# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.12

meeting date: 8 SEPTEMBER 2015

title: DECISIONS OF EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE principal author: MARSHAL SCOTT

#### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of recent decisions of the Emergency Committee.

#### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's Standing Orders allow me to call an Emergency Committee if there is urgent business that cannot wait for a scheduled meeting of the Council or one of its meetings.
- 2.2 I called an Emergency Committee on 13 August 2015 to deal with two items that I judged fell into the category of urgent business.

Those items were:-

- 1] Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission consultation on the Electoral Review of Lancashire deadline 31 August 2015;
- 2] Tour of Britain Cycle Race 7 September 2015 revised budget.
- 2.3 The Council's Standing Orders state that the decisions of the Emergency Committee should be reported to the next meeting of the appropriate committee.
- 3 DECISIONS OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE 13 AUGUST 2015
- 3.1 The Emergency Committee considered a report on the Electoral Review of Lancashire and the implications for the position in Ribble Valley. In particular the electoral forecast for the Ribble Valley.
- 3.2 The Emergency Committee resolved that:
  - a] The Council respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission that the Ribble Valley electorate has been underestimated and that the electoral projections calculated would suggest 5 divisions and suggest a split of the current wards into these 5 decisions.
  - b] Delegate a detailed response to the Local Government Boundary Commission to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Shadow Leader and Deputy Leader.

A copy of the agreed response is attached at Appendix 1.

#### 4 TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE

4.1 The Emergency Committee considered a report of the Director of Community Services seeking agreement to an increase in the budget allocation for the cost of hosting Stage 2 of the 2015 Aviva Tour of Britain Cycle Race.

- 4.2 The report explained the estimated costs relating to Traffic Management, Stewarding and First Aid to ensure the event passed successfully and safely through the Ribble Valley and had been assessed following a full route assessment and the final decision by the organizer on the route itself including significant changes along the A59.
- 4.3 The result of this assessment identified an increased budgetary requirement of £35,000. This would increase the budget from £90,000 to £125,000.
- 4.4 The Emergency Committee resolved to approve a revised budget for the Council hosting of Stage 2 of the Aviva Tour of Britain of £125,000.
  - The minutes of the Emergency Committee are attached at Appendix 2.
- 5 RECOMMEND THAT COMMITTEE
- 5.1 Note the decisions of the Emergency Committee.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** 



### RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

please ask for: Michelle Haworth direct line: 01200 414421

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my ref:

your ref:

date: 26 August 2015

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Dear Sir/Madam,

## Lancashire Review Consultation Response – Ribble Valley Borough Council - August 2015

This response sets out the formal views of Ribble Valley Borough Council (Council) on the division arrangements for Lancashire published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (from 23 June to 31 August 2015).

It should be noted that the minority group on the Council will be submitting their own alternative proposals for the formation of divisions.

The Council, in its response, has incorporated a distribution of electors that reflects the known and proposed growth in the Borough and particularly the distribution across Wards and Divisions.

Work undertaken by the County Council has examined the electoral variances in representation across the county area. Wherever possible, wards and divisions should not have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for the authority. We have noted that currently there is an electoral imbalance of more than 10% in two of the four Ribble Valley divisions; and overall for Ribble Valley 9.95%. We feel this imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by foreseeable changes to the electorate within a reasonable period.

The County Council's electorate forecast shows that the variances will likely remain beyond 2021. This table uses data created by the County Council.

Table 1 – Current and future position based on County Council Forecast

Name of division	Number of clirs per division	Electorate 2015	Variance 2015	Electorate 2021	Variance 2021
Clitheroe	1	12,253	14%	12,531	13%
Longridge with Bowland	1	11,375	6%	11,687	5%
Ribble Valley North East	1	12,542	17%	12,937	17%
Ribble Valley South West	1	10,929	2%	11,142	1%
Total	4	47,099	9.95%	48,297	8.94%

The Council does not agree with the data used to create the electorate forecast 2021. We are concerned that the County Council are using a predicted electorate from new housing figure which is much lower than that which has been recently calculated by the borough council. This then means that the figures used by Lancashire produces a much lower electorate figure for 2021 than we currently forecast.

