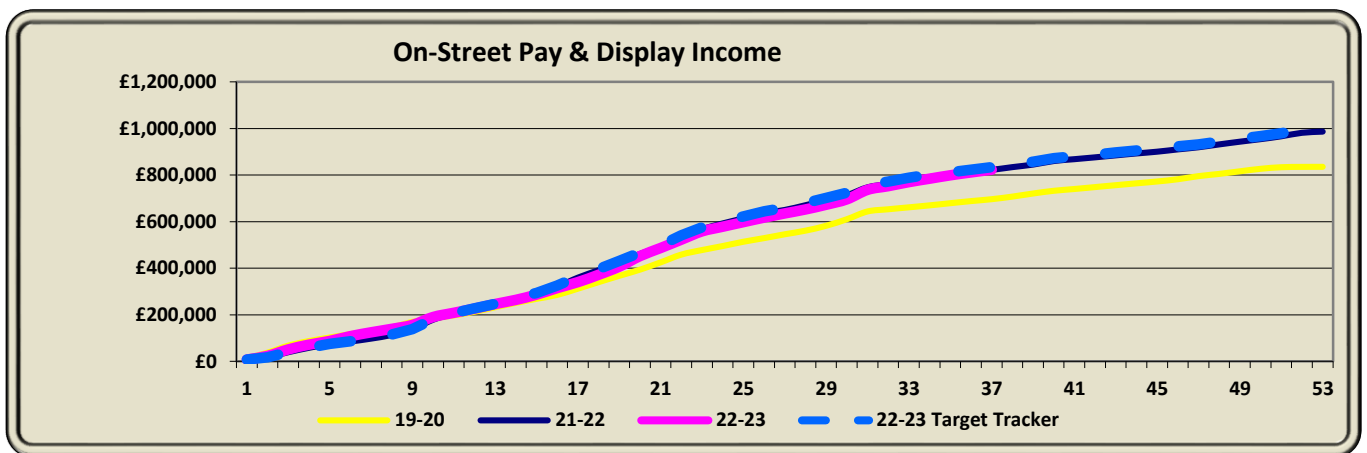
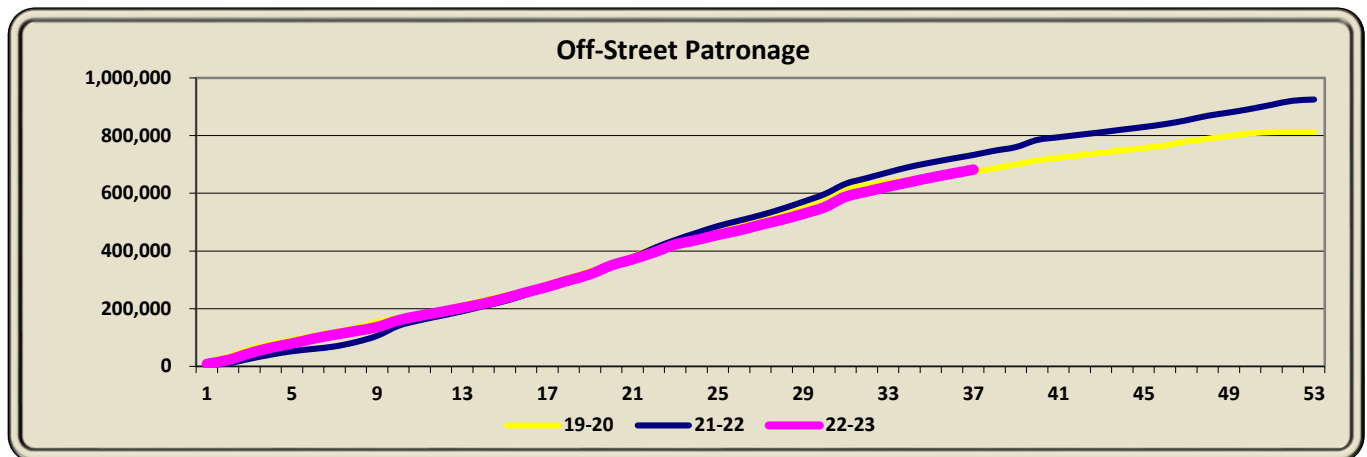
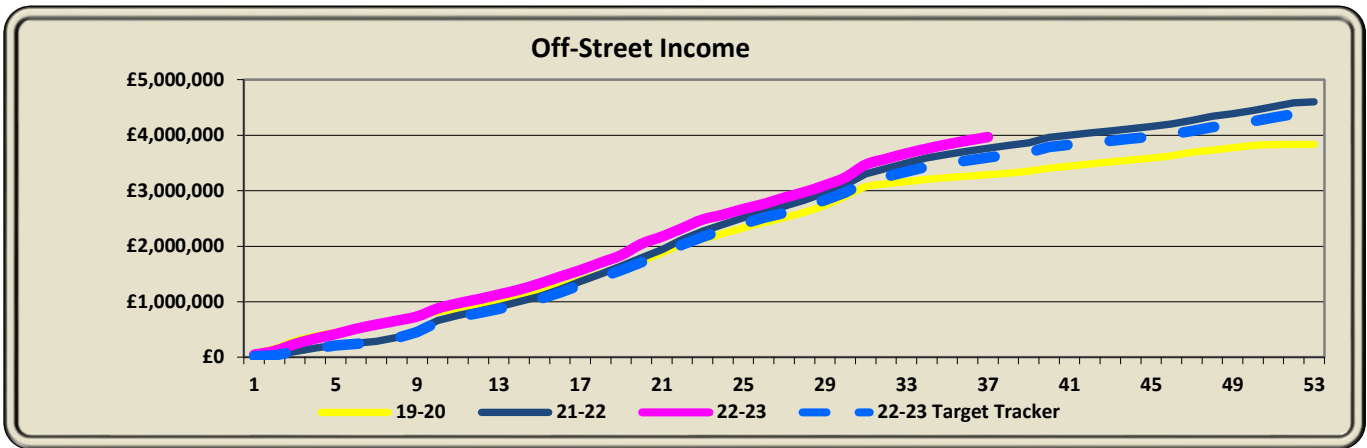
Concessionary Fares

There is a £165k underspend expected in Concessionary Fares based on paying the compensation rate as per Department for Transport (DFT) guidance till March 2023. This has increased slightly due to some cost savings identified.

Summary of the revenue forecasts

After 9 months of the financial year, the Budgets Outside the Cash Limit services are forecasting a £707k underspend.

Car Parking Trends



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Blackpool Council

Wholly-Owned Companies

Covid Support to Council Wholly-Owned Companies

The Coronavirus pandemic led to a number of Council Wholly-Owned Companies (WOCs) facing significant income losses as a result of lockdown and subsequent social distancing restrictions. This impacted both company profitability and cashflow. It looked likely that without Council support some would not be able to recover within a reasonable timeframe, which could leave the Council without an operator for assets of significant financial value and importance to the town and its tourist economy.

In November 2020 the Executive approved the establishment of a £24m Covid Recovery Fund (PH46/2020), £20m plus a 20% contingency, ringfenced for WOCs only, from within the existing Business Loans Fund.

To be eligible to access the Covid Recovery Fund facility companies needed to produce a 5-year Covid recovery plan (2020/21 year + 4) and to demonstrate a cumulative break-even income and expenditure position by the end of year 5 of their recovery plan, or as close as possible to this term.

Loans were offered at a fixed rate over 5 years, thereby providing the WOCs with certainty over future repayments requirements and were tailored to the individual circumstances of the company and its recovery plan, offers being made on either an interest-only basis with balloon principal repayment or with monthly repayments of interest and principal.

To date there have been loan approvals of £16.11m against that facility of which £9.32m has been drawn down. £1.79m of this has subsequently been repaid. The Council's Business Loans Fund Panel monitors progress against the WOCs' respective recovery plans on a regular basis.

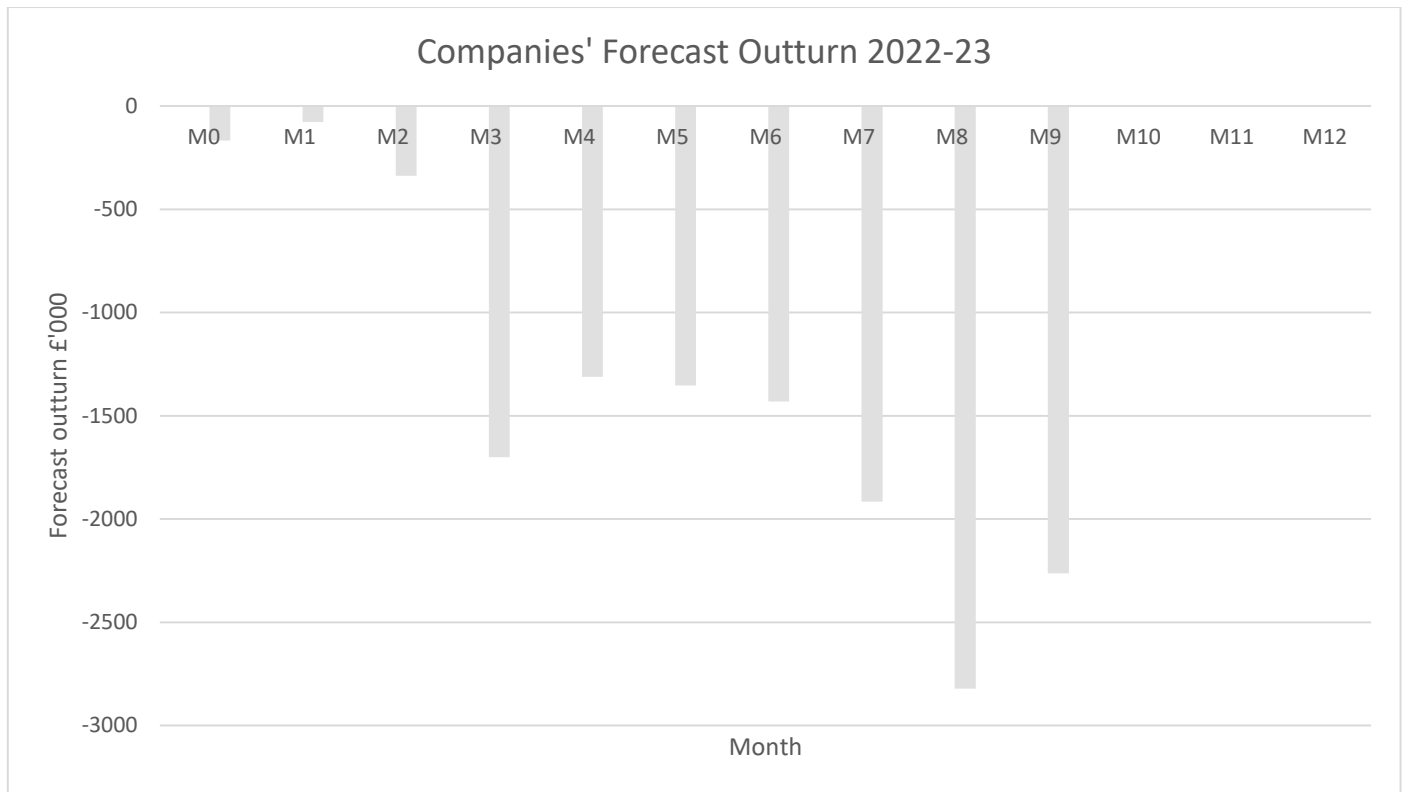
Non Covid-related loan support to WOCs

The Council also supports its WOCs' capital spending (capex) requirements where there is a robust business case demonstrating either a valid 'Spend to Save' initiative or an opportunity to spend to generate income. The Council's exposure to principal and capitalised interest in respect of such WOC capex loans is currently £42.19m.

