

meeting date: 6 MARCH 2012
title: ANNUAL BUDGET
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: JANE PEARSON

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To decide the budget for 2012/13 and to set the different amounts of council tax for different parts of the area where special items apply (Parish precepts).

2. THE PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 2.1. The Prudential Code for Capital Finance and the prudential indicators are set out in Annex 1 (YELLOW).

- 2.2. The Code and the indicators are intended to inform the Council, in setting the capital programme, that the programme is both affordable and sustainable. The indicators also include the maximum and operational borrowing levels for the Council

3. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 3.1. At their meeting on 7 February 2012, Policy and Finance Committee considered the capital programme for 2012/15.

- 3.2. The Budget Working Group/Capital Working Group had been tasked with reviewing the Council's forward capital plans during 2011/12 in order to produce an achievable and affordable programme. They asked Heads of Services to submit new bids based on thematic groupings with the remit that only essential schemes would be considered. They also agreed that the future programme should correspond with the life of the current Council.

- 3.3. The result of their deliberations is a capital programme for the years 2012/15 totalling £1,541,820 which is set out in the summary budget book on pages 83 to 85.

4. MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION

- 4.1. The Council is required each year to agree a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement setting out how the Council will make a charge to revenue in respect of previous capital expenditure. This Policy Statement is also set out in Annex 1.

5. REVENUE BUDGET

2011/12 Revised

- 5.1. We originally budgeted to spend £6.555 million (before use of balances). The revised estimate is that net expenditure will be considerably lower at £6.036 million. Details are set out in the budget book with a summary on pages 7 and 8. The revised budget for 2011/12 is:

	£000	£000
Net Committee Budget		7,233
Less - Net Adjustment for Capital Charges	-624	
- Council Tax Freeze Grant	-79	
- New Homes Bonus	-62	
- External Interest Payable	23	
- Interest Earned	-30	
- Net Transfers From and To Reserves	-66	- 838
		6,395
To take from General Balances		-27
Agreed Budget for year		6,368

5.2. We estimate this will leave general fund balances at 31 March 2012 of £1,422,000.

Final Grant Settlement

5.3. The Local Government Finance Settlement confirmed our second year formula grant allocation for 2012/13 as part of a two year settlement. The final announcement was made on 31 January 2012 and we will receive £2.902m after rolling in Council Tax Freeze Grant.

	2010/11 Settlement £	2011/12 Settlement £	2012/13 Settlement £
Formula Grant	4,141,519	3,237,040	2,823,026
Council Tax Freeze Grant – for those authorities who freeze in 11/12 (grant for 4 years)			78,660
Formula Grant	4,141,519	3,237,040	2,901,686
Council Tax Freeze Grant		78,660	See above

Forecast Budget 2012/13

5.4. Special Policy and Finance Committee have recommended a net budget of £6,048,282. Details are shown in the budget book with a summary on pages 7 and 8. This results in the following budget requirement:

	£
Borough Requirement	6,048,282
Parish Council Requirement	371,815
Total Borough and Parish Requirements	6,420,097

6. ROBUSTNESS OF THE ESTIMATES AND BALANCES AND RESERVES

Robustness of the Estimates

- 6.1. It is a specific requirement of section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 for the chief financial officer to report on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the Council's balances and reserves.
- 6.2. I can confirm that throughout the budget process all practical steps have been taken to identify and make budgetary provision for all likely commitments facing the Council in 2012/13. The preparation of the base committee estimates remains a vital part of ensuring the robustness and financial integrity of the budget and ensures that all service committees are aware of the resource allocation and budgetary pressures facing their service areas. My report to Special Policy and Finance Committee set out the various processes followed to ensure the Council's estimates are robust.

Adequacy of Reserves

- 6.3. A reasonable level of balances is needed to provide funds to:
- ❖ Finance levels of inflation in excess of those provided in the budget
 - ❖ Provide for unforeseen expenditure
 - ❖ Finance expenditure in advance of income
 - ❖ Allow flexibility as the year progresses
- 6.4. The availability of balances has increased in importance since the Local Government Finance Act 1982 revoked local authorities' power to issue supplementary precepts.

