

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: ADAM ALLEN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update committee on a variety of developments across Community Services.
- 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. PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR

The Councils Corporate Plan was agreed at Policy and Finance Committee in April 2024. A significant number of corporate priorities will be delivered by Community Services. The most significant pieces of work for this committee for the coming year are:

- a) Waste Regulations and Simpler Recycling - An update report is attached as part of this agenda and it is expected that a decision report will be brought to the October Committee recommending the new waste collection model and significant capital spend on new vehicles and bin caddies. The government have provided funding of over 700k for this. An update report will be brought to every committee through the municipal year.
- b) Swimming Pool and Leisure Provision. It is expected that the current feasibility for the swimming pool will be completed in June and that a report will be presented to August Committee recommending next steps. In addition we will be presenting the Playing pitch Strategy and these pieces of work fit into a longer term vision for sport and leisure in the Borough.
- c) Museum Review – Work is underway with Lancashire County Council to evaluate the long term management of the museum and its cultural offering. This will encompass the future use of the Atrium and associated buildings on the Castle Grounds. A full options appraisal will be presented to October Committee.
- d) Castle Grounds – Council have agreed a total of £500k investment in the Castle Grounds. This will be reported through Policy and finance Committee but will be a major project for community services that will complement the existing £300k castle keep project and pathways investment at the castle grounds. Updates will be provided to committee throughout the year.
- e) Arts Strategy – The Arts Strategy Working Group are working to develop a bid to the Arts Council for support in developing an Arts Strategy for the Ribble Valley.

The proposed brief from working group should be presented to committee in October.

- f) Delivery of the Capital Programme - The Council has its largest capital programme for some years and ensuring effective monitoring and delivery of the programme will be a key priority for the committee.
- g) Grant awards – The committee is responsible for grant awards for community projects, sports excellence and arts excellence. Applications close in January 2025 and a decision report will be presented from the Grants working group to committee in March 2025.

There will be several additional reports presented to the committee as matters arise throughout the year.

3. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) SCHEMES

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is overseen by Policy and Finance Committee, however a number of schemes taking place are improving sites that are managed or maintained by Community Services. Below are the key updates relating to these schemes.

- a) Longridge Pump Track. A final tender has been accepted for the Pump Track at Kester Lane and consultation has taken place with residents. Consultation suggested residents would like to see a larger track with higher banking on the corners and an additional jump. This has been accommodated within the £100k budget and a planning application for the track will now be submitted. It is hoped that construction will be completed late this year.
- b) Events Space at Longridge – Discussions continue regarding a proposed Events space in Townley Gardens. A consultation will take place with the town council to establish the best solution. We aim to ensure that the solution does not incur costly ongoing maintenance requirements.
- c) Castle Street – Work has commenced on Castle Street in Clitheroe and will be completed prior to the Food Festival in August. This is a Lancashire County Council Scheme with oversight from Ribble Valleys engineers.
- d) Clitheroe Market - A final scheme is in development to improve the paving on Clitheroe Market, to refurbish the stalls and clean the stone buildings. These works should be completed over the summer.

In addition, we are progressing EV charging points in four village car parks through the Rural prosperity Fund. A contract has been let with Eon and it is expected installation will take place in the next two months.

4. EDISFORD BRIDGE – BATHING WATER SITE DESIGNATION

The area of the Ribble River near Edisford Bridge has now been designated as a bathing water site which will improve the water quality at this very popular site over time. Contrary to media reporting, this does not mean that this or any of the other sites designated are safe for bathing. What it means is that the regular monitoring of water quality by the Environment Agency during bathing season which runs from 15th May to 30th September, will take place and the information displayed at the site. Over time, the Environment Agency will work with water companies, local businesses, and farmers to identify and correct issues, which lead to poor water quality in the river.

5. EDISFORD CAR PARKING BARRIER

As the weather improves, we are likely to see Edisford riverbank area becoming very busy. The barrier allowing access to the disabled parking area has failed and requires replacement. This is likely to be completed in early June, however we are conscious that non-disabled users may park at the site whilst no barrier is in place. We will monitor the situation closely and do what we can to ensure the safety of people using the site, until the new barrier is installed.

6. RIBBLESDALE POOL COVERS

We successfully bid for Sport England funding to install new pool covers at Ribblesdale. The 25k scheme is now complete and the pool covers are fully operational. This will help to reduce energy costs at the pool.

7. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The work on the playing pitch strategy is now complete and we expect the report to be finalised for the next committee. The work will provide an overview of all sports pitches in the Borough and inform us of future requirements. This could lead to external funding for improvements.

8. PLATFORM GALLERY

The latest exhibition opened recently at the gallery The Craft Open 24, it consists of the best artists from Lancashire and surrounding counties, including several from the Ribble Valley.

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