

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 24th March 2009
 title: Ribble Valley Locality Plan 2009
 submitted by: Chief Executive
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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report provides information on the Ribble Valley Locality Plan. Locality plans summarise the activities of the different tiers of local government working together in a defined area. The Ribble Valley Locality Plan (RVLP) identifies the main activities being delivered within the Borough during 2009/10 grouped into six pre-agreed areas. A draft has been developed that, subject to approval, will be designed ready for publication in Spring 2009.

2 RELEVANCE TO THE COUNCIL'S AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES:

- Council Ambitions: The Ribble Valley Locality Plan is centred around the Borough and County Council's ambitions, objectives and priorities for the borough.
- Community Objectives:
- Corporate Priorities:
- Other Considerations:

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The concept for locality plans arose directly from the vision articulated in the work in progress document Transforming Local Government in Lancashire. This was produced jointly by a working group of policy officers from the County Council and district councils in response to the call of the Local Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities, (DCLG October 2006) which stated that:

“the status quo is not an option in two-tier areas if councils are to achieve the outcomes for place shaping service delivery that communities expect and deliver substantial efficiency improvements.”

- 3.2 Transforming Local Government in Lancashire was endorsed by all the Lancashire councils and submitted to DCLG in January 2007. In summary the overall objective is to improve the way in which local government across Lancashire works together to deliver better outcomes for local people. The document stated that one of the ways of improving working arrangements between the two tiers would be for:

“each district to develop a locality plan to set out the key activities on an annual basis of both tiers of local government towards the district Community Strategy objectives. This will lead to stronger leadership of place at a district level.”

- 3.3 The purpose of locality plans is two-fold: -

- To inform citizens of the major services being delivered by local government in their area.
- To better understand the respective roles of individual partners (Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council) in delivering services to the citizens of Ribble Valley.

- 3.4 In areas where locality plans have been developed, it is widely recognised that the most beneficial aspect of locality plans is the process of producing them.

- 3.5 The Borough Council agreed to produce a locality plan in March 2008. In May 2008 a meeting of relevant officers from both councils developed the concept and agreed the structure. The Ribble

Valley Lancashire Local received a report and approved the concept of producing a Locality Plan at their meeting of 4th June 2008.

4 FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE RIBBLE VALLEY LOCALITY PLAN

- 4.1 To date five district councils within Lancashire have developed locality plans for their area. Ribble Valley are on course to be the sixth and three others are in the process of preparing theirs. Each district has developed their plan in a different way according to their local circumstances. Some of the key issues to consider are discussed below.
- 4.2 Structure – plans can be limited to a concise, ‘public-facing’ summary only, or include a more detailed, supporting document providing detailed information about the services provided and identifying the links to other source documents. It has been agreed that the RVLP will comprise a colourful, concise summary for the public, but will also be supported by an action plan for internal use detailing the accountability for delivering each of the specified actions.
- 4.3 Content – the Ribble Valley Locality Plan is structured around six key initiatives and themes namely:
 - Health and Well-being
 - Access to Services (including issues addressing rural deprivation and isolation)
 - Children & Young People
 - Asset Management
 - Waste Management
 - Clitheroe Castle

5 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Further to the initial approval to the concept to produce a Locality Plan, officers from both the Borough Council and the County Council have been working together to develop the plan.
- 5.2 Drafts have been produced and reported to Lancashire Local – Ribble Valley for comments, and in order to reflect the role of parishes, the Parish Council Liaison Committee have also been asked for their comments.
- 5.3 This work has culminated in the production of a draft plan, which is attached at Appendix A in a mocked-up layout. The plan is now being subjected to professional type-setting and design to produce an ‘eye-catching’ poster for the summary, ‘public-facing’ document prior to publication. As part of this process the document will be subject to a Plain English check. Funding for this will be met jointly from Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council. (It is hoped that the final plan will be available for circulation at this meeting).
- 5.4 It has been agreed that the final plan is subject to approval by Policy and Finance Committee, Lancashire Local – Ribble Valley (1st April 2009), and Lancashire County Council Cabinet (2nd April 2009).
- 5.5 The Locality Plan will be monitored by each respective authority on an ongoing basis and will be reviewed jointly after six months. Any additional resources identified at that time will need to be agreed by the appropriate authority before actions can be implemented.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 Within Ribble Valley Borough Council all service managers and senior officers whose service areas are referred to in the Locality Plan have been consulted and agreed to the relevant proposals. Lancashire County Council has also undertaken a thorough consultation of service managers.

7 RISK ASSESSMENT

- Resources: (a) Financial – Production of a Locality Plan is expected to have minimal financial impact. The only additional cost will be that needed to cover the production of a small number of summary plans (posters) for displaying in public areas. Lancashire County Council has agreed to

share these costs on a 50:50 basis with Ribble Valley Borough Council. (b) Staff – The Plan will be produced within existing staffing resources.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal: None
- Political: None
- Reputation: Active collaboration in improving two/three tier working within Lancashire will improve the quality of information provided to citizens of the Borough and demonstrate the Councils' commitment to embracing the Government's modernisation agenda for local government.
- Implications: e.g. Financial, Legal, Personnel, Human Rights, Crime and Disorder or Other: This item has the following implications - The projects within the Locality Plan are already identified within the Borough Council's corporate planning framework and therefore already have sources of finance identified. However, the report highlights the possibility of further calls for resources which the Council will have to consider in the light of priorities at the time.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The Committee is recommended to approve the Ribble Valley Locality Plan for 2009/2010 (as attached to this agenda).

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For further information please ask for Michelle Haworth, extension 4421

**List of Appendices
Appendix 1: Draft Locality Plan for Ribble Valley 2009/10**