

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COUNCIL

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 11TH JULY 2017
title: THE CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: MARSHAL SCOTT

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider a recommendation by the Policy & Finance committee to amend 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 At its meeting on 27 June 2017 the Policy & Finance Committee resolved to create an Economic Development committee subject to Council's approval. The changes required to do this are set out below.

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 tourism activities throughout the Borough.

6 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

6.1 It is proposed the committee meets 5 times a year which is the same frequency as all service committees. These dates can be fit into the current timetable on the following dates

- Thursday 21 September 2017
- Thursday 15 November 2017
- Thursday 1 February 2018
- Thursday 5 April 2018

7 CHANGES TO POLITICAL BALANCE

7.1 The creation of a 15 member Economic Development Committee will also result in slight changes to the political balance calculation for the Council as follows:-

Total number of seats on committees

Existing committees 95 + Economic Development committee 15 = 110

Seats per member is 110 divided by 40 = 2.75

New overall allocation of seats per group is

Conservatives 35 x 2.75 = **96** (96.25)

Liberal Democrats 4 x 2.75 = **11**

Remaining seats (110 – 107) = **3** must be allocated to Cllr Maureen Fenton

Economic Development committee (15 divided by 40 = 0.38)

Conservatives $35 \times 0.38 = 13.3 = 13$

Liberal Democrats $4 \times 0.38 = 1.52 = 2$

Others $15 - (13 + 2) = 0$

Summary as at the Annual meeting on 9 May 2017 with the seats adjusted to bring the totals in line with the overall allocation of seats:-

Committee	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats	Labour
Community	13	2	0
Planning & Dev	13	2	0
Licensing	13	2 (-1)	1 (+1)
Health & Housing	13	2 (-1)	1 (+1)
Personnel	8	1	0
Policy & Finance	13	2	0
Accounts & Audit	10	1	0
TOTALS	83	10 (-2)	2 (+2) = 95
Economic Dev	13	2	0
TOTALS	96	12	2 = 110

In order to bring these totals in line with the NEW overall allocation of seats the Liberal Democrats are required to give up 1 seat on a committee so that the Labour councillor has 3 seats.

8. BUDGETS

- 8.1 If Council approves the Terms of Reference as set out in Section 5 of the report, the following budgets will transfer to the new Economic Development Committee.

From Policy and Finance Committee

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

From Community Committee

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

9 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 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.

10 RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

- 10.1 Approve the creation of an Economic Development Committee as set out above.
- 10.2 Approve the amended political balance as set out above.
- 10.3 Approve the changes to the committee timetable as set out above.

Marshal Scott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Appendix 1 –
REF:

For further information please ask for Marshal Scott