

**SPECIAL POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
VARIATIONS BETWEEN ORIGINAL AND REVISED ESTIMATE 2023/24**

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p><u>COMMD: Community Services</u> Decreased salary costs mainly due to vacancy savings especially the post of Engineering Services Manager which has been vacant all year and the Principal Surveyor's post which has been vacant for a significant part of the year.</p>	-82,310
<p><u>Various: Car Parks</u> Reduction in business rates payable following a reduction in the rateable value of some of our car parks, mainly Railway View, Edisford and Lowergate along with a corresponding refunds in respect of previous years.</p>	-32,550
<p><u>Various: Car Parks</u> Increase in the use of credit/debit cards to pay for car parking. Following the upgrading of the pay and display machines most of the car parks are now able to receive payments by card.</p>	24,150
<p><u>Various: Car Parks</u> Higher than estimated income from car parking charges across the various sites, particularly at Edisford, Railway View and Lowergate. However partly off-setting this is a reduction in income mainly from Dunsop Bridge car park.</p>	-31,850
<p><u>EALLW: Edisford All Weather Pitch</u> Increase in income generated from the 3G pitch due to an increase in demand.</p>	-26,590
<p><u>MUSEM: Clitheroe Castle Museum</u> Reduction in business rates payable following several successful national legal cases challenging the methodology in the calculation of the rateable values of museum premises. Consequently Ribble Valley Borough Council has made a successful appeal and received business rates refunds dating back to the 2010 valuation list.</p>	-475,350
<p><u>PAPER: Paper Collection</u> The market price for the sale of paper has increased resulting in an increase to the estimated income to be received.</p>	-23,600

SPECIAL POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
VARIATIONS BETWEEN ORIGINAL AND REVISED ESTIMATE 2023/24

Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p><u>RCOLL: Refuse Collection</u> Increase to loaders and drivers wages as the increase in the pay award was higher than originally estimated and the vacancy savings budgeted for did not materialise.</p>	35,920
<p><u>RCOLL: Refuse Collection</u> increased expenditure on additional temporary staff to cover for long term sickness along with the impact of additional annual leave and a vacant post.</p>	53,250
<p><u>VARIOUS: Refuse Collection Vehicles</u> Reduction in diesel expenditure due to prices being lower than originally budgeted and an update to the forecast usage.</p>	-94,290
<p><u>RPBIN: Replacement Bins</u> Estimated expenditure on the purchase of householder bins.</p>	16,340
<p><u>RPBIN: Replacement Bins</u> Estimated income from the sale of householder bins. Income received is offset against expenditure incurred in the purchase of the bins (see above) and the balance transferred to an earmarked reserve to fund future purchases.</p>	-26,230
<p><u>RPOOL: Ribblesdale Pool</u> Reduced instructors' salaries due to vacancy savings as a result of the difficulties in recruiting trained instructors, However this is more than offset by the extra temporary staffing costs below.</p>	-24,070
<p><u>RPOOL: Ribblesdale Pool</u> Increase in use of temporary staffing to provide cover as a result of vacant posts of swimming instructors and a lifeguard. Also an above average need for temporary staff cover and an increase in the number of casual lifeguards used when there were operational problems with the pool's water filtration system.</p>	47,920
<p><u>RPOOL: Ribblesdale Pool</u> To fund the implementation of energy saving measures at the pool suggested by consultants, including the replacement of the building management system that will enable staff to manage the systems and equipment that use energy in a more effective and controlled manner.</p>	30,000
<p><u>RPOOL: Ribblesdale Pool</u> Decrease in electricity as the increase in the price of electricity is lower than allowed for in the original budget £37,800.</p>	-37,800