General Fund Balances

- 6.5. At this stage general fund balances are estimated as follows:

	£000
Opening Balance 1 April 2011	1,449
Estimated Amount to be taken from Balances in 2011/12	-27
Estimated Balances in Hand 31 March 2012	1,422
Estimated Amount to be taken from Balances in 2012/13	-21
Estimated Balances in Hand 31 March 2013	1,401

- 6.6. The level of balances to retain is a matter of professional judgement but should be set in the context of the authority's medium term financial strategy and the risks facing the authority.
- 6.7. When the medium term financial strategy was recently reviewed the minimum level of balances to retain was confirmed to be £700,000 bearing in mind our record of strong budgetary control.
- 6.8. In 2012/13 we estimate that £21,000 will be taken from balances to support the budget. Given the Council Tax Freeze Grant for 2012/13 is for one year only the Budget Working Group recommend that we reduce the amount we would potentially take from balances, (£100,000 as per our Medium Term Financial Forecast) by this amount in order that the grant does not affect our future base budget.

Earmarked Reserves

- 6.9. The Council holds a number of reserves earmarked for specific purposes. The movements in these reserves, forecast for 2011/12 and 2012/13 financial years, were reported to Special Policy and Finance Committee.
- 6.10. The earmarked reserves are also judged to be adequate to meet the commitments and forecast expenditure facing the Council. The Building Control Reserve is predicted to be overdrawn over the two year period. However regulations state that the reserve needs to 'break even' over a certain time period and therefore work is being carried out to ensure this is the case.
- 6.11. The earmarked reserves are judged to be adequate to meet the commitments and forecast expenditure facing the Council.

7. COLLECTION FUND SURPLUS/DEFICIT

- 7.1. The position on the collection fund has been estimated and details are set out in the summary budget book on page 78.
- 7.2. I forecast that there will be a **deficit** on the collection fund at 31 March 2012 of £90,434. This will be recovered from the major precepting authorities in 2012/13.

8. RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

- 8.1. Approve the following submitted by the Policy and Finance Committee:
- a) The revised revenue estimates for 2011/12 and the revenue estimates for 2012/13.
 - b) The revised capital programme for 2011/12 and the capital programme for 2012/15.
- 8.2. Approve the prudential indicators, borrowing limits and MRP Policy Statement as set out in Annex 1.
- 8.3. Note that, under delegated powers in accordance with section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council has determined the following amounts for 2012/13, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended), as its council tax base for the year.
- a) 22,434 being the amount of its council tax base for the whole district [item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - b)

Parish Area	Tax base
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	432
Balderstone	205
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	197
Billington & Langho	2,167
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	484
Bowland Forest (High)	61
Bowland Forest (Low)	77

Bowland with Leagram	82
Chatburn	398
Chipping	491
Clayton le Dale	523
Clitheroe	5,158
Dinckley	41
Downham	55
Dutton	104
Gisburn	207
Grindleton	364
Horton	43
Hothersall	71
Longridge	2,756
Mearley	7
Mellor	1,030
Newsholme	20
Newton	144
Osbaldeston	105
Paythorne	43
Pendleton	107
Ramsgreave	280
Read	565
Ribchester	668
Rimington & Middop	223
Sabden	514
Salesbury	176
Simonstone	499
Slaidburn & Easington	152
Thornley with Wheatley	160
Twiston	36
Waddington	453
West Bradford	361
Whalley	1,471
Wilpshire	997
Wiswell	464
Worston	43
	22,434

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- 8.4. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2012/13 (excluding Parish precepts) is £3,156,239.
- 8.5. Calculate the following amounts for 2012/13, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- a) £25,976,258 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - b) £22,448,204 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - c) £3,528,054 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 8.5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 8.5(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - d) £157.26 Being the amount at 8.5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (8.3(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - e) £371,815 Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - f) £140.69 Being the amount at 8.5(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 8.5(e) above by Item T (8.3(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
 - g) Aggregate of the basic amount of council tax for Ribble Valley Borough Council and Parish precept for Band D properties:

Parts of the Council's area	£
Aughton, Bailey & Chaigley	151.69
Balderstone	147.03
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	146.27
Billington & Langho	148.28
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	167.55
Bowland Forest Higher	176.36
Bowland Forest Lower	156.27
Bowland with Leagram	148.01
Chatburn	166.03
Chipping	155.96

Clayton le Dale	144.51
Clitheroe	159.76
Dutton	145.50
Gisburn	160.01
Grindleton	161.29
Hothersall	151.25
Longridge	162.59
Mellor	155.25
Newton	158.05
Osbaldeston	147.83
Pendleton	154.71
Ramsgreave	146.76
Read	154.85
Ribchester	152.28
Rimington & Middop	158.63
Sabden	169.09
Salesbury	167.96
Simonstone	155.52
Slaidburn & Easington	152.20
Thornley with Wheatley	150.07
Waddington	167.18
West Bradford	157.03
Whalley	162.16
Wilpshire	154.73
Wiswell	152.54
All other parts of the Council's area	140.69

Being the amount given by adding to the amount at 8.5(f) above to the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount contained in 8.3(b), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

h) Aggregate of the basic amount of council tax for Ribble Valley Borough Council and Parish precept for Band D properties by valuation band:

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	101.12	117.99	134.84	151.69	185.39	219.11	252.81	303.38
Balderstone	98.02	114.36	130.70	147.03	179.70	212.38	245.05	294.06
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	97.51	113.77	130.02	146.27	178.77	211.28	243.78	292.54

VALUATION BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Billington & Langho	98.85	115.33	131.81	148.28	181.23	214.18	247.13	296.56
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	111.70	130.32	148.94	167.55	204.78	242.02	279.25	335.10
Bowland Forest Higher	117.57	137.17	156.77	176.36	215.55	254.74	293.93	352.72
Bowland Forest Lower	104.18	121.55	138.91	156.27	190.99	225.72	260.45	312.54
Bowland with Leagram	98.67	115.12	131.57	148.01	180.90	213.79	246.68	296.02
Chatburn	110.68	129.14	147.58	166.03	202.92	239.82	276.71	332.06
Chipping	103.97	121.31	138.63	155.96	190.61	225.28	259.93	311.92
Clayton le Dale	96.34	112.40	128.46	144.51	176.62	208.74	240.85	289.02
Clitheroe	106.50	124.26	142.01	159.76	195.26	230.77	266.26	319.52
Dutton	97.00	113.17	129.34	145.50	177.83	210.17	242.50	291.00
Gisburn	106.67	124.46	142.23	160.01	195.56	231.13	266.68	320.02
Grindleton	107.52	125.45	143.37	161.29	197.13	232.98	268.81	322.58
Hothersall	100.83	117.64	134.45	151.25	184.86	218.47	252.08	302.50
Longridge	108.39	126.46	144.53	162.59	198.72	234.85	270.98	325.18
Mellor	103.50	120.75	138.00	155.25	189.75	224.25	258.75	310.50
Newton	105.36	122.93	140.49	158.05	193.17	228.30	263.41	316.10
Osbaldeston	98.55	114.98	131.41	147.83	180.68	213.53	246.38	295.66
Pendleton	103.14	120.33	137.52	154.71	189.09	223.47	257.85	309.42
Ramsgreave	97.84	114.15	130.46	146.76	179.37	211.99	244.60	293.52
Read	103.23	120.44	137.65	154.85	189.26	223.67	258.08	309.70
Ribchester	101.52	118.44	135.36	152.28	186.12	219.96	253.80	304.56
Rimington & Middop	105.75	123.38	141.01	158.63	193.88	229.13	264.38	317.26
Sabden	112.72	131.52	150.30	169.09	206.66	244.24	281.81	338.18
Salesbury	111.97	130.64	149.30	167.96	205.28	242.61	279.93	335.92
Simonstone	103.68	120.96	138.24	155.52	190.08	224.64	259.20	311.04
Slaidburn & Easington	101.46	118.38	135.29	152.20	186.02	219.85	253.66	304.40
Thornley with Wheatley	100.04	116.73	133.40	150.07	183.41	216.77	250.11	300.14
Waddington	111.45	130.03	148.61	167.18	204.33	241.48	278.63	334.36
West Bradford	104.68	122.14	139.58	157.03	191.92	226.82	261.71	314.06
Whalley	108.10	126.13	144.14	162.16	198.19	234.23	270.26	324.32
Wilpshire	103.15	120.35	137.54	154.73	189.11	223.50	257.88	309.46
Wiswell	101.69	118.65	135.59	152.54	186.43	220.34	254.23	305.08
All other parts of the Council's area	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38

