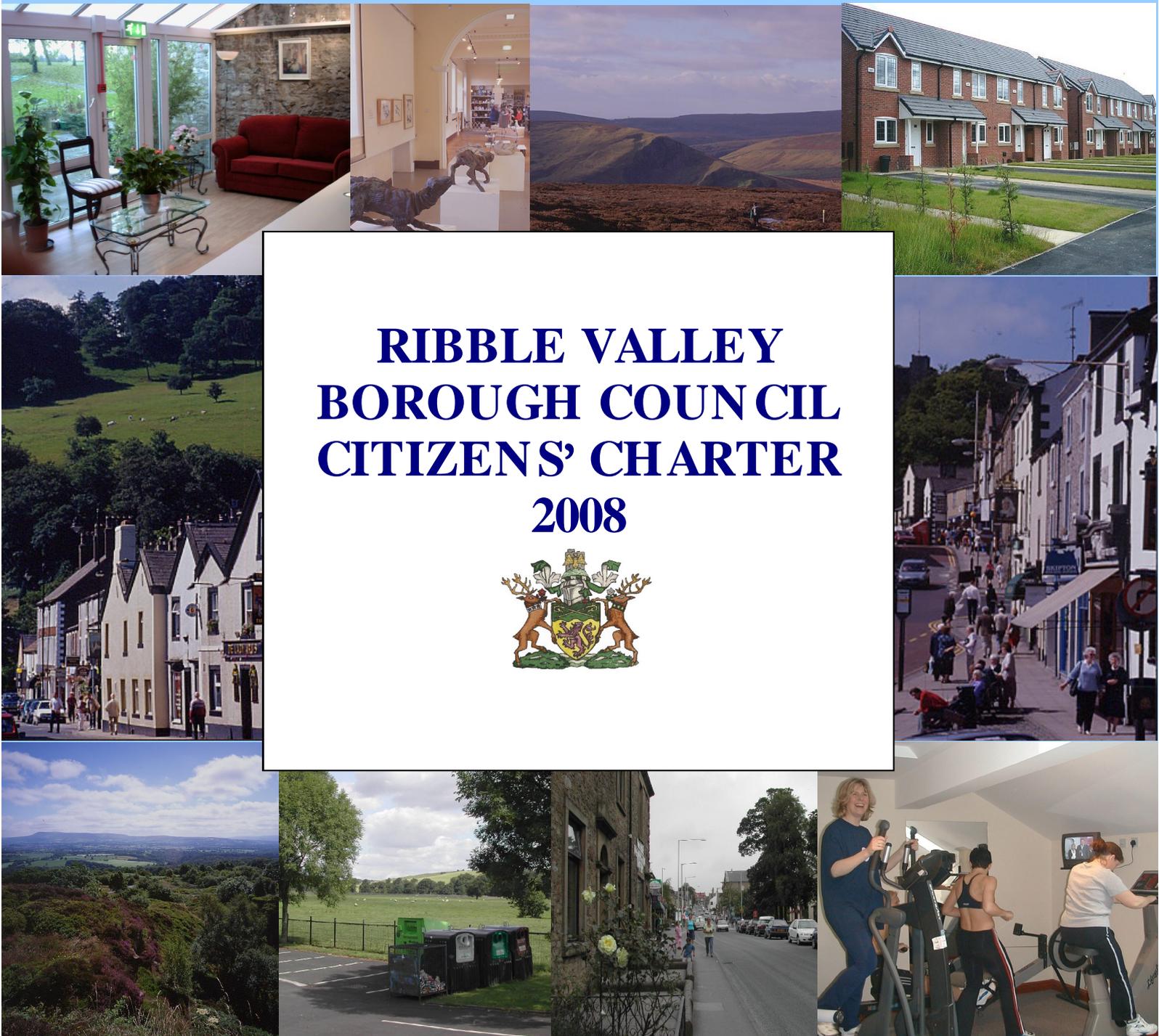


**RIBBLE VALLEY  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CITIZENS' CHARTER  
2008**



**SEPTEMBER 2008**



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## FOREWORD FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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This Charter sets out the standards by which Ribble Valley Borough Council delivers its services to people in the Ribble Valley.

