

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No

meeting date: 5 MARCH 2019
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 2019/20 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. 2019/20 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 11 February 2019 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

Mr John Atherton - Whalley Chamber of Trade
Mr Owen Phillips – Clitheroe Chamber of Trade

RVBC:

Councillors Atkinson, A Brown, Swarbrick, Rogerson
Chief Executive, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Director of Resources, Head of Financial Services and Head of Revenues and Benefits.

- 3.2 The Leader of the Council welcomed everyone and explained the background and purpose to the meeting.

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

- The Council's Revenue Budget proposals for 2019/20
- Five year Capital Programme 2019/24
- The Local Government Finance Settlement
- A comparison of the current district band D council tax levels
- Our proposed band D council tax for 2019/20.
- The Borough Council's share of the overall council tax
- Business Rates collected and the Borough Council's share
- Various Business Rate Reliefs including new Retail Discount

- 3.4 The Chief Executive asked if the representatives had any plans to arrange any town centre events in the forthcoming year. A discussion took place regarding the annual Xmas Festival in Clitheroe and also the Pickwick night event in Whalley for which a meeting was due to be held on 25 February 2019.
- 3.5 The Clitheroe Chamber of Trade representative asked a number of questions regarding the Clitheroe Food Festival. A discussion followed regarding views on Sunday openings and pedestrianisation.
- 3.6 The Clitheroe Chamber of Trade asked whether signage could be improved around Clitheroe town centre including directions to car parks. The Chief Executive encouraged both chambers to respond to the forthcoming consultation by LCC regarding charging for on-street parking.
- 3.7 The representatives thanked the Council for the presentation of budget proposals and welcomed this opportunity to discuss the budget and other issues.
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

C1-19/AC
25 February 2019