

## Minutes of Emergency Committee

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 23 October 2019 starting at 9.30am  
Present: Councillor S Atkinson (Chairman)

Councillors:

A Brown  
S Hore  
A Knox

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Resources, Director of Economic Development and Planning and Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

### 314 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

### 315 BUSINESS RATE POOLING ARRANGEMENTS 2020/2021

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to consider whether this Council should be a member of a Lancashire Business Rates Pool for 2020/2021 under 50% Business Rate Retention arrangements when the Lancashire 75% Business Rate Pilot ends on 31 March 2020.

She informed Committee that following the Chancellor's announcements at the 2019 Spending Round, it had been made clear by Government officials that 75% pilots would be discontinued for 2020/2021 and that details for pooling arrangements for 2020/2021 under the 50% Business Rate Retention Scheme would be issued.

The lead authorities of pilot pools had been asked to confirm their pooling proposals for 2020/2021 by 25 October 2019. The benefits under a 50% pool were simply that tariff authorities would retain any levy that would otherwise be paid to the Government. The two unitary authorities do not have to pay a levy on their growth.

Given that the districts were all significantly better off under the 75% Lancashire pilot, there was a consensus that lobbying should take place for its continuation and on the 18 September 2019 Section 151 officers sent a letter to Robert Jenrick MP, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government lobbying for the continuation of the Lancashire 75% Business Rate Pilot. Individual authorities had also lobbied their MPs.

Following a meeting of the Governing Body of the Lancashire 75% Pilot on 26 September 2019 it was agreed that lobbying should take place for the continuation of the 75% Pilot and the consensus view was that should the lobbying prove unsuccessful, they would revert to the previous pooling arrangement in Lancashire, bearing in mind the success of the previous pool and that much of the necessary paperwork already existed.

The Director of Resources reminded Committee that in the final year (2018/2019) of the previous 50% pool, this Council had benefitted by £653k and in addition to that had received £20k for carrying out the role of lead authority.

Committee discussed the benefits of being in a Lancashire Business Rate Pool and asked questions with regard to the membership of that pool.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree that Ribble Valley Borough Council should be a member of the new 50% Business Rate Pool for Lancashire based on the Memorandum of Understanding attached to the report; and
2. agree that Ribble Valley Borough Council should be lead authority of that pool.

The meeting closed at 9.50am.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).