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Ribble Valley
Borough Council

www.ribblevalley.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

The next meeting of the **PARISH COUNCILS LIAISON** Committee will be held at **6.30 pm** on **THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2023** in the **Council Chamber**.

I do hope you can be there.

Yours sincerely

M. H. Scott

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR 2023/24**
2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR 2023/24**
3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
4. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 3 - 6)
5. **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interest in respect of matters contained in the agenda.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
7. **BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON MEETING**

Verbal Presentation

8. **NEW POLICING MODEL**

Presentation on the new model coming into force in June 2023

9. **REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

i) Ribble Valley Economic Plan 2023-26

(Pages 7 - 24)

Report from the Economic Development Committee

- ii) Home Upgrade Grant (Phase 2) Scheme (HUG2) (Pages 25 - 30)

Report from Health and Housing Committee

10. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

Parish Councillors to raise issues verbally in the meeting

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Electronic agendas sent to members of Parish Councils Liaison – Councillor David Birtwhistle, Councillor Kevin Horkin MBE, Councillor Simon O'Rourke, Councillor Gary Scott (Vice-Chair), Councillor Robin Walsh, Councillor Karl Barnsley, Councillor Derek Brocklehurst, Councillor Sophie Cowman, Councillor Gaynor Hibbert, Councillor Charles McFall, Councillor Malcolm Peplow, Councillor Mary Robinson and Councillor Nicholas Stubbs.

Contact: Democratic Services on 01200 414408 or committee.services@ribblevalley.gov.uk

Minutes of Parish Councils Liaison

Meeting Date: Thursday, 6 April 2023, starting at 6.30 pm
Present: Councillor M Highton (Chairman)

Councillors:

J Alcock	S Hore
T Austin	S O'Rourke
D Berryman	G Scott
A Brown	R Walsh
B Buller	

Parish Representatives:

D Chiappi	Barrow
S Farmer	Billington and Langho
R Veitch	Bolton by Bowland, Gisburn Forest and Sawley
A Yates	Bolton by Bowland
R Porter	Chatburn
M Venables	Mellor
S Rosthorn	Newsholme and Paythorne
J Bennett	Newton in Bowland
D Briscoe	Rimington and Widdop
A Jackson	Sabden
S Clarke	Sabden
M Wood	Salesbury
R Chew	West Bradford
J Threlfall	Whalley
S Houghton	Wiswell
A Scholfield	Wiswell

In attendance: Chief Executive and Head of Strategic Housing and Planning

Also in attendance: Councillors D Peat, G Scott and R Sherras

886 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors R Bennett and D Berryman.

887 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

888 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests.

889 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

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COUNCILLOR R SWARBRICK - 20 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT FOR VILLAGES

Lancashire County Councillor R Swarbrick spoke on the issue of implementing 20mph speed limits for villages in the Ribble Valley.

He reminded the meeting about the service that Rennie Pinder provides with regards to the SPID Scheme and how this helps the police to know where to go to target their activity. However, he noted difficulties encountered with the police in terms of the costs to them for issuing fines to speeding drivers and in getting them to enforce certain speed limits. He was of the view that speed limit signs may encourage drivers to slow down but believed that enforcement of speed limits is the best deterrent.

County Councillor Swarbrick advised that unfortunately, at present there aren't the funds available to implement 20mph speed limits.

Parish Councillors provided their input and put forward their concerns to Councillor Swarbrick.

County Councillor Swarbrick urged members of the Parish Council Liaison meeting to write to him setting out the case for 20mph speed limits and encouraging Lancashire County Council to implement schemes.

It was noted that a Parish Council Liaison Working Group has been set up and the first meeting is to take place the following week.

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KING'S CHARLES III CORONATION

The Chief Executive advised the meeting as to the arrangements for the King's Coronation, which are as follows:

- the Council has arranged for two large screens on Clitheroe bandstand where the Coronation will be televised live. The Rotary Club has agreed to provide stewards for the occasion.
- a Coronation grant of £500 will be paid to each Parish/Town Council on application. It was noted that the grant will be paid to the Parish/Town Councils but this money can then be passed on to any voluntary groups at their discretion.
- the Council has agreed to make litter picking equipment available to Parishes to support the Big Help Out on Monday 8 May. If any Parishes have any further ideas for the Big Help Out then they should let the Council know.
- the Council are encouraging residents to have street parties for the Coronation and will do all the legal paperwork for free. The Ribble Valley Mayor and Mayoress will also visit street parties if invited.
- Clitheroe Castle will be lit up red, white and blue.

892

HARP UPDATE

The Head of Strategic Planning and Housing advised that members of Planning and Development Committee were minded to approve both HARP applications subject to

a legal agreement and numerous conditions. Both applications are now with the Secretary of State to consider whether he wishes to call in the applications. No decision can be made until he determines how he would like the applications to progress.

The representative from Newton in Bowland read a statement setting out the views of a local resident.

