

## **RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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meeting date: TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2024  
title: GENERAL REPORT  
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### **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To update committee on a variety of developments in sports, arts and community development and performance of the Platform Gallery.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
- Helping to make people's lives healthier and safer
  - To ensure a well-managed Council

### **2 WASTE REGULATIONS**

Final national consultation has taken place regarding the changes to waste collections as part of the Environment Act. The proposals are far reaching and will require significant changes to our collections from April 2025 for commercial collections and April 2026 for all residential collections. The key headlines are:

- a. The mandatory weekly collection of food waste for domestic premises needs to be implemented from April 2026.
- b. The collection of food waste for businesses with more than 10 employees starts a year earlier in March 2025.
- c. In theory the minimum number of bins required from March 2026 will be three (Organic food and green waste, dry recyclables and residual waste). Currently we collect paper and cardboard separately to other dry recyclables and have no food waste collection.
- d. Food waste must be collected weekly, residual a maximum of fortnightly.
- e. Money will be provided for capital costs of new vehicles and bins but not depot improvements/extensions. We will be informed of the amount allocated by the end of the financial year 2023/24.
- f. Revenue will be provided for increased rounds required. We do not know the formula yet and this is unlikely to come until later next year. No additional money will be provided to those who already collect food waste.
- g. Kerb-side collection of plastic film will start in March 2027 but we require more detail on this as its very vague.

Discussions are taking place with County Council as the disposal authority as to which waste they can process. The objective is to minimise the number of waste streams to make it as easy as possible for residents to recycle and as efficient as possible to collect.

It is expected that firmer proposals and approximate costings will be available for consideration by committee for the meeting in March 2024.

### 3 CASTLE KEEP

Following the previous update, the castle keep area remains closed to the public. We are awaiting a structural report which will guide our next steps. It is likely that additional structural works will be required, and it is a priority to get the steps and walkways open as soon as possible so the public can walk around the keep as before. It is likely that the inside of the keep will be closed until Spring 2024.

### 4 RIBBLESDALE POOL

A number of operational opportunities have been identified to help with improving energy efficiency and these were summarised in the previous update and are working well. These include monitoring consumption and reducing temperatures where possible and water circulation rates. Sensors are being replaced and the building energy management system is being revised to allow more effective control of the atmospheric conditions within the building 24 hours per day.

We await the outcome of our bid for new automated pool covers through the Sport England Support Fund and upgrades to the control systems at the pool are nearing completion. This is being funded by the Council through its invest to save scheme. Pipe insulation has also been improved.

In the next update to committee, we will be able to provide comparison consumption figures and illustrate the savings we have made.

### 5. THE BRIAN HOLDEN PLAYING PITCHES AT MARDALE

This scheme has been successfully completed and the official opening took place on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 with members of Brian's family in attendance. The drained pitches have been well received by local clubs and the changing facilities have been significantly improved.

### 6. SABDEN PUBLIC TOILETS

This capital scheme has now been completed and the much improved toilets have been re-opened. The Scheme was completed by our Direct Works Team and was within the allocated £35,000 budget.

### 7. LONGRIDGE PUBLIC TOILETS

Work in Longridge has commenced and is nearing completion. The internal furnishings have been specifically chosen to be as vandal proof as possible with hidden pipework and stainless steel sinks and toilets. This followed a request and consultations with local Councillors. The budget for this scheme is £46,000 and it is expected the scheme will be within this budget.

### 8. PLAY AREAS

The refurbishment work on the play areas has been completed for this year following the onset of poor weather, which means the work to be done cannot be carried out until the Spring. Several play areas have had safety surface improvements made, two roundabouts were installed, one at Highfield Road and the other at Mardale. A number of repairs are currently being carried out, these have arisen due to vandalism or wear and tear. This work will be undertaken by Council staff. The major work planned for 2024/25, will be the redevelopment of Salthill Play Area.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE

The first meeting of the Climate Change Working Group took place in November and it was agreed that the focus would be on progressing and monitoring the schemes that have been agreed. This includes the Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil proposal which is on this meeting's agenda, and the solar panels for Council Offices which are a particular priority for the working group. Further lighting improvements have taken place in Council Offices and EV chargers in public car parks are the subject of a report on this meeting's agenda. All decisions relevant to the Community Committee will be brought for decision or information as required.

The Working Group are developing a revised Climate Change Action Plan.

A recycling campaign has been launched and will be expended in the New Year with messaging on refuse vehicles.

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