

Subject: Rossendale Locality Plan
2009/10

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18th February 2009

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolio

Holder: Leader of the Council

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the 2009/10 Locality Plan.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough (Economy, Housing)
- Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green (Environment)
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
- Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)
- Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The locality plan in itself raises no specific risk issues. However, appropriate risk assessments will need to be undertaken for each element contained within the plan as appropriate.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The document “Transforming Local Government in Lancashire”, produced in January 2007 by Lancashire County Council and seven district councils including Rossendale, set out an agenda for improving the two-tier system of local government in Lancashire and was warmly received by Government. A cornerstone of the agenda was the production of a joint Locality Plan for each district to provide the means by which the work of the County Council and Borough Council can be brought together to achieve greater benefits for the communities of each district. This has subsequently been endorsed by and included within the work of Team Lancashire.
- 4.2 Rossendale was the first district to produce a Locality Plan. Since then the majority of the remaining Lancashire districts have either produced such a plan or are in the process of doing so, with the remainder having expressed a commitment in principle.
- 4.3 The approach taken to the Locality Plan for Rossendale has been similar to that adopted in producing the original plan:
- To root the plan in the Sustainable Community Strategy which is the strategy specific to Rossendale which the two councils hold in common. This also allows us to build on the solid foundation provided by a strong Local Strategic Partnership.
 - To involve senior officers and members of both authorities from the outset, working together through joint Locality Focus Meetings.
 - To identify existing work in corporate, or business plans which would benefit from being done on a joint basis.
 - To include a mixture of specific short-term actions and more challenging and ambitious longer-term actions.
- 4.4 Appended to this report is the proposed Locality Plan for 2009/10 which also includes a monitoring progress report on the actions from the 2008/09 plan.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 The areas identified within the Plan are already identified within the two Councils’ corporate planning frameworks. However, the report highlights the potential for further resource requirements which both councils will have to consider in light of priorities and resources available.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 The Locality Plan is not a statutory plan and there are no specific legal implications arising from the plan itself.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

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

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 It is important both Council's continue to work together with the aim of improving services and the actions contained with the Locality Plan will support this endeavour.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 Approve the 2009/10 Locality Plan as appended.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Within both Councils, all service managers whose service areas are referred to in the Locality Plan have been consulted.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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THE 2009
LOCALITY PLAN
FOR THE
BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
THEME 1 – PEOPLE	5
THEME 2 – PLACES	10
THEME 3 - PROSPERITY	13
THEME 4 – LOCAL DEMOCRACY & CUSTOMER SERVICE	14

Introduction

Working together with the many partners who have an interest in the Valley there is much the two Councils can do to help improve the quality of life in Rossendale in line with the ambitions set out in both the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Corporate Priorities of Rossendale Borough Council, Rossendale priorities in the Local Area Agreement for Lancashire as a whole and other strategies.

Last Year Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council jointly produced the first Locality Plan in Lancashire. Since then four other districts have produced Locality Plans and two more are nearing completion. All twelve districts in Lancashire have now committed to producing joint Locality Plans with the county council.

The following pages set out, first, the progress that has been made on the actions in last year's plan and then go on to describe what the two councils propose to do in the coming year to build on this joint working. Actions are linked to the Rossendale Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2018 themes of:-

- People
- Place
- Prosperity

A copy of the Strategy can be found at:

<http://www.rossendalealive.co.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=43>

In addition we have added a further theme reflecting the importance of the joint work on which we are engaged for our citizens

- Local Democracy

Some of the tasks set out in the following pages are practical self contained actions which can be carried out within defined timescales. Others are longer term projects where the two councils need to work together to develop new ways of addressing some of the problems which face the Borough.

If you need more information about any of the activities set out in the following pages please contact:-



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Theme 1 – People

The overall picture

Rossendale has a population of 66,000. Current forecasts predict the population of the Borough will continue to grow at a slower rate than the rest of the country. Our population of people between 15-29 years old declined by around 20% between 1991 and 2004 (one of the greatest declines in the North West). Our population of people between 45 and 59 years old increased by around 30% in the same period (one of the greatest increases in the North West). This reflects both the lack of opportunity for young people and the influx of out-commuters.