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Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p><u>RPOOL: Ribblesdale Pool</u> Decrease in gas expenditure is forecast at the pool. At the time when the 2023/24 budget was being prepared energy prices were volatile (and still are) due to world affairs, the average unit price assumed at Original Estimate was £0.2616 per kWh however we are now assuming the unit price to be £0.1539 per kWh. There has also been a reduction in gas usage, 1,629,715 kWh were assumed to be used in the Original Estimate compared to 1,057,554 kWh at Revised Estimate. Both of these elements result in savings at the revised estimate totalling £263,540.</p> <p>- Savings due to reductions in unit price per kWh has amounted to £113,870 and has been due to the ongoing volatility in world prices.</p> <p>- Savings due to reductions in usage reductions has amounted to £149,670.</p> <p>The usage reduction savings have largely been due to operational adjustments including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Pool Hall ventilation system being turned down out of hours - adjustments made to the day-time air temperatures so that they are now at or below the water temperature. - use of pool covers - maintaining low humidity and temperatures overnight 	-263,540
<p><u>RPOOL: Ribblesdale Pool</u> Lower then estimated income from swimming lessons based on demand.</p>	29,500
<p><u>RPOOL: Ribblesdale Pool</u> Reduced estimated income from adult £13,890 and junior £15,700 admissions.</p>	29,590
<p><u>SDEPO: Salthill Depot</u> Increase in repairs and maintenance costs due to the necessity to replace the dust extractor unit to comply with Health and Safety regulations along with the heating and water boilers. This work is being funded by reduced expenditure on the repairs and maintenance of other sites.</p>	23,000

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Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p><u>STCLE: Street Cleansing</u> Allowed for in the original budget for 2023/24 was additional funding received in 2022/23 from Lancashire County Council for carrying out weed spraying on their behalf but being received too late to be spent in that year. As the conditions in winter are not suitable for weed spraying to be effective, it was to be used in 2023/24 after being set aside in an earmarked reserve for that purpose. However the additional budget included in 2023/24 for additional expenditure on weed spraying has not been required.</p>	-39,430
<p><u>STCLE: Street Cleansing</u> Lancashire County Council have provided additional funds to support the public realm work carried out on their behalf to recognise increases in costs in recent years - weed spraying £45,400 and leaf clearance £19,440.</p>	-64,840
<p><u>TRREF: Trade Refuse Collection</u> Lower estimated tipping charges payable to Lancashire County Council based upon the reduced estimated tonnages of trade waste to be collected, as there is less demand for the service.</p>	-30,370
<p><u>TRREF: Trade Refuse Collection</u> Net reduction in estimated income from trade waste customers due to lower demand for the service.</p>	40,050
<p><u>WKSAD: Works Administration</u> Expenditure incurred within this cost centre is recharged out to the departments who use the service. As significantly more time is forecast to be spent on capital schemes this will result in less time being spent on departmental jobs therefore reducing the recharge to these areas.</p>	102,110
<p><u>WKSAD: Works Administration</u> Time spent by the Works Administration team on capital projects is recovered through a charge to the capital schemes. There is expected to be more time required to be spent on capital projects this year including the refurbishment of Mardale changing rooms.</p>	-38,460

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p>ALBNM - Albion Mill Reduction in rental income due to unoccupied units at Albion Mill. The units are currently being marketed by the property management company who manage the site and units on our behalf.</p>	16,600
<p>INDDV - Economic Development Lower requirement for use of the subscriptions budget in the current year.</p>	-10,000
<p>INDDV - Economic Development Decrease in support service costs mainly due to time being diverted to UK Shared Prosperity funded projects by Economic Development and Planning Services -£36,090 along with a reduction in staff time by Community Services -£3,030. The decrease being partly reduced by an increase in time spent by staff from the Chief Executives Department £6,860.</p>	-32,410
<p>TURSM - Tourism & Events Increase to support service costs mainly due to an expected increase in staff time being spent in this area by Economic Development and Planning Services £16,310 and Resources Department £6,140. This is partly reduced by a decrease in staff time being spent by the Community Services due to the responsibility for Clitheroe Food Festival changing directorate - £7,050</p>	15,460