893

MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PARISH COUNCILS

There were no matters brought forward by Parish Councils

894

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on 22 June 2023 at 6:30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Jenny Martin 01200 413214 jenny.martin@ribblevalley.gov.uk.

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RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

meeting date: 15 JUNE 2023
title: RIBBLE VALLEY ECONOMIC PLAN 2023 – 2026
submitted by: NICOLA HOPKINS – DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING
principal author: HASSAN DITTA – SENIOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the draft Economic Plan 2023 – 2026 (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council’s ambitions and priorities
 - Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
 - Corporate Priorities - To encourage economic development throughout the Borough with a specific focus on developing a new Economic Plan.
 - Other Considerations – The Economic Plan will support a range of Council activities and assist in financial planning for the Authority.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current Economic Plan was adopted in September 2019 and covers the period 2019-2022. A copy of the existing plan is included in Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The existing Economic Plan is still a working document. Several projects identified in the Plan have been delivered and work is continuing to deliver the projects that have not yet been completed.
- 2.3 Due to Covid, not all projects have been delivered as the Council’s priorities changed during this unexpected period. Focus shifted to providing multiple rounds of grant support direct to businesses instead of continuing to deliver the Economic Plan.

3 THE ECONOMIC PLAN (2023-2026).

- 3.1 A special Ribble Valley Economic Partnership meeting was held on Wednesday 12th October 2022. The meeting was run as a workshop and allowed delegates to provide feedback to Officers on the key issues they are facing and expecting to face in the future.
- 3.2 The existing Economic Plan was used as a starting point for the session and a SWOT analysis carried out on the 5 Action areas. This format was successfully used to produce the current Economic Plan; therefore a similar approach has been adopted to produce the new Plan. The results of the workshop are provided in Appendix 3.
- 3.3 Based on the workshop and SWOT analysis, a draft Economic Plan was created and a second workshop was held on 20th February 2023 with the Ribble Valley Economic Partnership to ensure the plan reflected the challenges and issues businesses are facing. The findings of this second workshop are presented in Appendix 4.

3.4 A copy of the draft Economic Plan is attached in Appendix 1. Members will note that the plan follows a similar format of the existing Economic Plan clearly setting out the Council's proposed actions.

3.5 The plan will once again be split into the following five priority areas:

People

Focuses on those actions that will support skills development.

Place

Focuses on those actions that recognise and respect the value and character of the Ribble Valley.

Business Support

Focuses on those actions that sustain competitiveness and strengthens business networks.

Connectivity

Focuses on those actions that will act as the catalyst for better digital and public transport connectivity.

Tourism

Focuses on those actions that will promote the development of accommodation, improve hospitality and support events building on the attraction of the local area.

3.6 The actions within the plan can be delivered in a timely manner and will support the local economy as well as the Council's economic ambition to sustain the strong local economy the Borough currently has. The plan is intended to focus the delivery against key priorities identified with the Ribble Valley Economic Partnership.

3.7 For each priority area, deliverable projects that will sustain the local economy have been identified.

3.8 Priority Area 1: People

Work with partners to deliver recruitment events – businesses who attended the meetings, in particular tourism businesses raised the fact that recruitment events would be beneficial to reduce ongoing difficulties when recruiting. Delivery partners identified include DWP and Lancashire Skills Hub.

Enhance digital skills of employees – engage with partners to deliver digital upskilling sessions for employees and residents alike. Digital skills support for the workforce has been identified by businesses on a number of occasions and working with partners, specific sessions will be delivered in the Borough.

Improve connectivity between schools and businesses – build on enhancing the Enterprise Advisor scheme by increasing the engagement between schools and businesses. Opportunities for businesses to visit schools and talk about career routes will be explored.

3.9 Priority Area 2: Place

Deliver on Town Centre Action Plans – identified by the current Economic Plan and still relevant as the use and future of Town Centres is constantly evolving. Work will continue to develop and deliver Town Centre Action Plans for Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley.

Undertake place branding exercise – having a clear identity for Ribble Valley will help promote the Borough as an area where businesses can thrive which is essential for the well-being of the Borough. The Council has successfully completed this exercise for Tourism and a similar exercise for the wider economy will result in a clear brand for the Borough.

Integrate property search onto the Council website – additional business support the Council can offer to businesses growing within the Borough. The Council will work with estate agents to ensure an up-to-date database of properties is available on our website. This will also be effective as a monitoring tool for commercial property available in the Borough and the types of businesses expanding or moving within the Borough.

3.10 Priority Area 3: Business Growth

Create networking opportunities – businesses have identified that there is a limited offering for Ribble Valley based networking which will help connect local businesses. The three service centres in Ribble Valley have successfully adopted individual networking models so a larger borough wide networking model will be explored.

Provide support to businesses in the Borough – linking with partners across Lancashire to provide workshops on business skills which will help support businesses. The Council will also help raise awareness of the support available to local businesses from our partners by improving information flow to our businesses in the format of quarterly newsletters with information on up-to-date business support.