People living in reduced circumstances have less opportunities. Good mental health is just as important as physical health. Communities that are resilient, able to manage problems, supportive and cohesive are an essential for well being. There is a need to improve the physical and mental well being of disadvantaged people in Rossendale to allow them to be in a position to learn, improve their housing and make a positive contribution both socially and economically. 28.3 % of the population live in areas that are considered to be within the worst 25% of the country and the levels of suicide and mental health problems are higher than national averages. Early death rates from cancer, heart diseases and strokes are higher than the Lancashire and National averages and male life expectancy is significantly less than that of female residents and the National average.

There is a relatively good participation in community and recreational activities; 40% of people are involved and in 2006 the number of adults participating in 30 minutes of physical activity three times a week was 21.6%.

Rossendale has one of the lowest levels of crime in the country but the fear of crime is still an issue, along with clean streets, health services and affordable decent housing being regarded by residents as the most important factors in making the area a good place to live. 64% of people are satisfied with their local area and around 40% agreed that their local neighbourhood is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.

Key outcome based targets

- Turnout in local elections not held at the same time as a general or European election to reach at least 36% by 2010 (*RBC Corporate Plan, Outcome 1.3.2*)
- By 2010 increase the proportion of residents who feel they can influence decisions in the area (Baseline 2006 Rossendale 31% LCC 26%) (*RBC Corporate Plan Outcome 1.2.2*)
- By 2009 all statutory partners in the Rossendale Local Strategic Partnership to have formally signed up to use of the same Community Involvement and Engagement Strategy for their work in the Borough (*LCC outcome CP4 “completing policy frameworks for social inclusion*

and our relationship with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector
RBC Corporate Plan Outcomes 1.2 and 1.3")

- Reduction in the number of people in the Borough who smoke. (LAA Targets H4 and H5)
- 30 % of people engaging in 30 minutes of physical activity by 2015 from a base of 21.6% in 2006. (LAA Target H2 RBC Corporate Plan Outcome 5.2.1)
- The requirements of the Every Child Matters agenda are met locally within nationally set timetables (LCC Corporate Delivery Plan CO4.3 "Delivering the Change for Children programme" RBC Corporate Plan Outcome 5.3)
- Maintain Levels of repeat homelessness which are below the national average. (RBC Corporate Plan Outcome 5.3.2)
- Increase the number of adults within the local workforce of the two councils who gain basic skills qualifications or NVQ Level 2 or equivalent qualifications. (LAA Targets E1 and E2 applied to the two organisations).

Progress against actions in the 2008 Locality Plan

Key Actions		Achievements
1.1	To continue to improve the operation of Rossendale Borough Council's Neighbourhood Forums with the aim of improving them as a means for the two Councils to engage with the Borough's communities.	This action now forms part of the wider neighbourhood management agenda led by the borough council with the strong involvement of the county council and other partners, and is included in the 2009 Locality Plan.
1.2	To develop and deliver a joint programme of events for Local Democracy Week particularly targeting young people	Two successful joint events were held in Local Democracy Week 2008 – a 'Youth Question Time' at Haslingden High School and a 'meet your councillor' trailer for students at Alder Grange School as part of the school's citizenship curriculum.
1.3	By 2009 to have developed a joint Member Development programme for councillors (Parish, Borough or County) serving the people of Rossendale, with the primary aim of increasing members' knowledge and understanding of both councils' services..	No overall programme has yet been developed but a number of joint initiatives have taken place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough councillors attended a bus tour of county council services in the district • County council input into training for newly elected borough councillors • Joint training event for Whitworth town councillors • Borough council member training programme now includes Whitworth town councillors • A number of joint development

