

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

meeting date: 7 MARCH 2023
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 (NNDR) representatives about our 2023/24 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.
- 2.2 Invites were sent to Clitheroe Chamber of Trade, Whalley Chamber of Trade and Longridge Business Group.

3. 2023/24 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 22 February 2023 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

Mr John Atherton - Whalley Chamber of Trade
Apologies were received from Clitheroe Chamber of Trade

RVBC:

Councillors S Hore, A Brown, D Peat, S Fletcher
Apologies Councillors S Atkinson, R Newmark
Chief Executive, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Director of Resources, Head of Financial Services and Head of Revenues and Benefits.

- 3.2 The Deputy 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 2023/24
 - Five year Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28
 - The Local Government Finance Settlement
 - A comparison of the current district band D council tax levels
 - Our proposed band D council tax for 2023/24.
 - The Borough Council's share of the overall council tax

- Business Rates collected and the Borough Council's share
- The impact of the new 2023 Business Rate Revaluation effective from 1/4/23
- Various Business Rate Reliefs including Small Business Relief, Transitional Relief, Supporting Small Businesses, Retail and Hospitality Discount

3.4 A discussion took place regarding a number of issues with the Whalley Chamber of Trade representative including:

- Supporting Small Business Rate Relief
- Car Parking in Whalley
- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)
- Rural England Prosperity Fund top up to the UKSPF under which this Council had bid for funding.

3.5 The representative 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 of issues affecting the Council.

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

CJP/AC
23 February 2023