Support businesses to reduce their carbon footprint – The Council will provide support for businesses seeking to reduce their carbon footprint by working with East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce. The support will help businesses improve energy and environmental efficiencies, introduce on site renewable energy generation and save money.

3.11 Priority Area 4: Connectivity

Explore rail Improvements – Work is ongoing to identify improvements and the Council will commit to continue to develop and implement options identified.

Develop an electric vehicle including bike charging strategy – The current infrastructure for electric vehicle charging will not be sufficient as the UK moves away from petrol and diesel engines. The Council will develop an electric vehicle charging strategy which will help ensure the Borough has sufficient coverage of charging points.

Work collaboratively with partners to improve sustainable modes of transport in the Borough – continue to work with partners at Lancashire County Council to ensure necessary services are retained and supported within the Borough.

3.12 Priority Area 5: Tourism

Develop a new Destination Management Plan – work with partners to develop a plan which will encourage the volume and diversity of visitor accommodation available in the Valley and maximise new market opportunities as they arise.

Develop a Marketing Plan including the development of an interactive website – building on the successful Love Ribble Valley Brand, develop a new coordinated, tourism marketing plan including a new interactive Visit Ribble Valley website.

Develop a coordinated approach to the promotion of new and existing events – events are organised by partners throughout the Borough and a more coordinated approach to the promotion of events will result in raising the profile of the events and the Borough encouraging more visitors to the area.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – Budgets are already in place for some of the priority areas identified with resources being allocated from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Rural England Prosperity Fund and the Council's Economic Promotions budget. Any additional work arising out of the identified actions with additional budget implications will be the subject of individual reports to the relevant Service Committees in due course as part of the Council's budgetary process. Such actions would not proceed unless adequate approved budget or external funding was in place, in line with Financial regulations.

The plan will also provide a vehicle to inform bidding rounds for external funding where relevant, which will also be subject to future reports as projects come forward.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Having an up-to-date Economic Plan is not a statutory requirement however it fits in with the Council's Corporate Strategy (2019-2023) Ambition 2 – to sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Political – The Council has identified economic development as a key political priority.
- Reputation – This report will assist the Council in demonstrating delivery of the Corporate Strategy.
- Equality & Diversity – No equality and diversity issues. The work in relation to this report supports the Council's aim in delivering a sustainable local economy to the benefit of all its community.

5 RECOMMEND THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Authorise the Director of Economic Development and Planning to carry out a public for a period of six weeks on the draft Economic Plan.

HASSAN DITTA
SENIOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER

NICOLA HOPKINS
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

For further information please ask for Hassan Ditta, extension 4424

APPENDIX 1

DRAFT ECONOMIC PLAN – 2023-2026

Ambition

The prosperity of the economy in Ribble Valley is demonstrated through sustaining businesses and nurturing the entrepreneurial drive in the local community.

Sustainable economic prosperity is an important component to the quality of life in Ribble Valley in terms of health, housing, reduced crime and access to services. To ensure this, our objectives are;

- To support businesses throughout the Borough to remain competitive
- To support skills development including linking with schools/colleges and creating networking opportunities
- To work with our partners in the Ribble Valley to improve infrastructure including non-private transport, digital connectivity and moving towards a carbon free Borough.

People – Priority Area 1

Focuses on those actions that will support skills development.

- Work with partners to deliver recruitment events
- Enhance digital skills of employees
- Improve connectivity between schools and businesses

Place – Priority Area 2

Focuses on those actions that recognise and respect the value and character of the Ribble Valley. Enhance sustain and maintain the character environment

- Deliver on town centre action plans
- Undertake place branding exercise
- Integrate property search onto the Council website

Business Support – Priority Area 3

Focuses on those actions which sustain business competitiveness and strengthen business networks.

- Provide support to businesses in the Borough
- Support businesses to reduce their carbon footprint
- Create networking opportunities

Connectivity – Priority Area 4

Focuses on those actions that will act as the catalyst for digital connectivity and public transport connectivity.

- Explore rail improvements
- Develop an electric vehicle including bikes charging strategy
- Work collaboratively with partners to improve sustainable modes of transport in the Borough

Tourism – Priority Area 5

Focuses on those actions that improves the visitor experience and support events building on the attraction of the local area.

- Develop a new destination management plan
- Develop a marketing plan including the development of an interactive website
- Develop a coordinated approach to the promotion of new and existing events

APPENDIX 2
ECONOMIC PLAN – 2019-2022



Ambition

The prosperity of the economy in the Ribble Valley is demonstrated through the continuing high levels of economic growth in the area. However, there is a need to ensure that opportunities are available for businesses to continue to develop in the area. There is a need to continue to market and regenerate our market towns and villages as places to do business and to ensure that there is employment land available for development.