Key Actions		Achievements
		initiatives are being delivered by Team Lancashire with a specific focus on building cohesive communities
1.4	Bring forward a proposal for areas where joint research and consultation activity would be advantageous to both organisations, including arrangements for sharing research data.	This has been taken forward on a joint basis with other Pennine Lancashire districts through the development of the East Lancashire e-Panel arrangements to include the county council and the Primary Care Trust. Lancashire County Council has undertaken the Place survey (a national scheme) on behalf of the Lancashire districts including Rossendale.
1.5	Develop the work of the Youth Homelessness Forum and integrate it into the mainstream delivery of services to young people	No progress has been made as yet on this action.
1.6	Both Councils will provide locally accessible healthy lifestyles activities for their staff.	This work is being taken forward on a pan-Lancashire basis involving several district councils, including Rossendale, under the Team Lancashire banner. This has also been taken forward through a Burnley and Rossendale partnership with an employee offer in relation to smoking cessation, blood pressure checks and the development of educational literature.
1.7	To promote a smokefree Rossendale and actively enforce legislation relating to the sale of tobacco and smoking in public places in an integrated way, whilst encouraging smoking cessation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing RBC and LCC plans to identify any gaps or overlaps • Joint promotional action in relation to pubs which allow smokers to take their drinks onto street frontages. 	No progress has been made as yet on this action.
1.8	To develop a structured approach to the sharing of learning and development activity between the two organisations.	Discussions have taken place between the two councils on how to develop this approach. Outcomes include the development of the Customers Matter programme by the two partners which will be delivered by Lancashire County Council to Rossendale employees. Rossendale also hosted an Every Child Matters session

Key Actions		Achievements
		for Pennine Lancashire partners on the Common Assessment Framework, delivered by LCC Children's Integrated Services.
1.9	Establish, with partners, Locality Children's Trust Arrangements for Rossendale by April 2008 and work together to ensure that the Joint Area Review of children's services in May 2008 finds that our services are improving outcomes for children and young people.	Rossendale Children's Trust is now established and working with both councils fully engaged, though the formal launch has yet to take place. The findings of the Joint Area Review were generally positive in Rossendale as elsewhere and criticisms have already been picked up and addressed.
1.10	<p>Integrate community activities and services provided by the Borough Council and Rossendale Leisure Trust with provision of activities and services through Extended Services Schools and Children's Centres, wherever possible. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring collaboration around access to and provision of sport and leisure services • Supporting the work of extended services through schools • Identifying and co-ordinating holiday activities for children and young people in the borough 	<p>While further integration is both desirable and possible, a number of collaborative activities have already taken place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £100,000 brought into Rossendale from Extended Schools Direct Funding to support joint working in several schools and children's centres • Extended Services Officer is now active within the Rossendale Sports and Physical Activities Alliance (SPAA) • Joint work between LCC, RBC, Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) and third sector organisations to deliver childcare and family activities in schools • Joint holiday provision between RLT, LCC and Haslingden Community Link which also enabled families to access Working Family Tax Credits.
1.11	Contributing to the achievement of the LAA stretch target for young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) through the employment and contracting policies of both councils and through the joint development of facilities in Bacup together with private sector partners.	Rossendale exceeded its target. A number of successful Personal Development Opportunities have been developed between the two councils, in areas such as construction. Further development opportunities continue to be explored in relation to Business Administration and Parks & Open Spaces.
1.12	<p>Improving the accessibility of advice for children, young people and families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that our family advice services are co-ordinated and 	This work now forms part of the wider scheme to co-ordinate advice work across the borough which has been jointly led by the Leaders of the borough and county councils and is ongoing.

Key Actions		Achievements
	<p>delivered in accessible locations such as Children's Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting benefit advice services for young people through means accessible to them 	

Actions for 2009

In addition to continuing work on above actions which are not yet complete we have identified a number of additional actions on which the two councils intend to work together over the coming year.

Action		Led by
1.13	Jointly map and assess community consultation activity by RBC and LCC to ensure findings are shared and the most efficient approach is taken to consultation.	LCC – District Partnership Officer RBC – Communities Manager
1.14	Work together with residents and partners to develop Neighbourhood Plans and a single neighbourhood strategy for RBC, LCC and Greenvale Homes	LCC – District Partnership Officer RBC – Communities Manager Greenvale Homes
1.15	Develop a joint approach to training and employment for young people leaving care.	LCC – Service Manager, CIS RBC – HR Advisor (NB Work placements are already offered by RBC in relation to looked after children)
1.16	Develop and implement the district Face to Face Customer Access arrangements.	LCC – Customer Access RBC - Customer Services
1.17	Develop further joint work with staff on healthy living, including green travel plans, smoking cessation, lunchtime walks.	LCC – Human Resources RBC – Human Resources
1.18	Conduct an audit of both councils' services to see how they could contribute better to health, wellbeing and social responsibility.	LCC – District Partnership Officer RBC – Deputy Chief Executive
1.19	Collect evidence of the housing needs of young people.	LCC – Young People's Service Manager RBC – Housing Strategy
1.20	Jointly promote services to be provided from the new Rawtenstall health hub and how to access them.	LCC – Corporate Communications RBC – Public Relations

Action		Led by
1.21	Joint work with members and front-line staff to enhance their roles in assisting vulnerable groups to access help.	LCC – to be identified RBC – to be identified

Theme 2 – Places

The overall picture

Rossendale as a location is endowed with many advantages. Proximity to Greater Manchester combined with a high quality natural environment and a series of human scale urban settlements with a large number of heritage buildings and neighbourhoods. The challenge is to use these natural advantages sustainably and to improve those aspects of the built environment which are not fit for 21st century living.

