

meeting date: 4 MARCH 2014
title: ANNUAL BUDGET
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: JANE PEARSON

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To decide the budget for 2014/15 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.

- 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 11 February 2014, Policy and Finance Committee considered the capital programme for 2014/17.

- 3.2. The Budget Working Group have reviewed the Council's forward capital plans in order to produce an achievable and affordable programme. Heads of Services were asked to submit new bids which were considered by service committees. The Council's Corporate Management Team considered the draft programme and made recommendations to the Budget Working Group.

- 3.3. The result of their deliberations is a capital programme for the years 2014/17 totalling £1,933,060 which is set out in the summary budget book on pages 81 to 83.

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

2013/14 Revised

- 5.1. We originally budgeted to spend £6.075 million (before use of balances). The revised estimate is that net expenditure will be lower at £5.798 million. Details are set out in the budget book with a summary on pages 7 and 8. The revised budget for 2013/14 is:

	£000	£000
Net Committee Budget		6,779
Less - Net Adjustment for Capital Charges	-541	
- External Interest Payable	16	
- Interest Earned	-30	
- Council Tax Freeze Grant	-31	
- Localisation of Council Tax Support (grant paid to parishes)	23	
- Localisation of Council Tax Support (transition grant)	-6	
- Efficiency Support Grant for Services in Sparse Areas (ESSSA)	-10	
- New Homes Bonus	-367	
- New Homes Bonus Adjustment Grant	-10	
- Business Rate Growth	-47	
- S31 Grant for SBRR	-169	
- Net Transfers From and To Reserves	191	-981
		5,256
To add to General Balances		101
Agreed Budget for year		5,899

5.2. We estimate this will leave general fund balances at 31 March 2014 of £1,801,000.

Final Grant Settlement

5.3. The Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on 5 February 2014. A full report detailing the settlement was submitted to the Special Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 11 February 2014.

Settlement Funding Assessment	2,603,769
Consists of:	
Revenue Support Grant	1,397,544
Individual Business Rates Baseline	1,206,225

Forecast Budget 2014/15

5.4. Special Policy and Finance Committee have recommended a net budget of £5,613,497. Details are shown in the budget book with a summary on pages 7 and 8. This results in the following budget requirement:

	£
Borough Requirement	5,613,497
Parish Council Requirements	359,632
Total Borough and Parish Requirements	5,973,129

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 2014/15. 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 2013	1,700
Estimated Amount to be added to Balances in 2013/14	101
Estimated Balances in Hand 31 March 2014	1,801
Estimated Amount to be taken from Balances in 2014/15	-150
Estimated Balances in Hand 31 March 2015	1,651

- 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 2014/15 we estimate that £150,000 will be taken from balances to support the budget.

Earmarked Reserves

- 6.9. The Council holds a number of reserves earmarked for specific purposes. The movements in these reserves forecast for 2013/14 and 2014/15 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.

7. COLLECTION FUND

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 70/71.
- 7.2. I forecast that there will be a surplus on the collection fund for Council Tax at 31 March 2014 of £1,455 and a surplus of £75,305 for Business Rates. The equivalent shares will be paid to the appropriate major precepting authorities in 2014/15.

8. RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

- 8.1. Approve the following submitted by the Policy and Finance Committee:

- a) The revised revenue estimates for 2013/14 and the revenue estimates for 2014/15.
- b) The revised capital programme for 2013/14 and the forward capital programme for 2014/17.

- 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 2014/15, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended), as its council tax base for the year.

- a) 21,391 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	431
Balderstone	195
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	198
Billington & Langho	1,994
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	478
Bowland Forest (High)	67
Bowland Forest (Low)	82
Bowland with Leagram	82
Chatburn	363
Chipping	472

Clayton le Dale	498
Clitheroe	4,649
Dinckley	46
Downham	52
Dutton	106
Gisburn	191
Grindleton	342
Horton	48
Hothersall	75
Longridge	2,584
Mearley	8
Mellor	995
Newsholme	19
Newton	143
Osbaldeston	106
Paythorne	42
Pendleton	105
Ramsgreave	267
Read	537
Ribchester	641
Rimington & Middop	217
Sabden	508
Salesbury	174
Simonstone	490
Slaidburn & Easington	151
Thornley with Wheatley	161
Twiston	34
Waddington	438
West Bradford	355
Whalley	1,423
Wilpshire	1,070
Wiswell	513
Worston	41
	21,391

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 2014/15 (excluding Parish precepts) is £3,009,500.

