

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 7

meeting date: 4 MARCH 2014  
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 2014/15 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 2014/15 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 24 February 2014 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

Mr John Atherton - Whalley Chamber of Trade

RVBC:

Councillors Hirst, Hore, Thompson, T Hill, Holgate and Brown  
Chief Executive, Director of Resources and Head of Revenues & Benefits

- 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:

- How the new Business Rates Retention Scheme works
- The Local Government Finance Settlement and our reduction in funding
- Capital programme
- Revenue budget
- Council tax freeze

- 3.6 A number of questions were asked regarding the community infrastructure levy and also affordable and social housing provision

- 3.8 The representative thanked the Council for the presentation of budget proposals and welcomed this opportunity to discuss the budget and other issues.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 There was a disappointing attendance from representatives of Business Ratepayers. However the statutory meeting provides a useful opportunity for representatives 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

C2-14/JP/AC  
25 February 2014