

*NALAS Summer School on Local Governance and  
Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations*  
10–15–July, 206 Ohrid, Macedonia

# *The Stories of Data*

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# Function and Manifestations of Budgets and Financial Reports

- ▶ Planning tool
- ▶ Accounting
- ▶ Financial management tool
- ▶ Governance tool
  - Top management (Council, Mayor);
  - Higher government tiers;
  - Budget and Financial Department staff;
  - Service departments, service providers;
- ▶ Transparency, Accountability, Communication
  - Citizens;
  - Private sector partners;
  - Financial Market;

# Line Item Budget

00	00	00	00	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>59,964,440</b>
01	00	00	00	<b>I-Compensation of Employees</b>	<b>9,083,774</b>
01	01	00	00	<b>Civil Servants</b>	<b>3,367,178</b>
01	01	01	00	<b>Salaries</b>	<b>1,297,424</b>
01	01	01	01	Salaries	1,297,424
01	01	02	00	<b>Increase of Salary and Compensations</b>	<b>1,227,356</b>
01	01	02	01	Increase of Salary and Compensations	1,227,356
01	01	03	00	<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>101,783</b>
01	01	03	01	Appropriations	101,783
01	01	04	00	<b>Social Benefits</b>	<b>460,192</b>
01	01	04	01	Social Benefits	460,192
01	01	05	00	<b>Overtime Pay</b>	<b>118,298</b>
01	01	05	01	Overtime Pay	118,298
01	01	06	00	<b>Rewards and Bonus</b>	<b>40,826</b>
01	01	06	01	Rewards and Bonus	40,826
01	01	09	00	<b>Other</b>	<b>121,299</b>
01	01	09	01	Other	121,299
01	02	00	00	<b>Contractual Personnel</b>	<b>686,822</b>
01	02	01	00	<b>Wages</b>	<b>535,560</b>
01	02	01	01	Contractual Personnel (Law Num of 657 4/B)	169,386
01	02	01	02	Contractual Personnel Equivalent Staff	301,838
01	02	01	03	Contractual Academician	57
01	02	01	04	Foreign Contractual Personnel	0
01	02	01	05	Contractual Artists	22,767
01	02	01	90	Other	41,512
01	02	02	00	<b>Wage Increase and Compensations</b>	<b>69,874</b>
01	02	02	01	Contractual Personnel (Law Num of 657 4/B)	17,574
01	02	02	02	Contractual Personnel Equivalent Staff	50,654
01	02	02	03	Contractual Academician	0
01	02	02	04	Foreign Contractual Personnel	0
01	02	02	05	Contractual Artists	6
01	02	02	90	Other	1,640
01	02	03	00	<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>9,068</b>

- Planning: budget plan/actual
  - Accounting: accounts transactions
  - FM: appropriation and control
  - Governance – external audit
- Very detailed
- Departments: expenditure budget
  - Revenue plans
  - Budget balances are hidden – can be established from main heads;

# Program based budget



## RUBAVU DISTRICT

	<u>Budget - (Includ Reallocation)</u>	<u>Reallocation</u>	<u>Commitments</u>	<u>Balances</u>
5600000000102140047010201284101XXXX District Schools	327 512 486	0	285 034 915	42 477 571
56470103 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers Model established and supported	13 300 000	0	13 300 000	0
5647010301 Support ECD model centers by giving equipment and materials	13 300 000	0	13 300 000	0
5600000000102140047010301284107XXXX Sectors	13 300 000	0	13 300 000	0
56470106 Textbooks Transport paid	9 949 831	0	9 949 831	0
5647010601 Pay transport	9 949 831	0	9 949 831	0
5600000000102140047010601284101XXXX District Schools	9 949 831	0	9 949 831	0
56470108 Primary District Education Funds for vulnerable children supported	2 600 000	0	2 600 000	0
5647010801 Support the District Education Funds	2 600 000	0	2 600 000	0
5600000000102140047010801284101XXXX District Schools	2 600 000	0	2 600 000	0
<b>564702 SECONDARY EDUCATION</b>	<b>1 845 598 619</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 747 400 785</b>	<b>98 197 834</b>
<b>2113 Salaries in cash for Other Employees</b>	<b>1 320 079 504</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 319 824 280</b>	<b>255 224</b>
56470201 All public and government- aided Secondary teachers paid	1 320 079 504	0	1 319 824 280	255 224
5647020101 Pay teachers salary	1 320 079 504	0	1 319 824 280	255 224
5600000000102140047020101211301XXXX Other employees: Basic Salary in cash	1 320 079 504	0	1 319 824 280	255 224
<b>2221 Professional and contractual Services</b>	<b>19 000 000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19 000 000</b>	<b>0</b>
56470205 S3- S6 exam Centers Supervised	19 000 000	0	19 000 000	0
5647020501 Supervise exam centers	19 000 000	0	19 000 000	0
5600000000102140047020501222111XXXX National examinations fees	19 000 000	0	19 000 000	0

Beneficiaries: same as line item

- R/E arranged by programs
- Very detailed,
- Helps accounting costs of programs,
- Communicating programs
- operating vs. capital budget is hidden – difficult to establish;
- Budget balances are hidden – can be established via coding;

# Accrual vs. Cash-based accounting

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>30,480,918</b>
Compensation of Employees	5,857,067
Premiums to Social Security	938,795
Good and Service Purchase	13,822,330
Interest Expenditures	386,478
Current Transfers	896,439
Capital Expenditures	8,448,376
Capital Transfers	119,299
Lending	12,134
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>26,799,231</b>
Taxes	7,125,929
Property Income	3,497,292
Grants and Aids and Special Revenues	607,502
Interest, Shares and Fines	12,614,881
Capital Revenues	2,952,396
Collections from Loans	1,231
<b>Budget Balance</b>	<b>-3,681,687</b>