being the amounts given by multiplying (as appropriate) the amounts at 8.5(f) or 8.5(g) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number

which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 8.6. Note, that for 2012/13 Lancashire County Council has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
738.87	862.01	985.16	1,108.30	1,354.59	1,600.88	1,847.17	2,216.60

- 8.7. Note, that for 2012/13 Lancashire Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
99.95	116.61	133.27	149.93	183.25	216.57	249.88	299.86

- 8.8. Note, that for 2012/13 Lancashire Combined Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
42.43	49.51	56.58	63.65	77.79	91.94	106.08	127.30

- 8.9. Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 8.5(h), 8.6, 8.7 and 8.8 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for 2012/13 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	982.37	1,146.12	1,309.85	1,473.57	1,801.02	2,128.50	2,455.94	2,947.14
Balderstone	979.27	1,142.49	1,305.71	1,468.91	1,795.33	2,121.77	2,448.18	2,937.82

VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	978.76	1,141.90	1,305.03	1,468.15	1,794.40	2,120.67	2,446.91	2,936.30
Billington & Langho	980.10	1,143.46	1,306.82	1,470.16	1,796.86	2,123.57	2,450.26	2,940.32
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	992.95	1,158.45	1,323.95	1,489.43	1,820.41	2,151.41	2,482.38	2,978.86
Bowland Forest (High)	998.82	1,165.30	1,331.78	1,498.24	1,831.18	2,164.13	2,497.06	2,996.48
Bowland Forest (Low)	985.43	1,149.68	1,313.92	1,478.15	1,806.62	2,135.11	2,463.58	2,956.30
Bowland with Leagram	979.92	1,143.25	1,306.58	1,469.89	1,796.53	2,123.18	2,449.81	2,939.78
Chatburn	991.93	1,157.27	1,322.59	1,487.91	1,818.55	2,149.21	2,479.84	2,975.82
Chipping	985.22	1,149.44	1,313.64	1,477.84	1,806.24	2,134.67	2,463.06	2,955.68
Clayton le Dale	977.59	1,140.53	1,303.47	1,466.39	1,792.25	2,118.13	2,443.98	2,932.78
Clitheroe	987.75	1,152.39	1,317.02	1,481.64	1,810.89	2,140.16	2,469.39	2,963.28
Dutton	978.25	1,141.30	1,304.35	1,467.38	1,793.46	2,119.56	2,445.63	2,934.76
Gisburn	987.92	1,152.59	1,317.24	1,481.89	1,811.19	2,140.52	2,469.81	2,963.78
Grindleton	988.77	1,153.58	1,318.38	1,483.17	1,812.76	2,142.37	2,471.94	2,966.34
Hothersall	982.08	1,145.77	1,309.46	1,473.13	1,800.49	2,127.86	2,455.21	2,946.26
Longridge	989.64	1,154.59	1,319.54	1,484.47	1,814.35	2,144.24	2,474.11	2,968.94
Mellor	984.75	1,148.88	1,313.01	1,477.13	1,805.38	2,133.64	2,461.88	2,954.26
Newton	986.61	1,151.06	1,315.50	1,479.93	1,808.80	2,137.69	2,466.54	2,959.86
Osbaldeston	979.80	1,143.11	1,306.42	1,469.71	1,796.31	2,122.92	2,449.51	2,939.42
Pendleton	984.39	1,148.46	1,312.53	1,476.59	1,804.72	2,132.86	2,460.98	2,953.18
Ramsgreave	979.09	1,142.28	1,305.47	1,468.64	1,795.00	2,121.38	2,447.73	2,937.28
Read	984.48	1,148.57	1,312.66	1,476.73	1,804.89	2,133.06	2,461.21	2,953.46
Ribchester	982.77	1,146.57	1,310.37	1,474.16	1,801.75	2,129.35	2,456.93	2,948.32
Rimington & Middop	987.00	1,151.51	1,316.02	1,480.51	1,809.51	2,138.52	2,467.51	2,961.02
Sabden	993.97	1,159.65	1,325.31	1,490.97	1,822.29	2,153.63	2,484.94	2,981.94
Salesbury	993.22	1,158.77	1,324.31	1,489.84	1,820.91	2,152.00	2,483.06	2,979.68
Simonstone	984.93	1,149.09	1,313.25	1,477.40	1,805.71	2,134.03	2,462.33	2,954.80
Slaidburn & Easington	982.71	1,146.51	1,310.30	1,474.08	1,801.65	2,129.24	2,456.79	2,948.16
Thornley with Wheatley	981.29	1,144.86	1,308.41	1,471.95	1,799.04	2,126.16	2,453.24	2,943.90
Waddington	992.70	1,158.16	1,323.62	1,489.06	1,819.96	2,150.87	2,481.76	2,978.12
West Bradford	985.93	1,150.27	1,314.59	1,478.91	1,807.55	2,136.21	2,464.84	2,957.82
Whalley	989.35	1,154.26	1,319.15	1,484.04	1,813.82	2,143.62	2,473.39	2,968.08

