

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

meeting date: 29 AUGUST 2024
 title: REVENUE MONITORING 2024/25
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 principal author: JEAN WADDINGTON

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To report on the progress of the 2024/25 revenue budget as at the end of June 2024.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – none identified.
- Corporate Priorities - to continue to be a well-managed council providing efficient services based on identified customer need.
- Other Considerations – none identified.

2 REVENUE MONITORING 2024/25

2.1 Shown below, by cost centre, is a comparison between actual expenditure and the original estimate budget for the period to the end of June 2024. You will see an overall underspend of £75,959 on the net cost of services, or and underspend of £70,552 after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves. Please note that underspends and additional income are denoted by figures with a minus symbol.

Cost Centre	Cost Centre Name	Net Budget for the full year £	Net Budget to the end June 2024 £	Actual including commitments to the end June 2024 £	Variance £	
AFHOU	Affordable Rent Properties	8,040	-2,729	165	2,894	A
APLAC	16 Alma Place Clitheroe	2,120	-432	1,601	2,033	A
AWARM	Affordable Warmth	46,480	11,628	5,962	-5,667	R
CLAIR	Clean Air	4,730	204	522	318	G
CLAND	Contaminated Land	10,640				G
CLCEM	Clitheroe Cemetery	60,880	-108	871	979	G
CLDCY	Closed Churchyards	4,540	1,797	1,453	-344	G
CLMKT	Clitheroe Market	-34,590	-137,864	-134,707	3,157	A
CMGHH	Community Groups - Health & Housing	3,920				G
COMNL	Common Land	5,200	201	300	99	G
CTBEN	Localised Council Tax Support Admin	257,460	14,303	8,053	-6,250	R
DOGWD	Dog Warden & Pest Control	163,990	5,282	-2,195	-7,477	R

Cost Centre	Cost Centre Name	Net Budget for the full year £	Net Budget to the end June 2024 £	Actual including commitments to the end June 2024 £	Variance £	
ENVHT	Environmental Health Services	474,700	-424	-18,352	-17,928	R
HFORU	Homes for Ukraine	9,470		7,560	-1,910	G
HGBEN	Housing Benefits	229,840	319,586	331,891	12,305	R
HOMEE	Home Energy Conservation	7,410				G
HOMES	Homelessness Strategy	54,840	-50,238	-104,049	-53,811	R
HSASS	Housing Associations	8,880				G
HSTRA	Housing Strategy	53,580	60	-150	-210	G
IMPGR	Improvement Grants	109,580	-9,133	-7,898	1,235	G
JARMS	Joiners Arms	50,620	14,780	3,683	-11,097	R
SHARE	Shared Ownership Rents	-470	-1,560	-1,567	-7	G
SUPPE	Supporting People	18,590		4,746	4,746	A
WADDO	1 Waddow Green Clitheroe			766	766	G
WBROW	31 Wellbrow Drive Longridge			241	241	G
Total Health and Housing Committee		1,550,450	165,353	89,394	-75,959	
Transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves						
	Equipment Reserve - Joiners Arms	-500	0	0	0	
	Government Grants - Affordable Warmth	-46,480	-11,628	-5,961	5,667	
	Government Grants - Homes for Ukraine	-9,470	0	1,936	1,936	
	Government Grants - Supporting People	-12,860	-2,550	-4,746	-2,196	
Total after transfers to/(from) Earmarked Reserves		1,481,140	151,175	80,623	-70,552	

Key to Variance shading	
Variance of £5,000 or more (Red)	R
Variance between £2,000 and £4,999 (Amber)	A
Variance less than £2,000 (Green)	G

2.2 The red variances highlight specific areas of high concern, for which budget holders are required to have an action plan. Amber variances are potential areas of high concern and green variances are areas which currently do not present any significant concern.