		<b>TOWN AND BOROUGH MUNICIPALITIES ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>							
		TRL million							
ASSETS		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
102	BANK	1,167	1,090	707	743	1,433	2,134	2,059	1,681
120	Receivables from revenues	643	959	1,018	1,011	1,462	1,731	1,523	1,702
121	Receivables from revenues in prosecution	1,451	1,747	2,332	2,623	3,488	3,591	5,458	6,203
190	Deferred VAT	1,304	1,664	2,247	2,362	3,030	3,630	4,226	5,132
<b>Current Fiscal Asset Total</b>		<b>4,565</b>	<b>5,459</b>	<b>6,305</b>	<b>6,739</b>	<b>9,413</b>	<b>11,086</b>	<b>13,264</b>	<b>14,718</b>
232	Receivables from the loans given by the institution	91	92	8	69	85	84	21	40
240	Capital invested in other fiscal institutions	60	148	81	483	788	982	1,153	1,397
241	Capital invested in institutions producing goods and services	35	99	276	160	205	253	336	392
<b>Financial Fixed Assets Total</b>		<b>185</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>1,829</b>
<b>FISCAL ASSETS TOTAL</b>		<b>4,750</b>	<b>5,797</b>	<b>6,669</b>	<b>7,450</b>	<b>10,491</b>	<b>12,406</b>	<b>14,775</b>	<b>16,548</b>
LIABILITIES		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
300	BANK Credits	210	313	502	509	678	759	1,092	1,388
303	Fiscal debt to public institutions	125	190	218	264	297	126	345	174
320	Budget Custody	1,362	1,862	2,650	2,783	2,769	3,032	3,941	5,280
330	Deposits and Guarantees Received	168	208	284	339	397	472	569	648
333	Custodies	428	508	618	716	845	905	992	1,043
360	Taxes and Funds to be paid	523	631	793	821	1,049	876	893	1,010
361	Social Security deduction to be paid	815	865	1,065	1,039	1,382	1,259	1,336	1,487
362	Funds or Collections on behalf of other public administrations	141	213	208	295	381	383	520	629
368	Overdue or postponed taxes or other liabilities	1,196	921	1,133	1,417	1,762	1,947	1,923	1,966
<b>Short term liabilities total</b>		<b>4,967</b>	<b>5,710</b>	<b>7,531</b>	<b>8,182</b>	<b>9,561</b>	<b>9,760</b>	<b>11,612</b>	<b>13,625</b>
400	Bank credits	375	550	965	1,257	1,481	1,829	2,222	3,641
403	Fiscal debt to public administrations	686	727	687	655	945	1,007	817	621
409	Other Long-term domestic debt	8	17	27	22	38	29	21	14
410	Foreign fiscal debt	225	222	219	243	254	136	157	19
438	Postponed or restructured debt to public sector	329	413	478	537	653	876	1,005	1,019
<b>Long term liabilities total</b>		<b>1,622</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>2,713</b>	<b>3,372</b>	<b>3,876</b>	<b>4,223</b>	<b>5,314</b>
<b>FISCAL LIABILITIES TOTAL (B)</b>		<b>6,589</b>	<b>7,640</b>	<b>9,907</b>	<b>10,895</b>	<b>12,932</b>	<b>13,636</b>	<b>15,835</b>	<b>18,938</b>
<b>Net worth (A-B)</b>		<b>(1,839)</b>	<b>(1,842)</b>	<b>(3,238)</b>	<b>(3,445)</b>	<b>(2,441)</b>	<b>(1,230)</b>	<b>(1,059)</b>	<b>(2,391)</b>

# Fund-based Budget

## FY 2016 ADOPTED EXPENDITURES BY FUNDS - FAIRFAX COUNTY

### SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS

Fund	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Adopted Budget Plan	FY 2015 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan	FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan	Increase/ (Decrease) Over Revised	% Increase/ (Decrease) Over Revised
<b>GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS</b>								
General Fund Group								
10001 General Fund	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	\$15,720,843	1.13%
10020 Consolidated Community Funding Pool	9,890,626	9,890,626	10,611,143	10,611,143	10,611,143	10,611,143	0	0.00%
10030 Contributory Fund	14,444,756	14,361,741	14,744,665	15,094,665	12,917,166	12,967,166	(2,127,499)	(14.09%)
10040 Information Technology	46,237,581	15,371,563	6,752,000	46,006,474	6,424,000	6,424,000	(39,582,474)	(86.04%)
Total General Fund Group	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	(\$25,989,130)	(1.77%)
<b>Debt Service Funds</b>								
20000 Consolidated Debt Service	\$302,976,161	\$295,655,952	\$316,009,005	\$321,297,599	\$321,900,342	\$321,900,342	\$602,743	0.19%
<b>Capital Project Funds</b>								
30000 Metro Operations and Construction	\$35,754,211	\$35,754,211	\$36,156,089	\$36,156,089	\$32,950,226	\$32,950,226	(\$3,205,863)	(8.87%)
30010 General Construction and Contributions	106,421,903	35,468,787	23,183,981	98,488,079	23,341,768	23,341,768	(75,146,311)	(76.30%)
<b>Enterprise Funds</b>								
69010 Sewer Operation and Maintenance	\$96,713,643	\$90,083,737	\$97,923,134	\$98,093,267	\$96,283,072	\$96,283,072	(\$1,810,195)	(1.85%)
69020 Sewer Bond Parity Debt Service	21,957,307	21,112,064	21,909,094	20,446,381	20,906,350	20,906,350	459,969	2.25%
69040 Sewer Bond Subordinate Debt Service	28,419,768	26,057,605	26,512,623	26,133,270	26,318,820	26,318,820	185,550	0.71%
69300 Sewer Construction Improvements	106,308,236	83,077,624	83,693,176	119,923,788	86,389,000	86,389,000	(33,534,788)	(27.96%)
69310 Sewer Bond Construction	68,378,015	36,933,562	0	31,510,145	13,000,000	13,000,000	(18,510,145)	(58.74%)
Total Enterprise Funds	\$321,776,969	\$257,264,592	\$230,038,027	\$296,106,851	\$242,897,242	\$242,897,242	(\$53,209,609)	(17.97%)