8.5. Calculate the following amounts for 2014/15, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- a) £25,926,900 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) £22,557,768 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- c) £3,369,132 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) £157.50 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 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e) £359,632 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	£
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	151.71
Balderstone	147.07
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	146.27
Billington & Langho	148.21
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	172.07
Bowland Forest Higher	173.03
Bowland Forest Lower	155.32
Bowland with Leagram	146.79
Chatburn	167.05
Chipping	153.19
Clayton le Dale	146.57
Clitheroe	159.49
Dutton	145.37
Gisburn	160.23

Grindleton	162.62
Hothersall	150.69
Longridge	163.25
Mellor	155.06
Newton	157.64
Osbaldeston	147.29
Pendleton	152.72
Ramsgreave	147.93
Read	154.85
Ribchester	152.35
Rimington & Middop	159.12
Sabden	169.58
Salesbury	168.28
Simonstone	157.02
Slaidburn & Easington	152.28
Thornley with Wheatley	150.01
Waddington	171.51
West Bradford	157.79
Whalley	162.50
Wilpshire	154.76
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 Ribbles Valley Borough Council and Parish precept for Band D properties by valuation band:

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Aughton, Bailey & Chaigley	101.14	118.00	134.86	151.71	185.42	219.14	252.85	303.42
Balderstone	98.04	114.39	130.73	147.07	179.75	212.44	245.11	294.14
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	97.51	113.77	130.02	146.27	178.77	211.28	243.78	292.54
Billington & Langho	98.80	115.28	131.74	148.21	181.14	214.08	247.01	296.42
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	114.71	133.84	152.95	172.07	210.30	248.55	286.78	344.14
Bowland Forest Higher	115.35	134.58	153.81	173.03	211.48	249.93	288.38	346.06

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Bowland Forest Lower	103.54	120.81	138.06	155.32	189.83	224.35	258.86	310.64
Bowland with Leagram	97.86	114.17	130.48	146.79	179.41	212.03	244.65	293.58
Chatburn	111.36	129.93	148.49	167.05	204.17	241.30	278.41	334.10
Chipping	102.12	119.15	136.17	153.19	187.23	221.28	255.31	306.38
Clayton le Dale	97.71	114.00	130.29	146.57	179.14	211.71	244.28	293.14
Clitheroe	106.32	124.05	141.77	159.49	194.93	230.38	265.81	318.98
Dinckley	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Downham	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Dutton	96.91	113.07	129.22	145.37	177.67	209.98	242.28	290.74
Gisburn	106.82	124.63	142.43	160.23	195.83	231.44	267.05	320.46
Grindleton	108.41	126.49	144.55	162.62	198.75	234.90	271.03	325.24
Horton	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Hothersall	100.46	117.21	133.95	150.69	184.17	217.66	251.15	301.38
Longridge	108.83	126.98	145.11	163.25	199.52	235.81	272.08	326.50
Mearley	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Mellor	103.37	120.61	137.83	155.06	189.51	223.98	258.43	310.12
Newsholme	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Newton	105.09	122.61	140.13	157.64	192.67	227.70	262.73	315.28
Osbaldeston	98.19	114.56	130.93	147.29	180.02	212.75	245.48	294.58
Paythorne	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Pendleton	101.81	118.79	135.75	152.72	186.65	220.60	254.53	305.44
Ramsgreave	98.62	115.06	131.50	147.93	180.80	213.68	246.55	295.86
Read	103.23	120.44	137.65	154.85	189.26	223.67	258.08	309.70
Ribchester	101.56	118.50	135.42	152.35	186.20	220.06	253.91	304.70
Rimington & Middop	106.08	123.76	141.44	159.12	194.48	229.84	265.20	318.24
Sabden	113.05	131.90	150.74	169.58	207.26	244.95	282.63	339.16
Salesbury	112.18	130.89	149.58	168.28	205.67	243.07	280.46	336.56
Simonstone	104.68	122.13	139.58	157.02	191.91	226.81	261.70	314.04
Slaidburn & Easington	101.52	118.44	135.36	152.28	186.12	219.96	253.80	304.56
Thornley with Wheatley	100.00	116.68	133.34	150.01	183.34	216.68	250.01	300.02
Twiston	93.79	109.43	125.06	140.69	171.95	203.22	234.48	281.38
Waddington	114.34	133.40	152.46	171.51	209.62	247.74	285.85	343.02
West Bradford	105.19	122.73	140.26	157.79	192.85	227.92	262.98	315.58
Whalley	108.33	126.39	144.45	162.50	198.61	234.72	270.83	325.00
Wilpshire	103.17	120.37	137.57	154.76	189.15	223.54	257.93	309.52
Wiswell	101.59	118.53	135.46	152.39	186.25	220.12	253.98	304.78
Worston	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 2014/15 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 £
738.49	861.58	984.66	1,107.74	1,353.90	1,600.07	1,846.23	2,215.48

