

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 6

meeting date: 6 MARCH 2018
title: STATUTORY BUDGET CONSULTATION WITH BUSINESS RATEPAYER REPRESENTATIVES
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 2018/19 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. 2018/19 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 14 February 2018 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

Mr John Atherton - Whalley Chamber of Trade
Mr Daniel Williams – Clitheroe Chamber of Trade

RVBC:

Councillors: K Hind, A Brown, T Hill, A Knox, S Hirst and J Rogerson
Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Director of Community Services, Head of Financial Services and Head of Revenues and Benefits

- 3.2 The Director of Resources went through the Council's Revenue and Capital proposals for the coming year. She also explained the position regarding the Council Tax both from the Borough's point of view and also the overall Council Tax.
- 3.3 The Director of Resources and the Head of Revenues and Benefits also explained some specific issues regarding Business Rates. These included multiplier changes, the staircase tax budget announcement and the implementation of the business rate relief schemes previously announced by the Chancellor in his 2017 budget.
- 3.4 Business representatives asked a number of questions relating to:
- Issues around business rates avoidance
 - Charges for empty properties
 - The council's plans around economic development
 - Business rates growth
 - Clitheroe Food Festival

3.5 A question was also asked regarding the proposed Clitheroe Market Redevelopment. Councillor K Hind explained progress to date and the latest position.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The statutory meeting provides a useful opportunity for representatives to raise 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

C1-18/JP/AC
23 February 2018