The Council prides itself on the services it provides to the residents, workers and visitors of the Ribble Valley. In the Council's Corporate Performance Assessment report in 2008, the Audit Commission stated that 'public satisfaction with the Council and its services is high'. We are working hard to maintain this reputation, and we constantly strive to achieve high standards across all of our services.

This Charter lists the Service Standards for each area of service delivery. Please feel free to contact us if you feel that the Council is not providing a particular service to the given standard (contact details are provided at the back of this document).

Thank you.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ranson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Michael Ranson - Leader of the Council



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Morris – Chief Executive

## INTRODUCTION

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This is Ribble Valley Borough Council's fourth Citizens' Charter.

### Our Mission Statement and Vision

The Council's MISSION STATEMENT which was adopted in 1988, and last revised in 2006, states:

**“The Council will provide high quality, affordable and responsive public services that develop the social and economic well-being of the Borough whilst safeguarding the rural nature of the area”**

Our VISION, which is shared with the Local Strategic Partnership, remains constant. By no later than 2016 we aim to ensure that Ribble Valley will be:

*“An area with an exceptional environment and quality of life for all; sustained by vital and vibrant market towns and villages acting as thriving service centres meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.”*

We believe that this VISION reflects our shared aim for the Borough, which has the highest quality of environment for those who live here and those who visit the area. It recognises that people must have a high quality of life, that suitable homes are available to meet their diverse needs and that they should be safe and feel safe. People should also be able to access the best services without having to travel long distances to receive them.

This Vision will help us achieve what is expected of a modern, progressive, local authority over the next three years to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Ribble Valley.

### Core Values

In pursuing our priority actions, the Council will continue to deliver the services people want in a fair and consistent manner. Our core values guide and influence our actions as we continuously improve the services we deliver, and so we feel it is important that we explain exactly what our values are. We will:

- Lead the community
- Strive to achieve excellence
- Ensure that access to services is available to all
- Treat everyone equally
- Respect all individuals and their views
- Appreciate and invest in our staff

### A Plan For The Future

The three Ambitions which the Council will achieve for our communities over the next three years are:

- To help make people's lives SAFER AND HEALTHIER
  - especially to ensure that we have safe and trouble-free communities with healthy lifestyles

- To PROTECT AND ENHANCE the existing ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY of our area
  - especially to protect the natural and built environment and ensure that we provide clean streets and open spaces
- To MATCH the SUPPLY OF HOMES in our area with the IDENTIFIED HOUSING NEED
  - especially to ensure that there are sufficient affordable homes for local people who are in need

As we work to meet these ambitions, we also recognise the importance of securing a diverse, sustainable economic base for the Borough, and being a well-managed Council underlies all of our Ambitions.

## **Our Area**

### **The Locality**

Ribble Valley is in the county of Lancashire bordering neighbouring councils in East Lancashire, Craven District Council in North Yorkshire, South Ribble, Preston, Wyre and Lancaster Borough Councils. The administrative centre for the district is the historic market town of Clitheroe. The industrial and commercial centre for the west of the borough is the town of Longridge. The remaining area is mainly rural, ranging from large villages to small hamlets. Some settlements are accessible along the A59 corridor; others are more remote from services and public transport. Along with ancient woodland, biological heritage sites, conservation areas and sites of special scientific interest, two thirds of Ribble Valley is designated as part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

### **Population and Demographics**

According to the 2001 census, the population of the district is 53,960 (although it is now estimated at 58,300 – ONS 2007 mid-year projection), living in 24,561 households (June 2008), of which approximately 25% are in the town of Clitheroe. Ribble Valley has the largest geographical area within Lancashire, covering 226 square miles (583 square kilometres), but the smallest population. Sparsity of population is, therefore, a key feature – on average 100 people per square kilometre, compared with 380 nationally. There has been an increase of 5.2% in the overall population of the district since 1991, and it is predicted to rise by 10.4% over the next 10 years. A relatively small proportion of the population, less than 2%, is from ethnic minority backgrounds. The resident population is relatively old, with a greater than average number of residents over the age of 65 (over 20% compared with a national average of 18%) and consequently a below average number of young people aged 24 and under. Population projections suggest that this imbalance will increase in future.