The issues of public transport, particularly accessibility to isolated villages, are part of a perceived need for a more flexible approach and a more accessible service.

Without economic prosperity, many other problems e.g. health, housing, crime, access to services are all much harder to address.

Our objectives

- To encourage economic development throughout the borough with specific focus on tourism, the delivery of sufficient land for business development, and supporting high growth business opportunities;
- To seek to improve the transport network, especially to our rural areas;
- To work with our partners to ensure that the infrastructure in the Ribble Valley is improved;
- To promote stronger, more confident and more active communities throughout the borough.

People:
 focuses on those actions and projects that will be a catalyst for business growth, more local employment opportunities and the skills to support aspirational growth.

Places:
 focuses on those actions and projects that will ensure the right land and premises are available along with opportunities to place the attractive environment at the heart of key sectors.

Business Support and Growth:
 focuses on those actions and projects that will equip residents and businesses with the right information to support new and existing businesses along with enabling experience and knowledge sharing opportunities.

Connectivity:
 focuses on those actions and projects that will act as the catalyst for job creation and growth.

Tourism:
 focuses on those actions and projects that will promote the development of accommodation, improve hospitality and support events building on the attraction of the local area.

RIBBLE VALLEY ECONOMIC PLAN:

TO ENABLE BUSINESSES TO BE SUSTAINABLE AND TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN THE BOROUGH



Action Area 1:

People

1. Develop a jobs / careers fair
2. Undertake a Housing and Economic Needs Assessment
3. Explore options for developing a work placement plan



Action Area 2:

Places

1. Develop Key Service Centre Action Plans
2. Explore options for serviced office accommodation or community business hubs
3. Undertake place branding exercise
4. Expand the property search function
5. Develop an on-line business directory



Action Area 3:

Business Support and Growth

1. Set up business advice and support web-page/ site
2. Set up 'One stop shop' business support package
3. Quarterly meetings of the Ribble Valley Economic Partnership



Action Area 4:

Connectivity

1. Explore rail improvements to Manchester and Preston
2. Develop digital strategy
3. Integrate sustainable modes of transport within developments



Action Area 5:

Tourism

1. Develop cultural strategy
2. Explore options to increase visitor stay
3. Develop strategy for the future of the castle and its grounds
4. Develop a Heritage Strategy
5. Create one-stop events directory



APPENDIX 3
People and Place

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location- Branding, promotion • Film opportunity- make use of it 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Weakness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of slick promotion/branding • Unloved centres • Older estates- vehicle movement • Covid- an excuse to move it on • Staff- time/cost • Branding- wider offer • Dev- advice service
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Train incentives • Place Directory- what's on, modern • Students- link with college • Connectivity- rail • Business input to branding collaboration • Network events- lack focus • Marketing- directory • Instagram/Tiktok 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People- Skills, capacity • Parking infrastructure- footfall driver • Need for employment sites/units • Transport costs • Cost of accommodation- entry level housing- house type • Service support for investors • Expansion sites- land needed

Connectivity

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A59 Infrastructure • Railways • Dog Friendly 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Weakness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much reliance on cars • Cost- bus • Lack of Uber • Lack if buses/direct transport/timings • Parking • Sunday opening • A59 • Pedestrian connectivity • Quality of roads-cyclists • Lack of coordination between centres • Road closures • Improve infrastructure- schools and transport links • Signage • Lack of fibre connectivity
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be a central hub • Assets 'Castle' • Collaborate- coach trips • Sunday opening • Dog friendly • Park and ride • Improve road links • Cycle transport- electric bike hire- scooters • Collaborate with schools and understand issues • Joined up when get to destination • Direct people where to go • Pull traffic out of centre • Events • Point of contact for works being undertaken 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe- pandemic- buses and shopping • Nearby competiton

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Cliffe (LCC) Connect with businesses/ involve LCC • Send updates to Chambers 	
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Tourism

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RV tourism association • AONB • Ribble Valley Brand • Historical assets • Country side • Walking • Restaurants- Michelin star • Weddings • Hotels • Steady flow of tourists- could be better • Craft production- local food and drink • Events- mod weekender • Food Festival 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Weakness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facing potential recession • Could be seen as non-essential spend • Staffing crisis- image, skills • Transport- diesel/ petrol prices increasing • Public Transport • Inaccessible Heritage site e.g. Stonehurst can't open all year round due to school/safeguarding • Lack of accommodation/beds • Our online promos/websites arent as user friendly compared to other sites like visit Lancashire • Clitheroe has great potential but lacks the tourism infrastructure • Skipton vs Clitheroe- Skipton feels more like a tourist destination • Sign posting- should bring digital advertising boards into centre
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing could improve- Encourage businesses to pass over dates+ event info for us to promote • Create itineraries e.g. 72hrs in the Ribble Valley... • Promotional videos highlighting the RV offer • Curb appeal- could be more edgy+ work collaboratively to promote our offer • Collaborative advertising for businesses- mix of online and offline • Create a '5 year marketing strategy'- look at what other areas are undertaking • Gap in family offering • Staycations • Longer breaks/ shorter breaks more frequent as people can't go abroad due to lack of funds • Growth in Air BnB • Population increase in the valley • Outdoor venue space • Need to have a clear collective but also independent promotional offer for Whalley, Longridge and Clitheroe 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being able to travel abroad • Finances • Customers from outside the Ribble Valley won't travel • Air BnB- unregulated/ non insured/fire/ food hygiene etc • Public transport is bad but could actually get worse • People weren't going abroad this year- could good profits this year be "artificially inflated" because of this? • Supermarkets threaten independent shops • Shop closures/ vacancies are creeping in, reducing the offer