# Generic Accounting Framework

## Basic Budget Snapshot

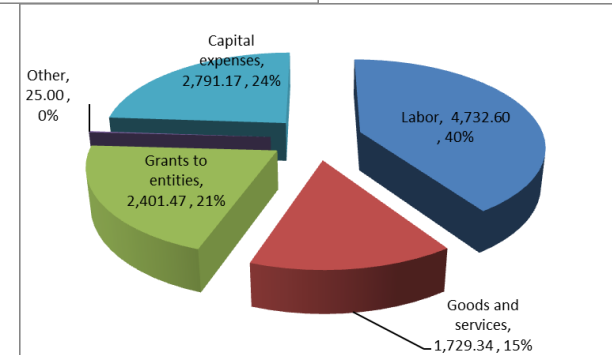
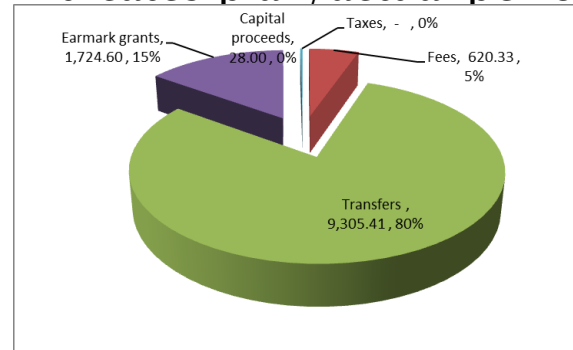
	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
Current Budget	<b>Current Revenues</b> Own Revenues: taxes, fees Transfers from Government Other revenues (rents) Surplus carried forward	<b>Current Expenditures</b> Payroll Operation & Maintenance Interest payments Deficit carried forward (if any)
		<b>Operating Surplus</b>
Capital Budget	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <b>Self-financing</b> </div> <b>Capital Revenues</b> Sale of property, land Capital Grants Loans/Debts	<b>Capital Expenditures</b> Civil works Purchase of property, land Debt service principal

- This is the way the markets see the municipality
- Rating agencies assess Ms this way;
- The best way to reflect the financial health of a municipality;

# Budget Snapshot

SUMMARIZED BUDGET PERFORMANCE					
					
Entity		MUHANGA DISTRICT			
Fiscal Year		2014/2015			
Period:		01-July-2014		30-June-2015	
11/9/15					
Particulars	Approved Budget - Frw	Revised Budget - Frw	Actual - Frw	Variance- Frw	Performance
	A	B	C	A - B	(C/A)100
<b>Revenue</b>					
<b>Tax Revenue</b>	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Fees, fines, penalties and licenses	611,166,201	1,020,092,020	620,325,758	407,726,241	57.54 %
Transfers from Treasury	9,305,083,143	9,914,982,937	9,305,410,882	609,572,055	93.85 %
Transfers from other Government Reporting entities	1,113,708,134	1,113,708,134	1,724,599,088	(610,890,954)	1.55 %
Grants	0	0	9,678,654	(9,678,654)	0.00 %
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Proceeds from sale of capital items	0	0	28,000,000	(28,000,000)	0.00 %
Proceeds from borrowings	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>11,029,957,478</b>	<b>12,104,793,170</b>	<b>11,668,014,382</b>	<b>436,728,788</b>	<b>96.54 %</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Compensation of Employees	5,037,389,176	4,965,196,740	4,732,601,060	232,595,680	95.32 %
Use of Goods and Services	1,324,540,836	1,563,015,906	1,129,343,743	433,672,163	72.25 %
Transfers to Reporting Entities	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Grant and other transfers payments	2,403,938,567	2,523,741,109	2,401,472,928	122,268,181	95.18 %
Social Assistance	706,736,762	323,775,696	642,788,351	(119,072,655)	198.53 %
Financing cost	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Other Expenses	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	0	100.00 %
Capital Expenditure	2,542,332,132	3,121,187,196	2,791,165,847	330,021,309	89.43 %
Loans repayments	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
<b>Total expenses (B)</b>	<b>11,029,957,478</b>	<b>12,521,916,607</b>	<b>11,722,371,829</b>	<b>799,544,678</b>	<b>93.61 %</b>

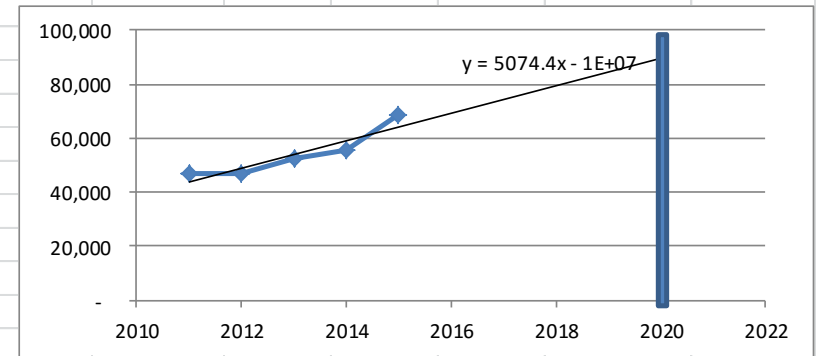
- Good snapshot;
- Communication tool, periodic reports for Council, Mayor, Investors, Citizens, Banks
- Can reflect balances
- Indicates plan/actual performance;





# Revenue/Expenditure Forecasting

		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Increase %	Total%
TOTAL CURRENT REVENUE		47,146	47,094	52,195	55,331	68,400	73,667	79,339	85,448	92,027	99,114	107.7%	145.1%
1	State Transfers	30,300	25,162	26,120	29,933	35,984							
	- Shared taxes	24,053	22,255	22,747	26,915	35,631							
	- Unconditional trans	6,192	2,613	3,076	2,865	-							
	- Conditional transfer	55	294	297	153	353							
2	Own revenue	11,869	16,122	22,575	22,858	29,957							
	- Local taxes & levies	4,235	4,818	6,212	7,548	8,037							
	- Local fees, charges	2,402	4,310	4,640	5,289	11,747							
	- Local asset revenues	4,969	6,847	10,733	9,865	9,453							
	- Local mixed revenue	262	149	990	156	720							
3	Other revenue	4,978	5,810	3,500	2,540	2,458							
	- Surplus Y-1	4,978	5,810	3,500	2,540	2,458							
TOTAL NON-CURRENT REVENUE		15,809	14,584	19,436	20,720	14,308							
1	State Trans	Refer to dat	-	-	145	324							
	- Unconditional transfers												
	- Conditional transfer	-	-	-	145	324							
2	Own revenue	12,103	9,345	8,796	7,800	6,923							
	- Asset sales	435	453	463	387	1,319							
	- Self-contributions tax												
	- Land development &	11,668	8,893	8,333	7,413	5,604							
3	External revenue	3,706	5,239	10,640	12,776	7,062							
	- Loans proceeds	3,222	4,956	10,192	12,548	7,022							
	- Financial assets pro	452	192	83	56	35							
	- Donation	32	90	365	171	5							

