

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2009
title: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
submitted by: STEWART BAILEY - DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To confirm the Annual Monitoring Report and agree its submission to the Secretary of State.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will inform the delivery and measure the success of the Council's planning policies. It will help in protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment and delivery of affordable housing.
- Community Objectives – As a monitoring tool for spatial policy, it will provide a basis with which to identify how a range of issues relating to the objectives of a sustainable economy, thriving market towns and housing will be addressed through the planning system.
- Corporate Priorities - The AMR will provide a management tool to monitor progress and will aid performance and consistency.
- Other Considerations – The Council has a statutory duty to prepare the annual report.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The approach to development plans introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to develop monitoring systems to assess both the effectiveness of its local development documents and progress in meeting the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The intention is that progressively the AMR process will identify if policies are working, how policies may need to be adjusted or deleted and new policies introduced. The AMR reports on the Local Development Scheme (LDS) that assists in identifying areas where resources may need to be diverted to meet targets or the timeframe be adjusted.

2.2 Legislation requires an AMR report be submitted to Government Office by the 31st December 2009. This report covers the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 and brings together a range of indicators that were established in the council's first AMR. Each year the Council must monitor against a set of Core Output Indicators, which are set by the department of Communities and Local Government (CLG). Last year CLG published a new set of indicators under '*Core Output Indicators- Update 2/2008*' which

modified, deleted and created new indicators to ensure the relevance of the Core Output Indicators remained relevant and effective. In response to this, the local, output and contextual indicators, which are set by Ribble Valley, were modified where appropriate and in some incidences new indicators have been introduced and others removed where the information presented has no value.

2.3 Policy monitoring is based on the existing Districtwide Local Plan and will also help build information on which policies continue the need to be saved or can be deleted in future years. This also informs future changes to the LDS. This is the fifth AMR to be submitted and continues with the format of the two previous year's AMR which established a new design of the report, presenting the information in thematic chapters, i.e. Chapter 4: Housing, Chapter 5: Retail, etc. Since the publication of last year's AMR in this new format, it has proved to be a valuable resource in making specific information easy to find. As a result it is now more accessible to a variety of users. As the report is quite large a copy of the report is being sent under separate cover to all members of Planning and Development Committee. A copy will also be available for reference in the Level D Members room and on the council's web site.

2.4 The Local Development Scheme was adopted and became operative from April 2005. Revisions have been previously considered as part of a continual monitoring process. Whilst this AMR deals with the period April 2008 to March 2009, Government Office have asked that authorities review progress on the LDS to the present to identify slippage and need for further revision. The AMR is intended to monitor the most recent adopted AMR, usually produced in March of the AMR publishing year. However, due to changes in the Town and Country Planning Act Regulations in 2008, Government Office advised LPAs to delay producing a revised LDS until the new Regulations were in place. As a result, the most recent adopted LDS, and therefore the LDS that this year's AMR monitors against, is still the version published in April 2007. Members will be aware however that a new LDS has been prepared and is awaiting the process of formal approval by GONW and publication. Reference needs to be made to that more recent work to gain the most up to date position with the programme.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – No immediate implications as a result of this report.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The AMR is a statutory requirement. It will inform future policy development.
- Political – No direct political implications.
- Reputation – The Council's desire on how to proceed may affect its reputation, as it would not meet the requirements of legislation.

4 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 4.1 Authorise the Director of Development Services to submit the AMR to Government Office in accord with statutory requirements.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide – ODPM March 2005.
2. Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Framework Core Output Indicators- Update 2/2008 – CLG July 2008.
3. Ribble Valley Borough Council - Annual Monitoring Reports, December 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

For further information please ask for Diane Cafferty, extension 4551.