Business support and growth

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent businesses have a strong voice • Experienced local business leaders 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Weakness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically weak business support • Other authorities help whereas it feels like RV actively hinder and lose businesses money • Needs to be more communication between RV and LCC • Signage issues • Talent into the borough through school open days hindered by signage issues • Inconsistency on signage removals e.g. crafty vintage/ food festival • Welcome back funding was poorly spent- spent on consultants in Birmingham and the findings from the Ark report haven't been acted on • Marketing • Skilled staff • Improve communication- need to hear from us more often • Need more business visits • Social media needs improving but connection also requires a personal touch • Need to see results from the economic plan or people will stop turning up to meetings • Need the right people to come to meetings and the meetings need to have clear direction.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with schools for staff/ apprenticeships to jump, too difficult, colleges/training, not the money it's the ease of access • Solar • Biomass knowledge- empress fencing has knowledge • Other alternative fuel systems make more efficient • Business Liaison Office to communicate frequently with businesses and be their first point of call • Chamber and Council need to meet frequently • Proactive officers- networking and facilitating conversations between other businesses • Networking- could be a separate strand of the Economic Partnership meetings • Make meeting venues more interesting • Push current businesses to keep growing and moving forward • UKSPF 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy bills • Universally rising costs • Interest rates • Inflation cost of doing business • Electric

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capturing passion of local businesses• Local manufacturing consultants need an input• Business climate- opportunity for a plan to be put in place to support new+ current businesses• Digital screens on highstreet to promote business	
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APPENDIX 4

Place

Integrate evolutive property search onto RVBC website

- Advertise vacant properties across RV
- This needs a resource for council or chambers of trade to keep it up to date
- Right move style/commercial
- Old fashioned

Develop business directory

- Old fashioned approach
- e.g. love Ribble Valley
- Towns underneath
- Needs interactive map for visual learners too (not just wordy folks)
- Comprehensive and simple to navigate/find
- Needs to be constantly monitored and kept up to date
- Businesses could update themselves?
- How do you tell businesses about it?
- Who is it for? Visitors? Residents? Local businesses?
- Scope far too wide
- QR code – shop Whalley/shop Clitheroe/shop Longridge etc.
- Offers/news can be easily updated, e.g. restaurants offers
- Who does SM now? Fund vacancy?
- Better SM (TikTok)

Promote existing businesses – e.g. hotdesking

- Social media online portal to advertise offers/business events
- YouTube
- QR Codes
- Hashtags

Deliver on town center action plan

- Collective utilities for each location to enable businesses to benefit from cheaper unit prices
- Collective renewable energy incentives – grants for solar/wind etc
- Clitheroe – pedestrianize castle street, Sunday road closures for cyclists
- Parking spaces – in other towns as well as Clitheroe
- Repair paving slabs that are broken

Undertake place branding exercise

- Identify the specialisms i.e. food/rural/historic etc
- Food trail
- Promote individuality
- Clitheroe/RV Finest on FB like “Manchester Finest” reviews food establishments (cafes/restaurants/mobile)
- Highlight varieties available
- Promote market with pop up events – covered area (new opportunities)

- Tenant/retail mix – make sure new, different businesses are entering the high street
- Encourage businesses to support and promote each other. E.g. social media/carry flyers for each other/ stock each others products (many do as it works really well for them in Longridge and Clitheroe)
- Specialists events

People

Work with partners

- Excellent
 - Link across Lancashire
 - Businesses
 - Colleges
 - Online and face to face
- Skills hub link
- Centralise job vacancies for Lancashire
- Link to college – advertise vacancies direct to students
- Support grown your own
- Which careers
 - Hospitality
 - Cyber security
 - Health and wellness

Host focused networking sessions

- Geography
- Sector
- Range of networking (Lancashire wide/NW/Regional)
- Whose doing it already – Chamber/FSS/Growth Hub/Shout/Love Local
- Goals/aims – objectives