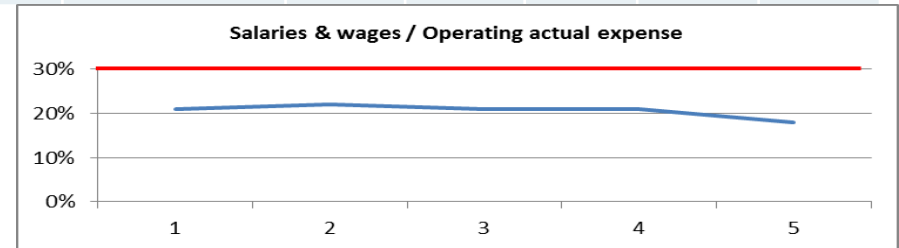
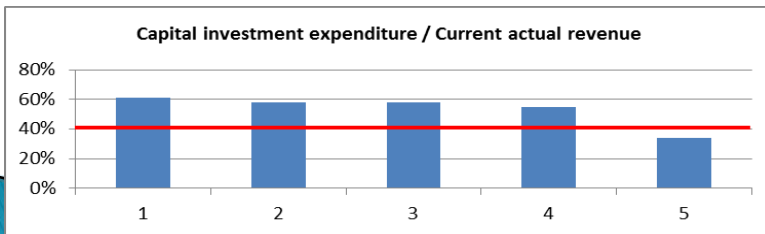


## Forecasting Dilemmas

- Base data
- Trend, growth rate
- Forecasting needs ASSUMPTIONS!
- External information are vital;
- Do not forecast the total!

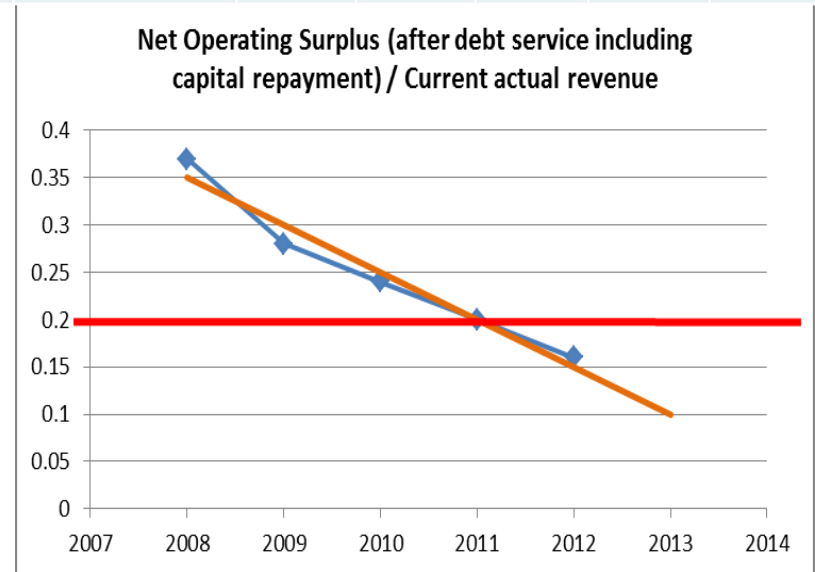
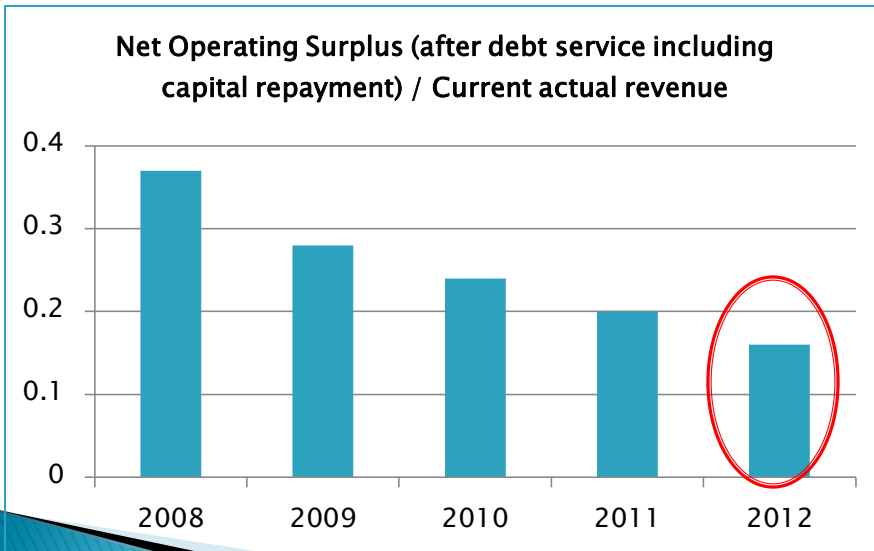
# Ratio Analysis (MFSA city)

	Indicator (definition)	Comparative index (benchmark)	City Index				
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	Net Operating Surplus (after debt service including capital repayment) / Current actual revenue	> 0.2	0.37	0.28	0.24	0.20	0.16
2	Operating savings before interests / Current actual revenue	> 0,3	0.39	0.30	0.28	0.27	0.23
3	Capital investment expenditure / Current actual revenue	> 40 %	61%	58%	58%	55%	34%
4	Salaries & wages / Operating actual expense	> 40 %	21%	22%	21%	21%	18%
5	Actual revenue / Estimated revenue	> 95 %	98%	101%	93%	85%	85%