There are currently no short-term cash flow loans outstanding in respect of Council Wholly-owned companies.

Wholly-owned companies financial performance as at Month 9 2022/23

The consolidated forecast financial position of the Council's wholly-owned subsidiary companies is a loss of £2.263m based on their individual Month 9 financial monitoring reports. This represents a deterioration of £0.347m from the position reported at Month 7 largely as a result of a deterioration in income forecasts and emerging cost pressures offset in part by an accounting adjustment charging additional depreciation costs in respect of a revalued fleet to the associated revaluation reserve.



There has been a change to the Council’s group structure with effect from 1 April 2022 with the transfer of Lancashire Management Operations Limited from the Council’s direct ownership to become a subsidiary of Blackpool Housing Company Limited.

The Council has taken advice from CIPFA regarding the proper accounting treatment in respect of company forecast losses. CIPFA has advised that the Council does not need to include the forecast losses in its forecast revenue out-turn; the company losses will be included in the Council’s consolidated financial position.

Blackpool Council

Budget Savings Target 2022/23

Summary of progress as at 31st December 2022.

	Target	Achieved	Not yet achieved	To be achieved before year-end	Not able to be achieved	Amount of saving not yet found recurrently
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<u>Recurrent Savings</u>						
Corporate Services	419	(419)	0	0	0	0
Adult Services	1,051	(1,051)	0	0	0	0
Chief Executive	53	(53)	0	0	0	0
Children's Services	137	(137)	0	0	0	0
Governance & Partnership Services	128	(103)	25	0	25	0
Community & Environmental Services	622	(400)	222	(222)	0	0
Outside Cash Limit	4,759	(3,828)	931	(931)	0	0
Public Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
Communications & Regeneration	585	(479)	106	(12)	94	0
Strategic Leisure Assets	200	(200)	0	0	0	0
Resources	675	(668)	7	(7)	0	0
Recurrent Saving	8,629	(7,338)	1,291	(1,172)	119	0

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**2022/23 CAPITAL MONITORING
MONTH 9**

	Total Scheme Budget	Spend as at 31/3/22	Budget Brought Forward 2021/22	Capital Programme 2022/23	Total Available Budget 2022/23	Spend to Date April - December	Forecast to Year End	Forecast Variance	Notes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Director Responsible for Resources									
Property and Asset Management									
Central Business District Phase 1	40,432	38,142	2,290	-	2,290	-	-	-	
ICT Refresh	5,579	4,655	-	924	924	554	370	-	
Core CCTV Replacement	2,000	14	1,986	-	1,986	1,009	977	-	
Finance, HR, Payroll System	2,722	1,470	-	1,252	1,252	780	472	-	
Central Library/ Grundy Gallery Roof	525	-	135	390	525	46	479	-	
South King Street	597	-	-	597	597	66	531	-	
Other Resources Schemes	1,531	1,153	120	258	378	357	21	-	see note 2
Total Resources	53,386	45,434	4,531	3,421	7,952	2,812	2,850	-	
Director Responsible for Adult Services									
Support to Vulnerable Adults - Grants	9,945	7,959	-	1,986	1,986	1,338	648	-	
LD Respite Centre - Colton House	1,695	1,695	-	-	-	(14)	14	-	
I-Switch	3,154	3,029	125	-	125	-	125	-	
Other Adult Services Schemes	1,934	508	868	558	1,426	396	1,030	-	
Total Adult Services	16,728	13,191	993	2,544	3,537	1,720	1,817	-	
Director Responsible for Community and Environmental Services									
Anchorsholme Seawall	30,966	26,075	4,891	-	4,891	515	376	-	
Coastal Protection Strategy 2021-2025	9,000	-	-	9,000	9,000	-	1,000	-	
Coastal Protection Studies	4,520	2,202	637	1,681	2,318	287	1,031	-	
Others	213	-	-	213	213	239	(26)	-	
Total Community and Environmental Services	44,699	28,277	5,528	10,894	16,422	1,041	2,381	-	

**2022/23 CAPITAL MONITORING
MONTH 9**

	Total Scheme Budget	Spend as at 31/3/22	Budget Brought Forward 2021/22	Capital Programme 2022/23	Total Available Budget 2022/23	Spend to Date April - December	Forecast to Year End	Forecast Variance	Notes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Chief Executive									
Housing									
Foxhall Village	12,797	13,452	(655)	-	(655)	13	(668)	1,800	
Work towards Decent Homes Standard	7,243	-	-	7,243	7,243	3,673	3,570	-	
Queens Park Redevelopment Ph2	13,427	13,427	-	-	-	2	(2)	-	
Troutbeck Redevelopment	11,970	10,926	-	1,044	1,044	665	379	-	
Grange Park	24,206	1,315	-	12,250	12,250	5,680	6,570	-	
Dunsop Court	1,233	756	-	477	477	334	143	-	
Feasibility/ Infill site	2,620	189	2,301	130	2,431	53	126	-	
Haweside Masterplan	562	82	480	-	480	-	480	-	
Garstang Road West	3,347	2,547	-	800	800	644	156	-	
Acquisition and Refurbishment	4,871	941	1,499	2,431	3,930	679	1,819	-	
Total Chief Executive	82,276	43,635	3,625	24,375	28,000	11,743	12,573	1,800	
Director Responsible for Communications and Regeneration									
Regeneration									
College Relocation/Illumination Depot	13,405	13,924	(619)	100	(519)	-	-	-	
Leisure Assets	66,279	65,094	1,185	-	1,185	777	408	-	
Conference Centre	30,562	30,685	(123)	-	(123)	303	(426)	-	
CBD Phase 2 - Hotel	24,500	14,902	9,598	-	9,598	6,400	3,198	-	
CBD Phase 3	99,750	7,038	(7,038)	25,000	17,962	3,952	1,890	-	
Land Release Fund	3,204	769	2,435	-	2,435	42	1,393	-	
Enterprise Zone	29,720	10,389	2,611	-	2,611	2,611	-	-	
Town Centre Parking Strategy	16,000	3,029	12,971	-	12,971	(1,469)	1,250	-	
Museum	7,894	3,359	4,535	-	4,535	3,657	878	-	
Abingdon Street Market	3,634	3,134	500	-	500	753	(253)	-	
HoundsHill Ph2	20,190	6,000	14,190	-	14,190	5,982	8,208	-	
Heritage Action Zone	1,091	475	616	-	616	505	111	-	
Devonshire Road Hospital Land	1,425	1,252	173	-	173	(30)	203	-	
Town Deal	57,190	2,302	(2,302)	18,714	16,412	3,107	7,871	-	
Land Acqn Alfred, Leopold & Adelaide Streets	1,790	81	(81)	1,790	1,709	1,600	109	-	
South King Street Car Park	597	-	-	597	597	38	559	-	
Marks and Spencers Acquisition	4,800	-	-	4,800	4,800	4,687	113	-	
Other	166	166	-	-	-	12	(12)	-	
Transport									
Local Transport Plan 2021/22	2,630	1,835	795	-	795	395	400	-	
Local Transport Plan Project 30 2021/22	283	283	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Local Transport Plan 2022/23	2,690	-	-	2,690	2,690	58	632	-	
Local Transport Plan Project 30 2022/23	223	-	-	223	223	223	-	-	
Blackpool/Fleetwood Tramway	99,990	99,990	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tramway Extension	16,400	16,404	(4)	-	(4)	170	(174)	-	
Tramway Refurbishment	1,053	713	340	-	340	-	340	-	
Total Communications and Regeneration	505,466	281,824	39,782	53,914	93,696	33,773	26,698	-	

**2022/23 CAPITAL MONITORING
MONTH 9**

	Total Scheme Budget	Spend as at 31/3/22	Budget Brought Forward 2021/22	Capital Programme 2022/23	Total Available Budget 2022/23	Spend to Date April - December	Forecast to Year End	Forecast Variance	Notes
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Director Responsible for Children's Services									
Devolved Capital to Schools	846	607	239	-	239	39	200	-	
Park Expansion	610	412	198	-	198	-	198	-	
Basic Need	1,553	3	1,050	500	1,550	219	331	-	
Condition	1,372	24	845	503	1,348	620	228	-	
Pegasus Expansion	800	-	-	800	800	9	791	-	
Others	763	356	302	105	407	123	284	-	
Total Children's Services	5,944	1,402	2,634	1,908	4,542	1,010	2,032	-	
CAPITAL TOTAL	708,499	413,763	57,093	97,056	154,149	52,099	48,351	1,800	

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Notes

(1) Following the announcement that Marcus Worthington and Company Limited and its subsidiary company, Hollinwood Homes Limited, had gone into administration, the Council worked with the appointed administrators, PwC, and partners to develop options for the completion of the Foxhall Village scheme. The reported overspend of £1.8m reflects the current optimistic estimate which is subject to ongoing negotiations with partners including Homes England.

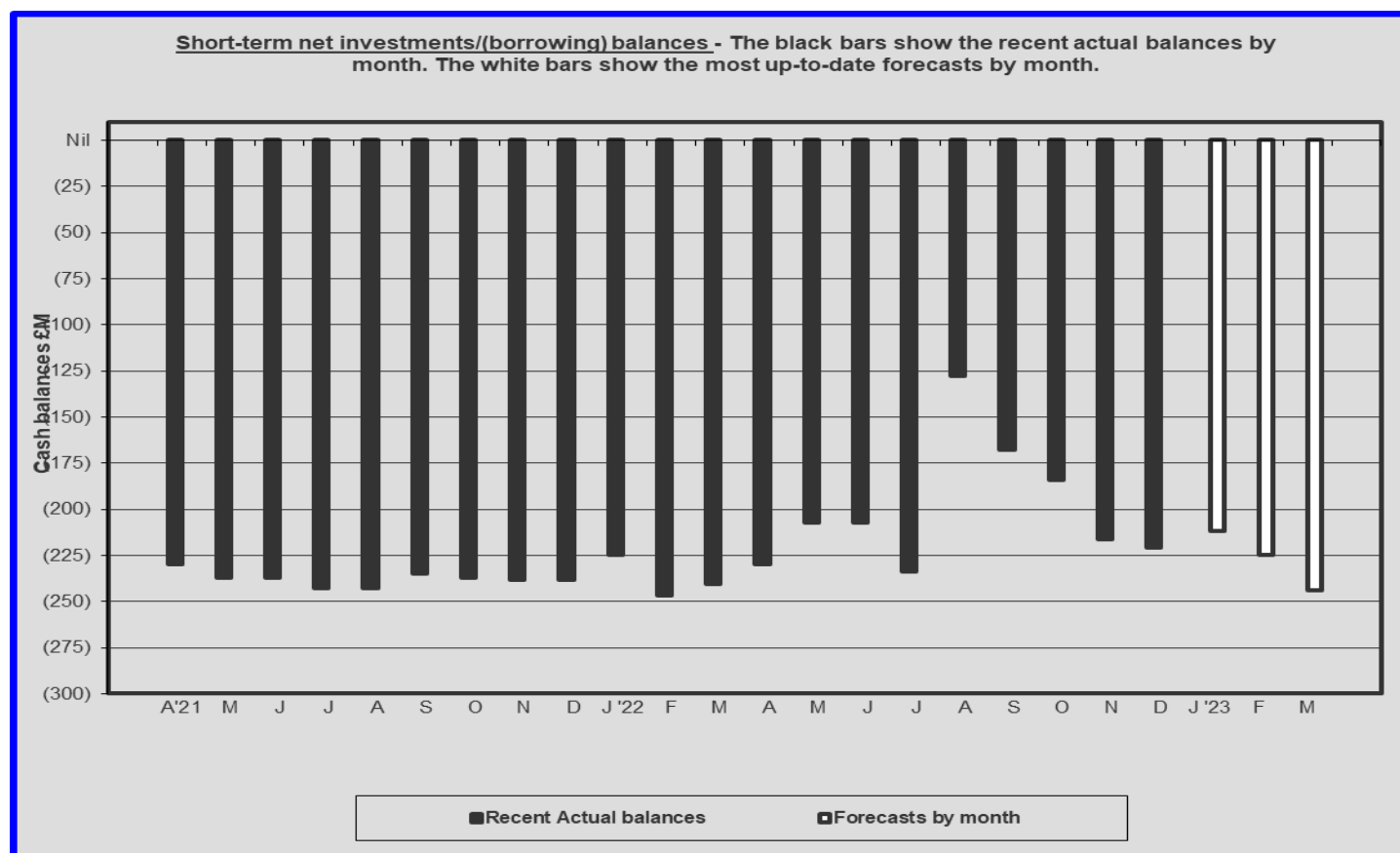
(2) £135k funding gap, as a result of inflation, for the Library/Grundy Art Galley roof (Other Resources Schemes) will be met by additional surplus top-slice funding.