**SPECIAL POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
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HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p>VARIOUS - Support Services Recharges Estimated net increase in support services recharges across most Health and Housing Committee cost centres, following a re-assessment of costs to date and time allocations in all support services areas.</p>	-74,940
<p>VARIOUS - Capital Charges Reduced depreciation charges, largely as a result of delays to the completion of capital schemes, which had originally been anticipated would have been completed in 2022/23 (Clitheroe Market and Pest Control/Dog Warden Vans). There has also been the downward revaluation of some assets for accounting purposes at the close of the 2022/23 financial year, which has an impact on depreciation levels (again Clitheroe Market, and also the Joiners Arms)</p>	-30,230
<p>DOGWD - Dog Warden & Pest Control There has been a combination of a number of budget movements that contribute to the amounts shown here, but mainly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sewer baiting was previously done by the works administration team, but is now undertaken by the pest control officer -£7,560 - reduced vehicle running costs as a result of the two new vehicles that have been delivered in year -£2,280 	-9,840
<p>CTBEN - Local Council Tax Support Administration Policy and Finance Committee agreed a scheme where £45 would be allocated to each household in receipt of Local Council Tax Support where council tax liability is not nil. This government funding is to offset the costs of the scheme and was given to councils to allow the provision of such types of local reliefs. The cost in respect of this will fall on the Collection Fund rather than under this committee.</p>	-55,500

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Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p>HOMES - Homelessness Strategy</p> <p>There have been a number of large budget movements in this service area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in number of evictions through private landlords coupled with neighbouring authorities no longer allowing us to access their hostel accommodation for single males has resulted in a higher level of spend in this area. A similar position is being seen across the whole of Lancashire +£13,270 (<i>additional costs</i>) - New grant payments in respect of grants to Ukrainian refugees in the prevention of homelessness. Funding has been received to support this grant scheme +£10,000 (<i>additional costs</i>) - A tenant housing deposit grant scheme budget has been reduced, as the terms of the grant are that it is recoverable through the raising of a debtor invoice, and so nets to nil -£3,000 (<i>reduced costs</i>) - Grant funding has been received from the Home Office to support any additional expenditure that the Council may have in relation to the Asylum Seekers Dispersal scheme -£22,500 (<i>additional income</i>) - New grant funding provided to help support homelessness issue in respect of Ukrainian refugees, but can also be used to help support other local homelessness pressures -£62,500 (<i>additional income</i>) - Housing rents income had been anticipated from the Clitheroe Temporary Housing Scheme, however this property is still being used in respect of homelessness +£8,500 (<i>reduced income</i>) 	-56,230

**SPECIAL POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p><u>BCFEE: Building Control Fee Earning Account</u> Demand for building control services this year has been lower than originally forecast, and as a result the income estimates for the year have been decreased at the draft revised estimate.</p>	29,580
<p>The annual net surplus or deficit from the building control fee earning service is set aside in a separate earmarked reserve under charging regulations. At revised estimate 2023/24 it is forecast that the service will be in a deficit position, with a further £19k being released from the earmarked reserve to support the service than originally estimated.</p>	-19,820
<p><u>ECPLA: Economic Development and Planning Department</u> A full review of salary, national insurance and superannuation estimates has been undertaken at revised estimate. After adjusting for the 2023/24 pay award and departmental vacancy underspends the estimates have been reduced by £28k.</p>	-28,390
<p>Underspends above are partially offset by the cost of consultancy services that were engaged to help progress the new local plan following a prolonged vacancy in a key post during the previous financial year. This expenditure of £21k has been partially offset by release of funds previously set aside in earmarked reserves, leaving a net increase at revised estimate of £6k.</p>	6,400
<p><u>LPLAN: Local Plan</u> Funds estimated to be expended on supplies and services to progress the new local plan are now expected to be £63k lower than originally estimated for the 2023/24 financial year, with these costs now falling into a future financial year.</p>	-63,170
<p>The budget available to support expenditures on the new local plan is set aside in earmarked reserves. As costs this year are now expected to be lower than originally estimated this has in turn reduced the release from earmarked reserves.</p>	63,170
<p><u>PLANG: Planning Control & Enforcement</u> Reduction to estimated planning application fee income for the year. This is after accounting for the minimum 25% increase in planning application fees that is to be implemented from 6th December 2023 (see December 2023 report to this committee for further information).</p>	31,000

