

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 6

meeting date: 2 MARCH 2010
title: BUDGET CONSULTATIONS
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: JANE PEARSON

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Council of the meeting with national non-domestic rate representatives about our 2010/11 budget proposals.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to consult, regarding our budget proposals, with representatives of non domestic ratepayers. This consultation must be carried out prior to Full Council agreeing our budget for the forthcoming year.

3 2010/11 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 24 February 2010 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

Mr John Atherton - Whalley Chamber of Trade
Mr Nigel Pratt – Clitheroe Chamber of Trade
Mr Ian Sowerbutts – Clitheroe Chamber of Trade
Mr John Turner – Clitheroe Chamber of Trade

RVBC:

Councillors Sherras, Rogerson, Thompson, Chief Executive, Director of Resources Revenue and Benefits Manager and Financial Services Manager.

Apologies were received from Councillors Ranson and T Hill.

- 3.2 The Revenues and Benefits Manager informed the meeting of the forthcoming changes to business rates as a result of the 2010 revaluation. He covered a number of issues, including:

- The Small Business Rate Relief Scheme;
- Changes to Empty Property Exemptions;
- Transitional Relief

- 3.3 A number of questions regarding business rates were asked of the Revenues and Benefits Manager.

- 3.4 A presentation was made to the meeting regarding our budget proposals and the issues facing the Council in preparing the 2010/11 budget, in particular:

- The revenue budget

- Levels of council tax
- 5 year capital programme

I briefly explained the current situation regarding each of the above items.

3.5 A number of questions were asked regarding areas such as:

- Impact of staff savings on services
- Capital programme
- Winter gritting
- Free swimming
- Car park income
- Tourism

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 The statutory meeting with representatives of business ratepayers would be more relevant if the setting of business rates were within the control of the Council, but it is a useful meeting to raise other issues and promote closer working relationships.

4.2 It was however, extremely pleasing to see more representatives attending the meeting.

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

C2-10/JP /AC
25 February 2010