

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 8

Meeting date: 24 JANUARY 2019  
Title: RIBBLE VALLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP LAUNCH EVENT  
Submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
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### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide information relating to plans for a launch of the Ribble Valley Economic Partnership and Development of the Council's Economic Plan.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
  - Community Objectives – To deliver a sustainable local economy.
  - Corporate Priorities – To undertake relevant economic activities to secure economic growth and to maintain a healthy local economy.
  - Other Considerations – The work will support the delivery of economic activity and provide an opportunity to demonstrate the Council is a well-managed authority.

### 2 INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the last Economic Development Committee meeting on 15 November 2018, it was agreed that the Council would lead on the establishment of a strategic forum to consider local economic issues. See Minute 455.
- 2.2 It was proposed that the forum would provide a valuable platform to help develop the Council's Economic Strategy and get stakeholder input. This will help align a number of partnership groups into an umbrella forum to help joint working.
- 2.3 It was suggested that the initial meeting of the forum would be an opportunity to explore common interests to help determine key areas that the Council can consider in developing its own strategy.
- 2.4 Further to the above, discussions have been had both internally and externally with the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce regarding the structure and function of the forum. Work has also been undertaken to consider the content and format of the Economic Plan.
- 2.5 For uniformity it is proposed that the forum be known as the Ribble Valley Economic Partnership and that the Council's strategy be called the Economic Plan.
- 2.6 It is proposed that the plan should be set out in a simple and coherent format, similar to that of the Corporate Strategy and that it will contain five suggested areas for consideration; People, Places, Business Support & Growth, Connectivity and Tourism.

- 2.7 With these areas of consideration in mind, it is suggested that the launch of the Economic Partnership be an opportunity to consult with local businesses, for them to advise on key issues/concerns within each.
- 2.8 Following introductions and keynote briefings, the session is intended to be interactive, with attendees moving around a series of stations/tables, one for each of the five key areas. Each station will have a host and attendees will be encouraged to contribute towards the creation of a SWOT analysis of each from their point of view, using post-it notes, flip charts, pens etc. This is intended to encourage business input and to help shape the strategy at the start of the process.
- 2.9 All feedback will be collated and reviewed to aid the development of the Economic Plan to its first stage before consideration by this committee.
- 2.10 The launch event is planned to take place on Wednesday 27 February in the Council Chamber. The event will commence with a hotpot supper and networking between 5:30 and 6pm, followed by introductions, speeches and activities from 6 until 8pm.
- 2.11 It is anticipated that further meetings of the partnership will take place on a triannual basis or in response to key issues of relevance that may arise.

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