

# AGENDA ITEM 8

## RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

30 OCTOBER 2013

### REPORT OF HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES

#### REVENUE BUDGET 2014-15 COMMITTEE ESTIMATES

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members on the latest position of this committee's revenue budget estimates

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members to note the latest position on this committee's revenue budget estimates and make comments which can be taken forward through the remainder of the budget setting process.**

#### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 In early September 2013 budget holders were provided with budget working papers with the request that they forecast the estimated 2013/14 year end position and put together draft proposals for the 2014/15 budgets. Budget workshops were held for budget holders to provide guidance for the completion of the working papers in line with the budget framework. The working papers were completed by budget holders, in conjunction with the relevant Service Accountant and Head of Service, and returned to finance at the end of September.

- 3.2 In line with the Budget Framework, approved on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at the Policy, Finance and Administration (PFA) Committee, the following table summarises the key stages in the budget setting process:

Management Team Scrutiny of Budget Working Papers	14 October 2013
Budget and Strategic Planning Working Group meet to consider draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and budget submissions	7 November 2013
PFA Committee consider first draft of revenue estimates	3 December 2013
Strategic Planning Away Day (All Councillors)	16 January 2014
Full Council determines the budget	5 February 2014
Full Council sets Council Tax and approves the budget book and the MTFS	20 February 2014

- 3.3 The two appendices attached to this report provide a detailed summary of the overall Committee estimates. Appendix A provides a one line per service summary. Appendix B provides a more detailed analysis in the form of budget book pages. It should be noted that internal recharges have not yet been finalised and so are still included at current year values.

3.4 The following table provides a summary of the appendices as detailed above, further detail on the significant variations is noted below in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6:

<b>2013/14 Original Budget</b>	<b>2013/14 Approved Budget at Period 4</b>	<b>2013/14 Estimated Year End Position</b>	<b>2014/15 Proposed Budget</b>
£2,646,210	£2,833,810	£2,826,420	£2,614,850

3.5 **Variations +/- £10,000 in 2013/14 Estimated Year End Position against Approved Budget**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Development Control	-£60,030	Income to date has exceeded budget expectations due to the number and nature of applications received. Additional savings are expected in relation to employee expenditure due to vacant posts.
Cattle Market	£46,050	Based on income being in line with 2012/13 as per latest advice from the cattle market partners. There was also an insurance claim for which the excess of £5,000 was payable.

3.6 **Variations +/- £10,000 in 2014/15 proposed budget against 2013/14 Estimated Year end Position**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Environmental Health	-£40,200	Change in the consultancy arrangements and a change in the staff structure.
Economic Development	-£37,840	Additional income relation to Sainsbury's monies received for town centre management costs.
Development Control	-£125,110	Non-recurring cost for the wind farm public inquiry and an increase in the income budget.
Local Plans	-£26,520	Contribution for Planning Policy Officers from New Homes Bonus (PFA 10.7.13)

3.7 No growth items have been put forward at this stage.

3.8 **Next steps**

As stated in the timetable in 3.2 the BSPWG is due to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November. At this time the Members working group begin their scrutiny of the budgets and the MTFS.

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Each relevant service plan shows the links and aims between service delivery and corporate priorities. The estimates have been prepared on this basis.

5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 All financial and resource implications have been addressed in section 3 above.

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 The legal implications of service growth, if applicable, will need to be assessed when and if such growth items are being considered.

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 Community Safety is a key priority of the Council and the budget proposals need to take account of the requirements to support that strategy.

