

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

DECISION
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Agenda Item No 6

meeting date: 22 JANUARY 2015  
 title: PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015-2018  
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES  
 principal author: ANDREW COOK

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To recommend the proposed future three-year capital programme (2015/16-2017/18) for this committee.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 This report will review the draft programme of schemes for the next three financial years (2015/16 to 2017/18), based on the bids received from Heads of Service.

2.2 Schemes were considered at this time last year for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years. No bids have previously been requested for the 2017/18 financial year.

2.3 In the same manner as previous years, all Heads of Service were asked to submit capital bids, bearing in mind the limited financial resources that are available to finance the capital programme.

## 3 DRAFT PROGRAMME 2015/16 TO 2017/18

3.1 The proposed schemes have been entered into the draft programme in two ways. Firstly, Heads of Service were asked to review the programme of provisionally approved schemes for 2015/16 and 2016/17 and suggest any amendments that were required to those schemes. This review identified no changes to the provisionally approved schemes for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

3.2 Secondly, Heads of Service were asked to put forward bids for the 2017/18 capital programme. Three bids totalling £246,000 have been received for 2017/18, as shown in Annex 1. Further bids for 2015/16 and 2016/17 were not expected unless there were schemes supported by new funding or new circumstances had arisen since this time last year. No new bids were received for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

3.3 Annex 2 shows the financial impact for each financial year of the provisionally approved 2015/16 and 2016/17 schemes and the new bids put forward for 2017/18. A summary is shown below.

Schemes	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Previously Approved schemes brought forward	236,000	411,000	0	<b>647,000</b>
New Bids	0	0	246,000	<b>246,000</b>
<b>Total of all schemes</b>	<b>236,000</b>	<b>411,000</b>	<b>246,000</b>	<b>893,000</b>

3.4 Of all the new bids received, totalling £246,000, only the Disabled Facilities Grants scheme has potential external funding identified, estimated at £161,000. This leaves

£85,000 of new bids that would require funding from the Council's available capital resources. These capital resources are currently low.

- 3.5 With regard to Disabled Facilities Grants, it must be noted that from 2015/16 onwards the external funding now comes from the Lancashire Better Care Fund, as approved by the Health and Well-being Board. The 2015/16 allocation for the Council, £161,000, has been confirmed. The 2016/17 and 2017/18 funding levels are not known at this point, so we have assumed they will be similar to 2015/16.
- 3.6 Annex 1 shows the three new scheme bids for this committee in detail and how each particular scheme links to the Council's ambitions.
- 3.7 Committee members should therefore consider the new scheme bids, as attached, and those schemes previously approved for 2015/16 and 2016/17 and put forward any amendments to those bids that they may wish to make at this stage.
- 3.8 It must be noted that other committees will be receiving similar reports for the new scheme bids. Bids from all committees will finally be considered alongside each other by the Budget Working Group and Policy and Finance Committee against the limited financial resources that are available to finance the capital programme.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications
  - Resources – The proposals as submitted in the new bid forms would require some funding from Council resources, at least £85,000. External funding is only in place for one scheme, Disabled Facilities Grants.
  - Technical, Environmental and Legal – None.
  - Political – None.
  - Reputation – Sound financial planning for known capital commitments safeguards the reputation of the Council.
  - Equality and Diversity – Equality and Diversity issues are examined as part of the capital bid appraisal process.

#### 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Previously approved capital schemes for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years have been reviewed and re-confirmed by Heads of Service. These total £647,000.
- 5.2 New capital scheme bids for 2017/18 have been received, totalling £246,000.
- 5.3 At least £85,000 of the new capital scheme bids have no associated external funding, yet the Council's existing capital resources to fund such schemes are currently low.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Consider the future three-year programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as attached and agree any amendments they wish to make.
- 6.2 Recommend to Policy and Finance Committee a future three-year capital programme for this committee's services.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

CM3-15/AC/AC  
6 January 2015

For further background information please ask for Andrew Cook.

