



Executive Cabinet

Agenda and Reports
for consideration on

Thursday, 25th March 2010

in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley

At 5.00 pm



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PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS/SPEAKING AT EXECUTIVE CABINET MEETINGS

- Questions should be submitted to the Democratic Services Section by midday, two working days prior to each Executive Cabinet meeting to allow time to prepare appropriate responses and investigate the issue if necessary.
- A maximum period of 3 minutes will be allowed for a question from a member of the public on an item on the agenda. A maximum period of 30 minutes to be allocated for public questions if necessary at each meeting.
- The question to be answered by the Executive Member with responsibility for the service area or whoever is most appropriate.
- On receiving a reply the member of the public will be allowed to ask one supplementary question.
- Members of the public will be able to stay for the rest of the meeting should they so wish but will not be able to speak on any other agenda item upon using their allocated 3 minutes.

PROCEDURE FOR 'CALL-IN' OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

- Each of the executive decisions taken at the Executive Cabinet meeting are subject to the adopted 'call-in' procedure within 10 working days of the Executive Cabinet meeting at which the decision is made, unless the decision has been implemented as a matter of urgency.
- Guidance on the 'call-in' procedure can be accessed through the following internet link:
<http://www.chorley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1426>
- If you require clarification of the 'call-in' procedure or further information, please contact either:
Tony Uren (Tel: 01257 515122; E-Mail: tony.uren@chorley.gov.uk) or
Carol Russell (Tel: 01257 515196, E-Mail: carol.russell@chorley.gov.uk)
in the Democratic Services Section.

16 March 2010

Dear Councillor

EXECUTIVE CABINET - THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH 2010

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Executive Cabinet to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley on Thursday, 25th March 2010 at 5.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Any Interests**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. If the interest arises **only** as result of your membership of another public body or one to which you have been appointed by the Council then you only need to declare it if you intend to speak.

If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, you must withdraw from the meeting. Normally you should leave the room before the business starts to be discussed. You do, however, have the same right to speak as a member of the public and may remain in the room to enable you to exercise that right and then leave immediately. In either case you must not seek to improperly influence a decision on the matter.

3. **Minutes of last meeting (Pages 1 - 10)**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 18 February 2010 (Minutes enclosed).

4. **Public Questions**

Members of the public who have requested the opportunity to ask a question(s) on an item(s) on the agenda will be asked to put their question(s) to the respective Executive Member(s). Each member of the public will be allowed to ask one supplementary question within his/her allocated 3 minutes.

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, COUNCILLOR DENNIS EDGERLEY)

5. **Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry -Town Centre issues**

To receive and consider the final report and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group inquiry into Town Centre issues (Report to follow).

ITEM OF EXECUTIVE LEADER (INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLOR PETER GOLDSWORTHY)

6. **Multi-Area Agreement - Mid-Lancashire (Pages 11 - 72)**

To receive and consider the enclosed report of the Chief Executive, with attached draft Agreement.

ITEMS OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER (BUSINESS) (INTRODUCED COUNCILLOR PETER MALPAS)

7. **Refresh of the Chorley Economic Development Strategy (Pages 73 - 86)**

To receive and consider the enclosed report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy, with attached draft Strategy.

8. **Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy (Pages 87 - 112)**

To receive and consider the enclosed report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy, with attached policy document.

ITEM OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER (NEIGHBOURHOODS) (INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLOR ERIC BELL)

9. **Neighbourhood Working - 2009/10 Progress Report and Proposals for 2010/11 (Pages 113 - 148)**

To receive and consider the enclosed report of the Director of People and Places, with attached Neighbourhood Action Plans.

The Head of Leisure and Neighbourhoods will make a short presentation on the current progress of neighbourhood working at the Executive Cabinet meeting.

ITEM OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER (PEOPLE) (INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLOR JOHN WALKER)

10. **Core Funding Grants to local Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Organisations - Award of Grants for 2010/11 (Pages 149 - 154)**

To receive and consider the enclosed report of the Director of People and Places.

11. **Any other item(s) that the Chair decides is/are urgent**

12. **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

ITEM OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER (RESOURCES) (INTRODUCED BY COUNCILLOR KEVIN JOYCE)

13. **Update on Shared Services (Pages 155 - 158)**

To receive and consider the enclosed report of the Director of Transformation.

Yours sincerely

Donna Hall

Donna Hall
Chief Executive

Tony Uren
Democratic and Member Services Officer
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Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Executive Cabinet, Lead Members and Directors Team for attendance.

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આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો: 01257 515822

ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپ کی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون

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Executive Cabinet

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday, 18 February 2010

Present: Councillor Peter Goldsworthy (Executive Leader in the Chair), Councillor Pat Case (Deputy Leader of the Council) and Councillors Eric Bell, Kevin Joyce, Peter Malpas, Greg Morgan and John Walker

Also in attendance:

Lead Members: Councillors Harold Heaton (Lead Member (Development Control)) and Keith Iddon (Lead Member (Licensing))

Other Members: Councillors Alan Cullens, Mike Devaney, Dennis Edgerley, Pat Haughton, Anthony Gee, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, June Molyneaux, Mick Muncaster, Geoffrey Russell, Ralph Snape and Peter Wilson

10.EC.132 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Kenneth Ball, Henry Caunce and Iris Smith.

10.EC.133 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

Councillor Peter Malpas declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 (Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry – Highways Issues) by virtue of his status as a Lancashire County Councillor. Councillor Malpas took no part in the discussion or voting on the agenda item.

10.EC.134 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 7 January 2010 were confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Executive Leader.

10.EC.135 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Executive Leader reported that there had been no requests from any member of the public to speak on any of the meeting's agenda items.

10.EC.136 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY - HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The Executive Cabinet received and considered a report on the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group that had been set up by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine highways issues.

The inquiry had, in particular, reviewed the effectiveness of the current service and considered ways in which two tier arrangements could be improved by more efficient service delivery, communication procedures and performance monitoring systems.

The Chair of the Task Group (Councillor Mike Devaney) thanked the Group's Members and Officers for their involvement and commended the findings report's recommendations for adoption by the Executive Cabinet.

Decision made:

That the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group be received and that the Executive's response to the recommendations be determined at a future meeting.

Reason for decision:

The decision will allow the Executive the opportunity to assess the inquiry's findings and recommendations before firm decisions on implementation are reached.

Alternative option(s) considered and rejected:

None.

10.EC.137 REVIEW OF COUNCIL MEETINGS CALENDAR FOR 2010/11

The Director of Transformation presented a report on a review of the Council's meetings calendar, with a view to the reduction of a relatively few number of meetings in 2010/11 and changes to the servicing arrangements for Chorley Partnership bodies and the Local Development Framework Working Group.

The review had been undertaken in the light of the proposal emanating from the recent Value for Money review of Corporate Support Services to reduce the staffing level of the Democratic Services Section, but had also taken account of the need to ensure both the continued good governance of decision making and the transaction of business as quickly and efficiently as possible.

During the Members' debate on the proposals, the following specific issues were raised in particular:

- There is likely to be a need to hold a number of informal Neighbourhood Working meetings during the year, which would not require servicing by the Democratic Services Section.
- The feasibility of the Council's partners providing more administrative support for LSP meetings should be examined.
- The status of the Informal Cabinet Briefings should be examined by the All Party Leaders' meeting.
- Meetings during school half-term weeks should be avoided whenever possible.

