

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

INFORMATION

meeting date: 5 MARCH 2024
title: STATUTORY BUDGET CONSULTATION WITH BUSINESS RATEPAYER REPRESENTATIVES
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: JANE PEARSON

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Council of the meeting with national non-domestic rate (NNDR) representatives about our 2024/25 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. 2024/25 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 This year's meeting was held on 26 February 2024 and present were:

NNDR representatives:

John Atherton - Whalley Chamber of Trade
Anita Orchard - Clitheroe Chamber of Trade

RVBC:

Councillors S Atkinson
(Apologies Councillors S Hore, J Rogerson, S Hirst, S O'Rourke.)
Chief Executive, Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Financial Services and Head of Revenues and Benefits.

- 3.2 The Chief Executive 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 2024/25
- Five year Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29
- The Local Government Finance Settlement
- A comparison of the current district band D council tax levels
- Our proposed band D council tax for 2024/25.
- The Borough Council's share of the overall council tax

- Business Rates collected and the Borough Council's share
 - Various Business Rate Reliefs including Small Business Relief, Transitional Relief, Supporting Small Businesses, Retail and Hospitality Discount, the new Improvement Relief.
- 3.4 A discussion took place regarding a number of issues including:
- Supporting Small Business Rate Relief
 - Castle Street Scheme
 - Empty Properties on the high street in Clitheroe
 - Clitheroe Market Scheme
 - Car Parking
- 3.5 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 of issues affecting the Council.

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

JP /AC
26 February 2024