

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DECISION
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Agenda Item No 7

meeting date: 14 JANUARY 2016  
 title: REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16  
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES  
 principal author: TRUDY HOLDERNESS

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To agree a revised revenue budget for 2015/16.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The original estimate for this current financial year was set in March 2015. 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 2015/16 budget included provision for price increases of 2% and for the settled pay award of 2.2% spread over two years (2014/15 and 2015/16), which equated to approximately 1% pay increase for 2015/16. Overall general inflation for the year has been less than this with consumer prices being largely flat on a monthly basis and the impact of falling fuel prices.

## 3 CHANGES TO ORIGINAL ESTIMATE

- 3.1 The original estimate that was approved in March 2015, shown in the budget book, did not include the budget for the next stage of Local Development Framework, which was approved by Policy and Finance Committee in September 2015.
- 3.2 Overall the total net budget for this committee has not changed as this expenditure is to be funded from existing earmarked reserves.
- 3.3 The impact of this change has been summarised below:

	Original Estimate £	Local Development Scheme £	Amended Original Estimate £
Net Cost of Services	583,180	46,000	629,180
Movement in Earmarked Reserves			
Building Control Reserve	3,020	0	3,020
Core Strategy Reserve	0	-22,450	-22,450
Planning Reserve	0	-23,550	-23,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>586,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>586,200</b>

#### 4 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16

- 4.1 The revised budget is £98,770 lower than the original estimate. This is increased to £149,750 lower than the original estimate after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves. A comparison between the original and revised budgets for each cost centre is shown below.

Cost Centre	Cost Centre Name	Amended Original Estimate 2015/16 £	Movement in Expenditure £	Movement in Income £	Movement in Support Services £	Revised Estimate 2015/16 £
PLANG	Planning Control & Enforcement	198,840	75,930	-186,120	52,400	141,050
PLANP	Planning Policy	212,550	0	0	-59,740	152,810
LDEVE	Local Development Scheme	46,000	0	0	3,780	49,780
BCSAP	Building Control SAP Fees	-1,640	150	760	-1,020	-1,750
BLDGC	Building Control	54,180	-3,490	14,690	-7,470	57,910
AONBS	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	15,620	-330	0	1,240	16,530
COMMG	Community Groups	22,570	0	0	350	22,920
COUNT	Countryside Management	43,960	2,950	-2,430	5,010	49,490
FPATH	Footpaths & Bridleways	5,540	0	0	1,780	7,320
PENDU	Pendle Hill Users	0	1,470	-500	0	970
CONSV	Conservation Areas	9,530	0	0	7,130	16,660
PLSUB	Grants and Subscriptions	15,590	-5,670	0	460	10,380
CINTR	Clitheroe Integrated Transport Scheme	6,440	-100	0	0	6,340
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>629,180</b>	<b>70,910</b>	<b>-173,600</b>	<b>3,920</b>	<b>530,410</b>
PLBAL H336	Planning Reserve	-23,550	0	-46,530	0	-70,080
PLBAL H358	Core Strategy Reserve	-22,450	0	0	0	-22,450
PLBAL H234	Building Control Reserve Fund	3,020	0	-3,480	0	-460
PLBAL H273	Pendle Hill Users	0	30,140	-1,470	0	28,670
PLBAL H274	Forest of Bowland	0	0	-29,640	0	-29,640
<b>NET BALANCES AND RESERVES</b>		<b>-42,980</b>	<b>30,140</b>	<b>-81,120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-93,960</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>586,200</b>	<b>101,050</b>	<b>-254,720</b>	<b>3,920</b>	<b>436,450</b>

- 4.2 The difference between the revised and restated original estimate is an estimated decrease in net spending of £149,750 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 consultant fees on planning appeals and associated costs estimated at £55,010, which is £46,530 above the current budget provision. This additional cost is to be met from planning application fees previously set aside in an earmarked reserve fund	46,530
Increase in the provision for statutory notices resulting from an increase in planning applications.	7,750
Several large planning applications, such as Henthorn Rd, land of Coal Pit Lane, Gisburn / land at Clitheroe Road, Whalley / land SW of Montgomerie Gardens, Clitheroe, and land north of Dilworth Lane, Longridge has resulted in additional planning fee income	-168,850
<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.	15,000

## 5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The difference between the revised and original estimate is an estimated decrease in net expenditure of £149,750 after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves.

## 6 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – approval of the revised estimate would see a decrease in net expenditure of £98,770 or £149,750 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.

## 7 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

7.1 Approve the revised budget for 2015/16.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PD2-16/TH/AC  
17 December 2015

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 2015/16**

	MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE	MOVEMENT IN INCOME	MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT	TOTAL MOVEMENT
	£	£	£	£
<b>PLANG: Planning Control &amp; Enforcement</b>				
Budget established for non-recurring expenditure on additional resources for processing planning applications, funded from a grant from the Homes & Community Agency	20,000	-20,000		
Increase in scanning costs mainly due to a delay in the work being completed in the previous year	2,360			
Above inflationary increase in the Geographic Information system (GIS) service provided by Lancashire County Council	1,410			
Increase in refunds of planning fees under the planning guarantee criteria.	1,620			
Planning consultant fees on planning appeals and associated costs estimated at £55,010, which is £46,530 above the current budget provision. This additional cost is to be met from planning application fees previously set aside in an earmarked reserve fund.	46,530			
Increase in the provision for statutory notices resulting from an increase in planning applications.	7,750			
Decrease in the provision for agricultural consultants fees as fewer applications are being referred to Lancashire County Council.	-3,320			
Several large planning applications, such as Henthorn Rd, land off Coal Pit Lane, Gisburn / land at Clitheroe Road, Whalley / land SW of Montgomerie Gardens, Clitheroe, and land north of Dilworth Lane, Longridge has resulted in additional planning fee income		-168,850		
The increase in planning application fees is partly offset by a fall in income from pre-application advice.		2,350		

