

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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meeting date: THURSDAY, 13 APRIL 2023  
title: RIBBLE VALLEY LOCAL PLAN - UPDATE  
submitted by: NICOLA HOPKINS – DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING  
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### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To receive an update on progress with the replacement Ribble Valley Local Plan.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
  - Community Objectives – To ensure that the borough remains a sustainable place to live and work.
  - Corporate Priorities – The authority has a legal duty to update its Local Plan for the area.
  - Other Considerations – None.

### 2 INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will be aware that work is progressing on the production of a new Local Plan for the borough. This intends to replace the adopted Core Strategy by setting out the strategic policies aimed at guiding development within the borough, integrating the provisions of the HED-DPD as well as including non-strategic policies to be used for development management purposes.
- 2.2 The last Local Plan update brought to this Committee in March set out the existing work ongoing across several aspects of the evidence base including housing, climate change and transport. Since this point progress has continued, particularly regarding two items of procurement which seek to secure the production of specific items within the evidence base. Specific updates on these are provided below:

#### **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)**

- 2.3 The Council are currently preparing and agreeing to a contract with the successful service provider who are market leaders in flood risk and hydraulic modelling, having undertaken similar projects for many other neighbouring authorities. In the meantime, several data requests have been issued to stakeholders including the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the County Council. These requests also mark the beginning of close engagement and partnership with relevant stakeholders as part of the production of the SFRA in order to ensure that a holistic piece of evidence is produced which will successfully and correctly inform the new Local Plan.

#### **Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)**

- 2.4 Having invited a range of service providers to quote for work to assess a number of sites submitted as part of a "Call for Sites" exercise, a number of competitive bids have been received. As a result, interviews are being scheduled to ensure that the work is awarded to the most suitable and capable provider. These shall take place

within the next 2 weeks, with officers ready to supply data and begin leading on the delivery of this evidence base item when a consultant is appointed immediately after the interview process.

### **3 CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 Members shall note the updates provided relating to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) and anticipate further updates on these and other items in future months.

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

For further information please ask for Mark Waleczek, extension 4581.