The chief environmental issues facing Rossendale are a carbon footprint of 10.6 tonnes per capita (2004) significantly more than the already unsustainable UK average of 9.2 tonnes per capita; a high proportion of poor quality housing (10.5% unfit and over half of our social housing does not meet the decent homes standard); and while 94% of Rossendale residents agree that we have beautiful countryside, only 16% agree that we have clean and well maintained town centres.

Key outcome based targets

- Adapt 200 homes for life changes by 2009 in line with the targets set out in the Local Area Agreement for Lancashire (*LAA Target H19*)
- By 2010 a greater than average proportion of people either very or fairly satisfied with the area as a place to live (2006 baseline 63.7%) (*RBC Corporate Plan Outcome 4.1.1*)
- 94% of land free from litter by 2010 (2006 baseline 88%) (*RBC Corporate Plan Outcome 3.2.1*)
- 35% of waste recycled and composted by 2010 (2006/07 baseline 27.5%) (*Joint Municipal Waste Strategy Target, RBC Corporate Plan Outcome 3.2.2*)
- To localise the Lancashire wide strategy to combat climate change. (*LCC Corporate Delivery Plan CO7.3 "To prepare a Lancashire Climate Change Strategy through a multi-agency partnership" RBC Corporate Priority 3.2*)

Progress against actions in the 2008 Locality Plan

Key Actions		Achievements
2.1	Bring forward a bid to the Housing Corporation to redevelop Brookville Court Whitworth for extra care housing	Bid produced and successful.
2.2	Put in place service level agreements between the various agencies involved in delivering adaptations in people's homes, if necessary following a joint Overview and Scrutiny review of this area of work	Progress has been made with transferring responsibility for assessments for community equipment from the PCT to LCC. The wider questions around Disabled Facilities Grant are now being dealt with via Team Lancashire.
2.3	Provide support for the National Health Service in the process of designing a health offer which meets the needs of Rossendale communities, closely linked to the district-level work in taking forward the county council's preventative strategy.	The new health provision is on target to open in 2010 and both councils have been very active in ensuring that this provision links closely to their priorities for health and well being.
2.4	<p>Work together to increase levels of countryside access for all purposes, including activities specifically related to the Halo Panopticon and the Adrenaline Gateway scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of existing access points • Find ways of re-opening access points which have been closed due to anti-social behaviour such as fly-tipping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World class mountain bike routes developed in Lee Quarry • Sculpture commissioned for Lee Quarry as part of Valley of Stone project • Guided walks in quarries using the LCC Trammer fleet for people with disabilities. • Funding bids currently in preparation to develop further work in this area.
2.5	<p>Agree shared standards for maintenance of the Borough's public realm aimed at creating and maintaining quality public and community spaces and covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter maintenance • Structural maintenance • Amenities (eg grass cutting, street cleansing) 	A joint RBC/LCC officer group on highways and streetscene matters has been established and has agreed a way of meeting the costs of weed treatment. Other issues remain to be resolved and the work of this group is ongoing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retaining walls, culverts & bridges signage 	
2.6	Develop a one stop reporting mechanism for street scene issues.	This is included in the wider work on Face to Face customer access (see under 4.1)
2.7	Work together to deliver the Lancashire Woodland Vision and Biodiversity Action Plan in Rossendale as a key part of our attempts to address the issue of climate change.	Woodland management work carried out at Edgeside and Thorn Bank with others earmarked for treatment during the remainder of 2008-09. Application being prepared to Lottery to improve access to and management of Rossendale woodland.

Actions for 2009

In addition to continuing work on above actions which are not yet complete we have identified a number of additional actions on which the two councils intend to work together over the coming year.

