

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

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 24th November 2009
 title: Update on Ribble Valley Locality Plan 2009
 submitted by: Chief Executive
 principal author: Michelle Haworth – Principal Policy and Performance Officer

1 PURPOSE

1.1 This report provides information on progress being made with the Ribble Valley Locality Plan 2009/10. Locality plans summarise the activities of the different tiers of local government working together in a defined area.

2 RELEVANCE TO THE COUNCIL'S AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES:

- Council Ambitions: The Ribble Valley Locality Plan is centred on the Borough and County Council's ambitions, objectives and priorities for the borough.
- Community Objectives:
- Corporate Priorities:
- Other Considerations:

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The overall objective of 'Transforming Local Government in Lancashire' is to improve the way in which local government works together to deliver better outcomes for local people. 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."

3.2 The Ribble Valley Locality Plan for 2009/10 was approved by this committee in March 2009 and at the Lancashire Local meeting held 1st April 2009. The approval included a commitment to monitor the Plan by each respective authority on an ongoing basis along with a joint review after six months.

4 PROGRESS

4.1 The 2009/10 Locality Plan (Appendix 1) lists six priorities for the Ribble Valley:

- Improving Health and Well Being
- Better Access to Services
- Improving opportunities for children and young people
- Better Asset Management
- Improving Waste Management
- Delivering the major development at Clitheroe Castle

4.2 The Plan outlines a total of 58 commitments and interventions under these headings, which both Councils will deliver together or in their own right. Delivery is through existing business planning

and performance management systems. Appendix 2 summarises progress made to date (October 2009).

5 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT – THE 2010/2011 LOCALITY PLAN

5.1 The review process will be helpful in determining the future direction and development of the 2010/11 Locality Plan. The views of the members of both this committee and the Lancashire Local Ribble Valley form an integral and important part of this process.

5.2 Locality Plans are, by design, concise, but by no means comprehensive. They provide an overview of County and Borough Council activities, which are either individually or jointly undertaken, to address key priorities for both authorities in Ribble Valley. Given the range of local government services, and future resource challenges, the basis of a Locality Plan is to:

- Promote joint working between the Borough and County Council at a local level, for the benefit of both residents and other partners.
- Develop and share mutual priorities and associated actions.
- Showcase initiatives and examples where joint working can improve efficiencies and bring about savings.
- Address key challenges for both the Borough and County Council.

5.3 There is a general commitment by both the County and Borough Council to further develop joint working especially where this will lead to efficiencies, prevent duplication of effort and improve services. As part of the review process and in order to help develop the future direction and shape of the Locality Plan the views of this committee are of paramount importance. It would be helpful if members could give their views. The following questions are to guide discussions:

- Are the 6 priorities listed in the 2009/10 Plan still relevant?
- Given some of the challenging circumstances both authorities are likely to face – would it be better to perhaps focus on fewer wider ranging priorities, for example Asset Management, Public Realm, Children and Young People, Older People, or Clitheroe as an Economic Centre?
- Is the format right – should the Plan perhaps just highlight joint working?
- Are there any specific associated activities or actions that should be strengthened?

6 RISK ASSESSMENT

- Resources: The Plan will be financed from existing budget provisions.
- 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 and demonstrate the Councils' commitment to embracing the Government's modernisation agenda for local government.
- Other implications: The Locality Plan is a practical document set within a strategic context and existing key decisions. Failure to deliver and subsequently develop the Plan could damage the good working relationship between Lancashire County Council, Ribble Valley Borough Council and possibly the town and parish councils in the area.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Committee is requested to:

- Comment on the progress made to date with the 2009/10 Locality Plan.
- Give views on the development of the 2010/11 Locality Plan.

Michelle Haworth
Principal Policy and Performance Officer

For further information please ask for Michelle Haworth, extension 4421

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Locality Plan for Ribble Valley 2009/10

Appendix 2: Monitoring report