# Presenting Ratio analysis

	Indicator (definition)	Comparative index (benchmark)					
			2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	Net Operating Surplus (after debt service including capital repayment) / Current actual revenue	> 0.2	0.37	0.28	0.24	0.20	0.16



# Communicating Budget – Announcement of local taxes and rates

## FY 2016 and FY 2017 MULTI-YEAR BUDGET PLAN: TAX AND FEE FACTS

Type	Unit	FY 2014 Actual Rate	FY 2015 Actual Rate	FY 2016 Adopted Rate	FY 2017 Planned Rate
<b>GENERAL FUND TAX RATES</b>					
Real Estate	\$100/Assessed Value	\$1.085	\$1.09	\$1.09	\$1.09
Personal Property	\$100/Assessed Value	\$4.57	\$4.57	\$4.57	\$4.57
<b>NON-GENERAL FUND TAX RATES</b>					
<b>REFUSE RATES</b>					
Refuse Collection (per unit)	Household	\$345	\$345	\$345	\$345
Refuse Disposal (per ton)	Ton	\$60	\$62	\$62	\$62
Leaf Collection	\$100/Assessed Value	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.015
<b>SEWER CHARGES</b>					
Sewer Base Charge	Quarterly	\$12.79	\$15.86	\$20.15	\$24.68
Sewer Availability Charge	Residential	\$7,750	\$7,750	\$7,750	\$7,750
Sewer Service Charge	Per 1,000 Gallons	\$6.55	\$6.62	\$6.65	\$6.68
<b>COMMUNITY CENTERS</b>					
McLean Community Center	\$100/Assessed Value	\$0.022	\$0.023	\$0.023	\$0.023
Reston Community Center	\$100/Assessed Value	\$0.047	\$0.047	\$0.047	\$0.047

# Transparency & Accountability

## FAIRFAX COUNTY FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan Documents and Information

Board of Supervisor Chairman's Letter  
Overview Volume

Multi-Year Budget: FY 2016 – FY 2017

FY 2016 Adopted Budget Summary

FY 2016 Adopted Budget: Final Reductions

FY 2016 Adopted and FY 2017 Planned Tax Rates and Fees

All Budget Narratives (Vol. 1: General Fund and Vol. 2: Capital Construction)

FY 2016 – FY 2020 Adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

FY 2016 Adopted Information Technology Plan

FY 2016–FY 2017 Budget Guidelines

FY 2016 Appropriation, Tax Rate and Fiscal Planning Resolutions

FY 2016 Budget Mark-Up (April 21, 2015)

Adjustments to FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan (April 2, 2015)

FY 2016 Compensation Plans

Job Classification Table

FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan Pie Charts

General Fund Receipts ("Where It Comes From")

One Pager

Drill Down

General Fund Disbursements ("Where It Goes")

