

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014  
title: CLITHEROE TOWN CENTRE UPDATE  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
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## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To receive an update on activities in connection with Clitheroe town centre regeneration.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Council Ambitions - In addition to Ribble Valley Borough Council striving to meet its three ambitions, it also recognises the importance of securing a diverse, sustainable economic base for the Borough.
- Community Objectives – The issues highlighted in this report will contribute to objectives of a sustainable economy and thriving market towns.
- Corporate Priorities - Delivery of services to all.
- Other Considerations – None.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council are committed to ensuring the vitality and viability of the key service centres within the Borough (Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley), and recognise that they represent an important resource of retail, service, leisure and employment provision.

2.2 In connection with this, the Council are continuing to develop initiatives to support these aims, and work in partnership (business groups and town/village teams) on identified priorities to help ensure that the Borough's key service centres are economically successful and attractive places.

## 3 INFORMATION

3.1 The Council's Economic Development Working Group discussed in particular a number of current initiatives in connection with Clitheroe Town Centre at its last meeting on Monday 18th August 2014, which included an update on progress to bring forward an appropriate scheme for the future of the Clitheroe Market site.

3.2 Also, arrangements are also being made to bring forward improvements to the streetscape and highways, and discussions have been taking place between Ribble Valley Borough Council (Engineering Services) and Lancashire County Council (Highways Department) to identify potential options in which improvements could be made to the general street scene, pavements and highways within the town centre.

- 3.3 Along with a number of general maintenance issues which are being dealt with on an ongoing basis, the potential to implement a larger enhancement scheme is also being discussed whereby financial resources could be joined together from both Councils to deliver town centre public realm improvements for Clitheroe.
- 3.4 In terms of locations for any specific sites in consideration, the potential to deliver a scheme of enhancements on Castle Street located around Market Place might provide the most appropriate location for a key project to be brought forward. Final agreement on the amount of money and what it will be spent on will be subject to further planning discussions between the two Councils, but is considered to be enough to cover a substantial scheme of town centre improvement works.
- 3.5 Also on these issues, a number of project areas are also being addressed in liaison with Clitheroe Town Team, these include ideas to create a more 'pedestrian-friendly' environment within the town centre generally to help increase footfall, with an option whether Castle Street could be closed to traffic (except for necessary services).
- 3.6 The aim is to make Clitheroe more attractive for visitors and local people and consultations would take place on any potential scheme proposals. Discussions will continue with Lancashire County Council in its capacity as the highways authority about the condition and suitability of the public realm generally, which includes roads and pavements in the town centre.
- 3.7 Finally, the role and function of the Borough's key service centres are influential in the formulation of the Council's Housing and Economic strategies. Improving the public realm, as well as improving the quantity and quality of shopping in the centres, helps to enhance self-containment and ensure that shopping and other services are available locally, thus reducing the need to travel elsewhere and contribute to their continuing vitality and viability.

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