

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2015
title: RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY STRATEGY
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT - CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: DILYS DAY - PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 This report provides committee with an update on progress against the Community Strategy for Ribble Valley which was adopted in October 2014.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – The Community Strategy and its associated action plans form the basis of the sense of place and common vision of the communities in the Ribble Valley

2 INFORMATION

2.1 Members will recall that the Community Strategy was revised and adopted in October 2014 and a commitment given to keep Members updated on key work areas.

2.2 Attached to this report at Appendix 1 is a summary of the key actions that have been identified for delivering the strategy, together with a progress update against each.

2.3 Some areas of activity have yet to be progressed, whilst others will fall predominantly across other areas of the Council's work rather than key directly within the remit of the Partnership Officer. A significant area of work has been generated around supporting and the re-launch of the older persons' forum and developing specific projects in supporting the Council's health and wellbeing by agenda. In addition, work streams have focused on strengthening links with a number of partnership networks to help develop the necessary infrastructure and support to deliver the Community Strategy aspirations.

3 CONCLUSION

3.1 That Committee note the contents of this report.

DILYS DAY
PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Dilys Day, extension 4549.

REF: DD/CMS/P&F/24 MAR 15

Community Strategy Actions 2015

Subject	Issues to be addressed	Tasks	Work being done
Housing	Provision of Affordable Housing	Various initiatives	Delivery through strategic housing team
	Housing for homeless young people		
	Suitable housing for older people		
	Reduce fuel poverty		
Facilities	Improve access to services and facilities in rural communities	Maintain links with villages, and in particular community & village halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Made contact with all villages & working with them where a need has been identified via a 'Village Audit' process ✓ Created a data set of village publications/communication methods for each village ✓ Explained the support on offer to help them to realise their local needs ✓ Improved website presence for community facilities via new RVBC website ✓ Developing a Village Halls network to share best practice and 'bulk buying' ✓ RVVHA now established. We have a link in. ✓ RVBC web site has been developed to add community groups & encourage use for events - 'Signpost'
	Increased outreach activities in villages	Work with villages to develop the services they need	
	Support for voluntary sector via office rental at RVBC		
	Support for groups to recruit volunteers	Work with One Lancashire Volunteering	
	Use the Play alliance to improve the sustainability & maintenance of play areas		
Education & Economy	Increase opportunities for vocational training for 16-19 year olds in the borough	Develop innovatory pilot schemes for vocational learning & development of employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Working with community initiatives
	Business support	Support & encourage enterprise & entrepreneurship	

Community Strategy Actions 2015

Subject	Issues to be addressed	Tasks	Work being done
		Develop support for social enterprise	✓ Supporting communities who are interested in managing community assets
	Tourism – develop:	Food	
		Heritage	
		Green	
Community Safety	Maintain low levels of crime	Maintain & support the safety partnership	✓ Involvement in the CSP
	Improve education & awareness around road safety		✓ The road safety group has been reshaped & regrouped and working with LCC under Jackie Brindle
	Reduce alcohol abuse around young people		
Health & older people	Align work with Ribblesdale locality of the CCG (& those other CCGs which fall into RV – BwD and Greater Preston)	Work with groups to align outcomes	Regular contact with Ribblesdale - ✓ Partnership network ✓ Direct work with groups ✓ Encourage uptake of CCG grants ✓ Building links with BwD & Longridge CCG contacts
	Plan for the support needs of an ageing population	Work with the Ribble Valley Village Halls Association, the LAVCH, village halls & community centres to facilitate essential improvements	✓ Engaged with Senior’s Forum as an important partnership with the older community members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working to raise awareness via promotion & re branding ✓ Work with Public health – specifically Sandra Fox ✓ Continue to develop Dementia friends via the RV dementia group ✓ Working with partners: Age UK, CVS & others who support older peoples’ priorities ✓ Support for the ‘Access for All’ group

Community Strategy Actions 2015

Subject	Issues to be addressed	Tasks	Work being done
		Support the voluntary sector in the villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Visit all RV villages & understand any issues and support needs ✓ Assist with sustainability & funding
	Address issues around rural isolation & loneliness	Work with older people's groups inc Seniors' Forum to develop plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Working with 50+ assembly & the PhD project around loneliness ✓ Developing a 'Good Neighbour' project to direct services and volunteer support to rural areas
Local Democracy	Introduce new mechanisms to strengthen local democracy	Encourage interest in parish councils	
	Neighbourhood Planning	Facilitate groups to develop neighbourhood plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Supporting villages where asked to do so
Environment	Improved access to the countryside	Footpaths & bridleways	
		Organised walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stepping out programme
		Horse riding	
		Mountain biking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ New cycle routes developed & promoted
	Promote waste reduction & recycling	Look at energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Working with community buildings to reduce energy bills via projects to improve insulation, and energy generation opportunities ✓ Events to promote energy efficiency ✓ Work with LESS & CHIL
	Increase opportunities for use of public transport		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opportunities identified to better inform pass holders about use of public transport (via Seniors' Forum) ✓ Bus Buddies starting to take off. New programme for 2015
	Encourage the promotion & protection of industrial archaeology & historical sites		
	Work with communities & partners to create sustainable initiatives		