

**Subject:** The Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy

**Status:** For Publication

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**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009

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**Report of:**  
Head of Regeneration

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**Portfolio Holder:** Regeneration

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**Key Decision:** Yes

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To approve the Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan.

## 2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough (Economy, Housing)
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
- Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)

## 3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The strategy provides the linkages between the economic and housing issues facing Pennine Lancashire and provides a robust negotiation tool to attract further investment into the area from Government agencies. Failure to support the principles of the strategy could undermine the effectiveness of this strategy and put at risk the ability of partner authorities to lever in investment.

## 4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 During 2008, officers from each of the six Pennine Lancashire Authorities formed a task group to develop a joint Housing Strategy for Pennine Lancs.

This was felt necessary in order to respond effectively to the Regional Housing Strategy and Lancashire Housing Strategy which were in their development stages.

- 4.2 The development of the Pennine Lancashire (PL) Housing Strategy has been supported by PLLACE (Pennine Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives) and has been co-ordinated by officers from Blackburn with Darwen with input from Elevate.
- 4.3 Over this time further work has been undertaken and advice sought from leading consultants as to how the PL Housing Strategy could better reflect the interdependencies of the economy, skills, education, planning and transport infrastructure identified in the context of a wider strategic framework. It is also necessary to provide strong linkages with the PL Multi Area Agreement and thereby produce a more integrated strategy document.
- 4.4 The document identifies 12 policy actions covering the full range of housing issues, and details of actions are contained within 3 delivery plans based upon the 3 key themes:
  - Quantity;
  - Quality and
  - People
- 4.5 A draft version of the strategy was presented to the Council's Policy Overview and Scrutiny on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 and Members were concerned that the strategy should address more of the 'people' issues and better reflect the influence of the rail link from Rawtenstall to Manchester.
- 4.6 These comments were fed into the Pennine Lancashire working group and, where possible, have been incorporated into the final draft.
- 4.7 Implementation is detailed in the delivery plans attached to the document and each of the partner local authorities will now begin develop action plans which reflect the local circumstance of their area.
- 4.8 Rossendale's Delivery Action Plan will be developed over the coming months and then reported into Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet.

#### **COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

##### **5. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from the report.

##### **6. MONITORING OFFICER**

- 6.1 No Monitoring Officer comments.

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

7.1 No HR implications arising from the report.

**8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 The Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy provides a robust evidence base on which to attract investment from the newly formed Homes and Communities Agency, other funding bodies and the private sector.

8.2 It provides the necessary linkages between the economy and housing and supports the key priorities within the Pennine Lancashire Multi Area Agreement.

**9. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

9.1 That the Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan be approved.

**10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

10.1 Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee, PLLACE, partner organizations, GONW, Homes and Communities Agency.

**11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required Yes

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached Yes

**12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan	Attached