

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL INFORMATION
REPORT TO ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No

meeting date: 24 JUNE 2009
title: USE OF RESOURCES 2008/09 UPDATE
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide members with an update on the progress that has been made on our Use of Resources assessment for the 2008/09 year

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- This report links clearly to the council's overarching ambition to be a well-managed council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The use of resources assessment considers how well organisations are managing and using their resources to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people.

2.2 Within the above framework are a number of Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs) which the council complete as a self-assessment with supporting documentation. This self-assessment is then used by the external auditor to help form a judgement on the council's performance.

2.3 The assessment is structured into three themes that focus on the importance of sound and strategic financial management, strategic commissioning and good governance, and the effective management of natural resources, assets and people. These three themes are assessed using ten KLOEs.

2.4 For the 2008/09 Use of Resources Assessment only eight of the ten KLOE have been assessed at district council level. The KLOEs that are excluded from the assessment for the 2008/09 assessment are Natural Resources and Strategic Asset Management, both under the Managing Resources theme.

2.5 The Audit Commission will publish scored judgements about value for money in the use of resources for local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities and primary care trusts (PCTs). The use of resources assessment forms part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) from 2009 and feeds into other relevant performance assessment frameworks.

3 CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The council's self-assessment for 2008/09 was submitted to the Audit Commission in April this year, who are now using the assessment as part of their work to reach a value for money conclusion for the council.

3.2 A number of meetings have been held between the Audit Commission and ourselves over the past few months in order to further help inform their conclusion. Following

our most recent meeting on 11 June it has been agreed that further self assessment evidence will be submitted in the form of case studies in order to support our submission. This additional information must be submitted by the 15 July.

- 3.3 The Audit Commission will submit their value for money conclusion for the council for national moderation by the 15 August and we will be informed of our Use of Resources score formally through the ISA 260 report to those charged with governance, which will be reported to this committee in September.
- 3.4 Looking forward to the Self Assessment for 2009/10 the KLOE on managing human resources will be replaced with a KLOE on managing our use of natural resources. A working group of officers has been created to help move forward on future Use of Resources and CAA, and to assist the council in following best practice wherever possible.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Use of Resources framework has changed substantially from the previous format, which has resulted in a substantial amount of work producing a self assessment and gathering new evidence for the KLOEs.
- 4.2 The council is continuing to work closely with the Audit Commission in the preparation of further supporting evidence for our Use of Resources assessment which must be submitted by the 15 July. The council's Use of Resources score will be reported to this committee in September.
- 4.3 Whilst the current self-assessment has not focused on the use of natural resources and strategic asset management it is important that we continue to review our own performance in these areas in order to enhance our performance in these areas through the use of best practice and audit commission guidance on expected performance standards.

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AA9-09/LO/AC
15 JUNE 2009