

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No

meeting date: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011  
 title: Six month review of the Ribble Valley Locality Plan for 2010  
 submitted by: Director of Resources  
 principal author: Michelle Haworth – Principal Policy and Performance Officer

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform committee of progress made with the Ribble Valley Locality Plan for 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 Locality plans summarise the activities of the different tiers of local government working together in a defined area.

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 The current plan was approved by Policy and Finance Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and by Lancashire County Council Cabinet on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

## 4 FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THE RIBBLE VALLEY LOCALITY PLAN

4.1 Structure – the plan has been limited to a concise, 'public-facing' summary. This is supported by a more detailed internal document, providing information about the services provided 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
  - Progress development work at the Barrow Brook site

## **5 PROGRESS**

- 5.1 It was agreed that the Locality Plan would be monitored by each respective authority on an ongoing basis and would be reviewed jointly after six months.
- 5.2 Officers from both the Borough Council and the County Council have been asked to provide updates on achieving the actions within the supporting action plan. This work has culminated in the production of the table attached at Appendix A.

## **6 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 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 and budget restraints 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.

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

### **List of Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Locality Plan Action Plan for Ribble Valley 2010/11**

# RIBBLE VALLEY LOCALITY PLAN 2010 – 2011

## PEOPLE

Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
<b>Priority: Support and help older or vulnerable people</b>			
Raise awareness and encourage use of Home Library Service across the borough	March 2011	Mary Palmer (LCC)	The HLS librarian has given several talks to local groups to publicise this.
Work together with appropriate partners to improve access to information and advice about council and community based services (e.g. introducing improved telephony solution for Help Direct including text service).	December 2010	Tasmin (Help Direct) Andrea Dixon (LCC)	LCC and Help Direct involvement in use of STAN mobile resource centre including request for Carers Support to be promoted.
Raise awareness of entitlement to and uptake of welfare benefits.	December 2010	Rachael Apps (LCC) Mark Edmondson (RVBC)	RVBC has taken part in a joint take-up exercise which was coordinated by LCC. RVBC has also done various things throughout the year to promote HB and CTB in the Ribble Valley e.g. Ribble Valley News and the use of STAN the van.
Extend Abbeyfield Care Home (Low Moor, Clitheroe) to provide a dementia unit.	Completion late 2011 / early 2012	Rachael Stott (RVBC) Sarah McTigue (LCC)	The scheme has been successful in bidding for a grant from the Homes and Community Agency. The extension is now underway and on target for completion in early 2012. Abbeyfield have taken on board and incorporated into their designs good practice guidance provided by LCC.
Hold a Leisure and Learning Information event for local authority and partner organisation staff to raise awareness of opportunities open to adults and older people (including those receiving personal budgets and Carers).	October 2010	Sarah McTigue (LCC) Chris Hughes (RVBC)	A successful event was hosted by RVBC and took place on 20 October 2010 including guest speakers from In Control about Stronger Communities, ELSUN adults with Learning Disabilities and information stalls, networking and taster sessions. A full evaluation detailing the event and lessons learned is available.

Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
Carry out a Health Needs Assessment (including a survey involving older citizens) in eight rurally isolated villages.	December 2010	David Ingham – RVSP Officer	Healthy Valley Survey fieldwork undertaken during September to November. Initial analysis carried out and reported to Healthy Valley meeting in November with more detailed report presented in December.
<b>Priority: Build capacity of Children’s Trust</b>			
Continue development of the Youth Forum.	Ongoing	Chris Hughes (RVBC)	This has been relaunched as the Engagement Group of the Children’s Trust under the leadership of The Grand (Children’s champions).
Approve the Statement of Commitment between Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council for the Children’s Trust.	Summer 2010	Chris Hughes (RVBC)	Statement has been agreed, signed and returned to LCC.
<b>Priority: Promote and develop civic pride and local democracy</b>			
Build on good contacts within schools following Member of Youth Parliament election held in February 2010 to increase and develop understanding of local democracy.	Ongoing and by March 2011	Paul Holton (LCC) Bill Alker (RVBC)	Will make arrangements for Councillors to visit High Schools to see, at first hand, how LD is delivered. Also to ensure that the success of LDW is replicated over the rest of the year, possibly through closer contact between LCC, RVBC and school councils.
Improve links with High Schools and school councils via ‘ask the councillor’ panels.		Bill Alker (RVBC)	
Offer mayoral visits to primary schools.		Olwen Heap (RVBC)	To be discussed with the Deputy Mayor to implement this during the next mayoralty term.
Instigate ‘Civic Pride’ awards to encourage schools to get more involved in community projects.		Bill Alker (RVBC)	This is currently being considered. Officers are investigating what schemes are in place at other authorities.
Ribble Valley Borough Council to interact with School Councils on a regular basis.		Bill Alker (RVBC)	Discussions are underway with Ribble Valley secondary schools regarding this. Implementation may need to be delayed until after the local elections.
Engage young people in the work of both councils (including possible involvement in elections).		Diane Rice (RVBC)	No plans so far.

Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
Promote AONB/RSPB Outreach Education Project with local primary schools to develop pupils' understanding of the area.		Don McKay (LCC)	
Co-ordinate and promote events and information for Local Democracy Week.	October 2010	Janet Simpson (LCC) Bill Alker (RVBC)	Various LDW events undertaken and good engagement with schools/children and young people. Early planning for any future events would be beneficial.
<b>Priority: Improve community engagement</b>			
Work with partners to develop, launch and promote an interactive community engagement website.	Summer 2010	Michelle Haworth (RVBC) Mike Walker (LCC)	The Feedbackonline website was launched on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2010. A full review of its successfulness at meeting its objectives will be carried out after being live for 12 months. Ribble Valley citizens continue to make good use of the site using the consultations, forums, blogs, and online petition facilities.
Open Clitheroe Youth & Community Centre.	September 2010	Carmel Fenning (LCC)	Centre now open and delivering services/activities. Official opening 3 November.
Encourage greater Public Participation at Committee meetings.	By March 2011	Bill Alker/Olwen Heap (RVBC)?	Dates of committee meetings and the decisions to be made are advertised on the new Feedbackonline website.
Hold Silver surfer sessions at Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley Libraries to help older people use the internet.	Ongoing	Mary Palmer (LCC)	These are ongoing and are very popular. Courses are also being held at Chatburn and Mellor libraries.
Improve links between both authorities in terms of joint promotions, including, where possible, via the free public access computers in libraries.	By March 2011	Mary Palmer (LCC) Mike Przybysz (LCC)	

Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
<b>Priority: Improve access to services</b>			
Telly Talk "virtual face to face" webcasting service to be installed and made available at Clitheroe Library.	September 2010	Mary Palmer (LCC)	Going live on the 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2010. Letters will be going out to local people inviting them to renew their blue badges at the library.
Improve access to services for our joint customers (Face to Face/telephony).	Ongoing	Mark Edmondson (RVBC) Suzie Foster/Helen Boyd (LCC)	Visitor information provision is to be included at the Station Buildings, Longridge.
Launch the multi-agency bus, providing increased access to services in rural areas.	October 2010	David Ingham (RVSP) Chris Hughes (RVBC) Rachel Hughes (Help Direct)	STAN has been launched and is now being located at sites around the borough. The Council is building up awareness of, and identifying, the best sites. Partner agencies are expected to start participating in 2011. Provision is available two days one week, three days the next, miss a week then a repeat cycle.
<b>Priority: Actively explore opportunities to tap into 'social capital', volunteering and local lobbying</b>			
Introduce a Voluntary Sector Hub in Clitheroe.	March 2011	David Ingham (RVSP)	We are continuing to identify partners and funding sources along with building a business plan. Help Direct also subcontract Volunteer Management in the district.
Promote volunteer opportunities (including traditional countryside skills, help with environmental and community projects, in libraries etc).	Ongoing	Don McKay (LCC) Mary Palmer (LCC) James Haigh (LCC) Tasmin (Help Direct)	Several volunteers help with IT support and community history projects at the library. Help Direct also subcontract Volunteer Management in the district.

Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
Establish plans to set up a network of Time Banks.	March 2011	David Ingham (RVSP) Tasmin (Help Direct) Andrea Dixon (LCC)	There is a Time Bank in Downham, but it is proving difficult to find resources to initiate any more in the borough.
Establish plans to develop a multi-agency strategy for volunteering including vulnerable adults.	March 2011	Andrea Dixon (LCC) Sarah McTigue (LCC) Julie Sumner (LCC) Mark Nutley (LCC)	Propose a meeting is set up in February/March 2011 to agree lead responsibilities and specific actions to take forward the development of a volunteering strategy.
Jointly identify existing day time opportunities open to physically disabled and sensory impaired adults.	March 2011	Sarah McTigue (LCC) Help Direct Stuart Williams (LCC)	PDSI Day Time Support project in progress to analyse current service/support used and obtain customer feedback. Help Direct Wellbeing Directory key source of info on opportunities.

# PLACE

Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
<b>Priority: Improve street cleanliness</b>			
Work together through the Public Realm Integration Project to improve street cleanliness by concentrating on weed control.	April 2010	John Heap (RVBC)	The borough council began weed spraying in April and continued throughout the growing season. Better control of weeds in the highway has been achieved.
Work with the Dunsop Bridge community on their clean up day.		Don McKay (LCC)	
Agree and carry out further woodland management work in 'Brights Wood' community woodland at Newton following work carried out in April 2010.	March 2011	Don McKay (LCC)	
Continue to support parish lengthsman scheme and investigate roadside verges scheme to conserve biodiversity.		Don McKay (LCC)	
<b>Priority: Winter maintenance</b>			
Develop joint winter maintenance strategy delivered by Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council, together with Parish and Town Councils where appropriate.		Brian Eagle (LCC) John Heap (RVBC)	The borough's contribution to the joint winter maintenance strategy is to supplement County's efforts in our town centres when resources allow. This has already been put into action (w/c 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov.) with good effect.
<b>Priority: Develop allotment space</b>			
Support the development of additional allotment space in collaboration with Groundwork.	March 2011	David Ingham (RVSP)	Parish meetings starting soon.



Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
<b>Priority: Improve the environment and local sustainability</b>			
Implement Ribble Valley Borough Council's Environmental Action Plan.	Throughout 2010/11	Tim Lynas (RVBC)	The Council is currently reviewing the action plan document.
Hold a street market in Clitheroe with the potential of making this a regular event (promoting the "buy, eat, live local" ethos).	August 2010	Melissa Watts (RVBC)	A successful street market was held by Clitheroe Chamber of Trade in partnership with Ribble Valley BC. 15,000 people attended throughout the day.
Investigate the potential for a Food Festival in the borough to coincide with Clitheroe's Food Town status.	Throughout 2011	Melissa Watts (RVBC)	Various meetings have been held to discuss the possibility of an event in 2011. This work is ongoing.
Work with Whalley, Clitheroe and Longridge Chambers of Trade to carry out food related events across the borough in 2011.	August 2010	Melissa Watts (RVBC)	A number of funding bids have been submitted to support the chambers of trade and business groups in putting on food related events in 2011.
Strengthen the Ribble Valley Food Trail to support the "buy, eat, live local" ethos, including support for and reasons to buy local.	August 2010	Melissa Watts (RVBC)	The Ribble Valley Food Trail is due to be relaunched in early 2011. The selection panel has met to agree the final entries for the trail and the selection criteria has been strengthened and more producers encouraged to apply to enter the trail.
Promote the "Love Food, Hate Waste" campaign and link with appropriate food related events in Ribble Valley.		Bob Flitcroft (LCC)	
Identify any feasible sites for hydro electric power generation in Ribble Valley.		Don McKay (LCC) David Ingham (RVSP)	Survey underway
<b>Priority: Improve and expand culture, arts and leisure opportunities</b>			
Promote Bowland Arts Festival in 2010.	December 2010	Don Mckay (LCC)	

Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
Work together to develop opportunities to engage local people in creativity activity.	March 2011	Rebecca Webster (RVBC) Stuart William (LCC)	<p>Some of the current initiatives that RVBC are working on in 2010/11 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RVAA Website <a href="http://www.ribblevalleyarts.org">www.ribblevalleyarts.org</a></li> <li>• The What's On listings</li> <li>• The Arts Directory</li> <li>• Creative Skills Database and email-out</li> </ul> <p>Some of the things we are working on in partnership are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creativity Works – Pennine Lancashire partnership</li> <li>• Arts Engagement - The Open Shop Project – North West Sound Archive</li> <li>• The Ribble Valley Sculpture Trail– Lancashire partnership</li> <li>• Bowland Arts Festival – Lancashire partnership</li> <li>• Castle Museum Steward's Gallery Development and Programming</li> </ul>

# PROSPERITY

Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
<b>Priority: Develop Town Centre Plans for Longridge and Whalley</b>		Colin Hirst (RVBC)	Town centre economic action plans have been drawn up and approved for Longridge and Whalley.
<b>Priority: Explore what we do as local employers in terms of work experience, apprenticeships etc</b>			
Ribble Valley Borough Council to sign a Service Level Agreement with Lancashire County Council to offer placements		Michelle Smith (RVBC)	None of these schemes are being implemented.
Ribble Valley Borough Council to provide 30 day opportunities for WorkStart placements in partnership with Lancashire County Council supporting out of work claimants		Michelle Smith (RVBC)	
Ribble Valley Borough Council to provide 8 week opportunities within for Future Horizons (pre-apprentice) placements in partnership with Lancashire County Council supporting NEET young people		Michelle Smith (RVBC)	
Ribble Valley Borough Council to access support from Lancashire County Council on apprenticeships and recruitment/selection where possible		Michelle Smith (RVBC)	
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.		Don McKay (LCC)	

Action	Timescale	Contact	Update
Support and contribute to Bowland Experience Ltd (social enterprise) which supports and promotes sustainable tourism		Don McKay (LCC)	
Lancashire Green Tourism project to continue to offer training and support to Ribble Valley tourism operators to gain - and retain – Green Tourism Awards		Don McKay (LCC)	
Offer work experience placements in libraries to all Ribble Valley schools	Ongoing	Mary Palmer (LCC)	Being done
Give careers talks on 'Jobs in the environmental sector' at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School on their careers days for Sixth Formers.		Don McKay (LCC)	
<b>Priority: Progress development work at the Barrow Brook site</b>		Colin Hirst (RVBC) Mark Carson (LCDL)	Development work at Barrow is being undertaken. Ongoing discussions with landowners to progress potential joint scheme.