

INFORMATION

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No

meeting date: 14 JULY 2011  
 title: REVENUE OUTTURN 2010/11  
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES  
 principal author: TRUDY HOLDERNESS

**1 PURPOSE**

1.1 To inform members of the revenue outturn for this committee for the year ended 31 March 2011 for this.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- ❖ In accordance with corporate performance and improvement plan objective 2, "to maintain critical financial management and controls" this report provides members with information regarding the revenue outturn for 2010/11.

**2 FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

2.1 Shown below, by cost centre, is a comparison with the revised estimate. You will see an overall underspend of £139,843 on the net cost of services. After allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves, this underspend is reduced to £71,960

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Cost Centre Name</b>	<b>Revised Estimate £</b>	<b>Actual £</b>	<b>Difference £</b>
DEVDP	Development Department	0	0	0
PLANG	Planning Control & Enforcement	88,300	39,964	-48,336
PLANP	Planning Policy	157,610	155,215	-2,395
PLDEV	Planning Delivery	101,790	78,716	-23,074
BCSAP	Building Control SAP Fees	-1,350	-827	523
BLDGC	Building Control	118,070	113,621	-4,449
CINTR	Clitheroe Integrated Transport Scheme	6,760	6,744	-16
INDDV	Economic Development	109,420	101,237	-8,183
ALBNM	Albion Mill	-3,650	-5,853	-2,203
CONSV	Conservation areas	12,190	12,010	-180
AONBS	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	12,770	12,670	-100
COMMG	Community Groups	20,110	19,010	-1,100
COUNT	Countryside Management	53,020	48,705	-4,315
FPATH	Footpaths & Bridleways	5,250	4,950	-300
HIGHH	High Hedges	1,930	1,900	-30
FORBW	Forest of Bowland Bridleways	0	-27,145	-27,145
PENDU	Pendle Hill Users	0	-17,830	-17,830
PLSUB	Grants and Subscriptions	14,950	14,240	-710

Cost Centre	Cost Centre Name	Revised Estimate £	Actual £	Difference £
	<b>Total net cost of services</b>	<b>697,170</b>	<b>557,327</b>	<b>-139,843</b>
<b>ITEMS ADDED TO / (TAKEN FROM) BALANCES AND RESERVES</b>				
PLBAL H264	Countryside Management Reserve Fund	-4,560	-4,566	-6
PLBAL H234	Building Control Reserve Fund	-90,490	-90,650	-160
PLBAL H268	Planning Delivery Reserve Fund	-94,060	-70,986	23,074
PLBAL H273	Pendle Hill User Reserve Fund	0	17,829	17,829
PLBAL H274	Forest of Bowland Bridleways Reserve Fund	0	27,146	27,146
		<b>508,060</b>	<b>436,100</b>	<b>-71,960</b>

2.2 We have extracted the main variations and shown them, with the budget holder's comments, in the table below.

SERVICE	REASON	£	£
<b>MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE – Reduced Costs</b>			
<b>Development Department</b>			
- Staff Costs (including on-cost and professional subscriptions)	Vacant posts as a result of recruitment freeze( two environmental health officers and a planning enforcement officer and no cover for maternity leave on regeneration post)	-15,849	
- Tuition Fees (Including travel and subsistence)	The estimate included a provision for staff studying town and regional planning and also environmental planning. No further training undertaken following recruitment freeze and freeze on non-essential expenditure.	-5,961	
- Mileage	There have been fewer mileage claims as a result of the recruitment freeze	-4,118	

SERVICE	REASON	£	£
- Maintenance of equipment / reference books/ Protective clothing	As a result of the freeze on non-essential expenditure, only essential repairs are being carried out on equipment, less reference books being purchased with increase usage of online systems and less protective clothing being purchased.	-3,220	
- Consultants	Provision for legal consultants and the provision for agricultural consultant fees have not been fully needed in the year	-5,778	
- Statutory notices	A move from using an agent, to placing adverts direct with newspapers has resulted in savings	-2,133	
<b>Building Control</b>			
- Consultants	No consultants required during the year. The estimate was based on a 3-year average of expenditure.	-4,370	
<b>Countryside Management</b>			
- Tree work	Only essential emergency tree work is being carried out.	-2,247	
<b>Economic Development</b>			
- Subscriptions / Promotional activities	The cost of the grant finder internet access subscriptions was lower than in previous years.	-2,512	
<b>Planning Delivery</b>			
- Printing and Stationery	Only a low number of core strategy documents and core strategy booklets produced in the year, partly as a result of the non-essential expenditure freeze	-3,742	
- Consultants	A budget provision was allowed for consultancy work on the Housing development plan, this work has slipped in 2011/12 and possibly beyond and has been set aside in the earmarked reserve.	-10,000	
<b>Other</b>			
- Reduced Costs		-6,395	
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>-66,325</b>

