

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 6

meeting date: 3 MARCH 2020  
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 2020/21 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. 2020/21 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 12 February 2020 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

Mr John Atherton - Whalley Chamber of Trade

RVBC:

Councillors: S Atkinson, A Brown, S Hirst, J Rogerson

Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Director of Resources, Head of Financial Services and Head of Revenues and Benefits.

RVBC Apologies:

Councillors: S Hore, A Knox and S Fletcher

- 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 2020/21.
- Five-year Capital Programme 2020/25.
- The Local Government Finance Settlement.
- A comparison of the current district band D council tax levels.
- Our proposed band D council tax for 2020/21.
- The Borough Council's share of the overall council tax.
- Business Rates collected and the Borough Council's share.

- Various Business Rate Reliefs including the advance notice that had been received of a new Pub Relief for 2020/21.
- 3.4 There was a discussion on Small Business Rates Relief and the relief taper. Additionally, the new increase in the retail relief was discussed, which was planned to be introduced by the Government in the March budget. The new Pub Relief for 2020/21 was also discussed.
- 3.5 The Whalley Chamber of Trade representative asked a question regarding the Lancashire County Council Social Care Precept. A discussion followed regarding Social Care, the cost pressures within this area and the background to the introduction of the Social Care Precept.
- 3.6 Following the recent flooding on the previous weekend there was a discussion with the Whalley Chamber of Trade representative on how the floods had impacted on residents and businesses in the Whalley area.
- 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

C1-20/AC  
19 February 2020