

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Agenda Item No. 8

meeting date: TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2019  
title: LONGRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
submitted by: NICOLA HOPKINS, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING  
principal author: COLIN HIRST – HEAD OF REGENERATION & HOUSING

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To confirm the “making” of the Longridge Neighbourhood Plan such that it is both operative and effective as part of the statutory Local Development Plan for the borough.

1.2 Relevance to the Council’s ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – The matters covered in this report will contribute to matters relating to appropriate housing and encouraging economic activity.
- Corporate Priorities – The document that is the subject of this report, relates to Council ambitions to making people’s lives safer and healthier and also helping to protect and enhance the environmental quality of the area.
- Other Considerations – The matters addressed in this report will help the Council to positively contribute to the neighbourhood planning process.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Neighbourhood planning is a key initiative of the present Government which gives local communities the opportunity, should they choose to take it, to develop a formal plan for their particular area. This plan, once adopted, will have legal force in the formal planning system, alongside other documents produced by the planning authority and by Central Government. It must be in general conformity with the area’s overall Local Plan, including the Core Strategy and not conflict with the Central Government Policy Statements such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and as adopted the Neighbourhood Plan, together with any other material considerations.

2.2 The Council’s Planning and Development Committee has previously considered a number of reports with regard to the Longridge Neighbourhood Plan as the project has progressed through its plan-making stages. The most recent was considered in November 2018, Minute 506 refers, when Committee considered the Independent Examiner’s Report and accepted that the plan move forward with his recommended modifications and that the plan proceeded to Referendum.

## 3 NEXT STEPS

3.1 The Referendum was held on 14 February 2019 and returned a majority in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan which consequently became operative and a material planning consideration. Having received a ‘Yes’ vote and with the Council deciding to accept the Examiner’s recommendations, the Council has to formally “make” the plan for it to become effective.

- 3.2 The final statutory stage is for the Council to formally “make”(adopt) the plan such that it has full statutory weight as part of the development plan for the borough and publish it.
- 3.3 A copy of the published results notice is attached at Appendix 1 together with the Decision Notice following consideration by the Planning and Development Committee that the plan was to move to Referendum. As a result of the ‘Yes’ vote whilst the plan is consequently operational, the Council is asked to confirm that the plan is made (adopted) so the Neighbourhood Plan is a full part of the Development Plan for the area with immediate effect.
- 3.4 Following confirmation that the plan is made, the plan will be published on the Council’s website as part of the Development Plan and will carry full statutory weight when determining planning applications.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – At this stage the costs to be borne by the Council are for publishing the document as part of its statutory duties, the costs of which will be contained within service budgets.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The process is subject to statutory regulation.
- Political – No direct political implications.
- Reputation – Reaching this final stage of the Neighbourhood Plan process demonstrates that the Council positively contributes to the neighbourhood planning process.
- Equality & Diversity – These issues have been considered during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. No implications are identified.

#### 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL**

5.1 Confirms the making of the Longridge Neighbourhood Plan with immediate effect.

COLIN HIRST  
HEAD OF REGENERATION & HOUSING

NICOLA HOPKINS  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
& PLANNING

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Longridge 2028 Neighbourhood Development Plan.  
Regulation 16 Submission Draft.  
Report of the Independent Examiner October 2018.  
Notices and Information held on office files.

For further information please ask for Colin Hirst, extension 4503.

REF: CH/CMS/COUNCIL/300419

**DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL  
FOR THE LONGRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM**

I, the undersigned, being the Counting Officer at the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum for the Longridge Neighbourhood Area held on the **14 FEBRUARY 2019**

do hereby give notice that the number of votes cast for the said referendum is as follows:

Question	
<b>Do you want Ribble Valley Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Longridge to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?</b>	
	Votes Recorded
Number cast in favour of <b>YES</b>	990
Number cast in favour of <b>NO</b>	68

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:

(a)want of official mark	
(b)voting for more than one answer	
(c)writing or mark by which the voter or proxy could be identified	
(d)unmarked or void for uncertainty	8
Total Rejected	8

And I do hereby declare that more than half those voting have voted:

**YES/NO** – in response to the question: “Do you want Ribble Valley Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Longridge to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

*Marshal Scott*

.....  
Marshal Scott  
Counting Officer

Dated: 15 February 2019

## LONGRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION STATEMENT (REGULATION 18(2))

### Summary

1. Following an independent examination undertaken by written representations, Ribble Valley Borough Council now confirms that the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.
2. This decision statement will be available on the Borough Council's web site and at the Council Offices. The Decision Statement will also be available in LONGRIDGE Library, BERRY LANE and is available for inspection during normal opening hours.

