

Blackpool Council - Resources

Revenue summary - budget, actual and forecast:

FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE			VARIANCE	2022/23 (UNDER)/OVER SPEND B/FWD £000
	2023/24					
	ADJUSTED CASH LIMITED BUDGET £000	EXPENDITURE APR - AUG £000	PROJECTED SPEND £000	FORECAST OUTTURN £000	F/CAST FULL YEAR VAR. (UNDER) / OVER £000	
RESOURCES						
NET EXPENDITURE						
PROCUREMENT & EXCHEQUER SERVICES	(8)	(184)	116	(68)	(60)	-
BENEFITS	(1,615)	1,090	(2,705)	(1,615)	-	-
REVENUES SERVICES	1,765	1,642	123	1,765	-	-
CUSTOMER FIRST	18	(339)	368	29	11	-
ICT SERVICES	(9)	(1,978)	1,969	(9)	-	-
ACCOUNTANCY	23	(667)	595	(72)	(95)	-
RISK SERVICES	(4)	(451)	428	(23)	(19)	-
PROPERTY SERVICES (Incl. INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO)	2,250	(3,237)	5,476	2,239	(11)	-
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	(1)	(88)	81	(7)	(6)	-
TOTALS	2,419	(4,212)	6,451	2,239	(180)	-

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 5 months of 2023/24 together with predictions of performance, anticipated pressures and efficiencies in the remainder of the financial year, all of which have been agreed with each head of service.

Procurement and Exchequer Services

Procurement and Exchequer Services are forecasting an underspend of £60k. This position has been achieved as a result of measures to deliver savings through dis-establishment of posts and increased income opportunities. Additional one-off, ad-hoc income has been secured in year and there is currently a vacant post within the Procurement team.

Benefits

The Benefits Service is forecasting a break-even position. The cumulative Housing Benefit new claims processing outturn figure for August was 26 days. The cumulative processing time to-date for new claims for Housing Benefit, new claims for Council Tax Reduction and changes in circumstances notifications was 9 days.

Revenue Services

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

Customer First

Customer First is forecasting an overspend of £11k against a gross budget of £1.19m. This is due to an unachieved savings target but the position is expected to improve through the year.

ICT Services

ICT is forecasting a break-even position on a gross budget of £5.95m. The budget is currently under pressure from inflationary increases in software licences and the hardware supply chain. The budget is currently being balanced from additional income generation and staff turnover.

Accountancy

Accountancy is forecasting an underspend of £95k due to freezing of vacant posts and additional income from HMRC.

Risk Services

Risk Services are forecasting an underspend of £19k against a gross budget of £1.07m. This is due to a number of factors including staff vacancies, additional income opportunities and also through receipt of new burden funding for the Covid-19 business support grant post assurance work.

Property Services (incl. Investment Portfolio)

Property Services are forecasting an underspend of £11k against a gross budget of £14.28m, savings arising from staff vacancies across the service.

Equality and Diversity

Equality and Diversity are forecasting an underspend of £6k. This reflects the projected impact of a renegotiation with Unison of their Facilities Time Agreement.

Summary of the revenue forecast

After 5 months of the financial year Resources are forecasting a £180k 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