

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

meeting date: 11 MARCH 2021
 title: REVENUE MONITORING 2020/21
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
 principal author: VALERIE TAYLOR

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To let you know the position for the period April 2020 to January 2021 of this year's revised revenue budget as far as this committee is concerned.

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. To meet the objective within this priority, of maintaining critical financial management controls, ensuring the authority provides council tax payers with value for money.

Other Considerations – none identified.

2 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2.1 Shown below, by cost centre, is a comparison between actual expenditure and the revised estimate for the period to the end of January. You will see an overall underspend of £88,176 on the net cost of services. Please note that underspends are denoted by figures with a minus symbol. After allowing for transfers to/from earmarked reserves there is an underspend of £83,236.

Cost Centre	Cost Centre Name	Net Budget for the Full Year	Net Budget to the end of period	Actual including Commitments to the end of the period	Variance	
AONBS	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	16,080	0	0	0	
BCFEE	Building Control Fee Earning	-3,850	-122,924	-127,863	-4,939	
BCNON	Building Control Non Fee Earning	58,470	5,244	4,607	-637	
CINTR	Clitheroe Integrated Transport Scheme	1,370	0	0	0	
CONSV	Conservation Areas	8,970	0	0	0	
CORES	Core Strategy	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	
COUNT	Countryside Management	49,540	15,740	16,659	919	
ECPLA	Economic Development and Planning Dept	0	732,257	724,383	-7,874	
LPLAN	Local Plan	142,620	45,838	50	-45,788	
PENDU	Pendle Hill User Group	2,180	2,180	2,181	1	

Cost Centre	Cost Centre Name	Net Budget for the Full Year	Net Budget to the end of period	Actual including Commitments to the end of the period	Variance
PLANG	Planning Control & Enforcement	55,440	-376,415	-402,166	-25,751
PLANP	Planning Policy	99,180	900	-3,000	-3,900
PLSUB	Grants & Subscriptions - Planning	10,580	10,580	10,375	-205
PRIML	Primrose Lodge	-48,670	-48,670	-48,672	-2
Net Cost of Services		393,910	266,730	178,554	-88,176

Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves				
Planning Reserve (CORES)	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	0
Capital Reserve (PLANG)	2,500	2,500	2,500	0
Capital Reserve (PRIML)	48,670	48,670	48,672	2
Building Regulation Reserve (BCFEE)	3,850	122,924	127,863	4,939
Pendle Hill User Reserve (PENDU)	-2,180	-2,180	-2,181	-1
Business Rates Growth Reserve	-1,990	-1,990	-1,990	0
Total after Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves	442,760	434,654	351,418	-83,236

2.2 The variations between budget and actuals have been split into groups of red, amber and green variance. 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.

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

2.3 We have then extracted the main variations for the items included in the red shaded cost centres and shown them with the budget holder's comments and agreed action plans, in Annex 1.

2.4 The main variations for items included in the amber shaded cost centres are shown with budget holders' comments at Annex 2.

2.5 In summary the main areas of variances that are **unlikely** to rectify themselves by the end of the financial year are shown below:

Description	Variance to end January 2021 £															
<p>LPLAN - Local Plan</p> <p>The three-year local plan budget of £300k (excluding internal recharges) was approved by Planning and Development Committee in January 2020, with the budget allocated to the financial years during which expenditure on work to progress the plan was expected to take place.</p> <p>The programme has been held up in the current year as a result of the pandemic introducing significant concerns around the ability to secure reliable evidence and to avoid having to revisit work with consultants. The uncertainties introduced by the publication of the White Paper have also meant the programme has been put on hold to allow the impact of the government's proposals to be clarified in the light of their consultation. This was to avoid the need to change approaches and abortive expenditure.</p> <p>Work to progress the plan was therefore reprogrammed at revised estimate, and budgets were reprofiled across the financial years as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">2020/21</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2021/22</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2022/23</th> <th style="text-align: center;">TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Budget Originally Approved January 2020</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£190k</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£108k</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£2k</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£300k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reprofiled Budget at Revised Estimate</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£55k</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£140k</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£105k</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£300k</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It had been anticipated that legal advice would be sought; However, this has been held back as a result of the offer of PAS Consultancy support to provide advice on the programme.</p> <p>The meeting with consultants has only recently been undertaken due to the consultant's availability, proposed consultation was deferred to coordinate with the revised programme which is yet to be finalised.</p> <p>The commission of consultants for sustainability scoping has had to be put on hold to avoid the risk of getting out of synchronisation and to ensure there would be no conflict with advice received from PAS on the impacts of the Government's proposals to change the planning system.</p> <p>Delays to the programme this year due to the reasons above have resulted in a total underspend to January of £45k, and it is highly unlikely that the budget will be fully expended by the end of the financial year. Further detail of the main variances against planned elements of expenditure is set out in annexes one and two.</p>		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	TOTAL	Budget Originally Approved January 2020	£190k	£108k	£2k	£300k	Reprofiled Budget at Revised Estimate	£55k	£140k	£105k	£300k	-45,788
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	TOTAL												
Budget Originally Approved January 2020	£190k	£108k	£2k	£300k												
Reprofiled Budget at Revised Estimate	£55k	£140k	£105k	£300k												

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The comparison between actual and budgeted expenditure shows an underspend of £88,176 to January 2021 of the financial year 2020/21. After allowing for transfers to/from earmarked reserves there is an underspend of £83,236.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

PD7-21/LO/AC
26 February 2021

Planning and Development Committee Budget 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
LPLAN/3085	Local Plan/Consultants	40,000	33,336	0	-33,336	The programme has been held as a result of the pandemic introducing significant concerns around the ability to secure reliable evidence and to avoid having to revisit work with consultants. The uncertainties introduced by the publication of the White Paper have also meant the programme has been held to allow the impact of the government's proposals to be clarified in the light of their consultation. This was to avoid the need to change approaches and abortive expenditure.	The programme is being re-scheduled to progress the plan with key commissions to be made however these will not complete by year end. The expenditure will need to be re-profiled to reflect this. Outturn will be reported to Committee following the end of the financial year and annual budget allocations will be reviewed at revised estimate 2021/22.
LPLAN/3090	Local Plan/Legal	10,000	8,334	0	-8,334	As indicated the local plan programme has been delayed. It is anticipated that legal advice may be required to inform the refresh of the programme.	The council has secured some consultancy support through the Planning advice Service as part of a funded support programme. However it is anticipated that there will be a need to seek legal advice as the intended routemap is established.

Planning and Development Committee Budget 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
PLANG/8404u	Planning Control & Enforcement/ Planning Fees	-432,610	-353,430	-380,046	-26,616	Planning income budgets at revised estimate included an estimate that income during the December to March period would be lower than the original budget by 30% as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Actual income received in December and January was higher than estimated due to the receipt of three high value planning applications which accounted for over 60% of the income received during the period.	Planning income levels fluctuate month to month and vary greatly depending on whether applications are received in respect of major developments. Income levels will continue to be monitored on a monthly basis and claims will be submitted to central government for lost income resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

Planning and Development Committee Budget 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
ECPLA/ 1013	Economic Development and Planning Dept/ Tuition Fees	4,420	3,684	99	-3,585	The cost of professional qualification training currently being undertaken by two officers within the planning section is being funded through the apprenticeship levy.
LPLAN/ 2981	Local Plan/ Postages	4,000	3,334	0	-3,334	Key work has been held as the programme was delayed by the events cited within the detail at Annex one. This element of expenditure will be incurred in the next financial year.
PLANP/ 8191z	Planning Policy/ Planning Policy	0	0	-3,000	-3,000	Childhood obesity trailblazer is a strategic health project. This funding has been made available to specifically support planning policy development around health related issues. The work will not be undertaken this financial year and will be taken forward as part of the policy development programme.