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Blackpool Council

Cash summary - budget, actual and forecast:

CASH FLOW - SUMMARY - 22/23							
FULL YEAR CASH FLOW ORIGINAL BUDGET (*)	APR-DEC CASH FLOW ORIGINAL BUDGET (*)	APR-DEC CASH FLOW ACTUAL	JAN - MAR CASH FLOW FORECAST	(*) THE CASH FLOW BUDGET IS CONSISTENT WITH THE REVENUE BUDGET AND THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME IN TOTAL. THE BUDGETED CASH FLOW PHASING IS BASED ON DETAILED EXPECTATIONS AND PAST EXPERIENCE	APR-DEC MORE / (LESS) CASH ACTUAL vs ORIGINAL BUDGET	JAN - MAR MORE / (LESS) CASH FORECAST vs ORIGINAL BUDGET	FULL YEAR MORE / (LESS) AS NOW FORECAST vs ORIGINAL BUDGET
£M	£M	£M	£M		£M	£M	£M
				RECEIPTS			
45	34	31	11	Housing Benefit & Subsidy	(3)	-	(3)
65	49	79	20	Council tax and NNDR	30	4	34
15	11	18	3	VAT	7	(1)	6
32	24	30	11	RSG & BRR	6	3	9
108	80	169	34	Other Grants	89	6	95
81	60	252	37	Other Income	192	16	208
-	-	-	-	Money Market Transactions Received	-	-	-
37	37	735	97	Receipt of Loans	698	97	795
383	295	1,314	213	RECEIPTS - NORMAL ACTIVITIES	1,019	125	1,144
				PAYMENTS			
12	8	8	4	Police & Fire	-	-	-
327	243	351	110	General Creditors	(108)	(26)	(134)
-	-	-	-	RSG & BRR	-	-	-
110	82	81	26	Salaries & wages	1	2	3
44	33	27	11	Housing Benefits	6	-	6
283	244	840	74	Money Market Transactions Paid Out	(596)	(35)	(631)
776	610	1,307	225	PAYMENTS - NORMAL ACTIVITIES	(697)	(59)	(756)
(393)	(315)	7	(12)	NET CASH FLOW IN/(OUT)	322	66	388
A	B	C	D		= C less B	= D less (A-B)	

Cash - short-term net investments/(borrowing) balances:

Commentary on Cash Movements during the year:

The summary on the previous page provides a comparison of the actual cash receipts and payments compared to the forecasted cash receipts and payments.

During the first nine months of the year, the Council's net cashflow resulted in fluctuations in short-term net investment/borrowing balances due to the receipt of up-front grant income in this financial year. The Council fixed £125m of temporary loans in August 2022, which resulted in an increase in investment balances and over the next few months, short-term borrowing will be repaid using the fixed-term borrowing taken.

The chart of actual and forecast month-end balances shows temporary investment and borrowing levels throughout the year. The forecast shows the level of borrowing that may be required to cover planned capital expenditure up to 31st March 2023.

Blackpool Council

Balance Sheet / Working capital:

BALANCE SHEET 2022/23				
LAST Y/END		CURRENT	CHANGE	NEXT Y/END
Draft 31 Mar 22		31 Dec 22 Actual	Movement since 31 Mar 22	31 Mar 23 Forecast
£000s		£000s	£000s	£000s
853,513	Property, Plant and Equipment	903,453	49,940	951,804
108,701	Long-term Assets	118,806	10,105	115,000
Current Assets				
62,573	Debtors	55,400	(7,173)	60,000
601	Inventories	481	(120)	450
1,300	Short-term loans	1,300	-	-
39,503	Cash and cash equivalents	21,708	(17,795)	40,000
1,066,191	Total Assets	1,101,148	34,957	1,167,254
Current Liabilities				
(282,947)	Borrowing Repayable within 12 months	(154,000)	128,947	(155,000)
(97,379)	Creditors	(96,200)	1,179	(96,000)
Long-term Liabilities				
(75,534)	Borrowing Repayable in excess of 12 months	(200,534)	(125,000)	(200,500)
(94,914)	Long Term Creditors	(94,914)	-	(91,814)
(40,982)	Capital Grants in Advance	(40,982)	-	(14,000)
(10,157)	Provisions	(9,683)	474	(9,200)
(221,457)	Other Long-term Liabilities	(221,457)	-	(220,000)
242,821	Total Assets less Liabilities	283,378	40,557	380,740
(107,589)	Usable Reserves	(83,922)	23,667	(73,000)
(135,232)	Unusable Reserves	(199,456)	(64,224)	(307,740)
(242,821)	Total Reserves	(283,378)	(40,557)	(380,740)

Commentary on the key issues:

In order to provide a complete picture of the Council's financial performance, the above table provides a snapshot of the General Fund balance sheet as at the end of month 9. The key areas of focus are any significant movements in debtors, cash and cash equivalents, bank overdraft and creditors as these impact upon the Council's performance in the critical areas of debt recovery, treasury management and Public Sector Payment Policy.

The balance sheet has been prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs). Temporary investments are included within cash and cash equivalents along with bank balance and cash in hand. Usable reserves include unallocated General Fund reserves and revenue reserves. Unusable reserves are those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets were sold.

Due to a consultation regarding the accounting treatment of infrastructure assets the 2020/21 accounts have not been signed off by the Council's external auditors. The consultation is now complete and the 2020/21 accounts are currently being audited for the changes to the infrastructure assets. As soon as the audit is

complete the 2021/22 and 2022/23 balance sheet will require amendment, therefore the figures above should be treated as draft and will be subject to change.

Over the 9-month period there has been an increase in Property, Plant and Equipment of £49.9m due to capital expenditure which is in line with the Council's approved capital programme for 2022/23. Due to low interest rates the Council has been using temporary borrowing to finance prudentially-funded capital expenditure. With interest rates currently rising and in order to mitigate the impacts of any future interest rate rises, the Council has taken out £125m of long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board. This long-term borrowing will replace the temporary borrowing when it is repaid and is the reason for the increase in long-term borrowing of £125m and reduction in short-term borrowing of £128.9m. Cash and Cash equivalents have decreased by £17.8m due to the timing of capital and revenue grants.

Report to:	SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD
Relevant Officer:	Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive
Date of Meeting:	8 March 2023

COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT (Q1 – Q3 2022/23)

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To present performance against the Council Plan for the period 1 April – 31 December 2022.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The Scrutiny Leadership Board is asked to consider the content of the report and highlight any areas for further consideration.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of performance against the Council Plan.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 N/A

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool
- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience

6.0 Background information

6.1 Performance against the Council Plan headline KPIs for Quarter 1, Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 2022/23 is detailed in the attached Performance Summary and Headline KPI Dashboard.

6.2 Following feedback on the end of year performance report for 2021/22, benchmarking data has been included (where available) to provide additional context for the Council's performance. We will continue to incorporate further comparative data for the headline KPIs in subsequent Council Plan performance reports.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 4(a): Performance Summary Q1 - Q3 2022-23
Appendix 4(b): Headline KPI Dashboard Q1 - Q3 2022-23

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 N/A

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 N/A

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 N/A

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 N/A

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 To take account of the Council's climate emergency declaration and the target to be carbon net zero by 2030, information on the Council's carbon emissions and the carbon emissions for the town have now been included in the suite of Council Plan performance indicators.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 N/A

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 N/A

Council Plan Performance Summary Q1 - Q3 2022/23

Priority One: The Economy - Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool

Blackpool will be the number 1 tourist destination in the UK

- STEAM data is now available for the 2021 season. Blackpool had 18.81 million visitors during 2021 which is a 68% increase in visitors compared to 2020 (6 million). It is also a 3.7% increase in visitor numbers pre-Covid (18.13 million in 2019). This equates to 57.5% of all tourism visits to Lancashire in 2021. The total value of the visitor economy during this period was £1.425 billion which is a reduction when compared to pre-Covid seasons (£1.6bn in 2018 and £1.58bn in 2019), however this equates to 50.8% of the total value of tourism in Lancashire.
- Benchmarking data is limited but the other area with publicly-available comparable data (Northumberland) had 7.8 million which is a 46% increase compared to 2020 (5.3 million). This is a 27% decrease compared with 2019 pre-Covid levels (10.7 million) showing that not all tourist areas have bounced back after the pandemic at the same rate.
- Between April – December 2022, Promenade footfall was 34,906,640. This is a 6.44% decrease compared with the same period in 2021/22 (37,309,567)¹.
- Tram ridership has increased during each quarter of 2022/23 compared with the same periods in 2021/22 and sees patronage returning to pre-Covid levels. The annual target for this year is for patronage to return to 2019/20 levels (4.7 million). The cumulative total ridership at the end of Quarter 3 was 4,155,588. Considering the trend for ridership levels to drop to around 550,000 – 600,000 in Quarter 4, it is possible that ridership for 2022/23 will fall short of this target.
- Annual tram ridership is reported by the Department of Transport. Blackpool tram ridership accounted for 2.41% of all UK tram rides between March 2021 and March 2022. However, as the data skews heavily towards Metros in London and Manchester; Sheffield, Nottingham and Edinburgh have been chosen as tram comparators because their ridership levels are the most similar scale to Blackpool. Blackpool saw the largest comparative year on year increase (282%) compared with 2020. Edinburgh saw 211%, Nottingham saw 168% increase compared to 2020, Sheffield saw 146%.
- The total inbound car movements for the six major car parks - Chapel Street, Bonny Street, Central, West Street, Talbot Road and South Beach – was 537,983 during the period April – December 2022. This is a substantial decrease compared with the same period in 2021/22 (1,794,440) and compared with the same period in 2020/21 (1,299,510). Car park usage peaked at the following times during this period - Easter bank holiday week (18,180), the week 8th August – 14th August (25,619) and October half term week (24,317).
- Although the reduction in parking capacity in Central car park due to construction of the Blackpool Central multi-storey car park will have impacted on car park usage, there has also been inconsistencies in the data reported for Central Car Park since April 2022. Therefore giving an inaccurate picture of car park usage during 2022/23. The Corporate Delivery Unit will look at ways of strengthening this data for future reporting.