VALUATION BANDS								
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Wilpshire	984.40	1,148.48	1,312.55	1,476.61	1,804.74	2,132.89	2,461.01	2,953.22
Wiswell	982.94	1,146.78	1,310.60	1,474.42	1,802.06	2,129.73	2,457.36	2,948.84
All Other Parts of the Council's Area	975.04	1,137.56	1,300.07	1,462.57	1,787.58	2,112.61	2,437.61	2,925.14

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

C2-12JP/AC
24 FEBRUARY 2012

COUNCIL

PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

1. The actual capital expenditure that was incurred in 2010/11 is shown alongside the current and future years that are recommended for approval:

Capital Expenditure					
	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Revised Estimate	2012/13 Estimate	2013/14 Estimate	2014/15 Estimate
	£	£	£	£	£
Community	1,170,373	206,790	406,080	13,000	200,000
Planning & Development	25,000	0	0	0	0
Policy & Finance	224,577	154,810	125,000	0	0
Health & Housing	454,316	393,280	407,740	195,000	195,000
Total	1,874,266	754,880	938,820	208,000	395,000

2. Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the current and future years, and the actual figures for 2010/11 are:

Ratio of Financing Costs to Revenue Stream				
2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Estimate	2012/13 Estimate	2013/14 Estimate	2014/15 Estimate
1.90%	2.20%	2.39%	2.35%	1.99%

The estimates of financing costs include current commitments and the proposals in the Council's recommended revenue and capital budgets.

3. Estimates of the end of year capital financial requirement for the authority for the current and future years and the actual capital financing requirements at 31 March 2011 are:

Capital Financing Requirement				
31/03/11	31/03/12 Revised Estimate	31/03/13 Estimate	31/03/14 Estimate	31/03/15 Estimate
Actual £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
4,041	3,989	3,976	3,914	3,852

4. The capital financing requirement measures the authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose. In accordance with best professional practice, the Council does not associate borrowing with particular items or types of expenditure. The authority has an integrated treasury management strategy and has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. We have, at any point in time, a number of cash flows, both positive and negative, and manage our treasury position in terms of our borrowings and investments in accordance with our approved treasury management strategy and practices. In day-to-day cash management we make no distinction between revenue cash and capital cash. External borrowing arises as a consequence of all the financial transactions of the authority and not simply those arising from capital spending. In contrast, the capital financing requirements reflects the authority's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose.
5. CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in local Authorities includes the following as a key indicator of prudence:

"In order to ensure that over the medium term net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that net external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years."

I can report that the authority had no difficulty meeting this requirement in 2010/11, nor are any difficulties envisaged for the current or next year. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in the Council's budget report.

