

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 10 June 2008
title: Ribble Valley Borough Council's Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan June 2008
submitted by: Chief Executive
principal author: Michelle Haworth – Corporate Policy Officer

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the Council's Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan June 2008.

2 RELEVANCE TO THE COUNCIL'S AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES:

- Council Ambitions: The Council's Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan's purpose is to set out the Council's vision and priorities, to outline the main challenges of the next few years, and to indicate how we propose to tackle them. It also provides readers with details of the Council's performance over the last year towards achieving its priorities.
- Community Objectives:
- Corporate Priorities:
- Other Considerations:

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under the duty of Best Value which took effect from April 2000, all local authorities were required to publish an annual Performance Plan before 31 March each year to show the public how they are performing and detail their targets for improvement (the White Paper for Local Government in December 2001 changed the annual date for publication of the full plan to 30 June starting in 2002).
- 3.2 Summary information is still required to be published by 31 March of each year targeting local taxpayers and service users and this is included in the Council Tax leaflet.
- 3.3 Following good practice by many other local authorities last year we took the decision to produce a new document, which combined the Corporate Plan and our Performance Plan into the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan.
- 3.4 With changes to Best Value legislation, all Best Value Performance Indicators, apart from those for Police Authorities, were discontinued in England from 31 March 2008. As a result, the Best Value Performance Indicator User Satisfaction Surveys will also cease. These have been replaced by a new National Indicator set along with a Place survey. The changes to the legislation have also removed the duty to produce an annual Performance Plan.
- 3.5 In the future it will be for local authorities and their partners to report to their citizens and users on their performance during the year, including against the new National Indicator set, as they consider appropriate. However, this year under transition arrangements we will still have a duty to publish our Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPis).

- 3.6 It is proposed that these will be included as an appendix to the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan this year and in the future.
- 3.7 Our Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan intends to set out the strategic direction of the Council for the period 2007 - 2011, providing a focus to ensure that the services we deliver meet the needs of our communities, and reports how we are performing in our priority areas. The Plan has a four-year scope but is reviewed annually to ensure that it continues to reflect changes to our priorities that occur over time.
- 3.8 This plan is still in its draft stages but must be completed to meet the statutory publishing date for BVPI's of 30 June. Text has been highlighted to indicate further work is required or missing data.
- 3.9 The action plans to support the following objectives have yet to be completed as they need to be in line with LAA targets which are still to be confirmed:
- OBJECTIVE – To reduce the levels and perceptions of crime and disorder
 - OBJECTIVE – To increase opportunities for people to access cultural activities
 - OBJECTIVE - To improve the health of people living and working in our area
- 3.10 The action plan to support the objective of 'To provide additional affordable homes throughout the Ribble Valley, particularly in the Rural Communities' is yet to be developed due to the complexity of Ribble Valley's role within the sub-area of Pennine Lancashire – the Multi Area Agreement, Pennine Lancashire Development Company etc...
- 3.11 The final outturn Performance Indicators for 2007/08 and targets will be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and approval on 24 June.
- 3.12 Where possible audited and checked data has been included in the Plan. However, some data may be further corrected following the work of Internal Audit before it is published on 30 June. In addition, some of the performance information has not been collected before this draft was produced. All correct data will be included in the final published document.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1

- Resources: Paper copies of the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan are printed in-house and therefore from within existing budgets. All copies of the plan, which are required to be distributed, are copied onto CD and posted out. This is a more cost effective method of distribution.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal: None
- Political: None
- Reputation: It is important that correct information is available to facilitate decision-making.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Approve the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan.
- 5.2 Delegate the consideration and approval of the final outturn Performance Indicators for 2007/08 and targets to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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Corporate Policy Officer

For further information please ask for Michelle Haworth, extension 4421