### **Deprivation and the Local Economy**

Ribble Valley is a relatively affluent area and is ranked 302 out of 354 in the 2007 indices of deprivation for local authority areas in England (with one being the most disadvantaged). No wards figure in the 25% most deprived, but 6 wards do figure within the worst 10% of all English wards under the Access to Services Index, and 1 ward is ranked in the worst 10% of all English wards under the Living Environment Index. However, 13 wards are ranked in the best 5% of all English wards under the Crime Index, with a further 6 in the top 5% for Income, 4 in the top 5% for education, 2 in the top 5% for Living Environment, and 1 in the top 5% under Access to Services. In addition, 8 wards were ranked in the top 5% of all English wards for Income deprivation Affecting Children, and 5 wards were ranked in the top 5% for Income Deprivation Affecting Older People.

Unemployment is well below the national and regional averages and the lowest in the North West (at 2.4% compared with the national average of 5.3%). Earnings are above the national average. However, this masks the structural threat to the area's employment opportunities: the type of jobs available (low skill jobs in declining sectors) and their relatively low pay. Given the rural nature of the area, it is not surprising that agriculture and tourism are important employers. However, recent years have seen major restructuring, within the agricultural/land-based sector in particular. The tourism sector accounts for over 10% of employment, and it is estimated that the total spent by tourists in Ribble Valley each year is in excess of £19.5 million. Additionally there are estimated to be around 2,500 jobs in tourism-related businesses. One of the largest employment sectors in Ribble Valley is manufacturing, which accounts for 23.4% of employment within the borough, and is represented by major national and multi-national companies such as Castle Cement, Johnson Matthey, and BAe Systems. The relatively small number of large employers is complemented by an above average presence of small companies employing 1-4 employees.

A survey undertaken in 2001 showed that Ribble Valley has the second most skilled population in the country after the City of London. However, the survey masks the fact that many of these well-qualified people in high-earning, senior positions commute daily out of the borough, and live in the area because of the high quality environment and the quality of life it offers. This has had the effect of forcing up the price of houses within the borough, putting them well out of the reach of young people/first time buyers. The mean house price in Ribble Valley for the first quarter of 2008 was £261,980, with a lower quartile house price of £137,750 in the last quarter of 2007.

In terms of housing tenure, 81.2% of dwellings are owner occupied, 11.2 % are privately rented and 7.6% are public sector rented. There are currently approximately 365 long-term vacant private dwellings, a figure that we are taking action to reduce. The Council transferred its housing stock to a Registered Social Landlord in April 2008.

## **Financial Context**

For 2008/09 the Council set a General Fund budget of £7.8m. This included modest growth of £117,980, the main items being £43,460 for the additional costs of Three Stream Waste Collection. Furthermore, £16,700 was included for the cost of improvements to Ribblesdale Pool. The Council received £3.7m (Formula Grant) in 2008/09 from the Government to support our revenue expenditure. The net spend per head of population for 2008/09 is £135.76. The Band D Council Tax for 2008/09 was set at £133.33 (an increase of 3.9% on the previous year, still one of the lowest in Lancashire.)

A five year Capital Programme for years 2006 to 2011 was approved, totalling £10.2m. Expenditure is planned for 2008/09 amounting to £1.1m, which includes £134,000 to replace the synthetic sports pitch at Longridge Sports Centre, and £65,000 for the refurbishment of Edisford changing rooms.