This is the extract from the County Council document detailing their methodology –

"Ribble Valley have provided a total electorate figure for June 2015 of 47,099. Applying the growth rate from the population projections would produce a 2021 electorate of 48,140. Using the housing land availability figures that were available and the above figure as a guide we have arrived at a 2021 total of 48,297 which might be a little light in the more built up areas, but there is no way to allocate new dwelling residents them to the polling districts within these."

The Council provided the Housing Land Availability Schedule April 2015, which includes our Five Year Supply Statement. This wasn't used by the County Council to allocate predicted development to wards.

The County Council themselves recognise that the electorate figure could be a little light particularly in the built up areas.

The Council has since been working on an Electorate Forecast in preparation for our own ward boundary review. In order to carry out this piece of work we have broken down the expected development, as per the five year supply, across the wards. This has resulted in a much higher, and more accurate, electorate prediction for 2021 than that produced by the County Council, which was based on 664 new dwellings from development compared to the more realistic figure of 2,987.

We have set out in the table below the impact our forecast electorate would have on the existing Ribble Valley divisions.

Table 2 – Current and future position based on Ribble Valley Borough Council Forecast

Name of division	Number of clirs per division	Electorate 2015	Variance 2015	RVBC Electorate Forecast 2021	Variance 2021
Clitheroe	1	12,253	14%	14,411	30%
Longridge with Bowland	1	11,375	6%	12,383	12%
Ribble Valley North East	1	12,542	17%	15,107	36%
Ribble Valley South West	1	10,929	2%	11,582	5%
Total	4	47,099	9.95%	53,483	20.64%

The changes sought by the Council, based on our own electorate forecast, are set out below; maps and data supporting the proposals and calculations referred to are provided.

#### **Division Boundaries**

A set out above, should the current position of 4 divisions remain unchanged, the electoral numbers based on our own electorate forecast for 2021 would create significant variations in the electorate in 3 out of the 4 divisions (see Schedule 4 of Ribble Valley Electorate Forecast).

Beyond 2021 the Commission needs to be aware that there are a number of large developments that have already been granted planning permission, which will ensure a substantial number of new houses will continue to be delivered beyond this period in Ribble Valley North East and Ribble Valley South East in particular. As such there will be continued electorate growth due to housing development in these divisions beyond 2020, we believe creating further imbalances.

The Council wishes to propose therefore that the Commission considers that the number of councillors within the electoral boundary of Ribble Valley be increased from 4 councillors to 5. Each division will be a single councillor division.

#### **Proposed 5 Divisions**

The existing divisions of Ribble Valley North East and Ribble Valley South West will remain and the Council proposes the following name changes for the remaining three divisions:

- Ribble Valley Central
- Ribble Valley South East
- Ribble Valley North West

The electoral numbers within each of our proposed divisions will satisfy the requirements of being roughly the same number across the county (11,083) being:

Table 3 – Proposed Divisions for Ribble Valley

Name of division	Number of cllrs per division	RVBC Electorate Forecast 2021	Variance 2021
Ribble Valley Central	1	10,346	-6.65%
Ribble Valley North East	1	10,896	-1.70%
Ribble Valley North West	1	10,648	-3.92%
Ribble Valley South East	1	10,015	-9.65%
Ribble Valley South West	1	11,582	4.49%
Total	5	53,483	-3.49%

The proposed amendments to the division boundaries are outlined in the attached map. These changes will see the creation of 5 divisions. The pattern of electoral boundary

divisions proposed can continue to reflect the interests and identities of local communities:

- No changes to Ribble Valley South West.
- Minor amendments to the division called Longridge with Bowland and renaming it Ribble Valley North West. The Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley ward (CK, CL, CW, and SA polling districts) moves to help create Ribble Valley Central, as does the SD Bolton-by-Bowland polling district of Bowland, Newton and Slaidburn ward.
- A new division to be created in Ribble Valley South East. This reflects the significant growth already in that area (in particular in Whalley and Barrow) and the forecasted growth over the next five years. There are strong historic and community links between the polling districts in this new division which will incorporate the wards of Wiswell and Pendleton, Whalley, Read and Simonstone, and Sabden.
- Ribble Valley North East would be amended to take in half of the Clitheroe division CD, CE and CF. CE polling district (Littlemoor) will see significant growth in future years as it incorporates the strategic site of Standen, which has outline planning permission for 1,040 dwellings. The SE polling district of Gisburn Forest moves to help create Ribble Valley Central. The polling district will join SD Bolton-by-Bowland where there is a greater community link than with the majority of the rest of Gisburn, Rimington ward which is the other side of the A59.
- Ribble Valley Central is a new division created in the centre of the Borough. It will include the remainder of the Clitheroe polling districts of CA, CB and CC. These will join with SC, SP, SN and SO (Waddington and West Bradford Ward) where there are community links. As already mentioned SE, SD and CK, CL, CW, and SA polling districts will also be included.

A review has been carried out and it is considered that the proposals will continue to provide effective local and convenient government.

- Polling stations are already provided in each polling district and this is unlikely to change.
- Where communities are linked through cultural and historic involvement these links can remain in place.
- The creation of a new division around the Whalley area and the dividing up of Clitheroe reflects the housing growth, completions and planned, in these areas.
- Clitheroe has been divided in such a way as to ensure the links to village rural locations that relate themselves to Clitheroe.

The Council asks that the Local Boundary Commission for England carefully considers our proposals for the creation of an additional division and the new boundaries.

Should the Commission wish to discuss in more detail any of the amendments set out in this response or discuss any further matters relating to its proposals the Council will be pleased to assist.