- 8.7. Note, that for 2014/15 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire 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 £
103.97	121.30	138.63	155.96	190.62	225.28	259.93	311.92

- 8.8. Note, that for 2014/15 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 2014/15 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Aighton, Bailey & Chaigley	986.03	1,150.39	1,314.73	1,479.06	1,807.73	2,136.43	2,465.09	2,958.12

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Balderstone	982.93	1,146.78	1,310.60	1,474.42	1,802.06	2,129.73	2,457.35	2,948.84
Bashall Eaves, Great Mitton & Little Mitton	982.40	1,146.16	1,309.89	1,473.62	1,801.08	2,128.57	2,456.02	2,947.24
Billington & Langho	983.69	1,147.67	1,311.61	1,475.56	1,803.45	2,131.37	2,459.25	2,951.12
Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest & Sawley	999.60	1,166.23	1,332.82	1,499.42	1,832.61	2,165.84	2,499.02	2,998.84
Bowland Forest Higher	1,000.24	1,166.97	1,333.68	1,500.38	1,833.79	2,167.22	2,500.62	3,000.76
Bowland Forest Lower	988.43	1,153.20	1,317.93	1,482.67	1,812.14	2,141.64	2,471.10	2,965.34
Bowland with Leagram	982.75	1,146.56	1,310.35	1,474.14	1,801.72	2,129.32	2,456.89	2,948.28
Chatburn	996.25	1,162.32	1,328.36	1,494.40	1,826.48	2,158.59	2,490.65	2,988.80
Chipping	987.01	1,151.54	1,316.04	1,480.54	1,809.54	2,138.57	2,467.55	2,961.08
Clayton le Dale	982.60	1,146.39	1,310.16	1,473.92	1,801.45	2,129.00	2,456.52	2,947.84
Clitheroe	991.21	1,156.44	1,321.64	1,486.84	1,817.24	2,147.67	2,478.05	2,973.68
Dinckley	978.68	1,141.82	1,304.93	1,468.04	1,794.26	2,120.51	2,446.72	2,936.08
Downham	978.68	1,141.82	1,304.93	1,468.04	1,794.26	2,120.51	2,446.72	2,936.08
Dutton	981.80	1,145.46	1,309.09	1,472.72	1,799.98	2,127.27	2,454.52	2,945.44
Gisburn	991.71	1,157.02	1,322.30	1,487.58	1,818.14	2,148.73	2,479.29	2,975.16
Grindleton	993.30	1,158.88	1,324.42	1,489.97	1,821.06	2,152.19	2,483.27	2,979.94
Horton	978.68	1,141.82	1,304.93	1,468.04	1,794.26	2,120.51	2,446.72	2,936.08
Hothersall	985.35	1,149.60	1,313.82	1,478.04	1,806.48	2,134.95	2,463.39	2,956.08
Longridge	993.72	1,159.37	1,324.98	1,490.60	1,821.83	2,153.10	2,484.32	2,981.20
Mearley	978.68	1,141.82	1,304.93	1,468.04	1,794.26	2,120.51	2,446.72	2,936.08
Mellor	988.26	1,153.00	1,317.70	1,482.41	1,811.82	2,141.27	2,470.67	2,964.82
Newsholme	978.68	1,141.82	1,304.93	1,468.04	1,794.26	2,120.51	2,446.72	2,936.08
Newton	989.98	1,155.00	1,320.00	1,484.99	1,814.98	2,144.99	2,474.97	2,969.98
Osbaldeston	983.08	1,146.95	1,310.80	1,474.64	1,802.33	2,130.04	2,457.72	2,949.28
Paythorne	978.68	1,141.82	1,304.93	1,468.04	1,794.26	2,120.51	2,446.72	2,936.08
Pendleton	986.70	1,151.18	1,315.62	1,480.07	1,808.96	2,137.89	2,466.77	2,960.14
Ramsgreave	983.51	1,147.45	1,311.37	1,475.28	1,803.11	2,130.97	2,458.79	2,950.56
Read	988.12	1,152.83	1,317.52	1,482.20	1,811.57	2,140.96	2,470.32	2,964.40
Ribchester	986.45	1,150.89	1,315.29	1,479.70	1,808.51	2,137.35	2,466.15	2,959.40
Rimington & Middop	990.97	1,156.15	1,321.31	1,486.47	1,816.79	2,147.13	2,477.44	2,972.94
Sabden	997.94	1,164.29	1,330.61	1,496.93	1,829.57	2,162.24	2,494.87	2,993.86
Salesbury	997.07	1,163.28	1,329.45	1,495.63	1,827.98	2,160.36	2,492.70	2,991.26
Simonstone	989.57	1,154.52	1,319.45	1,484.37	1,814.22	2,144.10	2,473.94	2,968.74

