

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 9

meeting date: 29 JUNE 2010
title: CAA/USE OF RESOURCES 2009/10 UPDATE
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: LAWSON ODDIE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To update members with the latest position regarding our Use of Resources assessment for 2009/10

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 As members will be aware from the previous update reports that have been brought to this committee, a substantial amount of work has been completed on the assessment for 2009/10.

2.2 The self assessment for the council was submitted earlier in the year to the Audit Commission and work had been continuing since together with our auditors to add evidence to support the self assessment and further add to the understanding of the auditors.

2.3 Work by the council on the 2009/10 Use of Resources had been nearing completion with the final items of evidence being gathered. However, the Director of Resources received an email on the 27 May from our auditor (followed by formal communication from the Audit Commission) providing an update following the new government's announcement that CAA was to be abolished. The scored Use of Resources, Managing Performance assessments and Organisational Assessments are included within CAA.

2.4 The communication from the Audit Commission confirmed that all Audit Commission staff had been told to stop work on all activities relating to the above areas and suggested that the council too should stop in order to avoid further potential abortive work being carried out.

2.5 We were further informed that they were working with the Department of Communities and Local Government and other officials in order to clarify when they wished the Audit Commission to finish work on the CAA and how they wished to take forward assessment and inspection in the future.

2.6 The work that the Audit Commission has already completed on the Use of Resources will be used to inform their Value for Money conclusion as originally intended. As things become clearer the Audit Commission will discuss and agree with us how they might feedback to us the findings from the work that has already been undertaken.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Work was nearing completion on the Use of Resources Assessment for 2009/10 when the new government announced that CAA was to be abolished.

4.2 The Audit Commission will use the Use of Resources work that had been completed to inform their Value for Money conclusion.

4.3 At this stage it is not known what form of inspection regime may replace CAA, however within the Coalition agreement there is reference to local government inspection being cut.

FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

AA15-10/LO/AC
21 June 2010