

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 8

meeting date: 28 FEBRUARY 2017
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 2017/18 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. 2017/18 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 21 February 2017 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

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

RVBC:

Councillors Thompson, Hill, Hirst and P Elms
Chief Executive, Director of Resources 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 forthcoming changes to Business Rates and in particular the Business Rates revaluation taking place on 1 April 2017.

- 3.4 Business representatives asked a number of questions relating to:

- Small Business Rate Relief
- Rating Agents
- Transitional Relief
- Appeals
- District Valuer Website

- 3.5 The Head of Revenues and Benefits explained in some detail how the revaluation would impact on bills and offered to meet with the Chambers of Trade to explain the changes to their members.

3.6 A question was also asked regarding the proposed Clitheroe Market Redevelopment. Councillor Hill explained where the Council was up to with its consultation and the matter was due to be considered by the Policy and Finance Committee in March.

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

C1-17/JP/AC

22 February 2017