People in Blackpool will have access to a range of employment options

- The number of claimants for out of work benefits was 5,780 people in December 2022 which equates to 6.9% of the working age population. This is a decrease compared with the position in Quarter 1 (7.2%) and the 2021/22 year end position (8.5%). However, Blackpool's rate remains higher than the regional (4.2%) and national (3.7%) rates. When compared to our statistical nearest neighbours, Blackpool has the third highest rate, after Birmingham (8.4%) and Wolverhampton (7.6%).

¹ Data is subject to retrospective revision. Data supplier Visitor Insights note that these changes are unlikely to be significant, but any changes which affect the direction of travel will be reported in future quarterly updates.

- When looking at the claimant rate by gender and age, 62% of claimants are male and 38% of claimants are female. Those aged between 24 - 49 account for 56% of claimants, and those above 50 years of age account for 26% of claimants.
- Employment support programmes provided by Positive Steps into Work, aimed at those people who are the furthest from the job market, has supported 288 people into employment since April 2022. The target position for the end of 2022/23 is 339 people supported into employment.
- The indicator which captured the number of jobs created/safeguarded through Growth and Prosperity projects has now been revised to encompass all major Council regeneration schemes. As a number of schemes will not report on jobs created/safeguarded until completion there is limited data to report on at this time. However, it is possible to provide a breakdown of the data currently available:

Jobs created / safeguarded						
Scheme	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Q4 22/23	Total 22/23	Notes
Houndshill Extension Phase 2					0	To be reported on completion
Abingdon Street Market Refurb		12			12	Stall holders
Talbot Gateway Phase 2					0	To be reported on completion
Council Housing - Troutbeck Crescent		12			12	Apprenticeships created
Council Housing - Grange Park		8			8	Apprenticeships created
Conversion of The Hop	14				14	Dental practice
Civil Service Hub					0	To be reported on completion
					46	

- The Corporate Delivery Unit will continue to work with the relevant services to improve the collection of data in this area, in particular the collection of data around construction jobs.

The Council will support businesses to prosper and expand

- The number of new start businesses supported by the Council's Get Started service has increased considerably compared with 2021/22, particularly during Quarter 2. At the end of December 2022, 224 businesses had been supported which exceeds the target for 2022/23 (200).
- BankSearch Consultancy tracks the total numbers of new start-up businesses in Blackpool. In total, 572 start-up businesses were registered in Blackpool during the period April – December 2022. Industries with the highest level of start-ups in Blackpool were across real estate, construction and wholesale and retail industries.
- For the Enterprise Zone, performance is encouraging with 140 new jobs created during the first 9 months of 2022/23. The target position for the end of 2022/23 is 200 jobs. A breakdown of the businesses in operation on the Enterprise Zone will be included in the end of year Council Plan performance report. The Enterprise Zone team recently held an event to engage with business owners to try and build relationships and improve data capture on the number of jobs created going forward.
- *Data for growth in retainable rates per annum for the Enterprise Zone will be reported annually as part of the Council's NNDR3 outturn return to Government.*
- Since Quarter 1 2022/23, the proportion of expenditure with locally based third party suppliers has remained consistent. The position in Quarter 3 was 44% which is a reduction compared with the same period in 2021/22 (48%) and is slightly below the annual target (45%).

The town centre in Blackpool will be strong and vibrant

- Town centre footfall during the first 9 months of 2022/23 was 25,830,771 which is a 3.75% increase compared to the same period in 2021/22 (24,896,027)¹.
- Christmas by the Sea has continued to attract footfall to the promenade throughout November and December to a point where it had more visits than August 2022. An investigation into how the Christmas by the Sea event shifted footfall patterns in November and December shows an increase in the proportion of footfall traffic

moving through St Johns Square (2%) and the hotels along Albert Road (1%) compared to October 2022's proportions. Suggesting that the event helps footfall move through an accommodation corridor and into the wider town centre sites beyond the expected Christmas shopping in the principal retail core.

- To understand Blackpool's position as a tourist destination we can draw comparisons with other coastal areas who use the Visitor Insights tool. Southend, Brighton, Eastbourne and Weston Super Mare are the most similar in size to Blackpool town centre. In Quarter 3, Weston Super Mare saw a 14% footfall increase compared with the same period in 2021. Both Brighton and Eastbourne had very slight increases of less than 1% each and Southend saw a 7% footfall decrease compared with the same period in 2021.
- The November 2022 retail and vacancy survey shows that 13.9% of units in the principal retail core were vacant (22 of 158 units). This is a decrease compared to the previous surveys (May and August 2022) and the same period in 2021/22 (17.4%). The principal retail core is the area around Houndshell, Victoria Street, Bank Hey Street, Church Street, Corporation Street and Adelaide Street West.
- Looking at the wider town centre boundary, 21.8% of the units were vacant (135 out of 619 units). This is also a decrease compared to the same period in 2021/22 (23.2%). The Town Centre Boundary is the area around the Promenade, Springfield Road, Dickson Road, King Street, Cookson Street, Counce Street and the new Talbot Gateway area.
- The Resident's Survey (telephone survey of 613 residents) was conducted in Autumn 2022, with findings being weighted to be representative of Blackpool's demographics. The survey found that 43.3% of residents are satisfied with the town centre overall. In 2018, when the survey was last conducted, a greater proportion of residents were satisfied overall with the town centre (48.7%) but a direct comparison with 2018 is difficult because the list of multiple choices offered to residents included 'I don't know' in 2018 which 4.5% of residents chose. 'I don't know' was not offered as a choice in the 2022 survey collection. The survey asked about specific aspects of the town centre and found the highest satisfaction rating was with 'getting around' the centre, where 66.2% of residents were satisfied. The lowest rating was for satisfaction with 'conditions of streets and buildings', where only 28.5% of residents were satisfied.

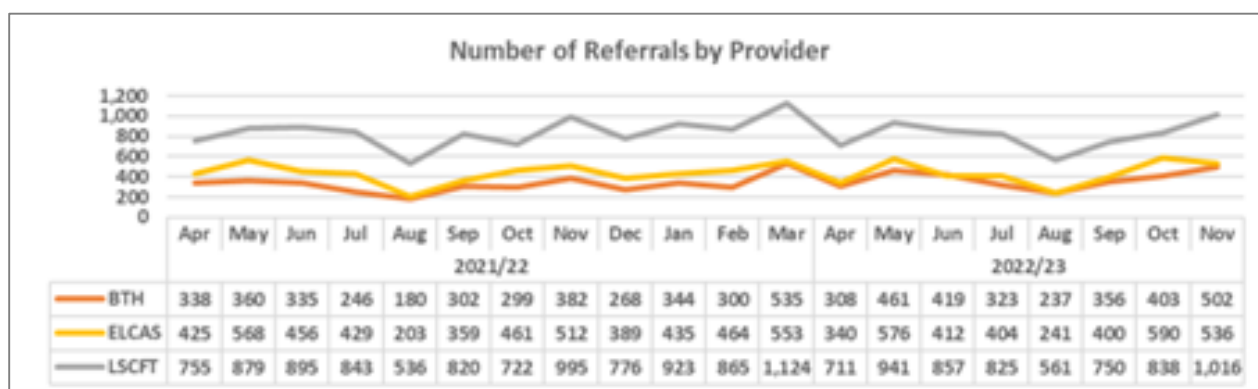
Good quality and affordable housing which meets the needs of a varied population across the rental and privately owned sector in Blackpool

- In 2021/22, there were 168 new build home completions. This shows that rates of housing delivery are returning to pre-pandemic levels (135 completions in 2019/20).
- A recent analysis of mortgage and rental risk in Blackpool found that the average sold house price in Blackpool is £126,250, with Blackpool being the 5th most affordable area to live in the UK relative to earnings (ONS). 30% of residents own their property outright, 32% have a mortgage and 38% rent. Looking at the impact of interest rate rises, models predict that an increase of 1% would mean that Blackpool mortgage payers will pay between £43 and £67 more per month and an increase of 2% would mean paying between £89 and £158 more per month. If mortgage paying landlords pass their full mortgage rate increases on to their tenants it means renters will pay £59 more per month if rates increase by 1% (£125 for a 2% increase).
- During the first 9 months of 2022/23, Blackpool Housing Company has developed 37 units, bringing the cumulative total of units in the portfolio to 569. The target position for the end of 2022/23 is 580 units in the portfolio.
- The satisfaction of BCH tenants with repairs is a proxy measure for the satisfaction of BCH tenants with the quality of their home, which is measured every 2-3 years. Data for satisfaction in Quarter 3 is 97.5%. The housing sector is experiencing lower return rates on perception surveys therefore the annual target for 2022/23 has been revised down from 98% to 97.5%. BCH are currently looking for a supplier for the STAR survey which will give more detailed information on the satisfaction of their tenants.

Priority Two: Our Communities – Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience

Families are supported to provide stable home lives where children and young people can flourish

- The number of Children Looked After at the close of Quarter 3 was 561, a rate of 201.7 per 10,000 population. This is a decrease compared with the previous quarters and compared to the same period in 2021/22 (592 / 203.4 per 10,000 population). Of those 561 children, 393 (70.1%) have a placement within the FY area, whilst the number of children placed in foster care during Quarter 3 was 366 (65.2%).
- Compared to CIPFA nearest statistical neighbours, Blackpool had the highest rate of Children Looked After in 2021/22 (209.2 per 10,000 population); more than double the rate for Lancashire. The proportion of children placed in foster care in Blackpool in 2021/22 (65.8%) was the second lowest compared with CIPFA nearest statistical neighbours. Tameside had the lowest percentage.
- The number of statutory assessments undertaken during Quarter 3 was 774, bringing the total number of assessments undertaken to date in 2022/23 to 2,427. The number of Education, Health and Care Plans issued this quarter was 58; of which 75.9% (44 out of 58) were issued within the 20-week timescale. This is an improvement compared with the same period in 2021/22, where 51.3% were issued within the 20-week timescale.
- Quarter 3 data for the number of referrals to mental health services for children and young people is not yet available as we are awaiting data for December 2022. The chart below covers referrals by all NHS Providers across the Integrated Care System (ICS) up to the end of November 2022. Please note that data from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals (BTH) also includes under 18s seen by adult mental health services.



- Provider BTH has seen an increase of 19% in referrals received in November 2022/23 (year to date) compared with the same period in 2021/22. The Fylde Coast area has seen a 12% increase, followed by Morecambe Bay/South Cumbria with a 3% increase. BTH have received a further 194 re-referrals, East Lancashire Children and Adolescent Services (ELCAS) received 429 and Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust (LSCFT) received 1,809 to date in 2022/23. LSCFT are currently investigating their re-referral numbers locally reported as they feel these are being over reported.
- *Data for the proportion of children in receipt of free school meals is an annual measure and will be included in the end of year Council Plan performance report.*

Good quality education provision in Blackpool supporting all children and young people to develop skills and obtain qualifications which set them up for a range of employment options

- Most Blackpool schools are still rated as good or better by Ofsted (86%), with 2 primary academies and 3 secondary academies rated as requires improvement. No Blackpool secondary academies are rated inadequate. 80% of children in Blackpool attend schools rated good or better.

