

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 6

meeting date: 27TH JUNE 2017
title: THE CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: MARSHAL SCOTT

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider an amendment to the Council's committee structure in order to create an Economic Development Committee.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council takes Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism very seriously and has had many successes over the years with both attracting new businesses into Ribble Valley and helping existing businesses to expand.
- 2.2 The Borough has a flourishing business economy and we have a good relationship with many businesses and business organisations.
- 2.3 We have also a good track record of promoting Ribble Valley as a tourist destination and had considerable success with events that attract visitors to Ribble Valley. Notable examples are the annual Clitheroe Food Festival and the Tour of Britain in 2015.
- 2.4 The Ribble Valley has also a very low level of unemployment.

3 CURRENT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

- 3.1 In the current committee structure the Council has the:
- Policy and Finance Committee responsible for Economic Development. This is referred to in the Committee's Terms of Reference as set out below:
 - ◆ To formulate and implement the Council's regeneration and economic development plans.
 - Community Committee responsible for Tourism. This is referred to in the Committee's Terms of Reference as set out below:
 - ◆ To encourage the development of tourist activities throughout the Borough.
- 3.2 Policy and Finance Committee also established some years ago an Economic Development Working group to consider Economic issues in more detail.

4 CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- 4.1 I have been asked by the new political leadership to prepare a report for this committee which under the Councils' constitution can recommend to the Council a change to the committee structure. I have set out below the changes requested.

5 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 5.1 The existing Terms of Reference set out concisely our role in supporting both Economic Development and Tourism. For the new committee I have split the existing terms of reference into more detail. These are set out below:-

- To lead, consider and propose matters concerning the promotion of economic development throughout the Borough and the interface with countywide or regional economic development initiatives.
- To formulate and implement the Council's regeneration and economic development plans.
- To promote and encourage enterprise and investment in the Borough in order to maintain and sustain the economic wellbeing and regeneration of the area.
- To develop a climate where businesses and individuals can innovate, compete and contribute to the economic development and regeneration of the area; and excellence in local business.
- To encourage the growth of existing businesses in the Borough and access to the skills and training necessary to support them.
- To consult with the representative organisations of business and employees, trade associations, residents and other interested parties.
- To maintain a special interest in promoting employment in the Borough.
- To promote and encourage tourism.

This would require the deletion of the existing Terms of Reference from:-

Policy and Finance Committee

To formulate and implement the Council's regeneration and economic development plans.

Community Committee

To encourage the development of tourist activities throughout the Borough.

6 FREQUENCY OF MEETING AND CHANGES TO POLITICAL BALANCE

- 6.1 It is proposed the committee meets 5 times a year which is the same frequency as all service committees. The committee timetable will require amendment to reflect this. The creation of a 15 member Economic Development Committee will also result in slight changes to the political balance calculation for the Council.

7 BUDGETS

- 7.1 If Committee and Council approve the Terms of Reference as set out in Section 5 of the report, the following budgets will transfer to the new Economic Development Committee. See Appendix 1.

From Policy and Finance Committee

Economic Development - Original budget 2017/18	£106,510
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From Community Committee

Tourism and Events - Original budget 2017/18	£107,100
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8 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources - There will be an annual cost of £5,867 due to increases in Members Special Responsibility Allowances which will be funded from a transfer from General Fund balances this year and factored into next year's base budget. Officer support for the new committee will be met from existing resources but staff resources are becoming stretched with the increase in committees/working groups.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Council’s constitution and governance arrangements will require amending to reflect the new Committee.
- Political – None identified.
- Reputation – None identified.
- Equality & Diversity - None identified.

9 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 9.1 Recommend to Council the creation of an Economic Development Committee as set out above.

Marshal Scott

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Appendix 1 –

REF:

For further information please ask for Marshal Scott