## **Political Structure, Management and Human Resources**

Ribble Valley Borough Council has 40 councillors. There are 29 conservatives, 10 liberal democrats and 1 independent. The Council is a '4th option' local authority and operates a committee system. There are 7 service committees, an Overview and Scrutiny committee, an Accounts and Audit committee and a Standards committee. There is also a Parish Council Liaison committee. The Standards committee meets 3 times per year, the Accounts and Audit committee and the Licensing committee each meet 4 times per year, and other committees and the Council meet 6 times per year. There is also a cross-party budget-working group, which advises the Council on budget preparation. The Council employs 270 staff, and services are delivered by 4 departments:

- Chief Executive, responsible for corporate services, human resources, member services and health and safety

- Development, responsible for environmental health, forward planning (including regeneration and countryside) and development and building control
- Community Services, responsible for street scene services (including engineering, parking, CCTV, grounds maintenance, waste management and street cleansing), community development (including crime and disorder, culture, recreation and tourism) and strategic housing services
- Resources, which includes legal services, ICT, finance, revenues and benefits.

The Chief Executive and the three departmental directors form the Corporate Management Team, which meets weekly.

## **Partnerships**

We work with a wide-range of partners in order to achieve our priorities. As a relatively small authority, it is important that we continue to punch above our weight and we are very proactive in this respect, working in partnership to lead on a wide range of issues on behalf of others in the region and sub-region. Our partnerships are also challenging from a geographical perspective as a result of the size and complexity of the county.

We have developed innovative partnerships more locally with Lancashire County Council (LCC), with neighbouring authorities and with other agencies on a broad range of issues to progress community leadership, service delivery and crosscutting matters:

- As an active member of the Lancashire Waste Partnership (LWP) since its formation, the Council has helped to lead the environmental revolution that has seen recycling performance increase dramatically across the county
- We are one of seven partners in the County Council-led Lancashire Shared Services Contact Centre (SSCC) project that has procured a shared Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system that will transform the quality of customer service across the County over the next 12 months
- We are a founder member of the East Lancashire e-Partnership (ELeP), which is recognised nationally for its work on both procurement, and electronic forms of consultation
- We play a key role in Ribble Valley Strategic Partnership and its themed groups
- The Council is involved in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on a range of activities to reduce crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, and to encourage community engagement to achieve this reduction. The emerging Pennine Lancashire Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) includes Ribble Valley, the neighbouring five East Lancashire councils and the Lancashire County Council. The MAA will provide a framework for ongoing strategic collaboration between the 6 local authorities in key areas where a sub-regional approach makes sense. This is 1 of only 13 partnerships throughout the country which has recently been supported by the government Department for Communities and Local Government.
- We are partners in a successful Ribble Valley Lancashire Local initiative with the County Council.

We also recognise that, as a small district council, our capacity is limited and others are sometimes better placed than ourselves to meet the needs of our local communities. We therefore work with a wide range of organisations to build capacity and deliver services, including the voluntary and community sector and local communities themselves.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

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Ribble Valley Borough Council provides services for over 58,000 residents, 2,720 VAT registered businesses, and for the thousands of visitors to the area. The main services we provide are:

- emptying the bins
- kerbside collection of recyclable materials
- local recycling centres
- cleaning the streets
- managing CCTV systems in Clitheroe and Whalley
- maintenance of parks, open spaces, Ribblesdale Pool and sports facilities
- support to town and parish councils
- grants to sporting and voluntary groups
- supporting the arts and encouraging tourism in our area
- collecting council tax and business rates
- mobile van information and collection office
- assessing and paying benefit claims
- developing long term plans for the Ribble Valley
- determining planning and building regulation applications
- cemetery services, including a woodland burial area
- public toilets
- enforcing food safety and health and safety standards
- controlling fly tipping, graffiti and dog fouling
- pest control and dealing with stray dogs
- licensing of taxis, food premises, pubs and clubs, street traders and public entertainment
- making sure that everyone can vote if they are entitled to do so
- meeting the identified housing needs across the Borough
- providing local land charge searches and maintenance of the local land charge register
- enforcing on-street and off-street car parking regulations
- provision of Clitheroe Market
- provision of emergency planning guidance and advice to local businesses and residents

## STATISTICS

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We collect refuse from **OVER 24,500** domestic properties every week

We dealt with **151** complaints relating to dog fouling, **225** complaints about noise pollution, **6** dangerous dogs and **31** stray dogs in 2007/08

