

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No

meeting date: 5 MARCH 2013  
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 2013/14 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 2013/14 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 25 February 2013 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

Mr John Atherton - Whalley Chamber of Trade  
Mr Martin Hay – Whalley Chamber of Trade

RVBC:

Councillors Thompson, T Hill, Holgate and Brown Chief Executive, Director of Resources.

- 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:

- Changes to how the council would be funded from Business Rates
- The Local Government Finance Settlement and our reduction in funding
- Capital programme
- The revenue budget
- Council tax freeze

- 3.4 Representatives were surprised how little of the Business Rates collected in Ribble Valley would be retained by the Council under the new arrangements.

3.5 They also discussed the Council's Capital Programme and the chairman of Community Committee briefly explained the successful bid to the Government which would result in an extension to the recycling service to provide larger green bins and the collection of food waste.

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

- Business Rates and Reliefs available
- The Police share of the overall council tax bill
- Capital programme

3.7 They also raised concerns regarding car parking in Whalley which was continuing to cause problems for business and shops.

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

#### 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

C2-13/JP/AC  
26 February 2013