

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO
POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 8th June 2010
 title: Ribble Valley Locality Plan 2010
 submitted by: Chief Executive
 principal author: Michelle Haworth – Principal Policy and Performance Officer

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To approve the Ribble Valley Locality Plan for 2010. 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 2010/11 grouped under People, Place and Prosperity. A draft has been developed that, subject to approval, will be ready for publication in Summer 2010.

2 RELEVANCE TO THE COUNCIL'S AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES:

- Council Ambitions: The Ribble Valley Locality Plan is centred around the
- Community Objectives: Borough and County Council's ambitions, objectives and
- Corporate Priorities: priorities for the borough.
- 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 first 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 first Ribble Valley Locality Plan was produced in March 2009.

4 FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE RIBBLE VALLEY LOCALITY PLAN

- 4.1 Structure – the plan has been limited to a concise, ‘public-facing’ summary, which includes a more detailed, supporting internal document providing detailed information about the services provided and identifying the links to other source documents and detailing the accountability for delivering each of the specified actions.
- 4.2 Content – the Ribble Valley Locality Plan is structured around three headings and a number of priorities have been identified below each:
- **People**
 - Support and help older or vulnerable people
 - Build capacity of the Children’s Trust
 - Promote and develop civic pride and local democracy
 - Improve community engagement
 - Improve access to services
 - Actively explore opportunities to tap into 'social capital', volunteering and local lobbying
 - **Place**
 - Improve street cleanliness
 - Winter maintenance
 - Develop allotment space
 - Improve the environment and local sustainability
 - Improve and expand culture, arts and leisure opportunities
 - **Prosperity**
 - Develop Town Centre Plans for Longridge and Whalley
 - Explore what we do as local employers in terms of work experience, apprenticeships etc

5 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Officers from both the Borough Council and the County Council have been working together to develop the plan. This work has culminated in the production of a final draft plan, which is attached at Appendix A.
- 5.2 The plan will be reported to the Parish Council Liaison Committee on 10th June 2010 for comments in order to reflect the role of parishes.
- 5.3 It has been agreed that the final plan is subject to approval by Lancashire County Council’s Deputy Leader’s decision-making session on 1 July 2010.
- 5.4 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: The Plan will be produced within existing resources. 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.
- 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.
- Implications: e.g. Legal, Personnel, Human Rights, Crime and Disorder or Other: None

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The Committee is recommended to approve the Ribble Valley Locality Plan for 2010/11 (as attached to this agenda).

Michelle Haworth
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For further information please ask for Michelle Haworth, extension 4421

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Locality Plan for Ribble Valley 2010/11

RIBBLE VALLEY LOCALITY PLAN 2010 – 2011

Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council recognise that there are tough times ahead for both authorities - we're going to have reduced budgets and resources but we still aim to deliver high quality services. Here are some of our joint, local priorities and examples of how we'll strive to achieve them together over the next year.

Our overarching priority is: **working more closely together to get the most effective and efficient delivery of services that we can.**

PEOPLE

Priority: Support and help older or vulnerable people

- Work together with appropriate partners to improve access to information and advice about council and community based services
- Carry out a Health Needs Assessment (including a survey involving older citizens) in eight rurally isolated villages

Priority: Build capacity of the Children's Trust

- Continue development of the Youth Forum
- Approve the Statement of Commitment between Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council for the Children's Trust

Priority: Promote and develop civic pride and local democracy

- Build on good contacts within schools to increase and develop understanding of local democracy
- Co-ordinate and promote events and information for Local Democracy Week

Priority: Improve community engagement

- Work with partners to develop, launch and promote an interactive community engagement website
- Improve links between both authorities in terms of joint promotions, including, where possible, via the free public access computers in libraries

Priority: Improve access to services

- Install and make available the Telly Talk "virtual face to face" service at Clitheroe Library
- Launch the multi-agency bus, providing increased access to services in rural areas

Priority: Actively explore opportunities to tap into 'social capital', volunteering and local lobbying

- Introduce a Voluntary Sector Hub in Clitheroe
- Promote volunteer opportunities (including traditional countryside skills, help with environmental and community projects, in libraries etc)

PLACE

Priority: Improve street cleanliness

- Work together through the Public Realm Integration Project to improve street cleanliness by concentrating on weed control
- Continue to support parish lengthsman scheme
- Priority: Winter maintenance
- Develop joint winter maintenance strategy delivered by Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council, together with Parish and Town Councils where appropriate

Priority: Develop allotment space

- Support the development of additional allotment space in collaboration with Groundwork Pennine Lancashire

Priority: Improve the environment and local sustainability

- Implement Ribble Valley Borough Council's Environmental Action Plan
- Hold and promote events to support the 'Buy, Eat, Live Local' ethos and link with the 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaign
- Identify any feasible sites for hydro electric power generation in Ribble Valley

Priority: Improve and expand culture, arts and leisure opportunities

- Promote Bowland Arts Festival in 2010
- Work together to develop opportunities to engage local people in creative activity

PROSPERITY

Priority: Develop Town Centre Plans for Longridge and Whalley

Priority: Explore what we do as local employers in terms of work experience, apprenticeships etc

- Work together to offer and provide work placements, work experience opportunities and apprenticeships where appropriate
- Offer work experience opportunities for local students in the environmental sector taking in volunteering, practical conservation and the aims and work of the Forest of Bowland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and partners
- Lancashire Green Tourism project to continue to offer training and support to Ribble Valley tourism operators to gain - and retain - Green Tourism Awards

