

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 7

meeting date: 15 DECEMBER 2016
title: PROPOSED CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO LONGRIDGE
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To agree a formal response to the consultation regarding the Longridge Neighbourhood Plan and thereby aid in its timely development.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – The matters covered in this report will contribute to several of the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy including appropriate housing and encouraging economic activity.
- Corporate Priorities – The document that is the subject of this report relates to Council ambitions of making people's lives safer and healthier and also helping to protect the environment by directing future development into appropriate and sustainable locations.
- Other considerations – This consultation response will help the Council to positively contribute to the neighbourhood planning process.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Neighbourhood planning is a new initiative of the present government which gives local communities the opportunity, should they choose to take it, to develop a formal plan for their particular area. This plan, once adopted, will have legal force in the formal planning system alongside other documents produced by the Planning Authority and by central government. It must be in general conformity with the area's overall Local Plan, including the Core Strategy, and not conflict with central government policy statements such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG). Decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and the neighbourhood plan, and any other material considerations.

2.2 In general terms, and subject to the above, neighbourhood plans give local communities the ability to develop a shared vision for their particular area including where they want to see new homes, shops and work places develop, potentially what those new buildings will look like and what infrastructure should be provided. These plans can operate over ten, fifteen or twenty year horizons. It is also important to note that the plan will also be subject to the parallel process of Sustainability Appraisal, as was the Core Strategy.

- 2.3 Briefly, the process of developing a neighbourhood plan begins with the designation of the specific area the plan will consider. In Longridge's case this was made in 2013. The local Neighbourhood Plan group have now brought together an initial version of the Plan (a Regulation 14 version within The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012). Following the closure of the consultation on 28 November the plan will be revised in the light of responses and any necessary further clarifications and liaison. This revised version (called the Submission version), which the local community considers to be its final plan, will then be submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council who will arrange a formal six week consultation on the document. Following that stage the document, together with any consultation responses, will be the subject of an Examination by an outside party. If it is found to be legally sound it will then pass to a local public referendum. If successful, and subject to EU obligations and Convention rights, Ribble Valley Borough Council then formally makes the plan and it comes into legal force.
- 2.4 Further details regarding Neighbourhood Planning can be found on the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) website link below.

<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/>

3. THE PLAN ITSELF

- 3.1 Briefly, the draft plan deals with a variety of matters relating to key local issues that the community have identified through a series of workshops. These are set out as Objectives relating to the following issues:

- Housing Growth
- Infrastructure
- Local Character and Heritage
- Local Shops and Services
- Community Facilities
- Local Employment

- 3.2 After initial chapters relating to the Neighbourhood Plan process, a profile of Longridge and a Vision for the plan there follows a series of chapters, each one relating to a specific objective and containing a series of proposed policies. These policies, once finalised, are intended to, on the adoption of the plan, be formal legal considerations in the Council's judgement of planning applications alongside the Core Strategy.

- 3.3 The Plan also contains a series of maps intended to delineate formal areas of land to which various policies will relate and which will potentially be future formal land allocations. In addition there are a series of Appendices relating to items such Local Green Spaces, local heritage assets and proposed cycle routes.

4. THE PROPOSED RESPONSE

- 4.1 The draft plan has been through an initial review process and officers are currently co-ordinating a series of detailed comments to inform its future development. There are a number of areas of detail that need further discussion, in particular wording that seeks to strengthen the Town Council's role in determining applications. If these are not addressed, it may prove difficult to progress the plan. Also there are issues relating to

matters such as housing, heritage assets and open spaces which are felt to require further clarity. These will be raised with the Longridge Neighbourhood Plan group. The amount of work that has gone into the draft is impressive and commendable, however the Council look forward to continued positive liaison.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – No financial implications arise from this report.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None
- Political – No direct political implications
- Reputation – It is important that the Council positively contributes to the neighbourhood planning process.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

6.1 Approve the forthcoming submission of formal comments on the Longridge Neighbourhood Plan and further liaison with the Longridge Neighbourhood plan group to help refine the developing plan.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Longridge 2028 Neighbourhood Development Plan regulation 14 Consultation Draft, October 2016

For further information please ask for Philip Dagnall, extension 4570

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