

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No

meeting date: 8 MARCH 2011  
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 2011/12 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 2011/12 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 16 February 2011 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

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

RVBC:

Councillors Sherras, Rogerson, Thompson, T Hill, Chief Executive, Director of Resources.

Apologies were received from Councillors Ranson and Hirst.

- 3.2 The Chief Executive welcomed everyone and explained the background and purpose to the meeting.

- 3.3 A presentation was then made regarding business rates and the Council's budget proposals for next year. The main issues covered were:

- Business Rates and Reliefs
- The Local Government Finance Settlement and our reduction in funding
- The revenue budget
- Challenges facing the Council in future years
- Council tax freeze
- Capital programme

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

- Food festival arrangements
- The Police share of the overall council tax bill
- Inclement weather experienced over recent months and the impact on our services
- Capital programme
- Neighbourhood Plans and industrial land

#### 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 A number of interesting questions were asked by representatives of issues affecting the Council.

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

C1-11/JP/AC  
18 February 2011