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None

**Health and Housing Committee  
New Capital Bid Submissions**

## BID 1 : Replacement of Precision Noise Analyser

Service Area: Environmental Health

Head of Service: James Russell

### Brief Description:

Purchase of new **precision** noise analyser, mobile printer, software and calibrator to enable monitoring and enforcement in accordance with new noise standards. This is essential to enable enforcement and also undertake noise assessments in relation to planning applications.

### Overriding aim/ambition that the scheme meets:

To be a well-managed council.

### Government or other imperatives to the undertaking of this scheme:

The national noise standards (eg BS 4142) are currently under review and are expected to fundamentally change and introduce a range of new monitoring parameters. The standards are overdue but expected shortly and as such our noise monitoring equipment will become obsolete.

### Improving service performance, efficiency and value for money:

In order to undertake noise assessments and enforcement it is essential to have the correct equipment readily available, be familiar with and competent to use.

### Consultation:

Will seek advice from Lancashire EHL Pollution Officer Group network.

### Start date, duration and key milestones:

2017/18

### Financial Implications – CAPITAL:

Breakdown	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £
Equipment/Materials	-	-	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	-	10,000

### Financial Implications – ANNUAL REVENUE:

None

## Health and Housing Committee New Capital Bid Submissions

### Useful economic life:

Probably minimum 10 years.

### Additional supporting information:

Our existing Norsonic Noise Analyser was purchased just over 10 years ago and has done good service, has been maintained and been reliable, but has proved heavy and difficult to use ie analyse data as basic software and not upgraded due to significant cost.

The unit is now dated and requires replacement to meet the changing standards and also enable more effective use. Technology has undergone several step changes and significantly smaller and more user friendly units being available

### Impact on the environment:

N/A

### Risk:

- **Political:** Essential that the service has the basic tools to do its job.
- **Economic:** N/A
- **Sociological:** N/A
- **Technological:** Required to meet proposed new standards.
- **Legal:** N/A
- **Environmental:** N/A

## Health and Housing Committee New Capital Bid Submissions

### BID 2: Landlord Tenant Grants

Service Area: Regeneration Services

Head of Service: Colin Hirst

#### Brief Description:

The scheme match funds a landlord's investment in a property in return for an affordable rental property. Conditions of the grant are nomination rights and a set rent level in line with LHA. The scheme is crucial for move on accommodation for families in the hostel as the social housing waiting list is so long. The scheme is also used to bring empty properties back into use.

#### Overriding aim/ambition that the scheme meets:

To match the supply of homes in our area with the identified housing need.

#### Government or other imperatives to the undertaking of this scheme:

We have a statutory duty to find homeless households affordable housing and without this scheme we would be reliant on social housing.

#### Improving service performance, efficiency and value for money:

The scheme improves service performance in that the length of time families stay in temporary accommodation is reduced. The service is improved in that we are able to offer a housing choice through the scheme.

#### Consultation:

Landlords are consulted through a newsletter and discussion about the scheme held at the Housing Forum.

#### Start date, duration and key milestones:

The scheme runs through the financial year and has run successfully for over 15 years.

#### Financial Implications – CAPITAL:

Breakdown	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £
Other			75,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>75,000</b>

## Health and Housing Committee New Capital Bid Submissions

### Financial Implications – ANNUAL REVENUE:

Breakdown	£
Existing Service – no change	-

### Useful economic life:

No comment made.

### Additional supporting information:

The scheme has become popular with landlords and the number of properties we have nomination rights to through the scheme increases annually. These properties are essential in providing a Housing Needs Service.

### Impact on the environment:

In renovating the property we ensure energy saving measures are installed.

### Risk:

- **Political:** The scheme has had very positive political support and has been highlighted as good practice by DCLG Homeless Specialist Advisor.
- **Economic:** Encourages investment in properties in the lowest council tax bands.
- **Sociological:** Choice of tenure for low income households is required.
- **Technological:** No comment made.
- **Legal:** Changes to Local Housing allowance will impact on the scheme. Any reduction will have a negative impact as landlords will not agree to lower rent.
- **Environmental:** No comment made.