- The annual cycle of assessment and examination, from end of Key Stage 2 through to A-Level and equivalent, changed due to the demands of the pandemic and formal, national examinations were not held for two years. Schools used teacher-assessed grades to provide an end of course numerical result (GCSE) or a grade (A-Level) or the equivalent in BTEC etc, to ensure that pupils were able to progress onto the next stage of their education or employment, properly rewarded for their hard work. This was the first year that examinations returned to relative normality.
- At the end of Key Stage 2, 74% of pupils reached the expected standard in reading, 60% in writing and 69% in Maths. 50.9% achieved the expected standard in all three areas. National figures for these measures were 74.4% for reading, 69.3% for writing, 71.3% for maths, and 58.5% for all three areas.
- At GCSE level 30.8% of pupils achieved Level 5 in English and Maths. This indicator was 20% below the national average. At A-Level the pass rate was 97%.
- There is a risk to comparing like for like between 2019 and 2020, 2021 and 2022 as the data is not standardised in the same way due to the pandemic and the unequal impact on different areas of the pandemic upon education. There is a “health warning” in relation to results from the previous school year as the pandemic had an uneven effect upon the country, with deprived communities being affected more than other areas.
- Blackpool children have done well, with some real examples of pupils who have surpassed expectations. Many have progressed onto further and higher education.
- Data for the proportion of 16–17-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training will be reported in the end of year Council Plan performance report. However, the latest verified data (December 2022) shows NEET levels are currently at 7.2%. This is a higher rate than our closest statistical nearest neighbour authority, Hartlepool (3.7%).

Improving health outcomes for people who live in Blackpool, with fewer people developing preventable long term health conditions

- At the end of Quarter 3, 653 residents of Blackpool have COVID-19 recorded on their death certificate since the start of the pandemic.
- In relation to positive cases of COVID-19, the cumulative number of positive cases since the start of the pandemic was 54,831 at the end of Quarter 3 (an increase of 1,341 since the previous quarter). The latest available data shows that as at 8th February 2023, the total number of cases was 55,264. It should be noted that due to the lack of testing, there is likely to be some under-representation in these figures.
- The latest available data on vaccination coverage shows that as at 8th February 2023, 79.7% of the Blackpool population aged 12+ have now received at least one dose of the vaccine. 75.2% have received two doses and 59.6% have received a third dose. This is in line with the vaccination rates for the North West.
- Blackpool has the highest rate of deaths from drug misuse in the country, with 76 deaths between 2019 and 2021 at a rate of 19.4 per 100,000 population (directly standardised rate). The overall rate for England is 5.1 deaths per 100,000. Whilst national and regional rates increased for the COVID-19 affected three year period 2019 to 2021, Blackpool's rate fell from 22.1 per 100,000 in the 2018 to 2020 period. This was due to the number of deaths to drug misuse reducing from 28 or 29 each year between 2018 and 2020 to 18 in 2021.
- Data for the number of referrals to the Psychological Therapies Service (IAPT) shows that 3,316 referrals were received during the first 9 months of 2022/23, which is lower than the same period in 2021/22 (3,674). The number of people starting treatment during this period was 2,968.

Communities in which people feel safe and secure in their immediate environment

- Data on the proportion of residents who feel safe in their local area during the day and after dark was collected through the Resident's Survey. Findings are weighted to be representative of Blackpool's demographics.

- The survey found that 87% of residents feel safe in their local area during the day compared with 92% nationally. The proportion of residents who feel safe in their local area after dark was 57% compared with 74% nationally.
- Since 2018, the proportion of residents who feel safe in the local area during the day has decreased by 2.1% and the proportion of residents who feel very unsafe has reduced slightly. This shows a shift that residents are slightly moving away from feeling very safe or very unsafe and towards more moderate or neutral feelings of safety during the day. Since 2018, the proportion of residents who feel safe in the local area after dark has decreased by 4.73%, with much of this shift due to the increase in proportions of residents who feel 'fairly unsafe'. The proportions of residents who feel 'very unsafe' remained fairly static.

People who need social care in Blackpool will receive an assessment in good time, have access to support from a range of good quality providers and they will have a regular review of their needs

- *Data for delayed transfers of care from hospital attributable to social care is currently unavailable and therefore cannot be included in this report. Publication of this data ceased in February 2020, and we are awaiting confirmation of when publication will recommence.*
- The number of services in Blackpool which are registered with CQC and rated good or better in Quarter 3 was 83.33%. Compared to CIPFA nearest neighbours, Blackpool's percentage of good and outstanding services is the third highest.
- In Quarter 3, the proportion of clients in receipt of long-term services with an annual review was 63.6% (1,258 out of 1,979). This is a reduction compared with the same period in 2021/22 where 83.9% of clients had an annual review.
- The Adult Social Care Survey was undertaken in 2021 and data for the overall satisfaction of people with the care and support services they receive is now 76.2%, down from 82.2% in 2018/19.

Organisational Resilience

Finance

- *An update on the financial position for this period was presented to CLT in January.*
- In Quarter 3, the Council Tax collection rate was 75.65%, which is a slight increase compared with the same period last year (74.78%). The Business Rates collection rate was 77.98%, which is also an increase compared with the same period last year (68.44%).
- Performance in relation to paying invoices in time to support businesses, particularly local businesses, was 98.83% in Quarter 3. This is a slight increase compared to the same period in 2021/22 (98.74%) and is above the annual target of 95%.

Workforce

- Performance in relation to the average number of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE (current staff only) is unavailable due to the transition from Selima to iTrent and the introduction of new working practices which are not yet embedded. The input of sickness data into the Selima HR System ceased at the end of October 2022. Since then, managers have been required to input into iTrent the dates of the absence and the working hours lost on each day of absence. After reviewing the absence data input into iTrent during the initial two months, there are gaps in the working hours lost being recorded. Whilst this has not affected sick pay, it does lead to difficulties with providing management data. An exercise will be undertaken to follow up on missing working data but only from December 2022 onwards. In the long-term, the change to recording time lost will allow for more accurate and informed sickness information.
- In Quarter 3, staff turnover was 11.42% which is an increase on the previous quarter (10.83%) and the year-end position (10.92%). Turnover is still higher than the same period in 2021/22 (10.15%).

- The percentage of IPAs on the HR system this quarter was 56% which is a slight increase compared with 2021/22 (54%). The average completion rate of mandatory training this quarter was 86%, which remains consistent with the same period in 2021/22 (87%). The definition for the average completion rate of mandatory training KPI now includes casual staff as well as permanent staff.

Quality Services

- The number of incidents of unplanned downtime of systems that impact more than 50 users for more than an hour remains consistent with 3 incidents reported during the first 9 months of 2022/23.
- The percentage of service requests and applications made online has increased to 70.3% in Quarter 3, which is an increase compared with the 2021/22 year end position (68.3%). Channel shift projects include residential waste, bulky waste collections, missed bin reports, fly tipping reports, highway issue reporting, waste permits, dog issue reporting, environmental protection complaints, anti-social behaviour complaints, copy certificate requests and alley gate key requests.
- 89.63% of customers were satisfied with the service received from Customer First in Quarter 3 2022/23. Performance has improved compared with the same period in 2021/22 (81.5%) but is slightly below the annual target of 90%.
- In 2021/22 there were 4 complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman (44% of complaints progressing to the investigation stage). These complaints related to Adult Services (2), Children's Services (1) and Environmental Services (1). This is a reduction compared with 2019/20 where 67% of complaints were upheld and also compares favourably with similar local authorities where on average 64% of complaints were upheld in 2021/22. Please note, a comparison with the proportion of complaints upheld in 2020/21 has not been made due to the LGO investigating fewer complaints during the pandemic.
- Data from the Resident's Survey 2022 shows that the proportion of residents who are satisfied with the way the Council runs things was 45% compared with 62% nationally. Since 2018, the proportion of residents who are satisfied with how Blackpool Council runs things has increased. There is a slight shift away from very strong levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction towards more moderate responses, with slightly higher proportions of residents either fairly satisfied or fairly dissatisfied compared to 2018.
- The survey also asked about levels of satisfaction with specific Council services. Some service areas have seen decreases in net-satisfaction levels such as adults and children's services, customer services and car parking. Household waste and bins service scores saw an increase in net-satisfaction. In some cases lower levels of satisfaction do not equate to an increase in dissatisfaction because the proportion of residents who are neutral or unsure has grown since 2018 for some services.

How satisfied are you with the following Council services?	Net- Satisfied 2018	Net- Satisfied 2022	Margin of Error	Change outside margin of error
Theatre or concert venues	95%	94%	6%	No change
Library facilities	92%	93%	8%	No change
Household recycling and bin collection services	78%	88%	4%	↑
Blackpool Tips / Waste Recycling centres	87%	87%	5%	No change
Parks or other open spaces	91%	84%	5%	No change
Sports and leisure facilities	92%	83%	7%	↓
Museums and Galleries	83%	83%	15%	No change
Local Transport Services	83%	76%	6%	↓
Street Cleaning	-	69%	6%	-
Benefits services	76%	65%	9%	No change
Services for children and young people	80%	61%	10%	↓
Services for adults and disabled older people	83%	62%	10%	↓
Car Parking	67%	59%	5%	↓
General customer services - complaints, comments or inquiries	72%	52%	7%	↓
Pavement Maintenance	-	44%	7%	-
Road Maintenance	-	39%	7%	-

Environment

- Data for total carbon emissions for the Council and total carbon emissions for Blackpool will be included in the end of year Council Plan performance report.
- The recycling rate for 2021/22 is 41.6% (provisional) which is a significant improvement compared with the previous year (27.5%) and an increase compared with the pre-Covid period (38.4% in 2019/20). The recycling rate in Blackpool is now at the national average. It should be noted that the highest performing councils can count on up to 30% of their overall rate coming from green/garden waste. Prior to subscriptions, garden waste only accounted for 12.5% of Blackpool's overall recycling rate, which reflects the low number of gardens in the Blackpool housing profile, but highlights that in all other areas of collected waste streams, we outperform most districts in Lancashire.