2.3 The main variances between budget and actuals on individual budget codes within cost centres have also been highlighted and explained, as follows:

- Red budget code variances (£5,000 or more) are shown with the budget holder's comments and agreed actions in Annex 1.
 - Amber budget code variances (£2,000 to £4,999) are shown with the budget holder's comments in Annex 2.
- 2.4 Outlined below are the main variances to the end of June 2024 that are unlikely to be rectified by the end of the financial year:
- **Affordable Warmth (-£5,667):** There is a lack of take up of this grant, possibly due to the very low income cap that is applied to these grants. The scheme has been promoted again recently but it is unlikely all the resources will be used by year end.
 - **Localised Council Tax Support Admin/Council Tax Support Fund (-£6,250):** Council Tax Support Fund funding received from DLUHC received in 2023/24, with a balance of unallocated monies carried forward in to 2024/25, which was not budgeted for in 2024/25. Any funds from 2023/24, in respect monies to be distributed for support, that are unused will need to be repaid to DLUHC.
- 3 CONCLUSION
- 3.1 The comparison between actual expenditure and the original estimate budget for this Committee for the period to the end of June 2024 shows an underspend of -£75,959, or an underspend of -£70,552 after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

HH10-24/JW/AC
16 August 2024

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
For further information please ask for Jean Waddington.

Health and Housing Committee Revenue Monitoring – Red Variances

Ledger Code	Ledger Code Name	Budget for the Full Year	Budget to the end of the period	Actual including commitments to the end of the period	Variance	Reason for Variance	Action Plan as agreed between the Budget Holder and Accountant
AWARM/4676	Affordable Warmth/Grants to Individuals	46,480	11,628	5,962	-5,667	Not as much expense as expected in this quarter, though a greater take up in colder months is expected following re promotion of these grants. A particularly low income cap also contributes to a low take up. Unspent resources are set aside in earmarked reserves at year end.	The position will continue to be monitored. Currently unspent resources are set aside in earmarked reserves at year end, though there is the possibility that LCC will now clawback any unspent monies.
CLCEM/5056	Clitheroe Cemetery/Grounds Maintenance	87,820	21,972	15,326	-6,646	A lower charge than anticipated from the grounds maintenance service. More charges are expected in late summer and autumn as end-of-summer tasks are undertaken. Weather can also affect when jobs are carried out and a very wet April-June has caused delays to some tasks.	The position will continue to be reviewed and will be reassessed at Revised Estimate.
CLCEM/8447u	Clitheroe Cemetery/Exclusive Burial Rights	-30,130	-7,538	-2,067	5,471	Decreased income to date in this demand led service area.	Income levels will continue to be monitored and reflected in the Revised Estimate.

Health and Housing Committee Revenue Monitoring – Red Variances

Ledger Code	Ledger Code Name	Budget for the Full Year	Budget to the end of the period	Actual including commitments to the end of the period	Variance	Reason for Variance	Action Plan as agreed between the Budget Holder and Accountant
CLMKT/8826n	Clitheroe Market/Pitches & Other	-9,690	-5,453	-11,108	-5,655	Additional income has arisen from two additional new traders renting pitches for this financial year. There remains an outstanding query over some billing which needs resolving.	A meeting is arranged with relevant parties to examine current invoicing and ensure that this reflects current tenures on the market.
CTBEN/8745z	Localised Council Tax Support Admin/Council Tax Support Fund	0	0	-5,317	-5,317	Balance of DLUHC Local Council Tax Support funding to be used in 2024/25 or returned.	Any unused funds will be repaid to DLUHC.
ENVHT/8417u	Environmental Health Ser/Private Water Samples	-28,440	-7,113	0	7,113	Due to staffing vacancies within the service it has not been possible to undertake these works, resulting in a loss of income. However, this loss of income is offset by underspends on water sample lab test costs.	A new officer was appointed to post in June 2024 to undertake these works. The effects of this appointment should be realised in the next quarter, July - Sept 2024.

Health and Housing Committee Revenue Monitoring – Red Variances

Ledger Code	Ledger Code Name	Budget for the Full Year	Budget to the end of the period	Actual including commitments to the end of the period	Variance	Reason for Variance	Action Plan as agreed between the Budget Holder and Accountant
HFORU/0100	Homes for Ukraine/Salaries	0	0	6,176	6,176	No budget was set for this Cost Code at Original Estimate stage but any expenditure incurred will be funded from grant monies that have been set aside in a specific reserve.	A budget will be brought in for this at Revised Estimate.
HGBEN/4652	Housing Benefits/Rent Allowance Payments	5,430,030	1,691,454	1,711,458	20,004	Rent Allowance payments are higher than budgeted for the year to date, after adjusting for recovery of benefits overpayments and non-cash transactions. Any higher Rent Allowance payments for the year as a whole will be reflected in more Rent Allowance subsidy grant income received at year-end from the DWP as payments for the full year are broadly funded by subsidy.	The budget for the individual elements shown here will be adjusted at the Revised Estimate to reflect the latest full-year estimate for Rent Payments.
HGBEN/8002z	Housing Benefits/Rent Allowances Grant	-5,391,230	-1,348,884	-1,382,100	-33,216		
HGBEN/8814z	Housing Benefits/Recovery of Rent Allowance Payments	-41,720	34,128	56,166	22,038		