Improve digital connectivity

- Digital Lancashire
- Upskilling Lancashire
- Skills support for workforce
- Boost
- Digital hub –
 - high connectivity/hot desking
 - interaction between occupiers
 - Link to education/UCLan
- Banking hub – combine presence of more high street branches under one roof
- Young people lead digital/promotions of local business and facilities
- Man shed – retirees using skills like repair shop
- Wigan Tech Mates – buddy system for digital upskilling
- In general – skills connect businesses to with all 3 unis. So much funded support available

Enterprise advisor

- This already exists – Lancashire Skills HUB

- Help small businesses with paperwork with apprenticeship schemes for school leavers/employment
- Link with skills hub
- Link vacancies directly with colleges – advertise direct to students. Support businesses to grow your own
- Improved/cheaper transport links to connect more rural areas to employers/businesses
- Encourage businesses to sign up to Lancashire Skills Pledge – promote “Give an Hour”
- Schools and businesses – opportunities for businesses to visit schools and talk about careers routes. E.g. brag at the Grand
- Use people to deliver what they are already doing – no need to reinvent the wheel

Business

Support local businesses

- Monthly RVBC newsletter about all business support
- Discount business rates for the right type of retailers to encourage interesting tenant/retailer mix – not just coffee shops and charity shops
- BIDs
- Incentives and discounts such as loyalty schemes
- Workshops on business skills such as marketing/productivity/sales/import/export
- BOOST
- UKSPF is also supporting exporting
- Blanket refurbishment of shop fronts – uniformity within areas

Carbon footprint

- Not to add pressure to businesses
- Reduce energy bills and to open up new customers
- Chamber low carbon initiative/UKSPF
- Needs to be signposted to RV Businesses – all support should have dedicated website page for business support
- Support implementation and installation initiatives
- Reduced rates for lower emissions
- Signpost businesses to things that are already available (low cost)

Explore networking

- Aims?
- Burnley bondholders – brilliant but has 2/3FT employees and large investment
- RVEP networking quarterly?
- Regular events without the pressure of cross selling membership
- NWST focus on ID problems for business and solve
- Sporting events and sponsorship
- Council to buy sites and develop infrastructure for an industrial estate of the A59 to encourage development of industrial units in the right area

Connectivity

Rail

- Improve rail links to Manchester and shorter travel times, more frequent, every 30 mins such as a the Witch way bus
- Open Helifield line
- Rail links to North – Lancaster/Preston/Morecambe/Eden project
- Use railways or bus to market specific RV “excursions” e.g. gin trail or food
- Needs marketing
- Heavy rail, not light rail so enables freight movement

Develop EV charging

- Changing planning policy
- Do we want town center charging points? Where would they be
- Grants available for businesses
- Put them on public car parks?
- Central govt. policy issue?
- Electric supply inefficient for current needs now let alone for ev/electric heating

Sustainable travel

- Private companies?
- Circular hop on/off constant bus service between 3 service centers and points of interest/local businesses
- Connect local villages
- Electric bikes to hire – app based like Manchester
- Who are the partners?

Tourism

New visitor economy strategy

- Need tangible actions associated with strategy and measurable success factors
- What are the key campaigns?
- Develop new areas – retail/heritage etc
- Maintain historic appeal/look of buildings
- Events in market area
- Events calendar/regular
- More funding for events
- Make more use out of Castle Grounds
- Closed road cycling event – family event like sky ride
- Open Sundays, close Mondays?

Work with partners

- Integrate online communication to plan whole day – journey in/out – lunch dinner etc
- Identify key events e.g. Take That film launch
 - Action plan required to promote RV using these events
- Support promotional videos
- Website improvements (main RVTA website and links to Whalley/Longridge etc)
- Coordinated discounts
- Encourage staying on for dinner etc.

Educational establishments

- Multi business job fayres
- Council to organize and hold event?
- Produce promotional videos/media for schools/colleges (students can produce – UCLan)
- Favorable rates for those who offer education/training opportunities.

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

meeting date: JUNE 8th 2023
 title: AVAILABILITY OF THE HOME UPGRADE GRANT FOR RESIDENTS
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
 principal author: RACHAEL STOTT, HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To make Members aware of the availability of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and to encourage uptake across the borough.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Community Objectives – To help make people's lives safer and healthier.
 - Corporate Priorities – To work with partners to agree priorities and secure investment in housing.
 - Other Considerations – N/A

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Home Upgrade Grant (phase 2) scheme (HUG2) was made available from September 2022. Local Authorities were invited to apply for HUG2 home upgrade grant funding to support energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating to low-income households living in off gas grid homes. The details of the grant scheme can be found at [Air Source Heat Pump, Solar PV, Renewables & Insulation Grants Lancashire | Cosy Homes \(chil.uk.com\)](#)
- 2.2 HUG 2 is exclusively for those homes heated by oil, LPG, solid fuel, or electricity. The scheme therefore is particularly relevant to Ribble Valley as across the Ribble Valley only the market towns of Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley and the village of Chatburn have mains gas. The remainder of the borough relies on alternative energy sources and therefore residents living in the more rural parts of the borough are potentially eligible to apply.