Our main cashiers desk deals with **OVER 800** PEOPLE PER WEEK, and our mobile cashiers office sees **OVER 200** PEOPLE PER WEEK

We inspected **431** FOOD PREMISES in 2007/08 – 100% of our programme for the year



We provide and maintain **77** DOG WASTE BINS within the borough

We answer **OVER 300** TELEPHONE CALLS to our contact centre every day

There were **OVER 124,000** VISITS to Ribblesdale Swimming Pool and **OVER 39,000** USERS of Longridge Sports Centre in 2007/08



We license **50** TAXIS and **OVER 100** PRIVATE HIRE CARS



Our Tourist Information Centre dealt with **OVER 93,000** VISITORS AND ENQUIRIES in 2007/08

We deal with **OVER 1,800** BUILDING REGULATION APPLICATIONS every year

We processed **1,627** LOCAL LAND CHARGE SEARCHES in 2007/08



We determined **OVER 1,000** PLANNING APPLICATIONS in 2007/08

## SERVICE STANDARDS

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### Emptying the bins

We will:

- Collect household waste from domestic properties on a weekly basis
- Provide an assisted collection service to residents subject to their personal circumstances
- Collect, free of charge, and within 10 working days of being asked, any bulky items of household waste such as settees, tables, beds etc, but excluding any waste arising from building or property renovation works
- Empty all litter bins at least once a week, with those in busy areas being emptied more frequently
- Empty all dog waste bins at least once a week, with those used heavily being emptied more frequently
- Collect, on request, trade waste from commercial properties on a weekly basis at charges set annually by the Council



### Kerbside collection of recyclables

We will:



- Collect mixed, dry recyclables (glass, plastic bottles and cans) from domestic properties on an alternate weekly basis
- Collect garden waste suitable for composting on an alternate weekly basis
- Collect waste paper from domestic properties on a fortnightly basis

### Local recycling centres

We will:

- Empty the containers on the local recycling centres as needed



## Cleaning the streets

We will:

- Litter-pick the streets in the town centre of Clitheroe and Longridge on a daily basis
- Mechanically sweep the streets in town centres and high density residential areas on a 6-weekly cycle
- Mechanically sweep all other streets and main roads on a 13 week cycle
- Remove fly tipped waste and large accumulations of litter within 2 working days of being notified
- Prosecute people who fly-tip where there is sufficient evidence to do so

## Public conveniences

We will:

- Clean all of our public conveniences on a daily basis



## Parking enforcement

We will:

- Carry out enforcement of pay and display car parks and roads, on a daily basis, where traffic regulations are in place

## Managing CCTV systems in Clitheroe and Whalley



We will:

- Monitor the camera system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year
- Use the information gained to help the Police in the execution of their duties as requested

## Parks and open spaces

We will:

- Cut the grass in our parks and open spaces regularly
- Maintain children's play areas so they are safe to use



## Ribblesdale Pool and sports facilities



We will:

- Maintain or increase our current 'Quest' score at Ribblesdale Pool (assessed annually)
- Operate a cleaning programme in our centres which ensures good levels of cleanliness at all times
- Provide secure and clean changing facilities for all of our customers
- Maintain or improve current satisfaction levels across all areas of the service
- Achieve our target of increasing participation amongst adults by 1% each year

## Grants to sporting and voluntary groups

We will:

- Provide recreational, cultural and sports excellence grants to help both individuals, organisations and communities with the costs of training and competing

## Supporting the arts

We will:

- Organise at least 3, public, arts workshops each year
- Encourage arts activity and appreciation throughout the borough via our education scheme, providing at least 4 workshops per year to local schools
- Arrange a minimum of 8 exhibitions each year at the Platform Gallery
- Meet the annual targets and conditions placed on us within key partnerships in order to ensure funding for all schemes



## Encouraging tourism in our area



We will:

- Operate a local tourist information centre and provide accommodation and theatre booking services for visitors and local residents
- Ensure that our annual inspection grade will be the same or higher than the previous year, guaranteeing customer satisfaction across all aspects of our service
- Manage visitor flow through marketing and promoting off-peak periods, guidebooks and visitor trails
- Encourage the Ribble Valley Tourism Association and work closely with other organisations developing tourism

- Support local tourism providers by helping them promote their business or products

### **Collecting council tax and business rates**

We will:

- Process applications for Council Tax exemptions and discounts within 20 days
- Process applications for Business Rate exemptions and discounts within 7 days
- Process applications for Business Rate relief within 7 days
- Apply all changes in circumstances within 7 days
- Issue new and amended bills within 4 days of processing a change

### **Assessing and paying benefit claims**

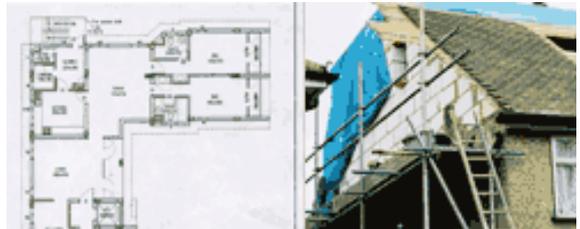
We will:

- Process new claims for Housing and Council Tax Benefit within 23 days
- Process notifications of changes in circumstances within 10 days

### **Determining Building Regulation applications**

We will:

- Offer pre-submission advice on means of escape in case of fire and access/facilities for the disabled, identifying problem areas if plans do not comply with regulations
- Review and suggest minor amendments to plans
- Provide a 24 hour answering service, with enquiries to be dealt with on the next working day
- Acknowledge all building regulations applications within 4 working days of receipt
- Issue a decision on applications within 5 weeks of acceptance, or 8 weeks where agreed
- Respond to all reports of dangerous buildings and structures within 24 hours, and ensure owners make them safe. In appropriate cases, we will authorise work to remove dangerous conditions and take necessary follow up action
- Respond to building notice submissions within 4 working days of starting work
- Guarantee a same day response to all requests for an inspection received before 10:00am
- Accept telephone calls asking for an inspection of work, except for commencement and completion stages
- Issue a completion certificate within 7 days of a satisfactory completion, on request



## Determining planning applications

We will:

- Advertise appropriate planning applications in the local newspapers within 2 weeks of registration
- Inform applicants and objectors about the progress of planning applications when requested, and aim to make details available on our website
- Provide a duty planning officer to give general planning advice without the need for an appointment
- Acknowledge all comments on planning applications within 48 hours of receipt
- Ensure parish councils receive copies of all planning applications parish
- Publicise planning applications using national guidelines as a minimum standard
- Send out decision notices within 3 working days after the relevant Planning and Development Committee
- Reply to and investigate enforcement complaints within 3 working days and continue to keep the complainant informed
- Deal with requests for copy decision notices within one week of receipt of payment



## Development planning, regeneration, and countryside management

We will:

- Acknowledge enquiries and correspondence, as appropriate, within 48 hours of receipt
- Provide a range of opportunities to involve residents and interest groups in the formulation of planning policy
- Respond to requests for advice on planning policy within 10 working days
- Respond to all land use enquiries within 5 working days of their receipt and deal with enquiries about development plans, population and housing statistics in 10 working days
- Respond to all non-emergency countryside and tree management enquiries within 10 working days
- Send an initial response to 'high hedge' complaints within 3 working days
- Respond to all regeneration and economic development enquiries within 10 working days



## Cemetery services - including the woodland burial area



We will:

- Provide a sympathetic and confidential service for the bereaved, offering the option of woodland burial
  - Carry out burials according to statutory requirements
  - Take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and welfare of visitors to the cemetery
  - Adopt environmentally-sensitive practices where possible
- Offer the chance to buy a limited number of commemorative trees in the cemetery arboretum
  - Offer guidance on memorials allowed at the cemetery and give sympathetic consideration to individual requests
  - Maintain the grounds to a high standard
  - Oversee the upkeep of 'closed' churchyards which are our responsibility