### Background

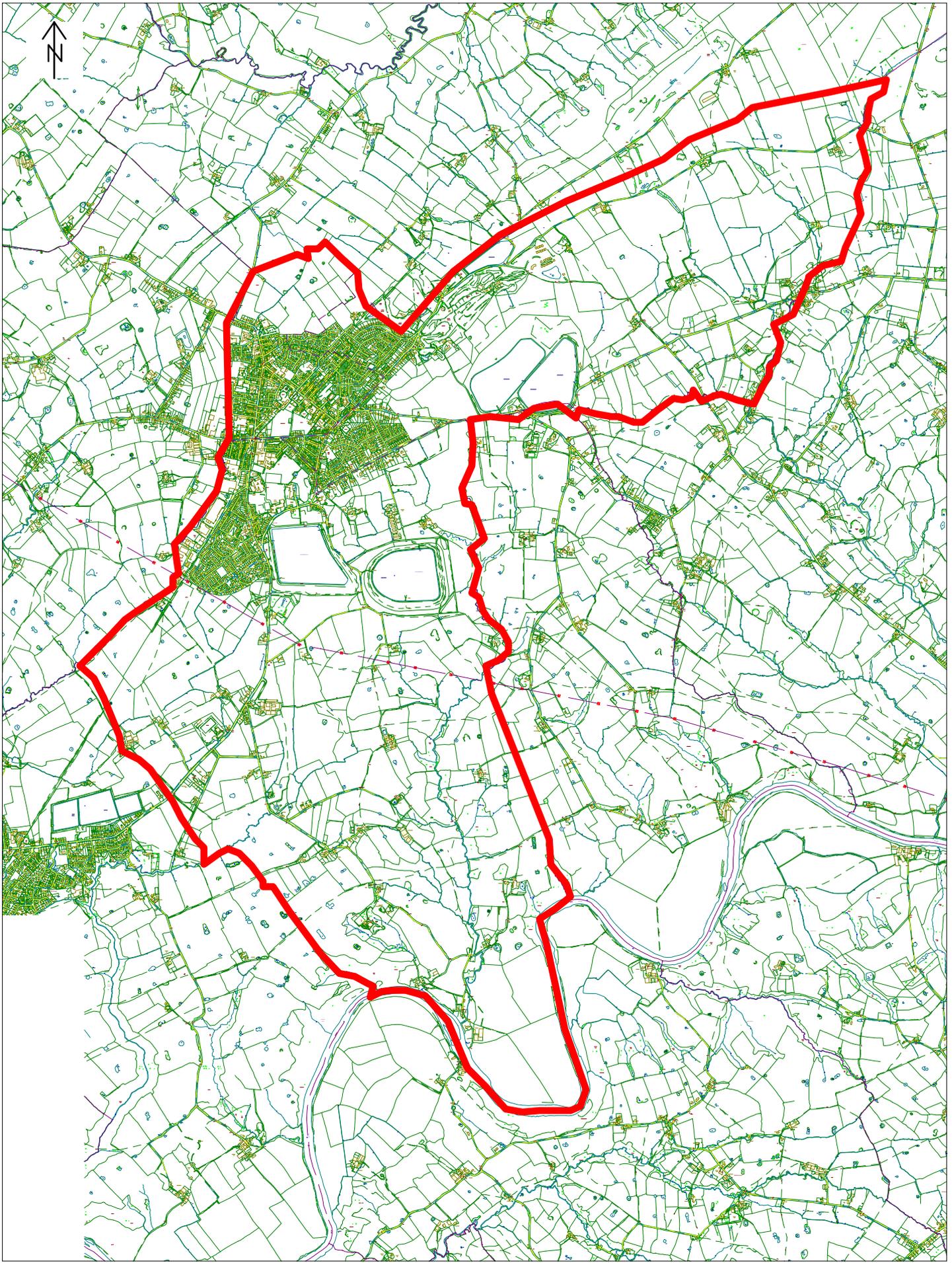
3. On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Ribble Valley Borough Council formally designated the area shown at Appendix 1 as the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Area.
4. Following the submission of the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Plan to RIBBLE VALLEY Council the plan was publicised and representations were invited. The publicity period ended on 28th March 2018.
5. The Council appointed an independent Examiner, Nigel McGurk BSc (Hons), MCD, MBA, MRTPI to examine whether the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum.
6. The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications so that the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Plan is able to comply with the 'basic conditions' and other relevant statutory provisions, and that the draft plan as modified can be submitted for referendum.
7. The Examiner's Report published in OCTOBER 2018 concludes by stating:  
***"I recommend to Ribble Valley Borough Council that, subject to the modifications proposed, the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Plan, should proceed to a referendum"***

### Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

8. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 18 requires the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4a to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied by Section 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).
9. Having considered the recommendations made by the Examiner in his report, and the reasons for them at the meeting of the Council's Planning and Development Committee of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (Minute 506 refers), RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH Council has agreed to accept the modifications made to the draft plan under paragraph 12(6) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in response to the Examiner's recommendations/modifications and amend the plan accordingly, and is satisfied that the plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in legislation.
10. To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum which poses the question, 'Do you want RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH Council to use the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Area?' will be held in the area formally designated as the LONGRIDGE Neighbourhood Area.
11. The date on which the referendum will take place is Thursday 14 FEBRUARY 2019.

Appendix 1 Plan of designated area

END.



## Longridge Neighbourhood Plan June 2013

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