## Health and Housing Committee New Capital Bid Submissions

### BID 3: Disabled Facilities Grants

Service Area: Regeneration Services

Head of Service: Colin Hirst

#### Brief Description:

The scheme provides mandatory grant aid to adapt homes so elderly and disabled occupants can remain in their own home. The maximum grant is £30,000 and for adults is means tested. The grants can provide for minor adaptation, for example the installation of a stair lift, up to the provision of a bathroom and bedroom extension.

#### Overriding aim/ambition that the scheme meets:

To make people's lives safer and healthier.

#### Government or other imperatives to the undertaking of this scheme:

The grants are mandatory. The Council has a statutory duty to provide adaptations as instructed by the Occupational Therapist. Grant funding is provided by the Lancashire Better Care Fund from 2015/16 onwards to help fund this scheme.

#### Improving service performance, efficiency and value for money:

Provision of an adequate Disabled Facilities Grant budget ensures households can be offered assistance once a referral has been received.

#### Consultation:

Bi-monthly meetings with Occupational Therapists and regular contact with technical staff.

#### Start date, duration and key milestones:

The Disabled Facilities Grant budget operates on a financial year basis, ie April – March.

#### Financial Implications – CAPITAL:

Breakdown	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £
Other			161,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>161,000</b>
Sources of External Funding – from Better Care Fund budget (TBC)			-161,000
<b>NET COST TO THE COUNCIL</b>			<b>0</b>

## Health and Housing Committee New Capital Bid Submissions

### Financial Implications – ANNUAL REVENUE:

Breakdown	£
Existing Service – no change	-

### Useful economic life:

No comment made.

### Additional supporting information:

The provision of disabled facilities grants is a statutory function of the Council. It helps address the housing needs of the borough, an ambition of the Council.

### Impact on the environment:

All equipment is maintained and kept in the ownership of social services to enable it to be recycled where possible.

### Risk:

- **Political:** The population age of Ribble Valley occupants is increasing and therefore demand for the service will continue.
- **Economic:** A high % of applicants pass the means test in the current economic climate.
- **Sociological:** Increased expectation that disabled applicants will remain at home through adaptation of the property.
- **Technological:** Improvements in technology allow the specific needs of the applicants to be met.
- **Legal:** N/A.
- **Environmental:** N/A.

**Health and Housing Committee**  
**Financial Impact of the Proposed Three-Year Capital Programme**

Scheme Title	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	TOTAL £	
<b>Previously Approved Bids</b>					
Landlord/Tenant Grants	75,000	75,000		150,000	
Disabled Facilities Grants	161,000	161,000		322,000	
Clitheroe Market Improvements		175,000		175,000	
<b>Subtotal of Previously Approved Bids</b>	<b>236,000</b>	<b>411,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>647,000</b>	
<b><u>New Bids Received (as at Annex 1)</u></b>					<b>BID NUMBER</b>
Replacement of Precision Noise Analyser			10,000	10,000	1
Landlord/Tenant Grants			75,000	75,000	2
Disabled Facilities Grants			161,000	161,000	3
<b>Subtotal of New Bids Received (as at Annex 1)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>246,000</b>	<b>246,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236,000</b>	<b>411,000</b>	<b>246,000</b>	<b>893,000</b>	
External Funding or Revenue Contributions Due	2015/16 £	2016/17 £	2017/18 £	TOTAL £	
Disabled Facilities Grants - from the Lancashire Better Care Fund (NB - 2016/17 and 2017/18 are estimated allocations only based on the 2015/16 allocation. Actual allocations not yet confirmed)	-161,000	-161,000	-161,000	-483,000	
<b>TOTAL External Funding or Revenue Contributions Due</b>	<b>-161,000</b>	<b>-161,000</b>	<b>-161,000</b>	<b>-483,000</b>	