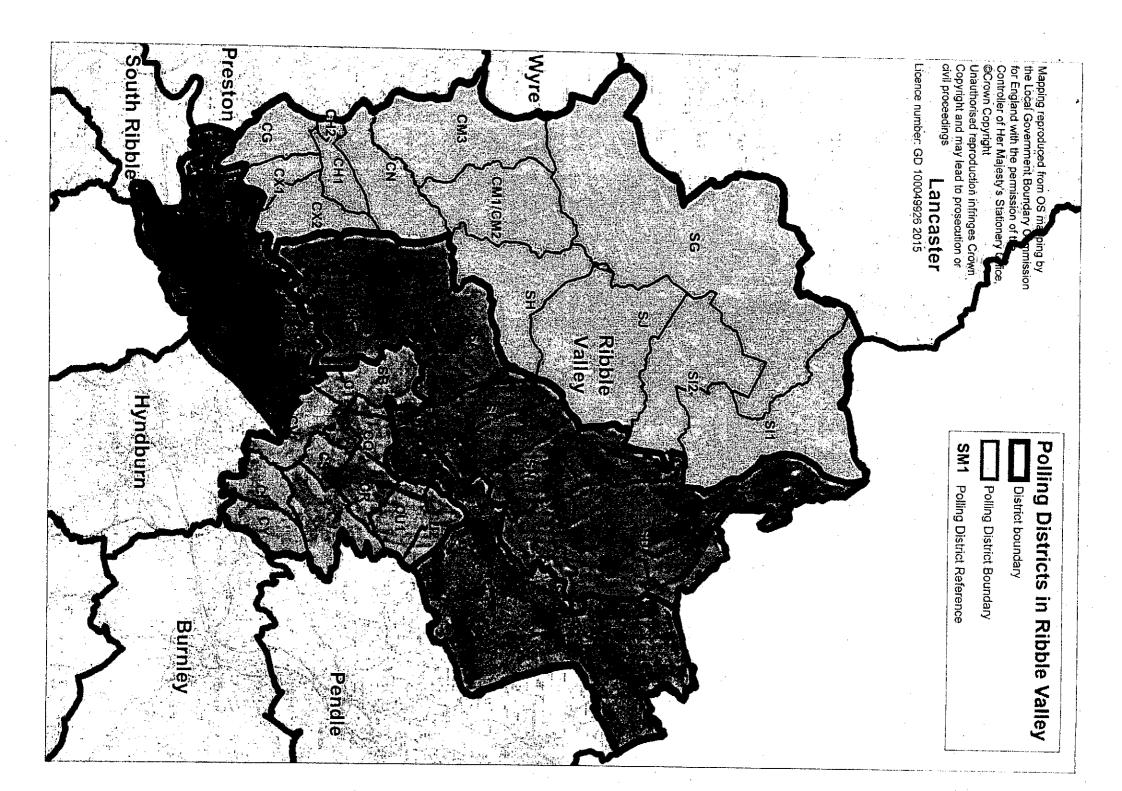
Yours sincerely,

Marshal Scott

Marshal Scott Chief Executive

For further information please contact Michelle Haworth on 01200 414421 (Direct Line) or Email michelle.haworth@ribblevalley.gov.uk

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Commission for England
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LONDON
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## **Minutes of Emergency Committee**

Meeting Date: Thursday, 13 August 2015, starting at 4pm

Present: Councillor S Hirst (Chairman)

Councillors:

T Hill A Knox R Thompson

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Director of Community Services, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Head of Cultural and Leisure Services.

#### 159 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

#### 160 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTORAL REVIEW

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee that the Local Government Boundary Commission was conducting an Electoral Review of Lancashire and that this review was needed as more than 36% of divisions (30 out of 84) have an electoral variance of more than 10% of the average. The public consultation on new electoral division boundaries, council size and the allocation of County Councillors between districts had a deadline of 31 August 2015 and proposals were being invited to help draw up a pattern of divisions to accommodate the 84 County Councillors. The current position in Ribble Valley shows a 12% variance in the Clitheroe Division and a 14% variance in the Ribble Valley North East Division. The County Council have applied a growth rate from population projections to the electorate figure for June 2015 of 47,099. This would produce an electorate in 2021 of 48,140 which would then be increased by using housing land availability figures to 48,297. It was felt that the number of new dwellings anticipated had been seriously underestimated and that a more realistic assessment of electorate growth should be used. Based on preliminary estimated projections the estimated electorate would be in excess of 50,000 which would indicate that Ribble Valley should have increased representation from 4 seats to 5.

#### RESOLVED: That Committee

- respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission that the Ribble Valley electorate has been underestimated and that the electoral projections calculated would suggest 5 divisions and suggest a split of current wards into these 5 divisions; and
- 2. delegate a detailed response to the Local Government Boundary Commission to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Shadow Leader and Deputy Leader.

#### 161 TOUR OF BRITAIN CYCLE RACE

The Director of Community Services submitted a report seeking agreement to an increase in the budget allocation for the staging of the second stage of the 2015 Aviva Tour of Britain Cycle Race.

The Council had been asked by Pendle Borough Council late in 2014 to be a partner in the hosting of the second stage of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race; the start being in Clitheroe and the finish in Colne. An original sum had been assigned to the staging of the event before actual details of the implications in relation to traffic management, stewarding and first aid were fully known.

Following a full route assessment the number of zones had been determined which would each have a Zone Manager, Stewards and First Aid. management would also be essential to help manage the day-to-day traffic in the borough as the race progresses, including a closure on the A59 at Gisburn anticipated for up to 1 hour. It was imperative that the Council host a successful and safe event.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve a revised budget for the Council hosting of Stage 2 of the Aviva Tour of Britain 2015 of £125,000.

The meeting closed at 4.35pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).

(OH/CMS/EMERGENCY/13 AUG 15)