## Enforcing food safety, licensed premise, and health and safety standards

We will:

- Periodically monitor the 800 food premises in the borough according to the degree of risk
- Respond to public complaints about poor food hygiene practices or unfit food within 2 working days
- Investigate outbreaks of food borne disease immediately to identify the source and prevent further spread
- Periodically assess and monitor the 1,100 work places within the borough according to the degree of risk for health and safety in the workplace
- Respond immediately to notified major accidents reported in the workplace
- Respond to complaints relating to health and safety in the workplace within 2 working days
- Periodically assess and regulate 2,500 premises and employees in relation to smoke-free workplace legislation
- Periodically assess and monitor the 300 licensed premises within the borough according to the degree of risk
- Respond to complaints relating to licensed premises within 2 working days



## Environmental protection and pollution prevention

We will:

- Respond to complaints which have an environmental health significance within 2 working days
- Regulate premises and processes registered with, permitted, or licensed by the Council, consistent with the degree of risk
- Periodically assess other regulatory bodies and local businesses in an effort to minimise emissions and impact on the environment and the local community
- Periodically assess and monitor local air quality, where necessary, in line with government guidance

## Controlling graffiti and illegal tipping



We will:

- Remove graffiti from our buildings and street furniture within 5 working days of notification
- Take action to identify and prosecute all fly tipping offenders

## Pest Control and dealing with stray dogs

We will:

- Respond to Pest Control complaints (infestations of rats, mice and other pests of public health significance) within 2 working days
- Respond to requests for Dog Warden services within 2 working days
- Make arrangements for the seizure and acceptance of stray dogs in accordance with national guidance, the dogs then being held for a maximum of 7 days (to be returned to owner on payment of a fee) prior to disposal
- Seek to minimise dog fouling throughout the borough by providing regular enforcement patrols
- Promote responsible dog ownership through the production of educational literature and increasing awareness through delivering presentations to schools

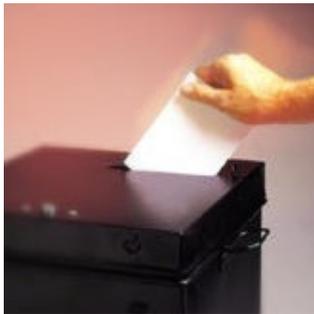


## **Licensing hackney and private hire vehicles, and also persons and premises, under the Licensing Act 2003**

We will:

- Enforce the conditions under which hackney and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators are licensed on a regular basis
- Process applications under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 in accordance with the timescales laid down by the Act

## **Making sure that everyone can vote if they are entitled to do so**



We will:

- Carry out an annual canvass for the register of electors
- Encourage people to apply under the rolling registration provisions when they move into the area
- Advertise the availability of postal and proxy votes at election time

## **Meeting the identified housing need across the Borough**

We will:

- Aim to deliver 50 units of affordable housing across the Borough each year
- Provide grant assistance to landlords as requested to ensure affordable private rented properties are available
- Maintain an affordable housing register to ensure households are aware of any new affordable developments
- Maintain housing needs information for each parish in the Borough, which is no more than 3 years old
- Provide housing advice to all households at risk of becoming homeless and aim to prevent homelessness
- Provide disabled facilities grants to enable households to remain in their own home and enjoy reasonable use of their property
- Offer an equity release product to assist homeowners to maintain their property
- Respond to domestic environmental health complaints within 2 working days
- Work in partnership with the Council's planning department to maximise the number of affordable units on any new housing development
- Aim to bring 20 empty properties back into use each year



## **Local land charge searches and maintenance of local land charge register**

We will:

- Aim to process standard searches within 10 working days and personal searches promptly
- Receive searches electronically in addition to postal applications



## **Personnel Services**

We will:

- Send out job application forms within 2 working days of a request
- Respond to all applications, whether successful or not, within 7 working days of the appointment being made

## **Payment of creditors**

We will:

- Pay all of our undisputed invoices for commercial goods and services within 30 days of receiving the invoice or within the agreed payment terms

## **Committee Services**

We will:

