

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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meeting date: THURSDAY 6 JANUARY 2022  
title: PUBLIC TRANSPORT POSITION PAPER  
submitted by: NICOLA HOPKINS – DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING  
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### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform members on public transport provision within the borough arising from a Public Transport Position Paper.

1.2.1 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – To secure and maintain a sustainable public transport network which addresses the needs of residents.
- Community Objectives – To progress the Local Plan Review.
- Corporate Priorities – Delivery of services to all.
- Other considerations – None.

### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Members will be aware that work is progressing to carry out a review of the existing Local Plan for the borough. As part of this work, the Council is seeking to produce a relevant and proportionate evidence base across a wide range of topics from which the Issues and Options consultation stage (Regulation 18) will be based. Existing evidence documents are available to view through the following link and this baseline evidence will be updated accordingly as the plan evolves.

[https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/info/200364/planning\\_policy/1732/evidence\\_updates\\_2019\\_onwards](https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/info/200364/planning_policy/1732/evidence_updates_2019_onwards)

### 3 INFORMATION

3.1 Transport has been identified by the Council as a particularly important topic at this stage of plan preparation as it is a point of intersection between housing, economy, health and climate change issues. Specifically, public transport plays a vital role in connecting dispersed communities within Ribble Valley and enabling access to services for those who do not own a private vehicle.

3.2 From a Plan-making perspective, National Planning Guidance (PPG) outlines that robust evidence on transport enables an assessment of the impacts of both existing development and infrastructure as well as that proposed, therefore informing sustainable approaches to transport at a strategic level. The Council has produced a Public Transport Position Paper which seeks to achieve the above and this is available to view through the following link.

[https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/downloads/file/13541/public\\_transport\\_position\\_pape](https://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/downloads/file/13541/public_transport_position_pape)  
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3.3 This evidence base document has allowed the Council to determine the status of the Public Transport Network within the Ribble Valley from aspects of policy, provision, and accessibility, as well as determining the performance of existing transport policies found within the Core Strategy.

- 3.4 The study indicates that Ribble Valley's Public Transport Network currently provides important services to the public, offering residents of many settlements in the borough the ability to access major destinations with relatively quick journey times. Although the use of the private vehicle is high, public transport plays an important part within the borough by connecting isolated communities and enabling access to key shops and services.
- 3.5 Evidence within the study shows that 78 percent of homes in the borough currently have walkable access (within 5 minutes) to any form of public transport. In addition, 17 settlements within the borough have access to at least three major destinations within a 1 hour 15-minute journey time using the bus. Given the rural nature of the borough, this indicates a relatively good level of provision.
- 3.5 As members will be aware, Ribble Valley Borough Council is not the public transport authority for the area. As a result, the Council will use the findings demonstrated within this evidence document through the progression of the Local Plan to ensure that policy is formulated to ensure that future development is well located and aligned to existing infrastructure. In addition, The Council will remain in contact with Lancashire County Council to ensure that matters most important to residents from a transport perspective continue to be represented. The 'Local Transport Plan' for the county is in the final year of its plan period and it is acknowledged that a new plan for the region would create new context which the Council would need to consider.

#### 4 **CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Note the findings of the report and that it will be published as part of the evidence base.



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#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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