KEY - Direction of Travel Icons:

↑✓	Performance is improving or on target
↓✓	Performance is improving or on target
↑	Small deterioration in performance / slightly off target
↓	Small deterioration in performance / slightly off target
↔	No change
↑✘	Performance is deteriorating or off target
↓✘	Performance is deteriorating or off target

Priority 1: The Economy - Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT Against Target	Notes	Benchmarking	
											Comments	RAG
UK's number one family resort	Visitor numbers	5.99m (2020)	A	18.81 million (2021)	A	18.81 million (2021)	N/A	No target set	N/A	Data is for the 2021 season and is derived from STEAM.	Blackpool had 18.81 million visitors in 2021 and the rest of Lancashire combined had 32.7 million visitors. Northumberland had 7.8 million.	
	Overall value of the visitor economy	£587.98m (2020)	A	£1.425 billion (2021)	A	£1.425 billion (2021)	N/A	No target set	N/A	Data is for the 2021 season and is derived from STEAM.	Blackpool saw £1.425 billion in economic impact of tourism in 2021. The rest of Lancashire saw £2.8 billion and Northumberland saw £8.89 million.	
	Tram ridership	4,200,042	1,163,445	1,769,555	1,222,588		↓	4,775,124	N/A	Increase in ridership in Q2 and Q3, although ridership in Q3 is below the quarterly target set by Blackpool Transport (1,256,125). Annual target is to reach 100% of 2019/20 patronage. Cumulative ridership is 4,155,588.	Data published by the Department of Transport shows Blackpool tram ridership accounted for 2.41% of all UK tram rides between March 2021 and March 2022. When comparing with similar areas (Sheffield, Nottingham and Edinburgh), Blackpool's tram ridership had the highest % year on year increase since 2020.	
	Total inbound car movements at the 6 major car parks	2,825,092	159,236	208,247	170,500		↓	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Cumulative total to date is 537,983 which is a significant reduction compared with the same period in 2021/22. Data relates to the following car parks - Chapel Street, Bonny Street, Central, West Street, Talbot Road and South Beach.	n/a	

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT Against Target	Notes	Benchmarking	
											Comments	RAG
Range of employment options	Out of work benefits claimant rate	8.5%	7.2%	6.8%	6.9%		↑	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Data derived from Nomis.	In December 2022 Blackpool had the highest claimant rate in England. When compared to CIPFA Neighbours Middlesborough had a slightly lower rate at 6.4% of the working population and Hull had 5.8%. The average rate in England was 3.2%	
	Number of people supported into employment across all employment programmes delivered by Positive Steps into Work	406	92	117	79		N/A	339	N/A	Cumulative total to date is 288. Cannot compare performance with previous years due to changes in programmes delivered / cohort of job seekers.	n/a	
	Jobs created / safeguarded through Council regeneration schemes	New KPI	14	32	0		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Data does not include construction jobs. Cumulative total to date is 46.	n/a	

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT Against Target	Notes	Benchmarking	
											Comments	RAG
Business support	Total number of new start businesses assisted by the Council	42	43	142	39		↓	200	↑✓	Although there was a reduction in the number of businesses supported in Quarter 3, the total businesses supported to date is 224 which exceeds the annual target.	In Quarter 3, 117 Start Up Businesses were registered in Blackpool, with 22 of these in Talbot ward.	
	Enterprise Zone - jobs created	439	55	60	25			200	N/A	Cumulative total to date is 140.	n/a	
	Enterprise Zone - retained rates for Blackpool	£333,617.94	A	A	A		N/A	£174,000	N/A	Replaces growth in retainable rates per annum. Reported as part of the NNDR3 return.	n/a	
	% of expenditure with third party suppliers that are locally based	46%	44%	45%	44%		↓	45%	↓	This is a reduction compared with the same period in 2021/22 (48%) and is slightly below the annual target.	n/a	

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT	Notes	Benchmarking	
									Against Target		Comments	RAG
Strong and vibrant town centre	Town centre footfall	30,997,514	8,576,322	8,334,778	8,919,671		↑✓	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Data derived from Visitor Insights	In Quarter 3, Weston Super Mare saw a 14% increase in footfall, Brighton and Eastbourne each saw a 1% decrease and Southend saw a 7% decrease in footfall compared with the same period in 2021.	
	Town centre vacancy rates - principal retail core	18%	17.5%	16.9%	13.9%		↓✓	17%	↓✓	Data derived from surveys conducted in February, May, August and November each year.	National average vacancy rate for retail sites is 15.4%	
	Overall satisfaction of residents with the town centre	N/A	A	A	43.3%	43.3%		N/A	No target set	N/A	Data derived from the Resident's Survey conducted in Autumn 2022. Change to question means data not comparable with 2018 survey.	n/a - question not included in the national residents survey.

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT	Notes	Benchmarking	
									Against Target		Comments	RAG
Good quality affordable housing	Number of new build homes completed (net)	93 (2020/21)	A	168 (2021/22)	A	168 (2021/22)	N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Outturn includes new builds and new build windfall.	n/a	
	Number of units developed within the year by Blackpool Housing Company	531	9 (540)	16 (556)	12 (569)		↑✓	580	↑✓	The total amount of units currently in the portfolio is 569.	n/a	
	Satisfaction of BCH tenants with repairs	97.5%	Data unavailable	95.35%	97.50%		↑✓	97.5%	↑✓	The satisfaction of BCH tenants with repairs is a proxy measure for the satisfaction of tenants with the quality of their home. Data for satisfaction in Quarter 3 is 97.5% which is in line with the annual target.	n/a	

Priority 2: Our Communities - Creating strong communities and increasing resilience

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT	Notes	Benchmarking	
									Against Target		Comments	RAG
Supporting families to provide stable home lives	Number/rate of Children Looked After per 10,000 population	No. 609 Rate 209.2	No. 610 Rate 219.3	No. 571 Rate 205.3	No. 561 Rate 201.7		↓✓	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	The number of Looked After Children has decreased compared with the previous quarter and the year-end position.	Compared to CIPFA nearest statistical neighbours Blackpool's 21/22 rate is the highest. The rate in Blackpool is more than double that in Lancashire.	
	Number / % of children placed in foster care	401 (65.8%)	389 (63.8%)	364 (63.7%)	366 (65.2%)		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	This is a reduction compared to the same period in 2021/22 (402).	Blackpool's 21/22 percentage is in line with the percentage across Lancashire and when compared to CIPFA nearest statistical neighbours, Blackpool had the second lowest percentage of placements, with Tameside having the lowest percentage at 6% fewer placements than Blackpool.	
	Number of statutory assessments undertaken	3,813	825	828	774		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	The number of assessments undertaken this quarter has decreased compared with the same period in 2021/22 (948). The cumulative total to date is 2,427.	n/a	
	Number of Education, Health and Care Plans issued	132	29	52	58		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	The number of plans issued has increased compared with the same period last year (39). The percentage issued this quarter within the statutory 20 week timescale was 75.9%.	In 2021 the percentage of assessments during the calendar year where it was decided not to issue an EHC plan in Blackpool was 25%. The North West rate was 4.5% and the average for England was 5.9%	
	Number of referrals to Blackpool CAMHS, Youththerapy and CASHER	3,858	1,188	916	Awaiting data		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Currently awaiting data for December 2022. Data for October and November shows that there were 905 referrals during this period.	n/a	
	% of children in receipt of free school meals	40.4%	A	A	A		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A		In 2021/22, Blackpool had the highest percentage of Free school meal eligibility when compared to CIPFA nearest neighbours and was almost double the Lancashire percentage (21.6%).	

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT	Notes	Benchmarking	
									Against Target		Comments	RAG
Quality education provision	Proportion of schools in Blackpool that are rated as "good" or better by OFSTED	86%	A	86%	A	86%	N/A	100% by 2030	↔	Includes primary, secondary, all through and special schools. Results exclude schools for which an OFSTED rating is not available.	Compared to CIPFA nearest neighbours, in 2020/21 the proportion of Blackpool schools rated good or better was the median.	
	% of pupils who achieved a 9-4 pass in GCSE English and maths	No data available	A	No data available	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a	
	% of pupils who achieved a 9-5 pass in GCSE English and maths	No data available	A	No data available	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No data available. The last year in which outcomes were reported upon nationally was 2019. Reporting is expected to return to normal in the summer of 2023.	n/a	

Good quali	Progress made by pupils across 8 GCSE subjects at KS4, relative to others with similar prior attainment	No data available	A	No data available	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		n/a
	Percentage of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training	5.2%	A	A	A		N/A	No target set	N/A	The latest verified data (December 2022) shows NEET levels are currently at 7.2%.	Compared to CIPFA nearest neighbours the 2021 NEET rate is the median.

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT Against Target	Notes	Benchmarking	
											Comments	RAG
Improving health outcomes	Cumulative number of COVID-19 deaths	586	616	631	653		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Cumulative number of Blackpool residents with COVID-19 recorded on their death certificate.	n/a	
	Cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases	47,560	50,745	53,490	54,831		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Cumulative number of people with at least one positive COVID-19 test result, either lab-reported or rapid lateral flow test, since the start of the pandemic.	n/a	
	Deaths related to drug misuse	22.1 per 100,000 pop. (2018 - 2020)	A	19.4 per 100,000 population (2019-2021)	A	19.4 per 100,000 population (2019-2021)	N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Blackpool's rate remains high, however there has been a reduction compared with the rate in 2018-20.	Blackpool has the highest rate of deaths from drug misuse in the country, with 76 deaths between 2019 and 2021 at a rate of 19.4 per 100,000 population (directly standardised rate). The overall rate for England is 5.1 deaths per 100,000.	
	Number of referrals to the Psychological Therapies Service (IAPT)	4,980	1,095	1,180	1,041		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	The number of referrals to the Psychological Therapies Service (IAPT) in Q3 was 1,041.		

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT Against Target	Notes	Benchmarking	
											Comments	RAG
Safe and secure communities	Proportion of residents who feel safe when outside in their local area (during the day)	N/A	A	A	87%	87%	↔	No target set	N/A	Data collected via Resident's Survey Autumn 2022.	In 2022, the national rate was 92%.	
	Proportion of residents who feel safe when outside in their local area (after dark)	N/A	A	A	57%	57%	↓	No target set	N/A	Data collected via Resident's Survey Autumn 2022.	In 2022, the national rate was 74%.	

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT Against Target	Notes	Benchmarking	
											Comments	RAG
Availability of support for social care needs	Delayed Transfers of Care - delays which are attributable to Adult Social Care (only)	N/A	See Notes section				N/A		N/A	Publication of this data ceased in February 2020. Unclear whether data collection will resume.	n/a	
	Proportion of providers registered with CQC in Blackpool rated "Good" or better	86.7%	84.4%	83.14%	83.33%		↑✓	90%	↓	CQC inspections on existing and newly registered providers - both residential and domiciliary.	Compared to CIPFA nearest neighbours Blackpool percentage of good and outstanding care homes is the third highest.	
	Percentage of long-term service users with an annual review	77.9%	77.4%	73.8%	63.6%		↓*	No target set	N/A	63.6% equates to 1,258 out of 1,979 clients.	n/a	
	Overall satisfaction of people with the care and support services they receive	N/A	72.9% (2021)	A	A	72.9% (2021)	N/A	70%	↑✓	Proportion of people who were extremely or very satisfied.	n/a	