Decision made:

That the following changes in scheduled meetings be agreed, with the proviso that the issues raised by Members at the meeting on the meetings' timetable be discussed at the next meeting of the All Party Leaders:

- **Executive Cabinet, Informal Cabinet Briefing and Overview and Scrutiny Committee each reduce from 10 meetings a year to 8;**
- **Council meetings reduce from 7 meetings a year to 6, with the January meeting being removed from the calendar;**
- **Member Support Working Group to reduce from 5 meetings a year to 4;**
- **Support for the Rivington and Brinscall Local Advisory Group be reviewed with Lancashire County Council;**
- **The number of scrutiny reviews be managed within the resources of the Democratic Services Team;**
- **The Policy team, rather than the Democratic Services team, support both the Chorley Partnership Board and the Chorley Partnership Executive;**
- **The Policy team, rather than the Democratic Services Team, support any Task Groups established by the Equality Forum;**
- **The Planning team, rather than the Democratic Services Team, support the Local Development Framework Working Group, but the Democratic Services Team continue to support the Central Lancashire LDF Joint Advisory Committee (on a rotational basis) as at present;**

- **In recognition of the importance of the neighbourhood working agenda to Councillors, the Democratic Services team support one Neighbourhood Tour and one Neighbourhood Area Action Planning Meeting for each Neighbourhood Area per year, with the dates being set in advance and included in the meetings' timetable.**

Reason for decision:

Along with other more minor changes in working practice, the proposals will allow a sufficient reduction in the workload of the team to allow the deletion of one post of Democratic and Member Services Officer.

Alternative option(s) considered and rejected:

There remains an option to retain a similar calendar of meetings with no fundamental changes but this would not allow the reduction in staffing and therefore costs in the Democratic Services team.

10.EC.138 CHORLEY COUNCIL PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - THIRD QUARTER OF 2009/10

The Executive Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy, which set out and reviewed the Authority's performance both in respect of the key projects included in the refreshed Corporate Strategy and against the National Indicators for which the Council was responsible, during the third quarter of 2009/10 ending on 31 December 2009.

The report referred to the key outcomes from the seven projects that had been completed during the third quarter period and which, therefore, had not been carried over into the new Corporate Strategy. The 33 projects included in the new Corporate Strategy had all been rated as "green", which was indicative of the project performance being on or ahead of schedule, with costs falling within or under budget.

In addition, the report confirmed that 11 of the 15 national indicators that were able to be measured during the third quarter had matched or exceeded target and that certain plans had been prepared to reduce the four performance indicators that had missed their targets by more than 5%.

Information on data comparing Chorley's performance against other authorities would be provided to Members when the data became available.

A Member referred to the seasonal implications on the processing of Housing and Council Tax Benefits and the cleaning of streets and suggested that the Council's operational processes should be reviewed to take account of the seasonal impact.

Decision made:

That the report be noted.

10.EC.139 CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP - PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER OF 2009/10

The Executive Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy on the activities of the Chorley Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), particularly through the delivery of the objectives of the Lancashire Area Agreement and the Sustainable Communities Strategy over the third quarter of 2009/10.

The Executive Member (Policy and Performance) highlighted the following significant statistics and trends revealed in the report.

- Crime figures had reduced, on average, by 0.8% over the past year, and whilst there had been a 7.5% overall decrease in violent crime, the number of acquisitive crimes (eg burglary and vehicle crime) had increased.
- The number of primary fires in Chorley had fallen below target.
- The number of households in Chorley living in temporary accommodation had fallen below target to 8.
- Street cleanliness (eg clearance of litter, detritus and graffiti) had fallen below target, but action plans had been put in place to improve performance.
- The number of benefit claimants had reduced over the last quarter period and the number of new business startups had exceeded the target figure.
- All the LSP's proposals for 2009/10 were underway and on track for the quarter period.

Decision made:

That the report be noted.

10.EC.140 GYPSY ROMA TRAVELLERS - ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT PROCEDURE

The Director of People and Places presented a report seeking endorsement and adoption of a multi-agency response procedure for dealing with illegal Gypsy Roma Traveller encampments developed by a task team of the merged Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

The recommended procedure would ensure that the action taken by the different agencies was fair and consistent. The urgent welfare needs of persons in the encampments would be assessed and early communication procedures with both members of the encampment and appropriate Members would be established.

Members welcomed the introduction of the new procedure and the Deputy Leader of the Council suggested the posting of the procedure on an appropriate Gypsy Roma Traveller website.

Decision made:

That the multi-agency response procedure for dealing with illegal Gypsy Roma Traveller encampments developed by a task team of the merged Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, as outlined in the submitted report, be approved and adopted.

Reason for decision:

To ensure that the action in dealing with illegal encampments is undertaken in a fair, systematic and consistent way and that the settled community is kept informed of developments.

Alternative option(s) considered and rejected:

Retention of the existing ad hoc system for dealing with encampments.

10.EC.141 PROCESS FOR APPROVING THE CENTRAL LANCASHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY

The Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy submitted a report requesting the Executive Cabinet's agreement to a timetable of future meetings aimed at ensuring Member engagement in the development and approval of a revised Publication Version of the Preferred Core Strategy for Central Lancashire as part of the overall Local Development Framework process.

The recommended approach entailed a series of additional meetings of both the Local Development Framework Working Group and the Central Lancashire LDF Joint Advisory Committee, culminating in a joint meeting of the Cabinets of Chorley, Preston and South Ribble Councils to endorse the first Core Strategy for approval by the respective Councils.

Decision made:

That the approach and timetable to ensure Member engagement in the production of the Publication version of the revised Central Lancashire LDF Core Strategy in line with the Project Plan, as outlined in the submitted report, be approved.

Reason for decision:

To ensure that Members are engaged in the development of the Core Strategy whilst ensuring that the LDF timetable and Project Plan remain on track.

Alternative option(s) considered and rejected:

None.

10.EC.142 UPDATE ON TRANSFER OF HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY

The Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy presented a report updating the Executive Cabinet on the current progress of the procedures being taken to effect the transfer of the Chorley Home Improvement Agency back to the Council from Anchor in accordance with the Cabinet's decision in November 2009. The Cabinet had authorised the instigation of proceedings to establish an in-house Home Improvement Agency offering Disabled Facility Grants, Home Repair Assistance and Energy Efficiency grants and advice.

A project team had been set to oversee and agree measures for the transfer on 1 April 2010, including an examination of the procedures and systems used, procurement of contractors and TUPE matters.

It was envisaged that one member of staff would be transferred to the Council under the TUPE regulations, in addition to the two Technical Officers originally seconded to Anchor.

The report indicated that no additional revenue costs were likely to be incurred by the Council.

Decision made:

That the report be noted.

10.EC.143 LANCASHIRE REVIEW OF HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCIES

The Executive Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy on a review of the Home Improvement Agency network in Lancashire undertaken by Consultants, The Housing Quality Network Consultancy, commissioned by Lancashire County Council.

The review had been commissioned in order to advise future commissioning decisions by the Supporting People Commissioning Body which provided funding to the Lancashire HIA's and whose contracts were due to expire in 2010 and 2011. The outcome of the review would also support the attraction of funding from other partners.

The report indicated that the key recommendations emerging from the review were that the number of HIA services in the County should be reduced and that a new approach to funding agencies as based on needs should be adopted.

The report also contained suggested responses to the Consultants questions and requested feedback on the review's recommendations.

Decision made:

That the proposed responses to the recommendations contained in the report findings of the Consultants commissioned to review the provision of Home Improvement services across Lancashire, as outlined in the submitted report, be approved for submission to the Consultants and the Lancashire County Council.

Reason for decision:

To ensure the provision of a full and considered response to the review, aimed at influencing decisions of the Lancashire County Council and other partners which affect Chorley's services.

Alternative option(s) considered and rejected:

None.

10.EC.144 SUB-REGIONAL ALLOCATIONS POLICY AND CHOICE-BASED LETTINGS PROCEDURE

The Executive Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy proposing the adoption of a Sub-Regional Housing Allocations Policy and a choice-based lettings procedure, following a consultation exercise with various bodies and stakeholders.

The choice-based lettings scheme, operated on a sub-regional basis, would allow people to apply for social housing vacancies advertised through various mediums, rather than waiting for an organisation to identify their needs and preferences through the waiting list.