One Pager

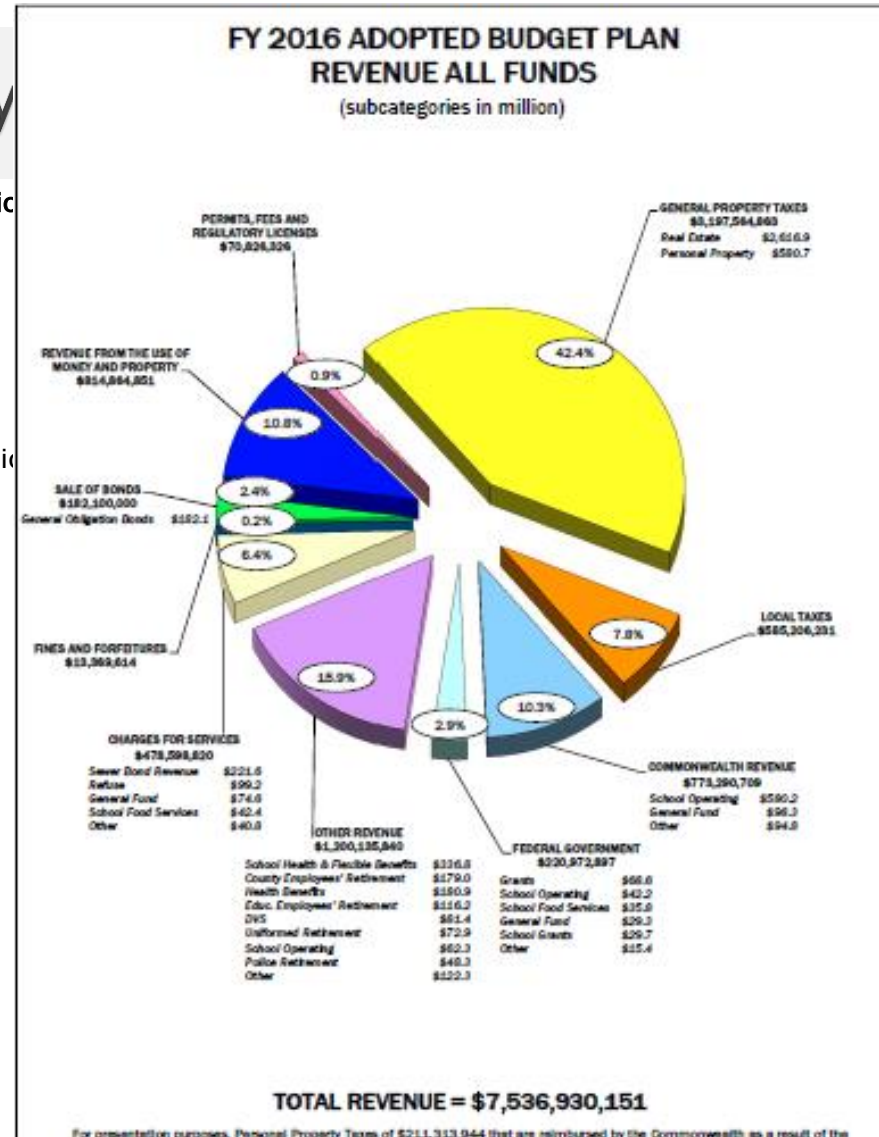
Drill Down

FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan – Excel Spreadsheets

General Fund Statement

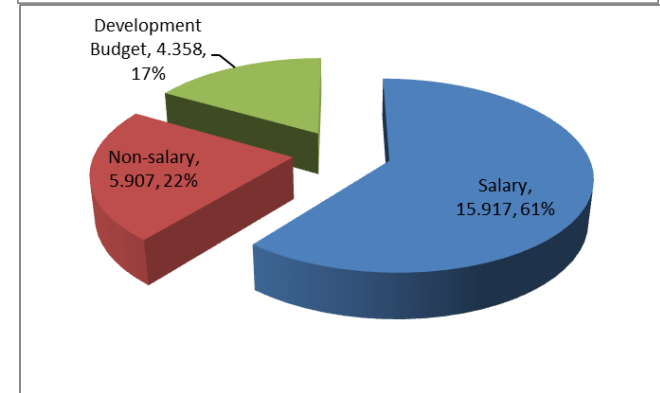
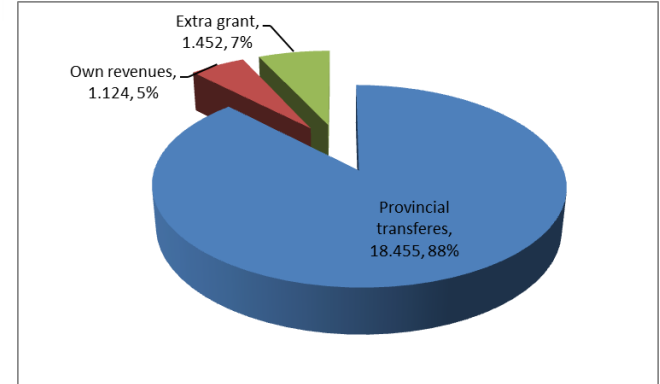
Summary of General Fund Direct Expenditures

Summary of Appropriated Funds

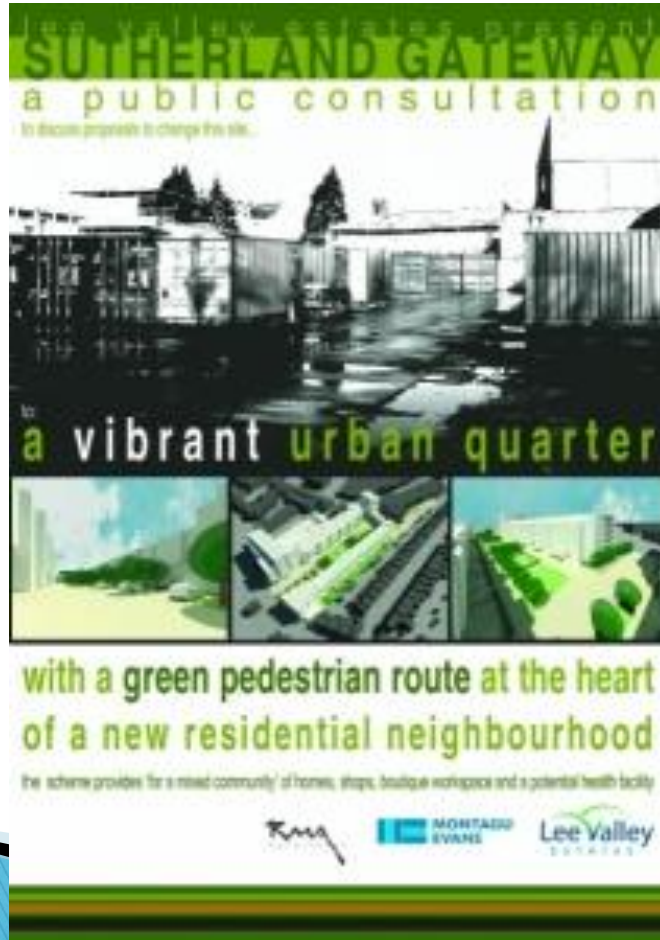


# Budget Brief for Citizens and www

<b>CITY DISTRICT GOVERNMENT, LAHORE</b>	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>BUDGET 2015-16</b>
Opening Balance	5,392.461
Provincial Receipts (PFCA)	18,455.673
Own Receipts	1,124.650
Extra-PFC in lieu of Octroi	1,452.277
<b>Total Receipts Budgeted</b>	<b>26,424.953</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Salary	15,917.243
Non Salary	5,907.233
Development Budget	4,358.244
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>26,182,720</b>
Closing Balance	242.233



# Leaflets are vital instruments



- Informing citizens,
- Guiding public consultations,
- Engaging participatory decisions,
- Focus on major actions (Budget, tax, fee, development);
- Offer alternatives rather than just inform the public;
- Announce consultation timely: months or years ahead of planned action;
- Need few focused numbers, no detailed budget;

# Budget brief leaflet

## HEALTH

- **PRIMARY MEDICAL COVER:** A Medical Card entitles you to a range of health services free of charge. A GP Visit Card covers the costs of visits to the doctor for your family. The means-test for these cards is based on net income. The cards will be granted if your remaining weekly income after these deductions does not exceed the following guidelines for 2015:

	MEDICAL CARD		GP ONLY	
	Under 66	66 and over	Under 66	66 and over
• Single living alone	€184.00	€201.50	€276.00	€302.00
• Single living with family	€164.00	€173.50	€246.00	€260.00
• Married couple (or single parent)	€266.50	€298.00	€400.00	€447.00

- **PERSONS AGED 70+ QUALIFY FOR A MEDICAL CARD:** if your gross weekly income is less than €500 per week (single), or €900 (couple). If you exceed this, a GP only card will be granted up to €700 (single), €1,400 (couple).

- Once either spouse qualifies at 70, both get cover.
- A surviving partner aged over 70 will be allowed to keep their medical card for three years.

- **A €3.5k CHARGE PER BREASTFEEDING WEEK** applies to medical card holders (max €25 per month per person or family). It does not apply to those on the long-term illness scheme.

- **DRUGS REFUND:** Any family can get a refund on the cost of prescribed drugs used in any month in excess of €144 provided the drug is on the government list.