HUG 2 SCHEME

- 2.3 Blackpool Council is the lead authority and submitted the bid on behalf of a consortium of Lancashire Authorities comprising Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Hyndburn, Lancashire, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancs and Wyre. The grant award is a total of £41,400,000. The scheme is delivered by Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL). Blackpool will be responsible for monitoring and providing returns to the Government.
- 2.4 All enquiries will be signposted through the CHiL website [Air Source Heat Pump, Solar PV, Renewables & Insulation Grants Lancashire | Cosy Homes \(chil.uk.com\)](#). The factsheet attached as appendix 1 sets out the main points of the scheme.
- 2.5 A property will qualify if:
- There is no mains gas central heating; and
 - it has an EPC of D,E,F or G

A household in an owner-occupied property will qualify if:

- the household income is less than £31,000 or
- in receipt of means tested benefit

A landlord can apply for a grant (£5000 maximum) in relation to a rented property if:

- the tenant household meet the eligibility criteria as above, and
- 50% contribution is made towards the cost of the work.

2.6 The measures to be covered by the scheme are listed as solid wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft and underfloor insulation, replacement of single glazed windows and wooden external doors and installation of low carbon heating systems such as air source heat pumps, solar PV and solar thermal.

2.7 The borough has a high percentage of off mains gas properties and therefore it is important residents are aware of the availability of the scheme especially as often rural properties are not eligible for grant schemes. The availability of the scheme will be promoted across the borough through the website, parish councils and press releases. It is important that residents take advantage of the scheme now so that measures are in place for winter. However further publicity will be undertaken in Autumn when households are more likely to consider heating costs and energy efficiency.

2.8 Residents are encouraged to apply following the link [Air Source Heat Pump, Solar PV, Renewables & Insulation Grants Lancashire | Cosy Homes \(chil.uk.com\)](#)

3 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

3.1 Note the contents of the report and that the HUG2 scheme will be promoted across the borough.

RACHAEL STOTT
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

NICOLA HOPKINS
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND PLANNING

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2: delivery guidance for local authorities \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 3235.

HOME UPGRADE GRANT



YOUR QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

What is Cosy Homes in Lancashire?

Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) is the Affordable Warmth Initiative set up by the Lancashire Local Authorities and embraces all the energy efficiency work that we do together across the county. Blackpool Council is the lead authority who bids for funding on behalf of the councils in Lancashire. CHiL has a central administration hub which is managed by Rhea Projects Ltd., our procured Managing Agent.

Does my house qualify?

'HUG' is for properties that do not have a gas central heating system. So if your main heating system is: electric heaters, gas fires, gas wall heaters, oil, LPG or wood/coal etc then your house could qualify. Your house would also need to have an Energy Rating of D, E, F or G. Don't worry if you don't know your energy rating as we will check this for you.

Who can apply?

If your household income is less than £31,000 then you would be eligible to apply. For those in receipt of a means tested benefit you would qualify automatically. If you're not sure then contact CHiL and the team will check your eligibility. 'HUG' is not the only scheme we have available so we may be able to help with other measures. Please contact the team if you're uncertain.

I'm a private tenant. Can I apply?

Private tenants can apply if you are on a low income or in receipt of benefits, we would need to see evidence as to how you qualify. You will need your landlord's permission for any work to be carried out and your landlord would need to make a financial contribution. The maximum grant they could have is £5,000.

How do I apply?

It is a simple application process. You can apply online www.chil.uk.com, or ring the CHiL team on 0330 606 1488 and apply over the phone or request an application form to be sent to you. The team will do an initial assessment and let you know very quickly if you and your home qualify. If you're not eligible for 'HUG' we would look at any other funding options for you.

What is a 'HUG'?

The Home Upgrade Grant is funding from the Government which has been given to those Local Authorities who have submitted successful bids. The funding is available to improve the energy efficiency of homes to make them warmer and greener.

What is an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)?

This is the energy rating of your home. To qualify for 'HUG' your home needs to be energy inefficient so has an EPC rating of D, E, F or G. The CHiL Team can check if your house has an EPC. If there isn't one, we will organize an EPC survey, free of charge.

I'm working. Can I apply?

Yes, you can apply if your household income is less than £31,000. Please contact the team to check your eligibility for any assistance we have available. We will need to collect evidence of your income before the survey stage.

I'm a landlord. Can I apply?

Landlords can apply. However, you must have someone living in your house who meets the eligibility criteria and we would need to see evidence of your tenant's income/benefits. The maximum grant you can receive is £5000 and you must contribute 50% towards the work. **There is additional funding to do certain insulation measures free of charge, so contact the CHiL Team to check what are the best options for you.**

Where does the funding come from?

The funding comes from central government and awarded to Local Authorities who successfully bid for it. As it is a government scheme they set all the rules and criteria which we must adhere to.

What can I apply for?