Action		Led by
2.8	Develop a clear audit trail for Section 106 and related developer contributions, to be overseen and communicated on a joint basis.	LCC – Strategic Planning RBC – Forward Planning
2.9	Joint development of schemes funded through the Playbuilder initiative.	LCC – Young People’s Service RBC - Operations
2.10	County councillors to be invited to join in the borough councillor “Ward Walks”.	LCC – District Partnership Officer RBC – Democratic Services Manager
2.11	Develop a joint approach to work on the “Pride in Rossendale” initiative including treatment of gateway sites and locations.	LCC – Assistant Area Manager, Highways and Environment RBC – Deputy Chief Executive

Theme 3 - Prosperity

Between 2002 and 2006, the weekly pay of residents in Rossendale has increased by 30% to £434 (just below the GB figure), more than twice the regional and national rates of improvement. In the same time period, the weekly pay for those employed in Rossendale increased by less than 13% to £327 (72% of the GB figure) and has been less than the regional and national rates of improvement. These statistics starkly define the current nature of the Rossendale economy. Every morning we lose nearly half our workforce, who are higher skilled and higher waged, to employment in Manchester and other areas. There are several side-effects to this apparent prosperity:

- Out-commuting is by motor transport, increasing our carbon footprint.
- Our residents who are out-commuters are far more likely to spend the majority of their income outside of Rossendale.
- Lack of local leisure and cultural activities reduces local spend and prevents the development of local employment opportunities.
- Our prosperity has become polarised to local settlements who have the best access to road connections to Manchester.
- Our geography limits our transport infrastructure and there is pressure across all of our road networks – leading to poor interconnectivity between Bacup and Rawtenstall, reducing the ability of residents there to benefit from this prosperity.

Unemployment in Rossendale is relatively low. We have recently been recognised as the most enterprising place in the North West, with a relatively high business formation rate (and business stock) and a high self employment rate. Our business stock is dominated by small businesses, which gives our economy a greater degree of sustainability. However, over the last 10 years we have lost many locally owned manufacturing and retail businesses, and gained some construction and business services businesses.

Our visitor economy, which was small to start with, has declined further. Given the beautiful moorland countryside that we are so proud of and our good connectivity to the motorway network, this is surprising.

Key outcome targets

- By 2010 secure £60m of private sector investment and 350 new retail jobs in the Borough (*RBC Corporate Plan Outcomes 2.1.1 and 2.1.2*)
- Bring four vacant brown field sites back into use. (*RBC Corporate Plan Outcome 2.1.3*)
- Using our property as efficiently as possible (*LCC Corporate Delivery Plan CC1.6 RBC Corporate Priority 6*)

Progress against actions in the 2008 Locality Plan

Key Actions		Achievements
3.1	Through the newly established joint LCC/RBC Rossendale Regeneration Delivery Team establish means to ensure integration of the regeneration and economic development programmes of both Councils.	Systems and key staff are now in place and operating successfully.
3.2	To conduct a Rossendale Accessibility Study, developing work carried out in Chorley, to identify needs for the development of transport links and projects in future years.	The first phase of the study – the A681 corridor between Waterfoot and Bacup – has now commenced and will report in the spring of 2009. Further phases will be undertaken as resources permit.
3.3	Implement service level agreements between the two councils to facilitate a Development Team approach to major planning applications.	Work is in hand but has not as yet been agreed.
3.4	Jointly review land and property holdings to identify their potential to support the regeneration of the Borough, including upfront notification of plans to dispose of assets.	This work is now being pursued via Team Lancashire.
3.5	Develop a proactive strategic relationship between LCC Highways and Transport Planning and town centre regeneration schemes in Rossendale.	LCC Strategic Highways Development Control Team now in place and in communication with RBC regarding major planning applications in Rossendale. This action links closely with 3.3 above.

Actions for 2009

In addition to continuing work on above actions which are not yet complete we have identified a further additional action on which the two councils intend to work together over the coming year.

Action		Led by
3.6	Develop a joined-up approach to tourism encompassing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated signage and information • Publicity for local walks • Joint marketing activity 	Joint Regeneration Team

Theme 4 – Local Democracy and Customer Service

Rossendale Borough Council and Lancashire County Council are both signed up to the document 'Transforming Local Government in Lancashire' which sets out many ways in which the two-tier system of local government can be improved, including producing a Locality Plan such as this one for each district. Both are actively involved in Team Lancashire which brings together all fifteen local authorities to improve services and create efficiencies.

