

# MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKING GROUP MEETING

HELD 14 MAY 2021

1.1 Present: S Atkinson (Chair), A Brown, S Fletcher, S Hore, A Knox, J Rogerson, Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Director of Community Services, Head of Financial Services, Head of Revenues and Benefits.

## 2 Apologies

2.1 Cllr S Hirst, Cllr D Peat and Director of Economic Development and Planning

## 3 Minutes of meeting held on 22 March 2021

3.1 Members approved the minutes of the last meeting of the Budget Working Group.

## 4 Additional Restrictions Grants

4.1 The Director of Resources took members through a report on the latest position with regard to amounts paid to date under the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme. The report also provided an update on the ARG funding allocation awarded to the council and the potential second top-up if certain conditions were met by 30 June 2021.

4.2 Additionally, the report took members through a number of options for awarding further ARG in order to access the second top-up to maximise support for Ribble Valley businesses. Three main options were presented within the report, with a further selection of alternative less favourable options included for discussion.

4.3 There was a lengthy discussion on each of the options put forward and the impact these may have in supporting Ribble Valley businesses.

4.4 There was overwhelming support for Option 3, which was to pay a fixed amount for all types of businesses based on the rateable value of the business premises:

| Rateable Value of Business Premises | ARG Top-Up Grant | No. of Businesses | Extra Cost      |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| No Rateable Value                   | £1,000           | 135               | £135,000        |
| £15,000 or below                    | £4,000           | 107               | £428,000        |
| £15,001 - £50,999                   | £6,000           | 6                 | £36,000         |
| £51,000 or over                     | £9,000           | 1                 | £9,000          |
|                                     |                  |                   | <b>£608,000</b> |

4.5 Also included under this option was a further top-up to the grant received under the Restart Grant Strand One, to go some way to rectifying the considerable difference in support between the two strands under the Government Scheme.

| Rateable Value of Business Premises | Already Paid Strand One: Non Essential Retail | No. of Businesses | Further Top Up | Extra Cost      |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| £15,000 or below                    | £2,667  | 158               | £1,500         | £237,000        |
| £15,001 - £50,999                   | £4,000  | 19                | £2,250         | £42,750         |
| £51,000 or over                     | £6,000  | 3                 | £3,375         | £10,125         |
|                                     |   |                   |                | <b>£289,875</b> |

4.6 The overall position by bringing in Option 3 was summarised as

|   | £                    | £                 |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ARG Allocation so far</b>  |                      | <b>-1,758,631</b> |
| Total ARG already paid  | 844,492              |                   |
| LRSO Open falling on ARG  | 6,561                |                   |
| <b>New One-Off ARG Top Up under Option 3</b>                              | 608,000              |                   |
| <b>New Restart Grant top-up for non-essential business under Option 3</b> | 289,875              |                   |
|   |                      | 1,748,928         |
|   | <b>ARG Remaining</b> | <b>-9,703</b>     |

**5 Any Other Business**

5.1 There were no other items of business.

**6 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

No further meeting was arranged at this time.