

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DECISION
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Agenda Item No 7

meeting date: 15 JANUARY 2015  
 title: REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15  
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES  
 principal author: TRUDY HOLDERNESS

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To agree a revised revenue budget for 2014/15.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The original estimate for this current financial year was set in March 2014. As members will be aware, there can be numerous variations to the budget that come to our attention as the year progresses, particularly through the budget monitoring process.

2.2 At this time of year we take the opportunity to revise the estimates for the current financial year in order to better assess the level of movement anticipated within our earmarked reserves and balances, and to allow us to better forecast for the coming financial year.

2.3 The 2014/15 budget included provision for price increases of 2.75% and a pay increase of 1%. Overall general inflation for the year is predicted to be slightly less than this. A 2.2% pay award has been agreed covering a two year period which equates to approximately 1% in the current year.

## 3 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15

3.1 The revised budget is £31,640 lower than the original estimate. This is increased to £119,920 lower than the original estimate after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves. A comparison between the restated original and revised budgets for each cost centre is shown below.

Cost Centre	Cost Centre Name	Original Estimate 2014/15 £	Movement in Expenditure £	Movement in Income £	Movement in Support Services £	Revised Estimate 2014/15 £
PLANG	Planning Control & Enforcement	223,570	15,840	-55,020	-76,740	107,650
PLANP	Planning Policy	178,840	0	-4,750	22,530	196,620
CORES	Core Strategy	0	70,250	0	0	70,250
BCSAP	Building Control SAP Fees	-1,550	-60	0	20	-1,590
BLDGC	Building Control	54,300	-4,410	11,850	-10,510	51,230
AONBS	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	13,450	0	0	2,060	15,510
COMMG	Community Groups	22,480	-110	0	2,100	24,470
COUNT	Countryside Management	47,680	0	0	-4,180	43,500
FPATH	Footpaths & Bridleways	5,470	0	0	-1,890	3,580
HIGHH	High Hedges	2,060	0	0	-1,240	820
PENDU	Pendle Hill Users	0	3,450	0	0	3,450

Cost Centre	Cost Centre Name	Original Estimate 2014/15 £	Movement in Expenditure £	Movement in Income £	Movement in Support Services £	Revised Estimate 2014/15 £
CONSV	Conservation Areas	9,450	0	0	80	9,530
PLSUB	Grants and Subscriptions	16,070	0	0	-780	15,290
CINTR	Clitheroe Integrated Transport Scheme	6,470	-140	0	10	6,340
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>578,290</b>	<b>84,820</b>	<b>-47,920</b>	<b>-68,540</b>	<b>546,650</b>
<small>3.2</small>	<small>3.3</small>					
PLBAL H336	Planning Reserve	0	5,110	-21,690	0	-16,580
PLBAL H358	Core Strategy Reserve	0	0	-70,250	0	-70,250
PLBAL H234	Building Control Reserve Fund	1,770	2,000	0	0	3,770
PLBAL H273	Pendle Hill Users	0	0	-3,450	0	-3,450
<b>NET BALANCES AND RESERVES</b>		<b>1,770</b>	<b>7,110</b>	<b>-95,390</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-86,510</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>580,060</b>	<b>91,930</b>	<b>-143,310</b>	<b>-68,540</b>	<b>460,140</b>

3.4 The difference between the revised and restated original estimate is an estimated decrease in net spending of £119,920 after allowing for transfers to or from earmarked reserves. The main reasons for this are shown at Annex 1. However, a summary of the main variances is given below:

Description	Variances from original estimate to revised estimate £
<b>PLANG: Planning Control &amp; Enforcement</b>	
Planning consultants fees on planning appeals and associated costs are anticipated to reach £30k in the financial year, which is £21,690 above the current budget provision. This additional cost is to be met from the planning earmarked reserve fund.	21,690
Decrease in the provision for ordnance survey work as the service level agreement is no longer required.	-7,000
Several large planning applications, such as Bowland Meadows, Longridge; Henthorn Rd, Clitheroe; and Land East of Chipping Lane, Longridge has resulted in additional planning fee income	-46,040
<b>CORES: Core Strategy</b>	
Inspection and associated production costs for Ribble Valley's Core Strategy. This expenditure is to be met from an earmarked reserve established for this purpose	70,250
<b>BLDGC: Building Control</b>	
Reduced Income from building regulations fees. This is mainly due to current economic climate and also due to some organisations using private competitors	12,000
<b>Various</b>	
Decrease in support costs mainly from community services due to changes in cost allocations from this service, partly due to temporary planning posts being vacant	-68,540

#### 4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The difference between the revised and restated original estimate is an estimated decrease in net expenditure of £119,920 after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves.

#### 5 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – approval of the revised estimate would see a decrease in net expenditure of £31,640 or £119,920 after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – none identified
- Political – none identified.
- Reputation – sound financial planning safeguard the reputation of the council.
- Equality and Diversity – equality and diversity issues are considered in the provision of all council services.