- **NURSING HOME SUPPORT:** Under the "Fair Deal" patients seeking a place in either a Private or a Public Nursing Home now have the same assessment of need and the same means-test for payment. The patient will be liable to pay towards the cost of care:

- 80% of assessable income (i.e. after deduction of tax, PRSI, mortgage/rent and out-of-pocket expenses)
- 7.5% of the value of any assets, in excess of a disregard of €36,000 or €72,000 for a couple.

A spouse is assessed with half of the couple's joint income and assets. The HSE can assess assets transferred in the past 5 years. The balance of the cost will be met by the State. If the assets are in property, the contribution

## HEALTH *cont'd*

can be deferred until the settlement of the person's estate and will not be collected during the lifetime of a surviving spouse or a disabled child.

- **HOME CARE PACKAGE** can fund a care plan in the home, where care is assessed as necessary either on discharge from hospital, or by the Public Health Nurse to keep a person out of institutional care.

- **CARERS ALLOWANCE:** A person who is living with, and giving full-time care to a child on Domiciliary Care Allowance, or to any person aged 16 or over requiring full-time care, can apply for a means-tested weekly Carer Allowance of €204 (€239 if carer is 66 or over) plus an annual €1,375 Respite Grant.

- **A CARERS BENEFIT** of €205 based on your Social Insurance can be claimed for short-term absences from work (up to 24 months) for caring responsibilities. It is available to all insurance classes except S.

## HOUSING

- **DEBT PROBLEMS:** If you are having difficulty keeping up with payments, it is vital that you immediately inform those you owe (utilities, banks, etc.) and seek advice.

- **MONEY ADVICE & BUDGETING SERVICE (MABS)** offers a free, confidential and independent service for people in debt. You can arrange an appointment at a local office, ring their helpline at 0761 07 2000 or email: [helpline@mabs.ie](mailto:helpline@mabs.ie)

- **RENT SUPPLEMENT**  
Rent Supplement is paid by the Department of Social Protection to people living in private rented accommodation who cannot provide for the cost of their accommodation through their own resources.

In general, you will be eligible for rent supplement if you meet the following criteria:

- your only income is a social welfare payment.
- you were living in private rented accommodation for at least 6 months of the last 12 months.
- you were living in accommodation for homeless people for at least 6 months of the last 12 months.
- you have been assessed by the Council as being in need of housing.

## HOUSING *cont'd*

- you must pass a habitual residence test, pass a means test and not be in full-time employment (30 hours or more a week)

- **RENT ACCOMMODATION SCHEME**  
You can qualify for RAS if you are in need of housing and have been getting Rent Supplement (in general for a period of 18 months or more). Under RAS, the Council enters into a long-term contract with a Private Landlord and you pay an income-related rent.

## OTHER IMPORTANT MEASURES

- **JobsPlus** There is a doubling of JobsPlus places from 3,000 to 6,000 to incentivise employers to hire long-term unemployed people from the Live Register. Employers can receive up to €10,000 in monthly cash grants over two years for each eligible employee.

- **Water Charges:** The budget provides for tax relief for water charges at the rate of 20% of the annual water charges paid in the previous year subject to a maximum relief of €100 (€500 @ 20%).

- **Breastcheck** cancer screening will be extended in 2015 to include women who are over 65 years of age and under 70.

- **Funding for School Meals Programme** to increase by €2 million to €39 million in 2015.

- **8% VAT rate** on tourism and hospitality maintained.

- **The levy on private pensions** has been cut from 0.6% to 0.15%, and will be abolished at the end of 2015.

- Extension of the **Home Renovation Incentive** to Rental Properties.

- Over €350m Current and €450m Capital Expenditure has been allocated for **Social Housing** (providing up to **7,500 housing units**).

- **Additional €10m** to tackle **Homelessness bringing spend to €55m**.

- **920 New Mainstream Teachers / No Change in Pupil-Teacher Ratio**.

- €10 million secured for over **400 new Garda vehicles / 200 new Garda recruits**.

Note: Every effort has been made to ensure that this information is correct at time of going to print.



Terence Flanagan TD

DUBLIN BAY NORTH

# BUDGET UPDATE 2015

TAXATION  
SOCIAL WELFARE  
HEALTH  
HOUSING  
OTHER IMPORTANT MEASURES

TERENCE FLANAGAN TD



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TERENCE FLANAGAN TD DUBLIN BAY NORTH



# Policy dialogue by Opposition



**PRIVATEERS & VOLUNTEERS ARE NO SUBSTITUTE...**

The Capita and Service Birmingham contract should be scrapped.

The sum being spent on Capita will amount to £10m by 2018 approximately half of the amount being cut in the so called 'Jaws of Doom'

Just this year Capita kept £26 million and paid £8m in dividends last year.

98 per cent of the profits of Service Birmingham have gone direct to Capita in dividends.

The other shareholders (the citizens of Birmingham) get next to nothing from the profits out of their shares.

We have spent £1 billion for a contract we can't afford says Councillor Clancy. "In times of austerity and massive service cutbacks, we are still paying out net invoices of £126 million a year to Service Birmingham (£11 million per month) and half of that goes direct to Capita PLC and 28 of its associated companies"

Exploiting volunteers does not substitute for properly funded services—a call to arms should be about fighting the cuts not accommodating them.



All across the country millions of people are suffering from austerity. There can be no doubt, responsibility for the economic crisis lies with the bankers and bosses who caused the economic crisis in the first place. The vicious austerity unleashed by this Con-Dem government is about making working people pay for it. In Birmingham the impact is all too evident.

This year, more than 41,000 West Midlands relied on emergency supplies from food banks – triple the amount who asked for help in the previous 12 months.

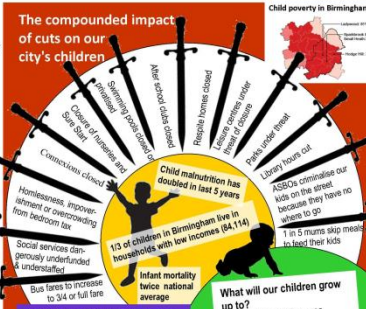
Many are facing eviction due to the bedroom tax in Birmingham. 14,000 people saw their housing benefit cut in April. This is at a time when 2,816 were already behind with their rent. A figure which has soared to 5,390 in just three months – a 91 per cent rise.