Organisational Resilience

Theme	Indicator	Outturn 2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23	Q3 22/23	Outturn 2022/23	Direction of Travel	Target	DoT	Notes	Benchmarking	
									Against Target		Comments	RAG
Finance	Forecast level of year end General Fund Working Balances	£6.075m	-£181,000	£1,061,000	£1,572,000		N/A	> or equal to £6m	N/A		n/a	
	Level of earmarked reserves (exc. S31 additional business rate reliefs)	£65.575m	£52.2m	£49.2m	£47.3m		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Covered in Month 9 finance report presented to CLT.	n/a	
	Value of recurrent budget reductions delivered	New KPI	£4,080,000	£6,427,000	£7,338,000		N/A	£8,629,000	N/A		n/a	
	% of Council Tax in year collection	88%	25.16%	50.47%	75.65%		↑✓	93%	N/A	A slight increase compared with the same period last year (74.78%). Now with targeted accounts for recovery on 2022/23 debts.	To be included in End of Year report	
	% of Business Rates in year collection	92.27%	26.93%	53.32%	77.98%		↑✓	95%	N/A	An increase compared with the same period last year (68.44%). Recovery of 2022/23 debts is a priority	To be included in End of Year report	
	% of undisputed invoices for commercial goods and services that are paid within 30 days of such invoices being received	98.83%	99.11%	98.71%	98.83%		↑✓	95%	↑✓	A slight increase compared to the same period in 2021/22 (98.74%) and is above the target of 95%.	n/a	
Workforce	Average number of working days lost due to sickness absence per FTE (current staff only)	10.76 days per FTE	11.39 days per FTE	11.34 days per FTE	Data unavailable		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Data unavailable due to the transition from Selima to iTrent and the introduction of new working practices which are not yet embedded.	n/a	
	% staff turnover (Council - permanent excluding death, Tupe, redundancy)	10.92%	11.56%	10.83%	11.42%		↑	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Increase on the year-end position (10.92%) and the same period in 2021/22 (10.15%).	n/a	
	% of IPAs on the HR system	54%	A	A	56%		N/A	No target set	N/A		n/a	
	Average completion rate of mandatory training	86%	89%	89.6%	86.0%		↓	No target set	N/A	Consistent with completion rates in same period in 2021/22 (87%).	n/a	
	Gender pay gap	Median -6.12% Mean -0.94%	A	A	A		N/A	Monitoring purposes only	N/A	Defined as the difference in the average earnings of men and women over a standard period of time, regardless of their role seniority. A positive pay gap indicates that men are paid more; a negative pay gap indicates that women are paid more.	n/a	
Quality Services	Number of incidents of unplanned downtime of systems that impact more than 50 users for > 1 hour	4	1	1	1		↔	<10	N/A		n/a	
	Channel Shift - % of online transactions versus traditional methods	68.3%	67.0%	69.0%	70.3%		↑✓	No target set	N/A	Channel shift projects include residential waste, bulky waste collections, missed bin reports, fly tipping reports, highway issue reporting, waste permits, dog issue reporting, environmental protection complaints, anti-social behaviour complaints, copy certificate requests and alley gate key requests.	n/a	
	% of customers satisfied with the service received from Customer First	84.28%	82.27%	87.53%	89.63%		↑✓	90%	↓	Performance has improved compared with the same period in 2021/22 (81.5%) but is slightly below the annual target of 90%.	n/a	
	Number of complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman	2	4	A	A	4	N/A	Reduction on 2019/20 (6)	↓✓	Direction of travel and annual target based on complaints upheld after investigation in 2019/20. A comparison with the proportion of complaints upheld in 2020/21 has not been made due to the LGO investigating fewer complaints during the pandemic.	Performance compares favourably with similar local authorities where on average 64% of complaints were upheld in 2021/22 (44% for Blackpool).	
	Proportion of residents who are satisfied with the way the Council runs things	N/A	A	A	45.18%	45.18%		↔	No target set	N/A	Data derived from the Resident's Survey conducted in Autumn 2022.	In 2022, the national rate was 62%.
Environment	Total CO2 emissions by the Council (tonnes)	24,970 tonnes (2019/20)	A	A	A		N/A	Net zero by 2030	N/A	Data on the baseline for total emissions for the Council was included in the 2021/22 end of year Council Plan performance report.	To be included in End of Year report	
	Total CO2 emissions for Blackpool (tonnes)	471,400 tonnes (2019)	A	A	A		N/A	Work towards net zero by 2030	N/A	Data on the total carbon emissions for Blackpool was included in the 2021/22 end of year Council Plan performance report.	To be included in End of Year report	
	% of household waste arisings which have been collected for recycling	27.5% (2020/21)	A	41.6% (2021/22)	A	41.6% (2021/22)		No target set	N/A	Data for 2021/22 is currently provisional.	Performance is in line with the national average.	

Report to: **SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD**

Relevant Officer: Philip Welsh, Head of Tourism

Date of Meeting: 8 March 2023

CHANNEL SHIFT SCRUTINY REVIEW - UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the updated Channel Shift Scrutiny Review action tracker.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To challenge progress made on the recommendations and identify any areas of concern.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the recommendations of the review are implemented.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

None.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool
- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background Information

6.1 The Channel Shift Scrutiny Review was approved by the Executive and it was agreed that a deadline for the implementation of the recommendations would be

September 2023. This is an interim report to demonstrate the progress that has been made to date to allow the Board to identify any areas of concern.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 5(a): Channel Shift Action Tracker
Appendix 5(b): Digital Blackpool report

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None associated with report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None associated with report.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None associated with report.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None directly from this report.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

Channel Shift Scrutiny Action Plan

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
<p>Recommendation One</p> <p>That the Executive give consideration to identifying a brand name for Channel Shift that the public can clearly identify with.</p>	<p>The importance of Channel Shift has been recognised and presents a real opportunity for all Council services going forward. The identification of an over-arching name for the process should also reflect that Channel Shift should be about making services more accessible and not just how they are accessed.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board</p>	<p>Philip Welsh</p>	<p>September 2023</p>	<p>For some time, we have promoted channel shift campaigns using the strapline "Don't waste time, report it online", "Don't waste time, do it online" and "Don't waste time, sign up online" This is to encourage residents to carry out tasks such as paying Council Tax and reporting fly-tipping online.</p> <p>A single sign-on enabling users to access an account through which to conduct Council tasks is being developed by ICT. This would be supported by an over-arching brand and strategy.</p>
<p>Recommendation Two</p> <p>Visibility of Services and Community Groups:</p>	<p>Consideration should also be given to how we make groups accessible to</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board</p>	<p>Chloe Pieri (Kate Aldridge) Kim Wood</p>	<p>September 2023</p>	<p>a/ There is an active community group which has developed and has participants from small medium and large community and third sector partners. Work</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
<p>a) That the Executive give consideration to introducing a list of "approved" community groups, working to recognise operating and governance best practice. This should be accessible via the Council website or partner organisations.</p> <p>b) That the FYI Directory take a pro-active approach to ensuring Groups' records are up-to-date. It is suggested that to facilitate this a six monthly email confirming the details are correct should be sent out, if three of these emails be ignored then the page be removed.</p>	<p>residents. As well as how we ensure work is community led.</p>			(2b)		<p>is ongoing with this group to share key information, developments, funding and delivery opportunities and best practice. Consideration for a "group led" approach to endorsing and promoting the good work of groups is part of this work. All groups have been encouraged to be transparent about their status – i.e. whether they are a formally constituted group, a registered charity, key members and contact details.</p> <p>b/ FYI directory and it's support/ management is subject to regular review, participants are contacted for updated information and as resource allows, more work will be done with the community group on the use of FYI.</p> <p>A recent example of this working well is the #blackpooltogether campaign which highlights the vast array</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
						of support available for residents from the range of community providers working across Blackpool to support them with cost of living pressures. We have 35 “warm hubs” with information on FYIs dedicated Cost of Living area offering various activities and opportunities across the town from a huge variety of community and third sector providers. A Freephone helpline is also supported by a partnership of third sector providers to support people who might not be able to access information online.
<p>Recommendation Three</p> <p>Digital Blackpool:</p> <p>a) That the Review Panel supports the expansion of Digital Blackpool across Blackpool.</p> <p>b) That the Executive investigate</p>	Although this recommendation is welcome consideration needs to be given to how we link people to libraries, especially those	Yes	September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board	Chloe Pieri (Kate Aldridge) Peter Legg	September 2023	See attached report on digital Blackpool. Groundwork managing Digital Blackpool Project – laptops/routers are loaned via the library since late 2021. 65 laptops/20 routers available. At the moment these are being

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
<p>how the Council's libraries can be promoted as a place for individuals who have poor digital skills to be digitally empowered including using Digital Blackpool via the Library App and to train residents to use the libraries to access newspapers and magazines.</p>	<p>in areas not physically close to one.</p> <p>Opportunities to achieve this by linking access to libraries with public transport also exist.</p>					<p>distributed to residents by Groundwork according to the project eligibility criteria (18+. Blackpool resident.) Performance report available via Groundwork. Contract has been extended to Aug 2023.</p> <p>Library Service currently has 99 public access computer terminals and BYOD Wifi at all library sites and digital drop in advice sessions/'one off' taster courses with ACFL. Library staff have completed Libraries Connected Digital Skills e-learning course to increase their own skills to support residents' digital skills/promotion of e-books and e-audio.</p> <p>Recent Library Management System/Server upgrades will enable access to Library Management System off site (eg. being able to join new</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
						library users at events.) When comparing January 2022 with January 2023 there has been a 6% increase in the number of eBook issues and a 17% increase in eMagazine issues.
<p>Recommendation Four</p> <p>That the Council's website be reviewed as follows:</p> <p>a) That links to the Council's Wholly-Owned Companies be added to the website's homepage to create a "one-council" ethos, making the relationship between the Council and companies clear.</p> <p>b) That consideration be given to having links next to Council services' information on the website, e.g. Waste, with "you may be interested in" ways to get involved.</p> <p>c) That an online pathway be developed for residents to suggest</p>	<p>Conversations with officers have already begun on creating a webpage for the Council's Wholly-Owned Companies, and the work they undertaken in fulfilling the council's priorities is considered vital to future prosperity.</p> <p>The development of a Communications</p>	Yes	September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board	Philip Welsh (5d) and Lisa Arnold (5e).	September 2023	<p>a) A webpage has been developed with details of all the Council's Wholly-Owned Companies including links to their websites. A review is currently under way of the existing homepage which, once implemented, would see the companies listed.</p> <p>b) On relevant pages there is an "additional information" panel where links can be added to community groups.</p> <p>c) In the header and footer of every webpage there is a link to the Contact Us page This has details of how to give compliments, comments and complaints.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
ideas on improving a service.	<p>Plan is also underway and it is foreseen that this will address some of the issues raised.</p> <p>It is also accepted that more can be done to highlight the good work being undertaken in Blackpool's Parks.</p>					

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
<p>d) That once a brand name has been created, it is recommended that the media strategy under the new brand should regularly showcase services achievements in respect of Channel Shift with details of before and after of completed projects, to demonstrate the how a project makes a differences to residents.</p> <p>e) A review to overhaul the Blackpool Parks webpage be undertaken to ensure that information is up-to-date and interactive with ways for people to "Get Involved" with an approved Park Community Group being promoted on each Park page where applicable.</p>		Yes				<p>d) Work on engaging residents and encouraging them to interact online is continuing in parallel to the development of any potential new brand concept. We will continue to develop this work stream pointing out the benefits of accessing services in this way. We will continue to monitor results.</p> <p>e) A review has taken place and a new design developed for the Parks webpages. New content is currently being added and it is expected that the new web pages will go live in March 2023.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
<p>Recommendation Five</p> <p>That Blackpool Coastal Housing Ltd be requested to consider:</p> <p>a) That the online booking of community centres operated by BCH be promoted to improve access for community groups and third sector organisations and that BCH promote the activity at each centre via their website to cross promote and also show clear commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility.</p> <p>b.) That BCH staff working with residents with ASB adopt a holistic approach working with the resident to link them into community groups and support organisations, recognising that ASB can be part of a larger picture of frustration/need.</p>	Agreed	Yes	September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board	John Donnellon (BCH)	September 2023	<p>a) An online booking system is being developed which will increase the convenience and ease of booking for groups using community centres, and is expected to be ready for use in the summer. This will be promoted on our website and on our social media channels when it goes live.</p> <p>b) Cases of ASB need to be dealt with in line with best practice and recommendations from the Regulator and the Ombudsman. Where appropriate we do signpost to support organisations, and offer mediation if it will help. Other services in BCH, in particular the Activities Co-ordinator, promote opportunities for involvement including at our community centres. This role which was time limited has been made permanent because of the clear benefits it has demonstrated in reducing social isolation, increasing customer wellbeing and promoting cohesive communities.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
<p>Recommendation Six</p> <p>The staff suggestion box on the intranet Hub be enhanced to allow the sharing of ideas of best practice rather than purely a form to submit ideas. This would also allow for success stories to be promoted and communicated across Council services.</p>	Agreed	Yes	September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board	Philip Welsh	September 2023	<p>While the scrutiny was being undertaken a new intranet was designed and implemented. This allows staff to comment and “like” posts. This has led to more engagement and a result an increased amount of staff submitting good news stories.</p> <p>Stories highlighting staff success are the most popular. Each month a list of corporate compliments is posted along with any positive comments made by members at full council.</p> <p>An online Q&A is held with the Chief Executive and Leader on an annual basis where questions, suggestions and issues are raised.</p> <p>It is expected that the annual staff conference will return in 2023 which gives a wide range of services the opportunity to share best practice.</p>

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
<p>Recommendation Seven</p> <p>To explore the potential for integrating the NHS's EMIS system and the Council's systems so that GPs can monitor the progress of individuals referred to the social prescribing programme.</p>	Agreed	Yes	September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board	Kate Aldridge	September 2023	
<p>Recommendation Eight</p> <p>That the luggage label information service on residents' bins be promoted to council departments as a method of engaging with the community, highlighting that this service can be targeted at certain locations or town wide for a reasonable price.</p>	Agreed	Yes	September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board	John-Paul Lovie	September 2023	Feb 23 – Liaised with Comms regarding this. We are trying to look at sourcing a more cost effective supplier as the cost of tags can be quite prohibitive. Once this is resolved we will look to publish on the Hub and promote inter-departmentally.