- Ensure that agendas for all committee meetings will be available on our website at least 5 working days before the meeting
- Publicise minutes of all committee meetings on our website within 7 working days of the meeting being held



## **Dealing with public enquiries**

We will:

- Process Freedom of Information Act requests for information within 20 working days
- Aim to answer all telephone calls to our Contact Centre within 20 seconds; all other telephone calls within 10 seconds
- Reply to, or acknowledge, all letters within 5 working days
- Ensure that all personal callers will not have to wait more than 5 minutes to be seen

## Clitheroe Market



We will:

- Provide a vibrant and balanced general retail market 3 days per week, and a flea/collector's market 1 day per week
- Encourage and promote the supply of local produce
- Ensure that our market is maintained to a high standard and cleaned at least after each market day
- Recover and recycle cardboard arising from the market

## Emergency planning

We will:

- Co-ordinate and share information with appropriate national, regional and local agencies, utilities and organisations, to ensure an effective and integrated response
- Assess local risks and use this to inform emergency planning
- Put in place appropriate emergency plans
- Co-ordinate the authority's Business Continuity Management arrangements as necessary
- Make information available to the public about civil protection matters as necessary
- Provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management
- Actively encourage organisers of significant 'outdoor' events to be safe, considerate and successful

## COMPLAINTS

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The complaints procedure is aimed at making it easier to complain, and also to help provide better services. It is not intended to cover requests for services or information, or to deal with matters that have their own legal remedy, for example, housing benefit appeals. If you are unhappy with the service you receive, please contact the appropriate department, or the Chief Executive, using the contact details given below.

We will:

- Respond to all complaints made in person, by telephone, by letter, by email or via your councillor
- Provide a full written response within 10 working days
- If you remain unhappy following our response to your original complaint, we may refer you to a Complaints Appeal Panel to review your case. Alternatively, the authority reserves the right to direct the complainant to the Local Government Ombudsman

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A SERVICE FROM US WHICH DOES NOT REACH OUR STANDARDS

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- **Write to:**

The Chief Executive  
Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Church Walk  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
BB7 2RA



01200 425111



01200 414488



[www.ribblevalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk)



[ce@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:ce@ribblevalley.gov.uk)

- **Office opening hours:** Monday – Friday 8:45am – 5:00pm
- **Reception facilities are found on:**

### Level B

### General Enquiries

- Cashiers Desk
- Council Tax
- Housing and Council Tax Benefits
- Tourist Information Centre
- Three Stream Waste Collection enquiries

## Level C      **Community, Corporate and Legal Services**

- Strategic Housing
- Business Waste Collection enquiries
- Licensing
- Land Charges
- Elections and Electoral Registration
- Community Safety
- Sports, Leisure and Recreation
- Arts and Heritage
- Street Scene
- Corporate Services
- Forward Planning and Regeneration

## Level D      **Development Services**

- Development Control
- Building Control
- Environmental Health

- **Out of hours services:**

The Council operates an out-of-hours service to deal with emergencies. The number to ring is: 01200 444448

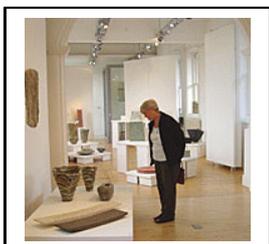
- **The Council's other facilities are:**



- Ribblesdale Pool - Edisford Road, Clitheroe ☎  
01200 424825



- Longridge Sports Centre - Preston Road, Longridge ☎  
01772 784474



- Platform Gallery - Station Road, Clitheroe ☎  
01200 443071



**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME  
TO READ OUR CHARTER**

## Let us know what you think

There may well be issues that concern you that we have not covered in detail in our Charter. These may be addressed in one of our related policy or strategy documents. These are available on our website, or via our Corporate Services Unit. Please contact the Corporate Services Unit on 01200 414421, and we will ensure that your queries are answered. The Council is very interested to hear your views/comments on any of its services.

This document is available in **large print** and other formats on request. Please contact the Corporate Services Unit on the above number if this is required.



Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Church Walk  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
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