The Council had collaborated with Preston and South Ribble Councils and local registered landlords on the development of an allocations policy that could be applied across the three Council areas, utilising the transparent 5 band allocations policy currently applied by Chorley Council.

Decision made:

That, subject to consultation, the Sub-Regional Allocations Policy and Choice-based lettings scheme, as outlined in the submitted report, be approved in principle for adoption as Chorley Council's allocations scheme and procedure.

Reason for decision:

The introduction of a Sub-Regional Choice-based lettings scheme will provide greater choice and access for persons to housing. It will be a simpler, more comprehensible system, allowing greater transparency and choice of living location. It will simplify application processes, enabling one application to be made for all partners.

Alternative option(s) considered and rejected:

Retention of the current system, or developing a localised choice-based scheme.

10.EC.145 PROPOSED HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11 AND ALLOCATION OF REPOSSESSION GRANTS

The Executive Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy recommending the allocation of grant funding to prevent property repossessions; the introduction of a standard repossessions policy; and approval of a draft housing capital programme.

The Council had received in 2009/10 three non-recurrent grant sums to be expended on measures and schemes to be targeted to assist persons most affected by the "credit crunch" and at risk of property repossessions. The report put forward for support a number of principles and initiatives to which the grant funding could be applied.

The report also highlighted the likelihood of the Council's proportion of the regional housing pot, which was used to finance the housing capital programme, being reduced to £397,000 (excluding Disabled Facility Grant monies) in 2010/11, as a result of the introduction of a new regional allocation methodology. In order to target the reduced capital resources more strategically to areas of need, the proposal revised priorities and respective budget allocations for 2010/11, which maintained new affordable housing development projects as its principal priority, were set out in the report.

A Member present queried the amount and source of funding on the Cotswold house refurbishments.

Decisions made:

That the Council be recommended to:

1. **approve the allocation of the grant funding resources received in 2009/10 to the various initiatives identified in the submitted report;**
2. **approve the introduction of the Chorley Repossession and Eviction Prevention Fund Policy, as attached to the submitted report;**
3. **approve the draft Housing Capital Programme, subject to confirmation of the allocation of the capital grant.**

Reasons for decisions:

1. The grant funding available is intended to be used to prevent homelessness caused by repossessions, either through the provision of education material or marketing.
2. To enable the Council's promotion of housing and the policies and procedures applicable to the newly established in-house Home Improvement Agency to be communicated to the public.

Alternative option(s) considered and rejected:

1. That the funding is not used for repossession measures.
2. That the Capital Programme is not set until the findings of the private sector stock condition survey are published.

10.EC.146 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING, 2009/10 - THIRD QUARTER OF 2009/10

The Executive Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transformation monitoring the Council's financial performance during the third quarter of 2009/10 in comparison with the budgetary and efficiency savings targets for the financial year.

The report revealed that the expected overall target savings of £410,000 in 2009/10 had already been achieved and that the projected outturn envisaged an underspend in the region of £169,000 at the year end. However, expenditure would need to be continually monitored in order to offset lower than anticipated income levels in the financial year. In particular, major income streams (eg car parking and building control fees and concessionary travel and benefits costs) would be monitored closely.

The report also referred to the factors that were likely to influence the envisaged increase in the level of working balances.

Decisions made:

1. **That the report be noted.**
2. **That all non-committed revenue expenditure budgets be identified, with a view to any possible savings being made to reduce the impact on the use of general balances in 2009/10.**

Reason for decisions:

To ensure that the Council's budgetary targets are achieved.

Alternative option(s) considered and rejected:

None.

10.EC.147 2010/11 BUDGET PRINCIPLES

The Director of Transformation presented a report on the progress being made towards the preparation of the Council's budget for 2010/11, following the recent confirmation of the expected Government funding allocation.

As a result of the measures taken during the current financial year, the savings target previously expected in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2010/11 had already been achieved.

The report highlighted the following principles around which the Executive Cabinet expected the budget framework for 2010/11 to be constructed:

- containing Council Tax increases;
- protecting businesses from the on-going impact of the recession;
- continuing to provide value for money;
- protecting front line services;
- preparing for the future and the uncertainty over public finances.

The Leader of the Labour Group expressed his disappointment that more specific spending plans had not been revealed, particularly for assessment by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In response, the Deputy Leader of the Council indicated that the need for the Council to plan effectively for a three year period required the Council to monitor its financial position continually and make regular forecasts and adjustments during each financial year in order to achieve balanced budgets.

Decision made:

That the information and budget principles for 2010/11, outlined in the submitted report, be approved for consultation purposes.

Reason for decision:

In order to update Members of the current budgetary forecast position in 2010/11 in advance of the budget setting Council meeting on 2 March 2010.

Alternative option(s) considered and rejected:

None.

Executive Leader

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Report of	Meeting	Date
The Chief Executive (Introduced by the Leader of the Council)	Executive Cabinet	25 th March 2010

MULTI-AREA AGREEMENT – MID LANCASHIRE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update members on the development of a Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) for Mid Lancashire and to seek approval to the final submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the Multi-Area Agreement for Mid-Lancashire (see Appendix 1) is approved for submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government, subject to delegated authority being granted to the Executive Leader to agree any necessary amendments to the final version prior to submission, following consultation with the Executive Member (Business).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. Multi-Area Agreements (MAA's) were first proposed in the Local Government White Paper (October 2006) as a way of helping councils work with their neighbours, Government and its Agencies to promote economic development at a city and sub-regional level. Their main focus is economic development in order to boost prosperity.
4. In Lancashire there is an approved MAA in Pennine Lancashire and an approved MAA for the Fylde coast leaving the Mid-Lancashire area (Chorley, Lancaster, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire) not covered. MAAs are becoming a vital pre-requisite for future infrastructure funding applications.
5. The Mid-Lancashire area is unique to the North West in that it provides a valuable link between different parts of the sub-region and the North West economies. In addition it has huge potential for economic growth and supporting the wider Lancashire economy.
6. In August last year Members agreed that a draft Multi-Agreement for Mid-Lancashire should be submitted to government for discussions in the line with the approved priority areas. Following discussions with a number of government departments the priority areas have been developed and refined. The next stage in the process is to set up a formal negotiation meeting prior to being formally signed by all parties.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

7. To work in partnership across the area in order to maximise the economic development potential of the area.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 8. To not be part of the emerging MAA – rejected.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 9. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region	√	Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	√	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	√
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	

BACKGROUND

- 10. Multi-Area Agreements (MAA’s) were first proposed in the Local Government White Paper (October 2006) as a way of helping councils work with their neighbours, Government and its Agencies to promote economic development at a city and sub-regional level. MAAs are seen as one way of supporting the ambition to drive growth in local economies, to boost prosperity although MAA’s do not have to focus on economic development issues exclusively.
- 11. An MAA should bring together key players in flexible ways to tackle specific issues that are best addressed in partnership. The wider spatial level can include partners across towns, cities or sub-regions. Each MAA needs to be localised and respond to circumstances specific to its area. No two MAA’s will or should look the same. The formal result of this partnership working will be a public agreement with Government, to work together with local authorities on specific issues with each side having responsibility for specific actions.
- 12. Essentially, MAA’s are “deals” with central government by clusters of local authorities who want a greater degree of flexibility, and amongst the key elements of any MAA will be the need to have;
 - robust governance arrangements,
 - strong political leadership, and
 - a focused performance and accountability framework

Two of the main benefits of an MAA are:

- formal recognition by the Government of the issues identified (in a national context, as opposed to a local or regional one)
- the ability to enter into detailed discussions with Government on long term solutions to important issues

Given the current economic climate and the cuts in public spending Government Agencies like the Homes and Community Agency and the NWDA will be operating on an MAA footprint and any funding will be directed through these partnerships.

