

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 26 MARCH 2015  
 title: THE PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP  
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform the Parish Councils' Liaison Committee about the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - }
  - Corporate Priorities - }
  - Other Considerations - }
- To make people's lives safer and healthier and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership, which includes Ribble Valley Borough Council, is developing a landscape partnership scheme for the Pendle Hill area.

2.2 The partnership will focus on the conservation and heritage assets of this iconic landscape feature and will work to bring together the two communities on both sides of the Hill.

#### The Landscape

2.3 At 557m Pendle Hill is nearly a mountain which due to its relative isolation from the edge of the Pennines and the Bowland hills makes it a prominent and dominant landscape feature.

2.4 Pendle Hill has similarities to other northern hills having Heather and bog moorland on the top with dry stone walls at lower levels, grazed by sheep and divided by hedgerows with villages nestled around streams, farms and mills.

#### The Heritage

2.5 Pendle Hill has a rich and distinctive past having been settled since Bronze Age and Iron Age. Explored by Romans it eventually developed along the lines of medieval farming estates and hunting forests.

2.6 More recent times the hill has been exploited for its mineral and resources and early industrial development followed before the explosion of industrial activity in the neighbouring cotton towns.

## The Asset

- 2.7 Pendle Hill is seen as an asset for walkers, fell runners and cyclists and visitors to the hill come to see it as an open air vantage point with fresh air and spectacular views.
- 2.8 However, it is also a living landscape populated by farming families and villagers, some of who can trace their roots back for generations.

## Threats and Opportunities

- 2.9 The Forest of Bowland Landscape Character Assessment has identified a number of threats to the heritage assets of Pendle Hill; these being the following:
- Loss of landscape features and species diversity
  - Erosion conflict and congestion caused by visitor pressure
  - People losing touch with the past
  - People losing touch with the landscape
  - Reduced finance for recreation, heritage and wildlife conservation

## Programme of Activity

- 2.10 The area included in the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership covers 120km<sup>2</sup>, therefore it will be necessary to create a cohesive thematic approach to improve the environment, economy and access.
- 2.11 Environmental projects will include:
- Repair of stone walls and restoration of hedgerows
  - Surveying and management of wildlife sites
  - Interpreting the area's geology and its contribution to the area and the economy
- 2.12 Economy projects will include:
- Developing visitor hubs
  - Use of technology and traditional measures to reduce pressure on over used sites and to reduce conflicts
  - Improving access in order to reduce pressure on key routes and provide for all abilities
  - Set up a visitor giving scheme to support community led projects
  - Researching the hills eco services and its contribution to people's health and wellbeing
  - Working to establish more sustainable tourism

2.13 Projects will include:

- Support for local history groups
- Delivering community archaeological projects
- Projects researching and interpreting the Pendle radicals we think as non conformists
- Developing education projects with schools and colleges

#### How it will happen

2.14 The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme will be managed by the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board. This will be made up of local organisations, community and business representatives. A small project team will be based in the project area and work with various programme partners to deliver the activity.

#### Programme Outputs

2.15 Throughout the four year delivery programme, the Pendle Hill Partnership will:

- Create at least five full time equivalent jobs
- Create more than 20 apprenticeship placements for local young people
- Provide annual heritage placements for university students
- Deliver an annual programme of creating engagement including artists and residents community and public art
- Restore over 3km of hedgerow and dry stone walls, particularly where these are important landscape features
- Bring at least 10 biological heritage sites into positive management
- Provide outreach experiences in the countryside for more than 1000 people
- Work with at least 20 schools by providing curriculum linked and engaging activity in the outdoors
- Improve four visitor facilities and provide online or app based digital interactive information about the area
- Improve or upgrade over 5km of public rights of way
- Provide at least one new tramper for use in the area
- Carry out important archaeological surveys and digs
- Work with at least five local history groups and provide them with training and support
- Allocate over £80,000 for community led heritage and environmental improvement schemes
- Attract over £2 million pounds worth of investment

**3 CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership scheme will secure a number of projects that will provide a lasting legacy for future generations on both sides of Pendle Hill.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

For further information please ask for David Hewitt, extension 4505.

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