The funding is available to make your house warmer and we would always look at the (fabric of your house first which means insulation of your walls, floor and roof). We can offer loft insulation, solid wall insulation, room in roof insulation and underfloor insulation. If your house has any single glazed windows or old wooden external doors, then we can replace these. 'HUG' offers low carbon heating including air source heat pumps, Solar PV and solar thermal. A retrofit survey will establish the measures that are suitable for your property.

I have old double glazed windows. Can I apply?

Unfortunately we can only upgrade single glazed windows to new double glazed windows. This is a central government rule and even though we know some older double glazing is draughty and inefficient we are not allowed to use the funding to upgrade them.

Who will you share my personal information with?

Information you provide will be kept securely on our systems and will only be shared to partners working on the CHiL scheme. It will be used for the sole purpose of obtaining funding for those measures which you have applied for.

I've submitted an application. What happens next?

The CHiL Team will contact you within 10 days to go through the eligibility process with you. If you and your house qualifies, a preliminary survey will be organized by a member of the CHiL team. The surveyor will be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time. If you have not heard anything within 10 days please ring on 0330 606 1488 or email enquiries@rheaprojects.co.uk

Will I have to pay anything back if I sell the house or move?

There are no conditions attached to 'HUG' so you can sell your house at any time after the work. Please keep any guarantees in a safe place and pass to any future owners/tenants.

My house has had an initial survey. What happens next?

Following the initial survey you will move to the retrofit survey stage if 'HUG' measures have been identified. The CHiL Team will ring you following the initial survey to go through the results and at this time will organize the retrofit survey. We will always try to be flexible with days and times as we recognize most people are working.

Will I need to pay a contribution towards the work?

The grant will cover the full cost of all the eligible work identified during the retrofit process. You will not be asked to contribute.

How much is the grant worth?

The levels of funding varies depending on your property type but can go to a maximum of £38,000 for larger properties.

If I qualify what happens next?

If you qualify we need to make sure your house qualifies so there will be a series of surveys which we will organize as quickly and efficiently as possible starting with an initial survey by CHiL to look at current heating, insulation and glazing situation. The results go back to the CHiL Admin Team and you will be contacted to go through the results.

Will I save money on my energy bills?

Your home should feel warmer and your house will be more energy efficient. We will also offer advice on how to use your new heating system cost-effectively. However, the current energy crisis means that household bills are increasing, which is beyond our control.

I'm not sure about whether to have the work done. How long do I have to think about it?

The scheme will run until 31st March, 2025 or earlier should the funding allocation be fully committed before this date. You will need to make a decision before November 2024.

What is a retrofit survey?

It is a government requirement for all funded schemes that a retrofit process is followed. This is to give you peace of mind knowing that all work done on the scheme will receive the appropriate warranties and guarantees upon completion. A retrofit assessor will come to your house to do a full retrofit survey to establish measures that are suitable for your house as only recommended measures by a qualified surveyor can be undertaken. The results of this survey will be explained to you and if you agree, then specialist installers will be sent to do their own technical surveys. Please note that measures recommended in the retrofit survey may not be deemed possible at the technical survey stage.

Who will do the work?

Rhea Projects Ltd and council officers have undertaken an independent assessment of products and systems that we believe are the most appropriate to use on our scheme. We have worked closely with manufacturers to establish a list of Lancashire-based installers to work on our scheme. For each element of the work to your property you will have a technical survey from a specialist installer so please expect several surveys if you are having insulation, windows and heating.

Can I use my own contractor?

No. All contractors working on the scheme must have the relevant government certifications and must work to the Council's strict Code of conduct so for these reasons you cannot choose your own contractor.

I have had work done on previous grant schemes. Do I still qualify?

If you have been benefitted from previous schemes through CHiL such as LAD or earlier HUG phases then some additional measures may be available but not all. Please ring the CHiL Team on 0330 606 1488 to clarify.

What if I'm not happy with the work?

Technical inspections will be carried out in many instances. If you are unhappy with any aspect of the work, then please tell the surveyor at this stage so any issues can be rectified. If your property is not selected for a technical inspection, or if a problem arises further down the line, then please ring the CHiL Team on 0330 606 1488 who will organize a surveyor to visit your property.

Will I get a guarantee for the work?

All 'HUG' work goes through a certification process so you will be given certificates for every element of the work. Please check your paperwork to satisfy yourself that you have a guarantee for everything. If you don't receive your paperwork, or are unsure about anything, please contact the CHiL Team on 0330 606 1488.

I've had work done on my property and the workmen have left rubbish to clear up. Is this my responsibility?

All our installers have signed up to a Code of Conduct. They should leave your property clean and take away any rubbish. If they have moved any furniture they should put everything back in place. Please report any installer who you believe is in breach of the Code of Conduct as soon as possible. Please ring the CHiL Team on 0330 606 1488 to report any incidences.

Visit our website to check your eligibility

0330 606 1488

www.chil.uk.com