MID-LANCASHIRE MAA

13. Members will recall that in August last year it was agreed to enter into discussions with Government on an MAA for Mid-Lancashire. The Mid Lancashire MAA (which includes the Districts of Chorley, Lancaster, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire) is different from other MAAs as it aims to build upon current success by enhancing economic and jobs growth whilst improving opportunities for residents and ensuring that growth is managed and sustainable in the long term.
14. Lancashire that has had the most job and GVA growth over the past 5 to 10 years and is a significant contributor to the Lancashire and North West economy. An MAA (although not exclusively focused on economic issues) would support the continuation of this growth, and the opportunities it can provide, as well as supporting the constituent parts of Mid Lancashire to fulfil their economic potential and aspirations. Recognising and building upon the three relatively self contained economic sub areas of Central Lancashire, North Lancashire and West Lancashire and their specific issues, the MAA can act as a mechanism for addressing common barriers and relating them to specific localities and actions in order to support economic growth as the regional and national economy moves out of recession.
15. Mid Lancashire, due to its unique position in the North West can also act as a link between different parts of the sub regional and North West economies –it overlaps with and impacts upon the economies of Morecambe Bay, Greater Manchester and Merseyside and, within Lancashire, completes the spatial 'jigsaw' as it fits between Fylde Coast and Pennine Lancashire. The MAA would act as the basis for entering into discussions with other sub or city regions (Merseyside or Cumbria for example) based upon the needs of specific areas, functional economic areas (such as Pennine Lancashire) if it identified important joint issues - formal national recognition of the issues identified in the MAA would add weight to the need for such discussions.
16. Discussions or bi-laterals have been taking place over the last couple of months based on the indicative list of priority areas agreed by the Mid-Lancashire authorities. These have now been worked up and included within the attached MAA submission.
17. The key issues for Chorley are still included with in the MAA. In particular attracting inward investment into the Royal Ordnance Strategic Regional Site. In addition a number of the broader actions proposed will benefit Chorley for instance ensuring targeted local enterprise support and working with partners to address the pockets of deprivation which on their own are not substantial enough to attract funding.
18. The next stage in the process is a formal negotiation meeting between Government departments and the Districts. The agreement will then be amended to reflect what was agreed at the meeting. The MAA document will then be prepared in conjunction with CLG and will be signed by all partners at a formal signing event.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

19. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

CONCLUSION

20. Overall this is an opportunity for Mid-Lancashire to highlight its aspirations and how it can assist the wider sub-region in addressing the economic recession. With regards Chorley this is an opportunity to work with partners to attract major inward investors into the SRS

and address pockets of deprivation, which on their own are not substantial enough to attract funding.

DONNA HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Donna Hall	5104	8 th March 2010	***

Mid-Lancashire

*Multi-Area Agreement
2010*

Submission Draft 1.5

12 March 2010

Working Draft

*Multi-Area Agreement 2010**12 March 2010***Contents**

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1 Introduction

1.1 The Mid Lancashire MAA Proposition

1.1.1 Mid Lancashire has performed well in the past with strong growth in employment. It has a resilient economy and is well placed to weather the current downturn, as it has previously in times of economic difficulty. However, the area has not delivered to its full potential in the context of the past 10 years of broadly positive economic performance.

1.1.2 We are determined that this MAA will facilitate improved partnership working with Government, its Agencies and other key stakeholders, in order to assist us to both maximise the economic contribution of the area and tackle some of the important economic issues faced within Mid Lancashire.

1.2 The Area and its Geography

1.2.1 Mid-Lancashire as its name implies, is at the heart of the Lancashire sub region and is strategically located, bordering on Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cumbria (see map over). Around 600,000 people live in Mid Lancashire of which 372,000 are of working age¹.

1.2.2 Comprised of the districts of Lancaster, Preston, Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire, within the County of Lancashire, Mid Lancashire covers a mosaic of communities of different sizes, wealth profiles, economic activity and character. It is neither a compact conurbation, nor an isolated rural area, though it contains elements of both. Whilst the area is not geographically contiguous, the M6 motorway and the West Coast Main Rail Line ensure that the area is physically joined together.

1.2.3 The overall Mid Lancashire area actually breaks down into three relatively distinct economic but thematically related sub areas, with extensive links to neighbouring towns and conurbations both within and outside the County:

Lancaster's economic footprint extends into parts of Cumbria, to the north of the Lancashire county boundary².

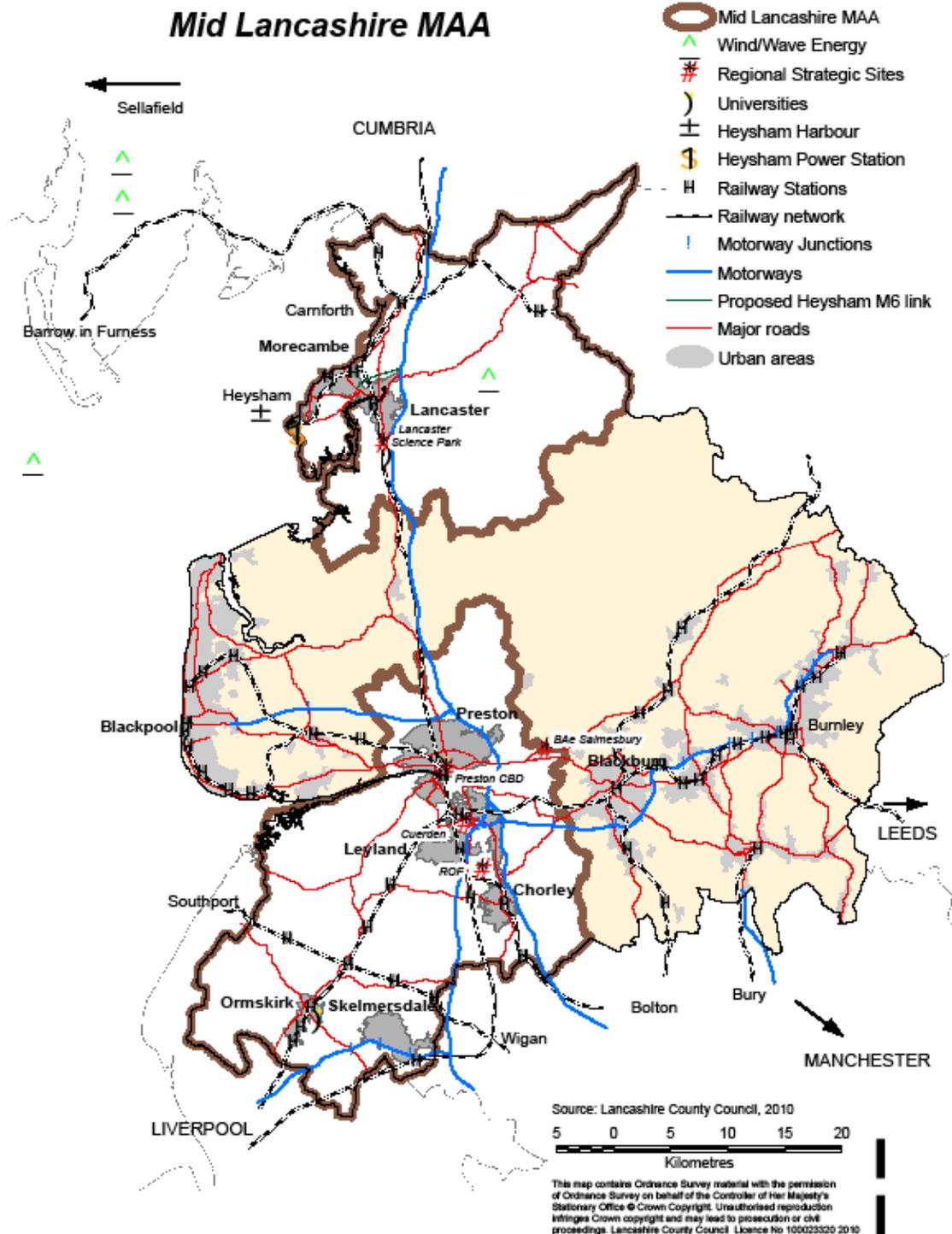
Chorley, Preston and South Ribble provide a pivot for the central part of the county, linking areas in the east (Pennine Lancashire) and west (Fylde Coast) to the main north/south transport axes. Over 13,000 people travel to/from Pennine Lancashire and Mid Lancashire, whilst over 22,000 people travel to/from the Fylde Coast and Mid Lancashire.