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Slaidburn & Easington	986.41	1,150.83	1,315.23	1,479.63	1,808.43	2,137.25	2,466.04	2,959.26
Thornley with Wheatley	984.89	1,149.07	1,313.21	1,477.36	1,805.65	2,133.97	2,462.25	2,954.72
Twiston	978.68	1,141.82	1,304.93	1,468.04	1,794.26	2,120.51	2,446.72	2,936.08
Waddington	999.23	1,165.79	1,332.33	1,498.86	1,831.93	2,165.03	2,498.09	2,997.72
West Bradford	990.08	1,155.12	1,320.13	1,485.14	1,815.16	2,145.21	2,475.22	2,970.28
Whalley	993.22	1,158.78	1,324.32	1,489.85	1,820.92	2,152.01	2,483.07	2,979.70
Wilpshire	988.06	1,152.76	1,317.44	1,482.11	1,811.46	2,140.83	2,470.17	2,964.22
Wiswell	986.48	1,150.92	1,315.33	1,479.74	1,808.56	2,137.41	2,466.22	2,959.48
Worston	978.68	1,141.82	1,304.93	1,468.04	1,794.26	2,120.51	2,446.72	2,936.08

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

C1-14/JP/AC
24 FEBRUARY 2014

COUNCIL

PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

1. The actual capital expenditure that was incurred in 2012/13 is shown alongside the current and future years that are recommended for approval:

Capital Expenditure					
	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Revised Estimate	2014/15 Estimate	2015/16 Estimate	2016/17 Estimate
	£	£	£	£	£
Community	457,343	902,830	110,000	404,000	227,000
Planning & Development	11,896	11,970	0	0	0
Policy & Finance	206,965	122,000	0	282,500	0
Health & Housing	424,319	461,820	262,560	236,000	411,000
Total	1,100,523	1,498,620	372,560	922,500	638,000

2. Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the current and future years, and the actual figures for 2012/13 are:

Ratio of Financing Costs to Revenue Stream				
2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Revised Estimate	2014/15 Estimate	2015/16 Estimate	2016/17 Estimate
2.26%	2.10%	2.05%	2.07%	1.53%

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 2013 are:

Capital Financing Requirement				
31/03/13 Actual £'000	31/03/14 Revised Estimate £'000	31/03/15 Estimate £'000	31/03/16 Estimate £'000	31/03/17 Estimate £'000
3,757	3,739	3,603	3,638	3,680

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 debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that net external debt 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 2012/13, 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			
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	13,555	13,124	13,415
Other Long-Term Liabilities	0	0	0
Total	13,555	13,124	13,415

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			
	2014/15 £'000	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000
Borrowing	5,409	5,190	5,347
Other Long Term Liabilities	0	0	0
Total	5,409	5,190	5,347

9. The Council's actual external debt at 31 March 2013 was £364,810, comprising £364,810 borrowing and £0 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 2014/15 (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, e.g. strategic planning for the authority
 - Stewardship of assets, e.g. asset management planning
 - Value for money, e.g. option appraisal
 - Prudence and sustainability, e.g. implications for external debt and whole life costing

- Affordability, e.g. implications for council tax
- Practicality, e.g. 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:

	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
For the Band D Council Tax	0.01	-0.10	-0.04

The above figures exclude the borrowing costs required to meet commitments from 2013/14 and earlier year's programmes. The focus is therefore on the cost of the 2014/15 to 2016/17 Capital Programme.

13. It is important to note that the figures above do not represent annual increases in Council Tax. Both the 2015/16 and 2016/17 figures will include the full year effects of decisions taken in 2014/15 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 2014/15.

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement

- a) 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.
- b) 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.