EXTERNAL DEBT

6. In respect of our external debt, it is recommended that the Council approves the following authorised limits for our total external debt, gross of investments, for the next three financial years and agrees the continuation of the previously agreed limit for the current year since no change to this is necessary. These limits separately identify borrowing from other long-term liabilities such as finance leases. The Council is asked to approve these limits and to delegate authority to me, within the total limit for any individual year, to effect movement between the separately agreed limits for borrowing and other long-term liabilities, in accordance with option appraisal and best value for money for the authority. Any such changes made will be reported to the Council at its next meeting following the change.

Authorised Limit for External Debt			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	14,420	14,132	14,242
Other Long-Term Liabilities	0	0	0
Total	14,420	14,132	14,242

7. The authorised limit for external debt is the upper limit on the level of gross external indebtedness, which must not be breached without council approval. It is the worst-case scenario. It reflects the level of borrowing, which while not desired, could be afforded but may not be sustainable. Any breach must be reported to Council, indicating the reason for the breach and the corrective action undertaken or required to be taken.
8. The Council is also asked to approve the following operational boundary for external debt for the same time period. The proposed operational boundary for external debt is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but reflects directly my estimate of the most likely prudent but not worst case scenario, without the additional headroom included within the authorised limit to allow for example for unusual cash movements, and equates to the maximum of external debt projected by this estimate. The operational boundary represents a key management tool for in year monitoring by my staff and me. Within the operational boundary, figures for borrowing and other long-term liabilities are separately identified. The Council is also asked to delegate authority to me, within the total operational boundary for any individual year, to effect movement between the separately agreed figures for borrowing and other long term liabilities, in a similar fashion to the authorised limit. Any such changes will be reported to the Council at its next meeting following the change.

Operational Boundary for External Debt			
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	5,900	5,547	5,639
Other Long Term Liabilities	0	0	0
Total	5,900	5,547	5,639

9. The Council's actual external debt at 31 March 2011 was £0.5 million, comprising £0.5 million borrowing and £0 million other long-term liabilities. It should be noted that actual external debt is not directly comparable to the authorised limit and operational boundary since the actual external debt reflects the position at one point in time.
10. In taking its decisions on this budget report the Council is asked to note that the authorised limit determined for 2012/13 (see paragraph 6 above) will be the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

Consideration of Options for the Capital Programme

11. In considering its programme for capital investment the Council is required, within the Prudential Code, to have regard to:
 - Service objectives, eg strategic planning for the authority
 - Stewardship of assets, eg asset management planning
 - Value for money, eg option appraisal
 - Prudence and sustainability, eg implications for external borrowing and whole life costing

- Affordability, eg implications for council tax
- Practicality, eg achievability of the forward plan.

12. The Prudential Code requires the estimated revenue impact of Capital investment decisions in Band D Council Tax. These are shown below:

	2012/13 £	2013/14 £	2014/15 £
For the Band D Council Tax	0.03	0.06	0.07

The above figures exclude the borrowing costs required to meet commitments from 2011/12 and earlier year's programmes. The focus is therefore on the cost of the 2012/13 to 2014/15 Capital Programme.

13. It is important to note that the figures above do not represent annual increases in Council Tax. Both the 2013/14 and 2014/15 figures will include the full year effects of decisions taken in 2012/13 and already included in the revenue budget.

Minimum Revenue Provision

14. The Council is required each year to pay off an element of its accumulated General Fund capital expenditure through a revenue charge, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).
15. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued regulations which require Full Council to approve a MRP Policy Statement in advance of each financial year. The following MRP Policy Statement is recommended for 2012/13.

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement

- For capital expenditure incurred **before** 1 April 2008 or which in the future will be Supported Capital Expenditure, the MRP Policy will be to allow MRP equal to 4% of the capital financing requirement (the element of which relates to capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008) at the end of the previous financial year.
- For capital expenditure incurred **after** 1 April 2008, for all Unsupported Borrowing the MRP Policy will be to follow the Asset Life Method (Equal Instalment method), i.e. the MRP will be based upon the estimated life of the assets financed from borrowing.