West Lancashire was relatively self contained in 2001 but has strong relationships with the rest of Lancashire, Liverpool and Manchester City Regions.

¹ ONS Mid Year Population Statistics

² Collaborative working between Cumbria and Lancaster will take place through the Morecambe Bay Partnership

Mid Lancashire also has strong labour market relationships with the Manchester and Liverpool City Regions, with over 28,000 and 25,000 highly skilled Mid Lancashire residents working in these two City Regions respectively.



1.2.4 Mid Lancashire has a multitude of attributes and assets, including:

Its important cities and towns - Preston, Chorley, Leyland, Skelmersdale, Ormskirk, Lancaster and Morecambe.

Its considerable rural hinterland which includes part of the Morecambe Bay coast, the Forest of Bowland area of outstanding natural beauty and the West Pennine Moors.

An excellent motorway network, being served by the M58, M6, M61, M65 and M55.

The West Coast Mainline Railway which runs directly through the area.

Four universities with regional, national and international reputations.

Its contribution to the developing Energy Coast.

1.3 Why Mid-Lancashire is pursuing this Multi-Area Agreement

1.3.1 Multi-Area Agreements (MAAs) were first proposed in the Local Government White Paper (October 2006) as a way of helping councils work with their neighbours to promote economic development at a city region and sub regional level. In Lancashire this process has resulted so far in two agreed MAAs, Pennine Lancashire and the Fylde Coast.

1.3.2 We recognise the importance of aligning MAAs with real spatial relationships and in that respect the district councils in Mid-Lancashire have worked in conjunction with the County Council to produce this proposal for an MAA. Local partners have chosen to pursue an MAA for a number of very important reasons:

Unlike other MAAs in Lancashire, the requirement for Mid-Lancashire is to both **build upon** recent economic success and address needs, in order to improve opportunities for residents and ensure that growth is sustainable in the long term, capitalising upon and enhancing existing assets to improve economic performance.

This MAA is viewed as important tool in helping to deliver sustained managed growth and improved access to the benefits of growth, while maintaining a good quality of life for the area's communities.

The MAA will support more structured long term dialogue between local partners, Government and its Agencies, starting off with Mid-Lancashire's role in leading the economy of the Lancashire sub region in economic recovery. We recognise that this is not just about investment but also better informed policy development/decision making.

The environmental quality of Mid-Lancashire is an asset but the economic importance of the rural area is often overlooked.

The MAA will be a tool for ensuring that what may be perceived externally as 'local' issues are discussed directly with Government. For example, 'local' transport

schemes that will have large Mid-Lancashire economic impacts, and thereby sub regional impacts, will be further prioritised through regional processes.

Some schemes will also deliver benefits to adjacent areas, both the more deprived areas of Lancashire to the east and west and the various conurbations to the north and south and the MAA proposal needs to be seen in this context. This would not circumvent current regional processes, or any future ones, but would ensure that schemes and policy interventions important to the economic health of Mid Lancashire and the region at large are 'aired' in the correct context, thereby laying the ground for future decision making processes.

An MAA for Mid-Lancashire will put the area's key assets and issues firmly in the mind of Government Departments and Agencies.

Mid Lancashire will also use the MAA to influence discussions on and the development of the Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) and this will include the potential to provide cross boundary support to stem the outward migration of young people from South Cumbria, building on existing examples of cross boundary working including joint working with the Liverpool City Region.

Within Lancashire, the area completes the spatial 'jigsaw' as the link between Fylde Coast and Pennine Lancashire. As the major economic area within the Lancashire sub region, Mid Lancashire has a key role in providing employment and supporting growth in other parts of the sub region and beyond.

1.3.3 We realise that the Mid Lancashire MAA proposal does not fit with current MAA models. However, it is this very difference that provides the assets and opportunities that will support enhanced economic growth. The MAA will concentrate on adding value i.e. those things that are better done together and can't be achieved separately or in other forums, which are achievable in the short to medium term and are in addition to/cannot be achieved by the Lancashire LAA.

1.4 Capitalising on our opportunities and addressing our needs

1.4.1 Through the vehicle of this MAA we are determined to make significant progress towards the following strategic objectives for Mid Lancashire and the wider sub-region:

1. ***Maximising the potential of our key economic development and regeneration attributes by:***
 - enhancing and improving key strategic regional and other major employment sites to retain and attract successful businesses
 - ensuring that local enterprise support is targeted to support the accelerated GVA growth and job creation we seek
 - tackling unemployment and worklessness issues where they exist by providing the best employment opportunities and supporting the transition into work

- securing maximum benefit for the local economy from our energy sector assets; and
 - ensuring that we capitalise on the significant long term economic and employment contribution of the visitor economy.
2. ***Ensuring our infrastructure is capable of supporting our challenging economic growth ambitions by:***
- delivering a leading edge integrated transport network
 - taking full advantage of the opportunities provided by the digital age; and
 - ensuring our housing offer is capable of fulfilling the need of existing residents and attracting people to the area.
3. ***Capitalising on our unique educational attributes to support and sustain our commitment to a knowledge led economy by:***
- enhancing knowledge and innovation in Mid Lancashire; and
 - improving skills levels generally and specifically in Mid Lancashire's key growth sectors

1.5 Equality, Inclusion and Sustainability

1.5.1 We are committed to ensuring that economic development is an inclusive process, where individuals and communities are able to participate in economic growth and have a stake in the benefits regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age, family or marital status, religion or belief, or any other ground which cannot be justified.

1.5.2 We are also committed to addressing the economic challenges of climate change and taking advantage of the economic opportunities it presents. Economic growth cannot take place to the detriment of our environment, both locally and globally. We will seek to incorporate an environmental impact assessment in all key actions and track the area's progress against pre-defined sustainability measures over the course of the work programme. Understanding the spatial agenda will enable us to ensure that each part of Mid Lancashire develops in a manner which compliments the sustainable needs of its communities, rather than creates unwarranted competition.

1.6 Summary

1.6.1 This MAA articulates the potential contribution to be made not only to the Mid Lancashire area itself but also to the economic growth of the wider region. The success of the Mid Lancashire economies, alongside that of other parts of the Lancashire sub region, including Fylde and Pennine Lancashire, is key to the Lancashire sub region becoming "a globally competitive sub region offering a distinctive and diverse environment for prosperity". We strongly believe that our

proposals are fully aligned with those of the Government in “Going for Growth:Our Future Prosperity” – January 2010.

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2 Mid-Lancashire's Economy – Drivers of/barriers to Growth

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 On the basis of the evidence available to us, we are convinced that Mid Lancashire has the potential and capacity to both drive forward, and support, economic growth and regeneration across Lancashire and the wider Northwest region.

2.1.2 Preston, Chorley, South Ribble and Lancaster, have for almost twenty years posted significant growth in employment. West Lancashire has provided a supporting role to growth in the Mid Lancashire area, as well as contributing to the growth of the Liverpool City Region. This area has the proven ability and uncanny knack to weather the ups and downs of economic cycles.