Members of the public are often unsure which council provides which service and may not understand the differences in the responsibilities of county councillors and borough councillors. While it might be simpler to have just one council providing all services, the costs of reorganising to do this would be very high and both the borough and county councils believe that the best approach is to work together in providing public information and access to services. The days of telling people to contact the other council because "it isn't our responsibility" must be put behind us; each council will deal with enquiries, comments and complaints relating to both county and borough council services.

In time we would like to extend this approach to cover all public services in Rossendale such as health services, police and employment.

Alongside this, we need to work together to see whether by sharing things such as office accommodation, IT systems and activities such as community consultation and staff and councillor training we can save money which can then be passed on to residents either in the form of improved services or reduced Council Tax bills.

Objective: By 2020 it will be possible for residents in Rossendale to access any public service through any public service organisation, with this being achieved for local government service by 2011

Key outcome based targets

% of interactions with the Councils completed using self service means

% satisfaction with access to the Council

Progress against actions in the 2008 Locality Plan

Action		Achievements
4.1	Deliver the Lancashire Shared Service Contact Centre across Borough and County Council access points in the Borough by <i>date to be agreed</i>	Rossendale is one of the second phase authorities for shared Face to Face work with implementation due from March 2009. However in the light of recent developments in customer access this action requires revisiting.
4.2	Deliver an integrated neighbourhood management approach involving key public sector partners and involving all three tiers of local government	This action will now fall under the new approach to Neighbourhood Management beg led by RBC in which LCC will be a key partner. See actions 1.14 and 1.21 above.
4.3	Deliver an integrated local offer for advice services with a single gateway for all participating agencies	This has had to await the letting of the contract for the Help Direct Gateway which has now gone to Calico Enterprises. Questionnaire exercise carried out to establish the potential for agencies to share functions and resources and links are now being made with Calico to take this forward.
4.4	Hold regular meetings of County and Borough Council managers and councillors to plan and deliver the overall agenda for joined up local government in Rossendale. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-annual joint Locality Focus meetings of senior officers and members • Ad hoc working groups to take forward specific areas of joint working. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-annual Joint Locality Focus Meetings have been held. • A joint working group on highways has been established (see 2.5 above). • Ad hoc joint working groups have been established through Lancashire Local, for example a group to look at parking in town centres.
4.5	Produce more public information on a joint basis including major new developments by either council in Rossendale, and information on how to access all local government services in the borough, through a combination of improved web links and greater LCC use of the "Rossendale Alive" newspaper..	Numerous examples of joint work on communications including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint media response to the Sophie Lancaster murder case • Joint design and production of Council Tax leaflet and Locality Plan • Joint work on the launch of Team Lancashire • Joint work on the launch of Help Direct • Introduction of district pages in

		LCC "Vision" magazine Further possibilities are being explored in relation to sharing space in "Rossendale Alive" and the joint production of an A-Z of services.
4.6	Fully integrate baseline and performance data on Rossendale held by both councils into a single data set by (date to be agreed)	The Place Survey will provide baseline data for the national indicator set and allow benchmarking with other districts and the county. This could then lead to further data sharing and comparison opportunities, to add depth to the findings of the Place Survey.
4.7	Produce and agree an integrated Asset Management Plan for the Borough by January 2008	See 3.4 above – now being pursued via Team Lancashire.

Actions for 2009

In addition to continuing work on above actions which are not yet complete we have identified a number of additional actions on which the two councils intend to work together over the coming year.

Action		Led by
4.8	Further joint member development work on using shared software.	LCC – to be identified RBC – Head of Customer Services
4.9	Agree an information sharing protocol for customer access	LCC – Customer Access Team RBC – Head of Customer Services
4.10	Agree a joint protocol for development control and deliver joint staff training to implement it.	LCC – Strategic Planning RBC – Development Control
4.11	Joint visits to schools to promote local democracy and build on success of Local Democracy Week 2008.	LCC – Corporate Communications RBC – Public Relations/ Democratic Services
4.12	Produce a single public leaflet covering and explaining Lancashire Locals and Neighbourhood Forums	LCC – Corporate Communications RBC – Public Relations