

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 8

meeting date: THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2011  
title: PENNINE LANCASHIRE SPATIAL GUIDE  
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT– CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: COLIN HIRST – HEAD OF REGENERATION & HOUSING

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To agree the Pennine Lancashire Spatial Guide which is intended to provide high-level strategic guidance for planning and investment in Pennine Lancashire.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
  - Council Ambitions – The matters covered in this report relate to the ambition of protecting and enhancing the existing environmental quality of our area.
  - Community Objectives – To maintain vibrant and thriving communities.
  - Corporate Priorities – To contribute to joint working as appropriate.
  - Other Considerations – None.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The PLACE Partnership brings together the district of Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Ribble Valley and Rossendale, who jointly work on a range of strategic economic housing and planning initiatives in order to deliver overall economic change across Pennine Lancashire. A number of projects have been carried out to produce high level strategies for housing investment, particularly related to the housing market renewal areas, but also having regard to the affordable housing requirements for Ribble Valley. Similarly, work has been undertaken to prepare joint investment programmes relating to the Pennine Lancashire Integrated Economic Strategy.
- 2.2 PLACE has also been taking forward the preparation of the Spatial Guide for Pennine Lancashire which is intended to provide a high level planning framework for the area to help inform the development and in the longer term the closer alignment of core strategies across the area.
- 2.3 Members are invited to review the revised document a copy of which has been placed in Level D Members Room for reference and can be viewed on the councils website in the Forward Planning area.
- 2.4 Members have previously considered a draft when a number of concerns were raised and members resolved to reject the document in the form presented. The report to Planning and development committee on the 4 November 2011 refers. Subsequent discussions have taken place to revise the document with other Pennine Lancs authorities. The revised document has addressed the key concerns raised by this and other Pennine Lancashire authorities and has been endorsed by the PLACE authority Chief Executives in the light of the changes made.

### 3 THE SPATIAL GUIDE

3.1 The Spatial Guide is a non-statutory document and as such will not be subject to the same statutory process as a Local Development Framework Document for example. It is based on a series of different areas of work being carried out across Pennine Lancashire. Once adopted it would however be anticipated that authorities would have regard to it when drawing up their core strategy and other relevant planning documents.

3.2 Its aim is to support a joined up sub-regional approach by:

- setting out a spatial interpretation of other strategies in Pennine Lancashire, most notably the MAA, focusing on the area's geography and the roles of places, and setting key strategic priorities in their sub-regional context;
- complementing the economic focus of the MAA by considering sub-regional environmental issues; and
- providing a framework for future activity in the sub-region, including the development of individual authorities' Local Development Framework Core Strategies and other Development Plan Documents.

3.3 The document provides a picture of the area and as such seeks to focus on the issues where a consistent approach is needed across Pennine Lancashire essentially to support and deliver the visions of the Multi Area Agreement (MAA) signed up to by all the districts in 2009. Whilst there are still some issues around presentation and style to a greater and acceptable extent the issues of concern previously raised have been addressed.

3.4 As a high level strategic guide, mapping is intended to be illustrative. The previous draft included details that it was not appropriate to support. The accompanying key diagram now illustrates main features only, and does not identify proposals as previously. This change is one of the key issues that needed to be addressed.

3.5 The guide includes information that will support our LDF evidence base and guidance that can be used to inform the Council's LDF. Critically the elements of the previous draft that were viewed as reducing local flexibility have been removed and it is considered that in the form proposed, accepting some differences of view on style and approach given that it is a document looking across Pennine Lancashire the spatial guide can be supported. The intention of the Chief Executives group is that the document should be used to support a bottom up approach with issues being addressed through district LDF's.

### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – No immediate implications.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Spatial Guide is a non-statutory document.
- Political – No direct implications.
- Reputation – The Council would wish to contribute its view to any document that may impact upon future planning decisions.

**5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Endorse the Spatial Guide.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1 The Draft Pennine Lancashire Spatial Guide – October 2010.

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