2.1.3 Total employment³ in Mid Lancashire is over 281,000 (July 2008 – June 2009 - 289,000 – Annual Population Survey Data⁴) making it by far the largest employment market in Lancashire with a 46% share of the county's total employment base. This market is substantially bigger than Liverpool (218,000) and only marginally less than Manchester (304,000). Since 2003 it has grown by 7.6% which is approaching 20,000 jobs in 4 years - and compares very favourably with its substantial neighbours in Manchester and Liverpool which posted growth rates of 1.77% (5,370) and 3.8% (c. 8,300) respectively. Regional growth during this period was 2.1%. Without doubt therefore this is a key sub-region of the North West economy and whatever happens here will have a major impact on the rest of the north western economy.

2.1.4 However, whilst in employment terms it is an area which is a match to any sub-area economy in the UK the area suffers from poor value contribution. A structural deficiency in performance within Lancashire mainly relating to the quality of the service sector, where it posts a productivity gap of £810m (or 14%) of national benchmarks. In terms of high value manufacturing however, it is a match for anywhere in the country.

2.2 Drivers of Growth

2.2.1 The key drivers of growth include:

- **Business density and entrepreneurialism** - the Mid Lancashire area is home to 43% of the Lancashire sub-region's businesses and 95% of those businesses employ 10 or less people (often in rural areas)
- **A diverse and broad spread of economic sectors**, which are unique to the place and not easily replicated elsewhere. For example energy assets and technologies including two nuclear power stations, nuclear fuel manufacture. Its diversity of economy, places and people provide an

³ Employees in employment therefore excludes self employed in 2007 (ABI 2009)

⁴ Labour Market Statistics – February 2010 ONS

optimal mix for surviving the recession in the short term and thriving in the long term.

- **High skill organisations** demanding specialist services – advanced manufacturing being particularly notable but with strong knowledge businesses also in the health and higher education sectors and emerging knowledge businesses in architectural and engineering, legal activities, insurance, finance, advertising and ICT activities. By most definitions, Mid Lancashire is an emergent power in higher value knowledge activities.
- **National leading Higher Education and Further Education establishments** driving growth in the area and providing further knowledge relationships across the globe.
- **The emerging Energy Coast initiative** – providing major sustainable energy sources and the linked environmental technology support.
- **Loyalty** - A very resilient, honest and industrious business base which is committed to the area, because this is largely where they started.
- **Diverse cultural and leisure attractions** from Grade 1 listed architecture and heritage, to attractive Victorian seaside resorts, to a green context that provides a unique setting that is irreplaceable and not found within the core cities of Liverpool and Manchester
- **Excellent communications infrastructure**, nationally and internationally, opening up a catchment population that is ready and able to invest in the area.

2.3 Barriers/challenges to our growth

2.3.1 Mid Lancashire is an area that appears to weather the ups and downs of economic cycles very well indeed but it is also an area which fails to fully capitalise on its attributes.

- **The area suffers from poor value contribution** – Our growth rate lags that achieved elsewhere – 51% GVA growth in Mid Lancashire versus 59% nationally (1997 – 2008). A significant reason for this is a structural deficiency in performance mainly relating to the quality of the service sector. The GVA gap (2005) - Services⁵ was £810m (14%). The area has the potential to be doing much better and delivering a higher value contribution. The risks of non-delivery against this objective will not only be an issue for this part of Lancashire but will undermine the regeneration of the wider Lancashire area.

⁵ Commercial services only – net of public sector

- **The knowledge led economy is not growing fast enough** – Only 899 knowledge based jobs have been added since 1998.
- **Pockets of deprivation of varying size and intensity exist** – There are 18 lower super output areas in the 5% most deprived and 37 in the 20% most deprived.
- **A lack of sustainable and appropriate development sites** in the right places with the right facilities, both for employment and housing. This 'negative asset' is a primary reason, linked to limited private sector investment, why growth in the area 'plateaued' in the mid 00s.
- **Capacity constraints on the trunk road network** - current Government policy has moved away from major new road build
- **Poor Connectivity and Accessibility** – the current level of growth has brought with it issues of congestion or overcrowding on existing infrastructure thereby constraining natural growth, e.g. underinvestment in integrated public transport and rural areas with lower grade broadband access and in general a lack of preparedness for Next Generation Access.
- **Ingrained worklessness and poor access to appropriate job opportunities** remains an issue in particular areas, which may worsen as the economy becomes more skilled, and thereby detract from the economic potential of the area
- **A lack of coordinated and effective business support for the area's future growth sectors**, particularly knowledge-led start-ups. There is also evidence that the sub-region's companies are generally less likely to invest in both research in new products and training for staff.
- **Underperforming town centres**, reducing the attractiveness of the area to both residents with above average incomes and businesses through poor quality of place, accommodation and retail offers.
- **Failure to fully leverage extensive local HE/FE provision** to deliver the highly skilled and productive workforce necessary for increasing output and value added.
- **Pockets of low skills and an unbalanced skills 'mix'** – people and areas are being 'left behind' and businesses are unable to exploit to develop new business opportunities.
- Mixed messages delivered to key central and regional agencies around local priorities and key blockers
- **Historically uncoordinated joint working between tiers of local government** to address current inconsistencies in policy and delivery, and the lack of a clear spatial vision that goes beyond administrative (District and Mid Lancashire) boundaries.

2.4 The Impact of the Recession

2.4.1 The effects of the recession have been felt in the Mid Lancashire area as they have across the North West and the UK. However, the statistics currently

available to us suggest that the impact of the recession on Mid Lancashire in overall terms has not been as significant as elsewhere, for example:

- The rate of increase of the claimant count for Mid Lancashire has remained below national and regional averages at 1.4% as compared to a regional increase of 1.9% and a national increase of 1.8%.
- The claimant count figures for younger people (aged 18-24) are again below the national and regional averages with a Mid Lancashire figure of 5.9% as compared to North West and UK figures of 8.9% and 7.8% respectively.
- Overall the claimant count in Mid Lancashire stands at 3.4% as compared to 3.8% for the North West and 4% for the UK.

2.4.2 As indicated above, Mid Lancashire is an area with an economic make up that in overall terms has made it resilient to the current set of economic challenges. This is reinforced by the recent Centre for Cities report which highlighted Preston⁶ as a UK city that would not be highly vulnerable to the impact of the recession and as having characteristics that would support a return to growth as the economy picks up.

2.4.3 However, one of the main reasons for this resilience is the concentration of public sector organisations. Of the 32 UK cities ranked, Preston came in the bottom quartile for its percentage of private sector employment in 2008 (on par with Blackpool and below Burnley). This may itself lead to problems in the future as public sector expenditure, and therefore related employment, is constrained.

2.4.4 A further reason for resilience has been the fact that the area is not as reliant on the financial/professional service sector as some harder hit areas. However, the high incidence of the construction industry⁷ in Preston (within the top ten concentrations in the UK) again demonstrates that the area has been affected by the economic downturn. Later in this document specific reference is made to a need to ensure that Mid Lancashire companies are able to benefit from the developments in the nuclear industry including civil engineering and construction – something which Mid Lancashire as a whole is well placed to capitalise upon.

TO FOLLOW - Business Link Data/Redundancies notified to JCP/RS2010 Forecasting

2.5 Summary

2.4.5 As a result of the factors listed above, investment in the area by both the public sector and businesses has been limited and where it has occurred, much of

⁶ Preston, South Ribble and Chorley

⁷ The construction industry has been identified as being significantly vulnerable to the impacts of an economic downturn

it has been low GVA. To date, Mid-Lancashire has proved relatively 'resilient' to the current financial sector-led downturn. However, this 'resilience' may in turn hinder future growth and act as barrier to Mid Lancashire fulfilling its economic potential.

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3 Our Proposed Mid-Lancashire MAA Strategic Objectives

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 We are clear that the Mid-Lancashire area is a key economic driver for the Lancashire sub-region as a whole and further afield within the North West. This MAA is one of the key ways in which we, in partnership with Government and its Agencies, intend to capitalise on the key attributes of the functional economic areas to drive further economic growth. We describe below our proposed Mid-Lancashire MAA themes which incorporate specific actions for all partners. We are confident that these actions when taken together, will allow us to maximise economic growth, sustainability and to deliver the ambitious outcomes which we describe.