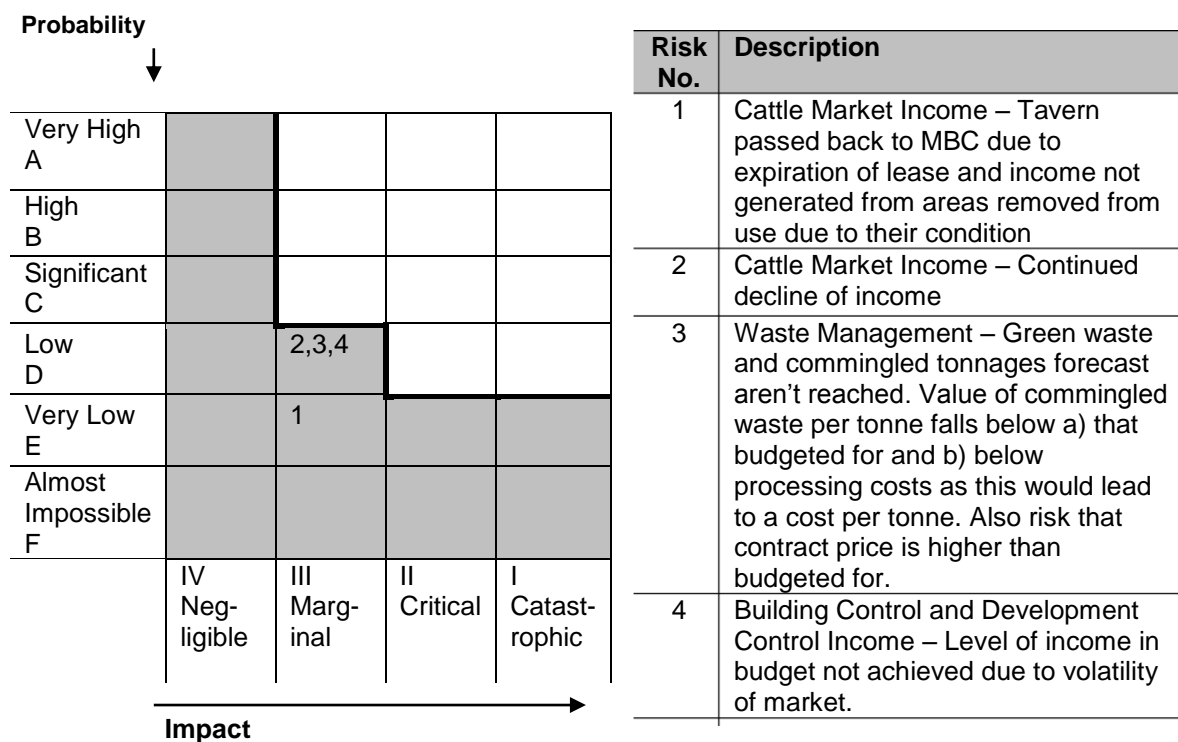
8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 There are no direct links to Equalities, though some elements of the budget proposals will relate to Equalities issues. Any savings proposals will need to have equality impact assessments completed as appropriate by the service lead.

9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 There is always the risk that an item of income or expenditure is not adequately reflected in the budget for any financial year; this will be higher in some areas for the 2014/15 financial year due to the economy as well as any initiatives/policy changes arising from the government.

9.2 Further risks identified for this committee’s services are as follows:



10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 Climate change and our response to this could impact on a number of budgets and this should be considered as part of the service planning process.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 The Service and Financial Planning timetable sets out the Council's approach to consultation and its links to the budget setting process. In addition, all Heads of Service and Members are involved in the process at various stages.

11.2 To this stage, Budget Holders have carried out the budget setting process with the assistance of the Service Accountant as required with reference to current budget protocols

11.3 Further consultation with Management Team took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> October and the Budget and Strategic Planning Working Group will further scrutinise the budgets on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.

11.4 The Policy Finance and Administration Committee have approved consultation with the public over priorities and the budget and the results will be reported to Full Council to consider as part of the budget setting process.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards affected

Contact Officer      Natasha Bailey  
Date:                    2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013

Appendices :        Appendix A – Committee Summary of Estimates  
                          Appendix B – Committee Budget Book Pages

Background Papers: Budget Working Papers  
                          Oracle Financials

Reference :            X : Ctte,Council & Sub Cttes/REEA/2013-14/30-10-13/DG Revenue Budget 2014-15  
                          Committee Estimates