#### 6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Approve the revised budget for 2014/15.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PD2-15/TH/AC  
19 December 2014

For further background information please ask for Trudy Holderness extension 4436.  
BACKGROUND PAPERS – None

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
VARIANCES FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATE TO REVISED ESTIMATE 2014/15**

	MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE £	MOVEMENT IN INCOME £	MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT £	TOTAL MOVEMENT £
<b>PLANG: Planning Control &amp; Enforcement</b>				
Planning consultants fees on planning appeals and associated costs are anticipated to reach £30k in the financial year, which is £21,690 above the current budget provision. This additional cost is to be met from the planning earmarked reserve fund.	21,690			
Increase in the provision for statutory notices but this has been partly offset by an increase in planning fee applications	2,570			
Decrease in the provision for agricultural consultants fees as fewer applications are being referred to the County Council.	-1,140			
Decrease in the provision for ordnance survey work as the service level agreement is no longer required.	-7,000			
Additional income received from court costs awarded to the Council following planning appeals		-5,110		
Several large planning application, such as Bowland Meadows, Longridge; Henthorn Rd, Clitheroe; and Land East of Chipping Lane, Longridge has resulted in additional planning fee income		-46,040		
In addition to an increase in planning application fee income there has also been an increase in income from pre-application advice offset by a reduction in decision notice income		-3,870		

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
VARIANCES FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATE TO REVISED ESTIMATE 2014/15**

	MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE £	MOVEMENT IN INCOME £	MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT £	TOTAL MOVEMENT £
Decrease in support costs mainly from community services offset by an increase from chief executives department and legal services due to changes in cost allocations from these services, the decrease is partly due to staff working on the core strategy and temporary planning posts being vacant. The increase is from staff working on planning appeals.			-76,740	
<b>Total Planning Control &amp; Enforcement</b>				<b>-115,640</b>
<b>PLANP: Planning Policy</b>				
Additional income received from Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of the designation of the Bolton by Bowland / Gisburn Forrest neighbourhood plan.		-5,000		
Increase in support costs mainly from community services and legal services due to changes in cost allocations from these services. The increase is mainly from staff working on the core strategy.			22,530	
<b>Total Planning Policy</b>				<b>17,530</b>
<b>CORES: Core Strategy</b>				
Inspection and associated production costs for Ribble Valley's Core Strategy. This expenditure is to be met from an earmarked reserve fund established for this purpose	70,250			
<b>Total Core Strategy</b>				<b>70,250</b>
<b>BLDGC: Building Control</b>				
Reduction in training expenses, professional subscriptions and car allowances partly due to a member of staff taking flexible retirement.	-3,090			

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
VARIANCES FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATE TO REVISED ESTIMATE 2014/15**

	MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE £	MOVEMENT IN INCOME £	MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT £	TOTAL MOVEMENT £
Reduced Income from building regulation fees. This is mainly due to current economic climate and also due to some organisations using private competitors.		12,000		
Reduction in support costs mainly from chief executives department offset by an increase from community services due to changes in cost allocations from these services.			-10,510	
<b><i>Total Building Control</i></b>				<b>-1,600</b>
<b>AONBS: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b>				
Increase in support cost from community services due to changes in cost allocation from this service			2,060	
<b><i>Total Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</i></b>				<b>2,060</b>
<b>COMMG: Community Groups</b>				
Increase in support cost from chief executives department due to changes in cost allocation from this service			2,100	
<b><i>Total Community Groups</i></b>				<b>2,100</b>
<b>COUNT: Countryside Management</b>				
Decrease in support costs mainly from community services due to changes in cost allocations from this service.			-4,180	
<b><i>Total Countryside Management</i></b>				<b>-4,180</b>

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
VARIANCES FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATE TO REVISED ESTIMATE 2014/15**

	MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE £	MOVEMENT IN INCOME £	MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT £	TOTAL MOVEMENT £
<b>FPATH: Footpath &amp; Bridleways</b>				
Decrease in support costs mainly from community services due to changes in cost allocations from this service.			-1,890	
<b>Total Footpath &amp; Bridleways</b>				<b>-1,890</b>
<b>HIGHH: High Hedges</b>				
Decrease in support costs mainly from community services due to changes in cost allocations from this service.			-1,240	
<b>Total High Hedges</b>				<b>-1,240</b>
<b>PENDU: Pendle Hill Users</b>				
Landscaping project Pendle Hill area funded from earmarked reserve established for this purpose	3,450			
<b>Total Pendle Hill Users</b>				<b>3,450</b>
<b>Other</b>	-1,910	100	-670	<b>-2,480</b>
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>84,820</b>	<b>-47,920</b>	<b>-68,540</b>	<b>-31,640</b>
<b>MOVEMENT IN EARMARKED RESERVES</b>				
<b>PLBAL/H336 - Planning Reserve</b>				
Contribution from reserve to fund planning consultant fees offset by a contribution to the reserve from costs awarded to the Council from appeals	5,110	-21,690		<b>-16,580</b>
<b>PLBAL/H358 - Core Strategy Reserve</b>				
Release from the earmarked reserve to fund the Inspection & associated production costs		-70,250		<b>-70,250</b>

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
VARIANCES FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATE TO REVISED ESTIMATE 2014/15**

	<b>MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE £</b>	<b>MOVEMENT IN INCOME £</b>	<b>MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT £</b>	<b>TOTAL MOVEMENT £</b>
<b>PLBAL/H234 - Building Control Reserve</b>				
Reduction in net expenditure of fee earning account	2,000			2,000
<b>PLBAL/H273 - Pendle Hill User Reserve</b>				
Release from the earmarked reserve to fund a landscaping project		-3,450		-3,450
<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>91,930</b>	<b>-143,310</b>	<b>-68,540</b>	<b>-119,920</b>