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
<p>Recommendation Nine</p> <p>That the Executive explore the opportunities for residents to get involved, based on the model operated by Vancouver City Council, including the possibility of schemes such as Adopt a Drain, Adopt an alleyway, Become a litter picker and Neighbourhood Clean-up Party.</p>	<p>A pilot of a project on improving alleyways is planned for later in 2022 which will focus on enforcement and street cleansing I problem areas and look at how they can be improved.</p> <p>Helping people to have pride in their local area is also recognised as important.</p>	Yes	September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board	Chloe Pieri (Kate Aldridge)	September 2023	

Recommendation	Cabinet Member's Comments	Rec Accepted by Executive?	Target Date for Action	Lead Officer	Committee Update	Update on implementation of recommendation
<p>Recommendation Ten</p> <p>In relation to the Staff and Residents Newsletter that the Executive give consideration to:</p> <p>a) That the staff newsletter be expanded to include examples of community engagement success stories. This could also be included with a new section on the staff hub.</p> <p>b) That in addition to the staff newsletter a monthly newsletter for residents be developed to promote "Get Involved" activities.</p>	<p>Getting residents more involved is positive for Blackpool.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>September 2023 Update to Scrutiny Leadership Board</p>	<p>Philip Welsh</p>	<p>September 2023</p>	<p>a) Community initiatives are regularly included within the Employee newsletter and on the intranet including success stories and social value impacts.</p> <p>b) An e-newsletter goes out each month to 33,000 residents with news of Council initiatives and, where applicable, promotes ways in which residents can get involved</p>

Appendix 5(b)

Digital Blackpool

Service Use and Impact Report – **February 2023**

Adam Beardow – Digital Inclusion Officer

The program

The Digital Blackpool project, funded by Blackpool Council and delivered by Groundwork CLM, is one of the first digital inclusion programs in the North West. The service tackles digital exclusion in the area, providing access to free laptop and mobile router loans, as well as digital knowledge, training and confidence.

The existing library computer service provides invaluable internet access for many Blackpool residents who do not have a connection at home. The library, however, is a finite resource. Physical and mental health conditions, transport, time constraints, work, childcare and confidence can prevent access to the library service. Unfortunately, many Blackpool residents remain digitally excluded.

Digital Blackpool removes those hurdles, making digital connectivity accessible to as many residents as possible.

The program has a total stock of 65 Chromebook laptops and 20 mobile routers. These are loaned via the Blackpool Library system, for periods of 42 days, with an option to extend for further periods of 42 days.

Alongside the hardware, literature is available to assist users who are less confident with computers and using the internet. Digital Blackpool is working with Pride of Place to roll out drop-in digital help sessions within the community, as well as delivering training. Users are also being signposted to Blackpool Adult, Community and Family Learning for ICT courses.

A delivery and collection service is provided, with an average turnaround of 3-5 days from the date of referral.

To be eligible for referral into the program, the resident must be:

- **18 years or over**
- **A Blackpool resident**

Service use and access statistics

From 17/11/2021 to 09/02/2023

Total number of six week loans: **214** (*Includes extensions*)

Number of unique users: **81 users**

(*Unique individuals accessing service regardless of loan length*)

Extension requests: **55 users**

(*Unique individuals requesting extensions past the initial 6 week period*)

Number of six week extensions: **133**

Number of completed service uses: **48** (*Number of loans completed*)

Number of active loans: **33** (*on 09/02/23*)

Area distribution

FY1 – 38 users

- FY1 1 – 1 users
- FY1 2 – 10 users
- FY1 3 – 4 users
- FY1 4 – 8 users
- FY1 5 – 5 users
- FY1 6 – 10 users

FY2 – 10 users

- FY2 0 – 6 users
- FY2 9 – 4 users

FY3 – 14 users

- FY3 7 – 10 users
- FY3 8 – 3 users
- FY3 9 – 1 user

FY4 – 20 users

- FY4 1 – 2 user
- FY4 2 – 3 user
- FY4 3 – 3 users
- FY4 4 – 11 users
- FY4 5 – 1 user

Equipment and digital connectivity

Number of mobile router requests: **34**

Number of users with existing internet access: **47**

Number of users with mobile phone numbers: **77**

Number of users with pre-existing email accounts: **78**

Number of users with pre-existing Google accounts: **55**

Referral pathways

Most successful referral pathways: Libraries, Citizens Advice, Groundwork

Impact on wellbeing and mental health

The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS) is a scale of positively worded items for assessing a population's mental wellbeing.

Two WEMWBS forms are completed per service user – one is completed on delivery, and a second at the end of the loan. The initial WEMWBS is scored to a total of 35 points over 7 questions. The second WEMWBS is scored to a total of 70 points over 14 questions. In the below statistics, the figures have been compared on a 7 question basis.

To date we've had **38** completed pairs of questionnaires.

76.32% of users have reported an increase in wellbeing after accessing the service. We've seen a mean increase of **6.17** points out of a total of 35.

The questions on the WEMWBS and the mean point improvement reported:

“I've been feeling optimistic about the future”

22 users reported an increase / mean improvement of **1.182** points

“I've been feeling useful”

20 users reported an increase / mean improvement of **1.4** points

“I’ve been feeling relaxed”

27 users reported an increase / mean improvement of **1.519** points

“I’ve been dealing with problems well”

19 users reported an increase / mean improvement of **1.632** points

“I’ve been thinking clearly”

16 users reported an increase / mean improvement of **1.813** points

“I’ve been feeling close to other people”

21 users reported an increase / mean improvement of **1.429** points

“I’ve been able to make up my own mind about things”

13 users reported an increase / mean improvement of **1.462** points

Use of equipment

The most common use of the equipment includes:

- Online courses
- Job searching
- Entertainment
- Skill development

User feedback

“We both now have full time work starting at the end of the month thanks to the use of the laptops”

“I really appreciate you helping us out like this, it means a lot to myself and my family. You really are a superstar”

“I’ve been keen to start my mental health course but unfortunately isn’t doable on my phone only a laptop so this would be a fantastic support for me.”

“I’m applying as my daughter is home with a broken elbow and she needs access to her homework and what a brilliant service you provide for the community.”

“Laptop is great and I am so grateful to have something to use. I was wondering what is the chance of extending the loan? I had my phone stolen and smashed and the laptop is my only life line. I have a meeting with social services online in the next few weeks and no other way of attending.”

“I use a computer but my feet are swelling up. My doctor says I must put my feet up so I am wondering if I can borrow a laptop for a while to see if I can use it from my armchair with my feet elevated.”

“I currently use Revue Library on a daily basis to do my job search, keep in contact with family and check my emails. I’ve seen a flyer for this scheme and really would like to be considered as I spend a lot of time at the local library and the days it’s shut I have to travel, so would really benefit from it.”

“This would really help me as I am currently living in supported accommodation and I have started up my own artwork page, so I would like a more practical way of working on that, instead of just trying to do it all on my phone.”

Post-access progression

After completion of the loan, 3 users have confirmed the purchase of their own digital equipment. 2 users have signed up for home internet packages. 5 further users have stated that they will be purchasing a Chromebook in the future.

13 users have commented that access to the equipment had improved the ease of job searching.

10 further users have commented that access to the equipment had improved the ease of attending online courses. 7 users stated that it wasn’t possible for them to complete their online course without access to a laptop or PC.

Marketing

The Digital Blackpool project has been marketed both digitally and in print format. Digitally, the project has been promoted via email newsletters, on Facebook, on both Blackpool Council and Groundwork websites, and through referral partners.

The project has had two printed flyer designs; an initial design advertising the 3 week loan period, and an updated design advertising the 6 week loan period. These were distributed in local libraries, community hubs, medical centres, job centres and leisure facilities.

Since then, Pride of Place have worked with the project to create additional flyers which advertise the Digital Blackpool project, as well as the Lloyds TSB digital helpline which is now available.

Print marketing seems to be the most effective strategy at reaching the target audience, and an uptake in referrals has been noticed since the distribution of the updated flyers.

Future marketing strategy includes further distribution of flyers to local businesses, such as cafes, hairdressers and charity shops, wider medical centres such as dentists, sports facilities, supported accommodation and further community hubs and centres.

Roller-banners are planned for distribution in libraries, to compliment the existing offering. Flyers have proved most successful in libraries, and a permanent fixture may increase uptake further.

Further digital marketing will be undertaken, in an effort to capture the secondary audience – digitally connected residents with relatives or friends who may use the service.

Summary of performance

The Digital Blackpool project had a slow initial uptake in late 2021, early 2022. The extension of the loan period to six weeks has drastically improved the uptake, with promotion of the project in April having a noticeable impact on numbers.

Evaluation of the figures suggests that, initially, the scope of the project was too narrow, with eligibility being limited to Covid 19 isolation referrals. Uptake improved with the expansion to include low-level mental health referrals, though only slightly.

As the scope of the project has expanded to include all residents, and the loan period increased to 6 weeks, the number of users has been steadily increasing.

The library system has seen an increased number of new users, due to previously unregistered residents accessing the program. Several residents who were previously unaware of the digital services available at the library are now aware and using these services.

Connections and rapport between local services and both Groundwork and Blackpool Council has improved as a result of the project.

At the end of May 2022, mobile routers were out of stock due to demand.

Of the 48 completed loans, 6 users did not return their equipment.

Opportunities to improve

There are several possible areas of improvement that I have noticed while delivering the program:

- Several key process points rely on a single member of staff. These include referral processing, collection and delivery, library membership checks, and equipment collection and preparation. Arrangements must be made going forward to allow for alternative contacts in case of leave.
- In the event that demand exceeds the capability to provide a delivery and collection service, plans must be made to ensure that equipment is returned on-time and in original condition.
- We do not currently provide project documentation in accessible formats or alternative languages. We also do not provide documentation in large print format.

- We do not offer the option to purchase equipment after loan periods. While digital inclusion is improved for the loan period, the 42% of users will lose internet access upon loan completion. The current service only offers a temporary solution to digital exclusion.

Next Steps

In the coming months, Adam will be expanding the range of supporting documentation available for users, to cover a wider range of skill levels. Alongside this, plans for additional video training is being explored.

Marketing and leaflet distribution focus will increase, expanding the current list of distribution areas. Efforts will be made to increase the number of users from postcodes that currently do not access the service as frequently.

We have had many enquiries regarding equipment purchasing. Further discussions should be held to evaluate whether this can be part of the service scope.

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