Health and Housing Committee Revenue Monitoring – Red Variances

Ledger Code	Ledger Code Name	Budget for the Full Year	Budget to the end of the period	Actual including commitments to the end of the period	Variance	Reason for Variance	Action Plan as agreed between the Budget Holder and Accountant
HOMES/8090z	Homelessness Strategy/DCLG Homelessness Grant	0	0	-62,812	-62,812	Additional 'top up' grant for homelessness not in original budget, as not notified about at the time of setting the budget.	A budget will be brought in for this at Revised Estimate.

Health and Housing Committee Revenue Monitoring – Amber Variances

Ledger Code	Ledger Code Name	Budget for the Full Year	Budget to the end of the period	Actual including commitments to the end of the period	Variance	Reason for Variance
AFHOU/8802u	Affordable Rent Properties/Dwelling Rents	-12,650	-3,163	0	3,163	The variance has occurred as rental invoices for Quarter 1 are yet to be raised. These will be raised in Quarter 2.
CLMKT/8825n	Clitheroe Market/Stalls	- 24,180	-8,265	-4,467	3,798	A decrease in income has been caused by a regular trader moving to a cabin from a stall. Also, particularly wet weather through the months of April - June 2024 have had a detrimental effect on the Market Stalls income.
DOGWD/5056	Dog Warden & Pest Control/Grounds Maintenance	30,460	7,614	4,583	-3,031	There have been lower costs than anticipated from the grounds maintenance service as the service itself has incurred lower costs.
DOGWD/8991z	Dog Warden & Pest Control/XL Bully Abandonments S31 Grant	0	0	-2,436	-2,436	A grant was received after the Original Budget was set.

Health and Housing Committee Revenue Monitoring – Amber Variances

Ledger Code	Ledger Code Name	Budget for the Full Year	Budget to the end of the period	Actual including commitments to the end of the period	Variance	Reason for Variance
ENVHT/3081	Environmental Health Services/Water Samples	17,720	4,443	14	-4,429	Due to staffing vacancies within the service it has not been possible to undertake water sampling, resulting in a loss of income. (See red variance also). However, underspends are being seen due to the vacancies which will offset any lost income. There will also be savings on lab costs. A new officer has been appointed to post, the effects of which should be seen next quarter.
ENVHT/8685u	Environmental Health Ser/Houses of Multiple Occup	-780	0	-2,914	-2,914	There has been greater than anticipated income in this demand led service area.
HGBEN/8007z	Housing Benefits/HRA Rent Rebate Grant	- 48,860	-12,222	-8,904	3,318	The Rent Rebate Subsidy Grant 24/25 Original Estimate budget was set before the Housing Benefit 24/25 Subsidy initial estimate claim was submitted to DWP with more up to date forecasts for the year. The Housing Benefit 24/25 Subsidy initial estimate claim forecast a lower number and value of rent rebate payments in 24/25 than the 24/25 Original Estimate, which is reflected in lower rent rebate income for the year to date. There is unlikely to be a net under recovery of income for the year as a whole because any lower rent rebate income in year will reflect lower rent rebate payments in year.

Health and Housing Committee Revenue Monitoring – Amber Variances

Ledger Code	Ledger Code Name	Budget for the Full Year	Budget to the end of the period	Actual including commitments to the end of the period	Variance	Reason for Variance
HOMES/2450	Homelessness Strategy/Homelessness Temporary A	26,350	6,593	10,962	4,369	There has been a higher than anticipated spend on B&B/Hotel accommodation in this quarter, the majority of the spend on two people. An additional temporary housing unit has been acquired by RVBC recently which could mean a fall in expenses might be seen next quarter.
SUPPE/3079	Supporting People/Other Contract Payments	0	0	2,250	2,250	This was a not budgeted for in-year spend for a payment to HARV for undertaking the Ribble Valley duty role. It is covered by amounts set aside in earmarked reserves.