

MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKING GROUP MEETING

HELD 13 AUGUST 2015

Present: Cllrs: Bibby, T Hill, Hirst (Chair), Hore, Knox, Rogerson and Thompson, Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Director of Community Services, Head of Financial Services.

1 Apologies

None

2 Minutes of meeting held on 9 July 2015

2.1 Members approved the minutes of the last meeting of the Budget Working Group.

3 New Homes Bonus Scheme

3.1 The Director of Resources took members through a report on the New Homes Bonus, giving background to the operation of the scheme and the basis on which the council's funding is calculated.

3.2 The level of use of the New Homes Bonus funding to support the revenue budget was explained, together with details of the use and future commitments for funding the capital programme.

3.3 The in-year movements on the taxbase were provided to members and it was anticipated that once again there would be growth in the council's taxbase.

3.4 The Director of Resources then highlighted the uncertainty of the New Homes Bonus scheme going forward.

3.5 For information, a House of Commons Library document on the New Homes Bonus was given to all members.

4 Business Rates Retention

4.1 The Director of Resources presented a report on the Business Rates Retention Scheme, which included a document from the Local Government Association on the operation of Business Rates Retention and its future operation.

4.2 The mechanics of the Business Rate Retention scheme were explained to members. The outturn position for 2013/14 and 2014/15 were compared and a summary of the forecast on which the council's funding is based (NNDR1) for 2015/16 was discussed.

5 Parish Grants Scheme

5.1 The Chief Executive reported to members on the proposals for the operation of the Ribble Valley Parishes Grant scheme. The report included the proposed application form for the scheme. The focus of the report was on the administrative, financial and selection procedures.

5.2 A discussion took place on the scheme, including confirming details such as:

- Funding would be £3,000 for each parish that precepts, but £5,000 each for Longridge, Whalley and Clitheroe
- Member support would be required for each application
- A number of schemes could be submitted for a parish, totalling the grant level
- There would be a cut-off period for claiming grant once the scheme had been approved
- member support being required for all submitted schemes

5.3 Budget Working Group was in support of the scheme and it was agreed that the scheme should be presented for approval to the next meeting of Policy and Finance committee in September.

6 Any Other Business

6.1 There were items to discuss

7 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Future meetings were planned as:

- Thursday 10 September as 4.30pm (Apologies given by Cllrs: Bibby and Rogerson)