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
VARIANCES FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATE TO REVISED ESTIMATE 2015/16**

	MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE	MOVEMENT IN INCOME	MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT	TOTAL MOVEMENT
	£	£	£	£
Increase in support costs mainly from community services, organisation & member development and the chief executive's department, offset by an increase from legal services due to changes in cost allocations from these services.			52,400	
<b>Total Planning Control &amp; Enforcement</b>				<b>-57,750</b>
<b>PLANP: Planning Policy</b>				
Decrease in support costs mainly from community services offset by an increase from the chief executive's department mainly due to the transfer of staff from community services department to the chief executive's department and changes in cost allocations from these services.			-59,740	
<b>Total Planning Policy</b>				<b>-59,740</b>
<b>LDEVE: Local Development Scheme</b>				
Increase in support costs from organisation & member development due to changes in cost allocations from this service.			3,780	
<b>Total Core Strategy</b>				<b>3,780</b>
<b>BCSAP: Building Control SAP Fees</b>				
Reduction in support costs from the chief executive's department due to changes in cost allocations from this service.			-1,020	
<b>Total Building Control SAP Fees</b>				<b>-1,020</b>

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
VARIANCES FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATE TO REVISED ESTIMATE 2015/16**

	MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE	MOVEMENT IN INCOME	MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT	TOTAL MOVEMENT
	£	£	£	£
<b>BLDGC: Building Control</b>				
The budget provision from car allowances, scanning and subscriptions have been reduced based on previous years expenditure profiles.	-2,640			
Reduced Income from building regulations fees. This is mainly due to current economic climate and also due to some organisations using private competitors.		15,000		
Reduction in support costs mainly from the chief executive's department offset by an increase from community services due to changes in cost allocations from these services.			-7,470	
<b>Total Building Control</b>				<b>4,890</b>
<b>AONBS: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b>				
Increase in support cost from community services due to changes in cost allocations from this service			1,240	
<b>Total Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b>				<b>1,240</b>
<b>COMMG: Community Groups</b>				
Increase in support cost from the chief executive's department due to changes in cost allocation from this service			350	
<b>Total Community Groups</b>				<b>350</b>
<b>COUNT: Countryside Management</b>				
The tree risk management appraisal identified several trees which required remedial work. This has resulted in an increase in expenditure partly offset by an increase in the recharge to other services.	3,090	-2,430		

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
VARIANCES FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATE TO REVISED ESTIMATE 2015/16**

	MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE	MOVEMENT IN INCOME	MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT	TOTAL MOVEMENT
	£	£	£	£
Increase in support costs mainly from community services due to changes in cost allocations from this service.			5,010	
<b><i>Total Countryside Management</i></b>				<b>5,670</b>
<b>FPATH: Footpath &amp; Bridleways</b>				
Increase in support costs mainly from legal and organisation & member development offset by a reduction from community services due to changes in cost allocations from these services.			1,780	
<b><i>Total Footpath &amp; Bridleways</i></b>				<b>1,780</b>
<b>PENDU: Pendle Hill Users</b>				
Expenditure on schemes such as supporting a volunteer ranger seminar, use of Pendle Hill images and filming & production of creative film for the Pendle Hill landscape partnership all of which are funded from earmarked reserve, net of any contributions received from users.	1,470	-500		
<b><i>Total Pendle Hill Users</i></b>				<b>970</b>
<b>CONSV: Conservation Areas</b>				
Increase in support costs mainly from community services due to changes in cost allocations from this service.			7,130	
<b><i>Total Conservation Areas</i></b>				<b>7,130</b>
<b>PLSUB: Planning Grants &amp; Subscriptions</b>				
Removal of provision for subscription to Lancashire Economic Partnership	-5,670			

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
VARIANCES FROM ORIGINAL ESTIMATE TO REVISED ESTIMATE 2015/16**

	MOVEMENT IN EXPENDITURE	MOVEMENT IN INCOME	MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT	TOTAL MOVEMENT
	£	£	£	£
<b>Total Planning Grants &amp; Subscriptions</b>				-5,670
<b>Other</b>	-1,690	830	460	-400
<b>Sub-Total</b>	70,910	-173,600	3,920	-98,770
<b>MOVEMENT IN EARMARKED RESERVES</b>				
<b>PLBAL/H336 - Planning Reserve</b>				
Contribution from reserve to fund planning consultant fees associated with planning appeals		-46,530		-46,530
<b>PLBAL/H234 - Building Control Reserve</b>				
Increase in net expenditure of fee earning account		-3,480		-3,480
<b>PLBAL/H273 - Pendle Hill User Reserve</b>				
Net effect of transfer of resources from Forest of Bowland Bridleway scheme and contributions received in the year less current expenditure	30,140	-1,470		28,670
<b>PLBAL/H274 - Forest of Bowland Bridleway Reserve</b>				
Transfer of resources held for Forest of Bowland Bridleway schemes to Pendle Hill user reserve. To contribute towards a larger project.		-29,640		-29,640
<b>Movement on Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves</b>	30,140	-81,120	0	-50,980
<b>Total Movement</b>	101,050	-254,720	3,920	-149,750