

**Subject:** Locality Plan

**Status:** For Publication

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**Report to:** Policy Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007

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**Report of:** Chief Executive

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**Portfolio**

**Holder:** Leader

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**Key Decision:** Yes

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Locality Plan jointly developed by officers of the Borough and County Councils as part of the development of enhanced two tier working in Lancashire.

**2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report should have a positive impact on all the corporate priorities by focussing the attention and resources of both the Borough and County Councils on addressing specific Rossendale solutions to Rossendale issues

**3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 While the Locality Plan in and of itself raises no specific risk issues appropriate risk assessment will need to be undertaken for each project contained in the plan. In addition the whole process of working together and developing the relationship between the two organisations is exposed to a range of risks including the impact of factors beyond the control of either Council. The process described in this report both for developing the plan and the relationship between the two organisations is intended to mitigate these risks.

#### 4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 Members will recall that the Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> February this year considered a report on Enhanced Two Tier Working following the agreement of the work in progress document “Transforming Local Government in Lancashire” Central to the proposals set out in the work in progress document is the concept of a Locality Plan which will provide the means by which the work of the County Council and the Borough Council can be brought together to achieve greater benefits for the communities of the Borough.
- 4.2 Subsequently work has continued at an officer level to flesh out the proposals in Transforming Local Government in Lancashire at both a countywide and local level. In Rossendale concentration has focused on the Locality Plan as a means of developing the relationship between the two councils. This work is a pilot for the whole county.
- 4.3 The approach taken to the Locality Plan for Rossendale which is attached has been:
- To root the plan in the new Sustainable Community Strategy which is the thing specific to Rossendale, which the two councils hold in common. This also allows us to build on the solid foundation provided by a strong LSP
  - To start small allowing confidence in the relationship to grow.
  - To identify existing work in corporate, or business plans which would benefit from being done together.
  - To identify a few longer term projects, for example around youth provision, advice services and customer access where there is already mutual agreement on the need to make progress.
- 4.4 The various drafts of the plan have been compiled by the Executive Director of Resources for the Borough Council and the District Partnership Officer for the County Council. The drafts have been considered by the appropriate management groups within each Council and also by a combined locality focus meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007. This is a regular meeting of County Councillors and local managers to which on this occasion Borough Councillors and the Senior Management Team were also invited. This is the first such event in the County and it is intended that they are repeated periodically in order to continue the process of deepening the relationship between the two councils. The plan will be approved by Lancashire Local on behalf of the County Council.
- 4.5 Further work is continuing on other elements of the Enhanced Two Tier project and the countywide meeting of Leaders and Chief Executives will be asked to consider specific proposals for taking this work forward later in the year. It has been agreed that the Executive Director of Resources will devote a certain amount of time, to taking this work forward on behalf of all the authorities in the County and developing a clear framework for delivering the various inter-

authority work streams which are developing. At this stage no financial resource commitment is required, although a request for resources may come forward at a later stage.

## **5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

- 5.1 The projects contained within the Locality Plan are already identified within the Councils corporate planning framework and therefore already have sources of finance identified. However, the report highlights the possibility of further calls for resources which the Council will have to consider in the light of priorities at the time.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

- 6.1 The Locality Plan is not a statutory plan and there are no specific legal implications arising from the plan itself. The legal implications of each project in the plan will need to be dealt with as part of the project management process.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

- 7.1 There are no immediate human resources implications arising from this report.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 Given the Council's position that unitary councils would not necessarily benefit Rossendale it is important that we make improvements to the way in which the two tier system works for local people. By concentrating first on the Locality Plan rather than the more complex areas of shared services and service transformation we will build the confidence of the two organisations to deliver in these more difficult areas.

## **9. RECOMMENDATION**

- 9.1 The Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to provide the Cabinet with any comments they might have on the attached Locality Plan.

- 9.2 The Cabinet are recommended to approve the attached Locality Plan.

## **10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 10.1 Relevant Senior Managers within Lancashire County Council and Rossendale Borough Council, Local County Councillors and members of Lancashire Local.

## **11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

Assessments will be conducted on individual projects as necessary.

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Transforming local government in Lancashire A work in progress document	www.rossendale.gov.uk