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Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
Demand for Pre-application advice is lower than that originally estimated.	12,650
Estimated consultancy costs for specialist Heritage Advice (approved by this Committee April 2023) and ecology advice for delivery of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (approved by this Committee December 2023).	10,040
Estimated release of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) new burdens grant funding that was received and set aside in earmarked reserves last financial year. This is to fund the cost of ecology advisors (above) and internal staffing costs for time spent preparing for the introduction of BNG.	-8,450
The planning section has generated savings on the cost of statutory planning notices by reducing both the size and frequency of newspaper notices.	-16,120
<u>Net support charges</u> Net reduction to estimated support charges at the draft revised estimate.	-30,720

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POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p><u>Gas and Electricity</u> Decrease to the estimated cost of gas (-£75k) and electricity (-£26k) at the Council Offices and Civic Suite, mainly due to a reduction in unit rates compared to that estimated during the previous financial year during a time of extreme market volatility.</p>	-100,890
<p><u>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)</u> The council has received a grant of £19k to help with the cost of administering this year's UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant allocation. The draft revised budgets also account for revenue grant income and expenditures of £71k to UKSPF projects. Remaining grant of £26k from this year's allocation is to be set aside in earmarked reserves to be allocated to future schemes.</p>	-19,100
<p><u>Household Support Fund (HSUPF)</u> The council has received a grant of £24k to help with the cost of administering this year's Household Support fund. The draft revised estimates also allocate grant income of £216k to associated expenditures for the purchase of food vouchers for distribution to Ribble Valley residents (£209k) and other estimated miscellaneous direct costs (£8k).</p>	-24,000
<p><u>Council Tax (CLTAX)</u> The council is to receive a new burdens grant of £26k to help with the cost of administering the Energy Bills Support and Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Funding grant schemes. The funds are to be set aside in earmarked reserves to support the service with the cost of future software upgrades.</p>	-25,930 25,930
<p><u>CEXEC: Chief Executives Department</u> Decrease to departmental salary, national insurance and superannuation costs. £13k of the reduction is the movement of budgets to Health and Housing Committee where expenditures for a post are now to be accounted for. The remainder is mainly due to vacancies within the environmental health section. The estimated cost of engaging external consultants to ensure continuation of the environmental health section during a prolonged period of understaffing. To be funded from associated departmental underspends above.</p>	-37,570 24,000

SPECIAL POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
VARIATIONS BETWEEN ORIGINAL AND REVISED ESTIMATE 2023/24

Description	Movement from Original Estimate 2023/24 to DRAFT Revised Estimate 2023/24
<p><u>CIVST: Civic Suite</u> Increase to estimated income to be generated from rental of the Civic suite due to higher demand.</p>	-16,600
<p><u>DISTC/PARIS: District and Parish Elections</u> Expenditures allocated to local election budgets for the cost of running the 2023 district and parish elections were lower than originally estimated. £22k of the costs fell into the last financial year and £23k has been re-allocated to grant funding under cost centre ELADM (for the implementation of Voter ID and Accessibility changes due to the Elections Act).</p> <p>The balance of funds to be released from earmarked reserves for the cost of running the above local elections is lower than originally estimated due to the timing of expenditures that fell into the previous financial year.</p>	-56,710
<p><u>ESTAT: Estates</u> Increase to repairs and maintenance budgets to pay for the cost of works to prepare a building for the rental market (£14k). This has been separately funded from associated rental income and savings on business rates at the property. There have also been additional costs for the replacement of support columns at the Townley Buildings (£10k)</p>	24,020
<p><u>RESOR: Resources Department</u> Increase to estimated salary, national insurance and superannuation costs after accounting for turnover and the 2023/24 annual pay award. The increase to draft estimates is mainly due to turnover that has been lower than budgeted for (4%) within the department.</p>	55,520
<p><u>Capital Charges</u> There is a net decrease to the estimated annual depreciation charge to this committee due to changes in the net valuation of assets that are chargeable this financial year.</p>	-28,160
<p><u>Support Service Costs</u> There is a net increase in support service costs charged to this committee following changes to various departmental cost allocations</p>	78,650