There are only 365 one or two bedroom properties people could move to, leaving many at risk of eviction. The Labour group oppose the bedroom tax, but we cannot wait in hope for a Labour government to repeal it. The council must act now to ensure the are no evictions.

If we were to adopt Sir Albert Bone's prophecy of doom, we would not be fighting for our city, we would be resigned to the end of it.

The council's approach, so they claim, has been to focus their energy on "shielding the most vulnerable" as they implement the cuts.

But this has not worked. In fact it has been rewarded with more cuts from the government. Albert's Jaws of Doom graph has widened from £615m to £835m! More cuts do not protect the vulnerable.



**Its time to get organised...**

...its time for our council to lead the fight

There should be a joint fight back against the government for the £300 million that has been cut in the central government grant.

The Capita and Service Birmingham contract should be scrapped. Closing our Leisure centres and allowing private companies to take over is similarly a false economy.

Councilors should lead the call for mass mobilisations to save our services. Deputy Leader Ian Ward's "call to arms from the people of Birmingham" to volunteer should be transformed to a call for civil disobedience. The people of Birmingham should be transformed to a call for civil disobedience. The people of Birmingham should be transformed to a call for civil disobedience. The people of Birmingham should be transformed to a call for civil disobedience.

Community campaigns we can become a visible opposition to the government. It will assist with the empowerment of our communities and bring hope to thousands of people who are feeling alone and hopeless.

We need to take the battle to the government and defy them every step of the way to save everything working people have fought for.

The council should set a needs budget for the people of Birmingham. Councilors will not be arrested, it is not illegal. Birmingham could be a beacon of hope to other councils and authorities. By fighting through other councils and authorities. By fighting through other councils and authorities. By fighting through other councils and authorities.

The government and council tells there is no alternative to the cuts, but this is not true.

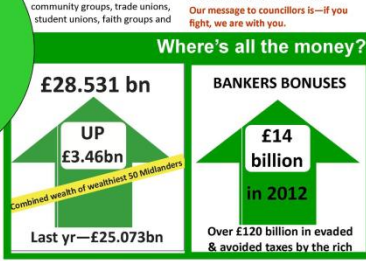
The stand the council can make really matters. Leaving people to fight alone service by service, job by job, is not acceptable and neither can it win. If the council is truly on our side, it needs to fight beside us in our community groups, trade unions, student unions, faith groups and campaigns to take the battle to the government and defy them every step of the way. It should also encourage other councils to do the same.

Fighting back does not guarantee victory but we can't give in to a prophecy of doom. This would guarantee defeat. The stakes are too high. Thousands of people are already suffering—the cuts would only get worse.

In 2013 the Child Poverty Action Group estimates that £914m is lost to the Birmingham economy every year by failing to tackle child poverty. This figure (the highest in the country) is made up of:

- The extra spent on the cost of services to deal with the consequences of child poverty
- The amount lost in tax receipts from people earning less as a result of having grown up in poverty
- The extra spent on benefits for people spending more time out of work as a result of having grown up in poverty
- The amount lost to individuals in net earnings (after paying tax)

The Safeguarding Green Paper and Annual auditors letter refer to the relative underspend on Birmingham's Children's social care. This must be increased inline with comparable authorities.



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED



[www.BirminghamAgainstTheCuts.wordpress.com](http://www.BirminghamAgainstTheCuts.wordpress.com)  
 BirminghamAgainstTheCuts@gmail.com  
 Facebook: Birmingham Against The Cuts | Twitter: @BumAgainstCuts



**Birmingham Against The Cuts** is a coalition of community campaigns, trade unions and the public who have come together to save our public services in the city.

**LOCAL ANTI CUTS GROUPS**  
 Handsworth/Winson Green/Hamstead  
 NoCutsHandsworth@btinternet.com

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Spread the word! Download the resources from our website ask all your friends, workmates and neighbours to get involved.
- Join the campaigns, events, protests, demonstrations and meetings.
- Join a trade union if you haven't already. To find the right union see [worksmart.org.uk/unionfinder](http://worksmart.org.uk/unionfinder)
- Lobby your local politicians against public service cuts and against the attack on our local services, jobs and pensions.

We have helped to form anti-cuts groups and networks across the city as well as cross city campaigns. You can get involved with our city centre meetings and events by contacting us directly but also we would encourage you to get involved in any of the groups listed.

**Kings Heath Against the Cuts**  
 KHAgainstTheCuts@gmail.com

**Stirchley Against the Cuts**  
 stirchleyantcuts@gmail.com

The government and council tells there is no alternative to the cuts, but this is not true.

**Hall Green Cuts Watch**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/HallGreenCutsWatch/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/HallGreenCutsWatch/)



**There is an alternative...**

**Edrington—follow @B23topTheCuts**

**Castle Vale Against The Cuts**  
 patbulid1@aol.com | 07936000130

### Axe the Bedroom Tax - Can't Pay - Won't Leave - No Evictions

The bedroom tax is a vicious attack on some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in society. Stephanie Bottrill killed herself as a result of the stress the bedroom tax put on her.

The Birmingham Benefit Justice Campaign is uniting all those opposed to the devastating benefit cuts. For more information contact

[birminghambenefitjustice@gmail.com](mailto:birminghambenefitjustice@gmail.com)

**Birmingham Peoples Assembly Against Austerity**  
[birminghampeoplesassembly@gmail.com](http://birminghampeoplesassembly@gmail.com)

**Save Birmingham Youth Service**  
 SaveBirminghamYouthService@gmail.com

**West Midlands Pensioners Convention**  
 Telephone 07983 559612 | [ivorgtinson@gmail.com](mailto:ivorgtinson@gmail.com)

For these areas please email our main BirminghamAgainstTheCuts@gmail.com  
 Ladywood, Edrington, Bearwood, Selly Oak, Perry Barr, Small Heath, Bordesley Green



# Lessons Learned

"Happiness is the  
**secret** to all  
beauty. There is no  
beauty without  
**happiness.**"

- Christian Dior