SERVICE	REASON	£	£
<b>MOVEMENT IN INCOME – Reduced Income</b>			
<b>Building Control</b>			
- Building Control Fees	The estimate for building regulation fee income was based on actual income to September 2010 and a 3-year average for the remaining part of the year. The actual income for the remainder of the year was below average. This was mainly due to the economic climate but also due to some organisations using private competitors	10,582	
<b>Other</b>			
- Reduced Income		563	
<b>Recharges to other general fund services</b>			
	Reduced income from recharges to other general fund Committees as a result of a reduction in the net cost of the Development department	23,536	
<b>MOVEMENT IN INCOME – Increased Income</b>			
<b>Building Control</b>			
- Flood Grant	Additional grant income (administration element) received from DEFRA for work carried out by building control staff on flood protection grant work.	-2,972	
<b>Planning Control</b>			
- Planning Fee / Pre-application advice	The revised estimate was based on actual income received to November 2010 plus a 3- year average for the remaining period. This average was exceeded with two large application received in February 2010 for schemes at Lawsonsteads, Whalley and Victoria Mill, Sabden.	-35,381	
<b>Planning Delivery</b>			
- Income from third party compensation	Third party compensation income received by the council, which was not anticipated	-7,974	
<b>Pendle Hill Users</b>			

SERVICE	REASON	£	£
- Contributions and donations	Over a number of years small contributions have been received from various sources to fund improvements to the footpaths. The contributions have now built up to enable the funding of a large improvement scheme. The balance of funds after expenditure are to be carried forward as an earmarked reserve fund	-17,829	
<b>Forest of Bowland Bridleway Schemes</b>			
- Contributions and donations	Funding received to access improvement schemes within the Ribble Valley section of the Forest of Bowland, previously held in a suspense's account, the funds after expenditure to be carried forward at the yearend in an earmarked reserve fund	-27,146	
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN INCOME</b>			<b>-56,621</b>
<b>MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT SERVICES – Reduced Support Services</b>			
<b>Various Support Services</b>			
	Reduced costs within departments, partly as a result of freeze on recruitment and non essential expenditure	-16,897	
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT SERVICES</b>			<b>-16,897</b>
<b>NET CHANGE IN COST OF SERVICES</b>			<b>-139,843</b>
<b>MOVEMENT IN RESERVE FUNDS</b>			
Planning Delivery	Reduced contribution required from reserve due to slippage of expenditure on housing development plan and additional income from compensation payment	23,074	
Building Control	Increase in contribution due to reduced income from building control fees offset by reduced expenditure	-160	
Countryside Management	Balance of reserve fund used to fund expenditure	-6	
Pendle Hill Users	Setting aside of unspent contributions to fund future commitments for maintaining Pendle Hill Footpaths	17,829	

SERVICE	REASON	£	£
Forest of Bowland Bridleways	Setting aside of unspent contributions to fund future commitments to access improvement schemes within the Ribble Valley section of the Forest of Bowland	27,146	
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN RESERVE FUNDS</b>			<b>67,883</b>
<b>OVERALL UNDERSPEND (after transfers to/from earmarked reserves)</b>			<b>-71,960</b>

### 3 CONCLUSION

3.1 The comparison between actual and budgeted expenditure shows an underspend for the financial year 2010/11 of £139,843. After transfers to / from earmarked reserves this is reduced to £71,960.

3.2 Within this net figure there has been some large fluctuations

- \* Savings on staffing and running costs in Development Departmental of £37,059 as a result of the recruitment freeze and freeze on non-essential expenditure
- \* Slippage of planning delivery expenditure on consultants fees of £10,000, reduced printing costs of £3,742 and additional income from compensation payment of £7,974, which has contributed to a £23,074 less being funded from the planning Delivery reserve.
- \* Increase in planning application and pre-application advice of £35,381
- \* Reduced building control fees of £10,582 offset by reduced costs from consultant fees of £4,370.

3.3 From the reasons for the variances at paragraph 2.2 it can be seen that there have been substantial planned savings as a result of the recruitment freeze and freeze on non-essential expenditure.

3.4 It is important to be mindful that a number of these savings may not be sustainable, and that the structure review of the council by heads of service is ongoing, with an announcement of future changes expected later in the current financial year

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

PD6-11/TH/AC  
23 JUNE 2011