3.1.2 We have adopted the following approach to articulating each **Strategic Objective**:

- An initial contextual introduction
- A summary of relevant barriers and challenges faced
- A summary of our vision
- The scale of the opportunity if we collectively choose to act
- The specific actions we are proposing need to be taken in partnership
- Our relevant key performance indicators and targets

3.1.3 This agreement incorporates three **Strategic Objectives** that we wish to focus on:

- Maximising the potential of our key economic development and regeneration attributes – Section 4
- Ensuring our infrastructure is capable of supporting our challenging economic growth ambitions – Section 5
- Capitalising on our unique educational attributes to support and sustain our commitment to a knowledge led economy – Section 6

3.1.4 All three **Strategic Objectives** have been identified as critical to maximising the potential of Mid-Lancashire to act as the catalyst for accelerated growth across the sub-region and to become a key contributor to leading the UK economy out of recession.

4 Maximising the potential our key economic development and regeneration attributes

4.1 Contextual Introduction

4.1.1 Mid Lancashire has considerable assets and attributes which given the right environment and support will ensure that the area's economic potential is maximised. The key economic development and regeneration attributes include:

- The 445 hectares (0.3%) of available employment land (sites allocated for employment purposes which have yet to be developed)
- The predominance of energy sector assets/attributes, for example, Springfield, Toshiba (Westinghouse) UK HQ, Heysham power stations and natural assets suitable for wind, wave and tidal energy, with long term potential for major further development
- A wealth of "quality of life" amenities for instance easy access to the open countryside , excellent schools and housing

4.2 Capitalising on our Opportunities

Energy Sector

4.2.1 Mid Lancashire, working in partnership with Government, has the potential to deliver the critical elements of the national energy strategy that meets the imperatives of both combating climate change and securing the nation's energy supply. Gas power and wind farms are a significant opportunity for the area. We will also be able to support, and act as a gateway to, the development of new nuclear facilities in the Cumbrian Coast.

4.2.2 Mid Lancashire's major contribution to the nuclear agenda also provides for a major concentration of research, skills and facilities in nuclear and related technologies, with strong and growing potential for commercialisation into new markets. Mid Lancashire's approach to the delivery of major strategic employment sites strongly aligns with this agenda.

4.2.3 Heysham 1 will also be subject to decommissioning in the medium term and it has been established that the UK's £80bn decommissioning programme will require new skills and techniques, providing major opportunities to existing and new firms. The global decommissioning market is worth some £300bn, with many techniques and services in areas such as environmental remediation being readily transferable into much wider markets.

4.2.4 The area also has within it access to the National Grid and this is an area that needs intervention from Government as part of this MAA.

Visitor Economy

- 4.2.5 The visitor economy has a key role to play in supporting economic growth; early estimates for 2009 demonstrate the sector's resilience as a growth sector with hotels, restaurants and retail sectors contributing to a 0.1% growth in UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the first signs of economic recovery and growth since the start of the recent recession. Growth potential within the sector is also supported by the findings of the UK Tourism Survey which shows that for 2009 (year to September) visitor numbers were up overall by 17% to 19.9 million with visitor spend up £1 billion at £10.45 billion. This is a result of increasing day visits and more people choosing to holiday at home, now commonly referred to as the 'staycation' effect.
- 4.2.6 The visitor economy across Mid-Lancashire is worth an estimated £892 million (Source: STEAM 2008) with visitor numbers standing at 21.4 million and jobs supported equal to 14,099 FTE. The sector offers a low entry barrier to employment and has a high record of supporting successful business start ups. Accommodation and food services is the third largest business sector in Lancashire and Blackpool. Total employment in the sector is forecast to gain by almost 10% by 2017.
- 4.2.7 Mid-Lancashire has the potential to capitalise upon a strong asset base within the visitor economy, focusing on spatial and thematic priorities identified with the Lancashire and Blackpool Visitor Economy Strategy 2006-2016. The area has a rich cultural heritage with Lancaster providing a prime example, a strong business tourism sector in Preston which will be enhanced by the Guild celebrations in 2012 and the potential to capitalise upon a large captive audience of students in higher education through their visiting friends and relatives. Natural assets are particularly strong within the area extending from the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB), RSPB Leighton Moss and Morecambe Bay Regional Park in the north through to areas of the Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park, Brockholes, and WWT Martin Mere, Burscough in the south-west contributing to a unique green infrastructure and natural tourism officer.
- 4.2.8 To create a truly successful and sustainable visitor economy, a myriad of different elements need to be supported and managed in an integrated way with a clear focus on the needs of both tourists and residents. This extends to everything that attracts people to a place – the shops, the townscape, the landmark buildings, the heritage, the culture, the scenery, the natural environment, the leisure facilities, the events and so on with quality and sustainability at the heart of these facets. In other words all the things that make a place special, distinctive and worth experiencing, thereby contributing to those aspirations for improving the quality of life for local residents and visitors. The development of a Visitor Economy Pilot in Lancaster provides an opportunity to embrace these principles in defining and delivering a cultural heritage strategy for the city and creating a 'great destination'.
- 4.2.9 This co-ordinated approach needs to extend to branding and marketing activity, aligned to the work of the Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board in adopting thematic approaches for defined target markets with an emphasis on high spending visitors – business, heritage, outdoor recreation and VFR

market segments. The adoption of this thematic approach to marketing activity for mid-Lancashire will ensure it embraces the brand values used across the wider sub-regional visitor economy 'Visit Lancashire – where life feels good'.

4.2.10 Supporting clusters and networks offers a prime mechanism for driving partnership working and engaging the private sector. Bay Tourism and the newly formed Heart of Lancashire Tourism Association provide key opportunities to engage tourism businesses in this place making agenda and to promote quality and business excellence which will in turn drive productivity and profitability.

4.2.11 Improve the quality of life for residents and visitors through defined actions to develop both natural and man-made assets, including infrastructure and public realm as part of the wider place making agenda for Mid-Lancashire.

Summary

4.2.12 As evidenced earlier in this document, the Mid-Lancashire area is the key economic driver of the Lancashire sub-region as a whole and offers important contributions beyond its geographical boundaries. However, the area will only be able to continue this vital role, if it has the support of Government and its Agencies to both capitalise on the opportunities described above and address the barriers and challenges below.

4.3 Barriers and Challenges faced

4.3.1 Despite all of the positive attributes and features described above a number of significant barriers and challenges remain.

Employment Sites

4.3.2 There is a lack of available sites for new business development and scaling up operations.

4.3.3 Competition from neighbouring city regions is attracting investment and jobs at the expense of Mid Lancashire.

4.3.4 The area is not able to market both nationally and internationally, a sequenced portfolio of future employment sites and this is acting as a barrier to progress. Examples of barriers to progress include:

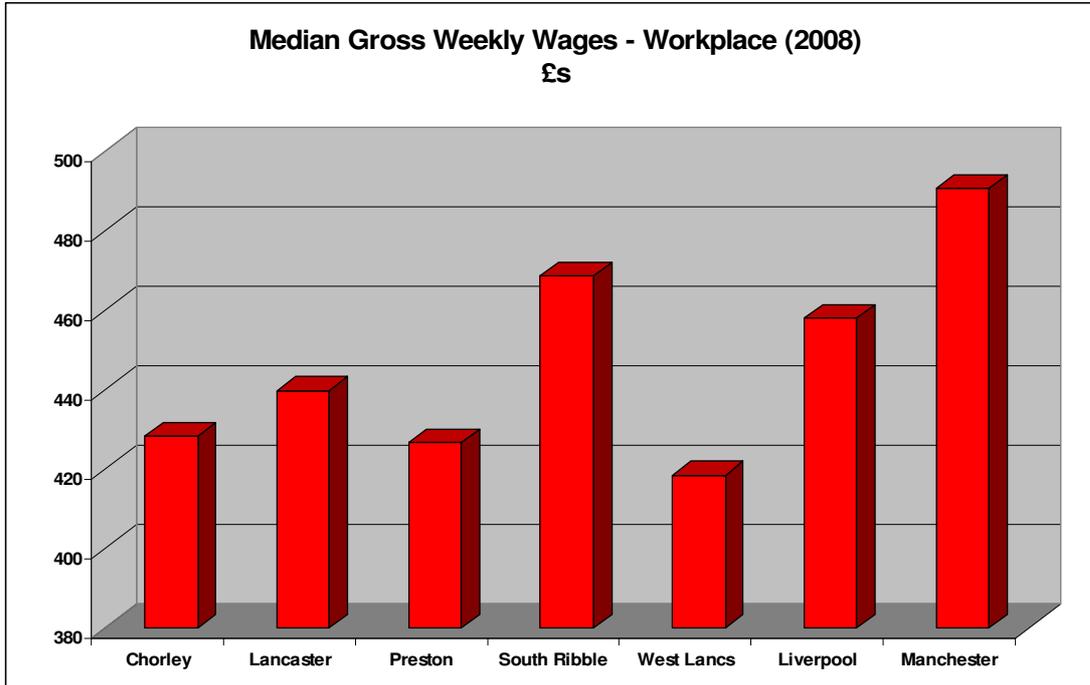
- Cuerden and Lancaster Science Park – There is no infrastructure serving the sites
- West Lancashire is significantly constrained by the Merseyside green belt – Mid Lancashire is 37.8% green belt compared with 14.8% in Manchester and 4% in Liverpool

4.3.5 The major employment sites would have an impact broader than the MAA area and have the potential for significant regional impact. There is an increasing need for such sites to be tailored to the specific needs of different industries and sizes of company. Work is ongoing to identify these needs

and ensure the appropriate sites and infrastructure is in place. However, this work has historically been uncoordinated and led to uncertainty amongst authorities, the RDA and potential investors around the needs, purpose and suitability of the sites.

Enterprise Support

- 4.3.6 Business support and capacity building is inadequate. Business start-up and survival rates are behind national benchmarks. There was a 19% increase in business stock between 1994 and 2008 compared to a national average of 27.1% during the same period. In addition, the “Cities Outlook 2010” placed “Preston” 36th of 64 cities for business births and churn in 2008.
- 4.3.7 Local businesses spend on both workforce training and research and development is lower than national and regional averages.
- 4.3.8 The Government’s recent national policy initiatives to enhance enterprise support, accelerate the growth of businesses and improve the rate of new business start-ups and their survival are complementary to the area’s own aims. The current implementation of the Business Support Simplification Programme (BSSP) is equally supported. This MAA will respond to these national policy initiatives and seek to build upon and shape sub regional implementation in those areas where we are seeking to make the greatest impact locally.
- 4.3.9 There will also be a renewed focus on knowledge-led companies, including ICT, energy and environmental technologies, encouraging the local HEIs to further develop their ability to incubate research-focused start-ups and supporting entrepreneurs to scale up their activity through additional recruitment and use of larger premises.
- 4.3.10 The growing cultural and creative industries sector in Mid Lancashire will be encouraged by the provision of specialist business, exhibition and audience space and ongoing specialist business support with a focus on high growth activity.
- 4.3.11 One of the primary aims of these latter activities is to start to address the low median wage problem of the area. As the table below shows, with the exception of South Ribble, all parts of Mid Lancashire offer lower median gross weekly wages than both Liverpool and Manchester. This reinforces the Mid Lancashire’s need to attract and retain higher value added businesses.



Worklessness

4.3.12 While Mid-Lancashire remains the key jobs and growth driver of the county, there continue to be pockets of high deprivation, particularly in the urban centres. These areas consistently exhibit high levels of long-term unemployment, benefits claimants, ill health and low skills. Over the period July 2008 to June 2009, Mid Lancashire’s had 21,000 (5.6%) unemployed and 75,000 (20%) economically inactive residents. 21% of the working age population of one area of Skelmersdale receive out of work benefits (7% above the regional average), with four area being closer to 30%. Mid Lancashire's Incapacity Benefit rates are higher than other parts of the sub region (49% of Incapacity Benefit claimants in the Lancashire sub region reside in Mid Lancashire).

4.3.13 However, they are also frequently adjacent to areas of high employment and educational opportunities. The diverse nature of these areas has historically meant that the area has not received significant funding and policy support aimed at addressing these issues. There is a clear need for greater joint working and sharing of successful strategies to address these issues and ensure no one is left behind as the area’s economy grows and becomes more highly skilled. The focus will be on integrating and scaling-up existing local services, including NHS commissioned condition management, care, clinical and GP services, with JCP and local authority employability and business engagement programmes, to create a streamlined and efficient service offer that is clearly focused on the needs of customers. Partners will also only commission new or decommission existing services (non DWP provision) as part of a shared and agreed commissioning framework on

workless priorities. This proposal is fully consistent with the forthcoming Marmot Review (NHS) and Government's employability priorities, and is the scaled-up extension of LAA programmes and approaches.

4.3.14 The Mid Lancashire MAA will seek to integrate strategies/programmes aimed at both those recently made unemployed and those who have been economically inactive for many years.

4.3.15 All of these factors reinforce the fact that the area's capacity to generate economic growth isn't being fully exploited, or used to create more cohesive communities.

4.4 **Our vision**

That Mid Lancashire will:

4.4.1 Be a highly productive and equal community which drives the economic growth of the county and contributes to economic recovery at a national level.

4.4.2 Be an attractive destination for investment, both internally and externally, that supports the growth of indigenous businesses, which will be attracted by a high quality range of locations available for operations, the skills of the local workforce, the accessibility of the area to both commuters and freight, the range of quality housing and the quality of the environmental, education and cultural offer.

4.4.3 Have employment levels above the national average and a diverse and buoyant local economy that provides more marginalised people with a route to work as well as attracting highly skilled graduates from both within the sub-region and elsewhere to work within existing businesses, and set up new businesses in this part of the region.

4.5 **The opportunities if we collectively choose to act**

4.5.1 Analysis of Mid-Lancashire's current economic position and relative performance has led to the identification of five primary areas for action. In each case, there is a documented need for a step change in the way the public sector enables and supports economic growth.

4.5.2 We engaged independent consultants to assess the potential economic impacts of our proposed interventions detailed below and they have concluded as follows:

Strategic Regional Sites

4.5.3 The sites and premises theme has the potential to deliver transformational change to Mid Lancashire, providing employment opportunities on a scale which is regionally significant in the longer term. Our estimates indicate that the implementation of the MAA asks will generate 7,014 gross jobs, of which 4,497 jobs will remain after taking account of gross to net adjustments.

4.5.4 The GVA uplift associated with these jobs is £355m, with an average GVA/employee figure of £50,613 (undiscounted). This theme provides, therefore, a major part of the MAA vision of developing a higher value, knowledge based economy.

Worklessness

4.5.5 The anticipated number of individuals achieving positive outcomes is 580 over a three years period. Were any of the proposals to be extended or enhanced then additional impacts would be generated. Over the medium term, the combined delivery of the MAA asks can make a significant contribution to the worklessness objectives - nominally, the impact of 580 persons accounts for 2.7% of the current stock of IB/ESA and JSA claimants. No direct impact on GVA has been modelled at this stage, albeit it is recognised that boosting the employment rate will contribute to the increasing the overall output of the Mid Lancashire economy.

Energy Sector

4.5.6 Forecast benefits are summarised as follows:

- Creation of 630 jobs per annum across the energy sector, including 105 additional posts as a result of MAA interventions;
- Associated GVA uplift of £11m per annum, including £1.8m additional as a result of MAA interventions;
- Mid Lancashire supports 1,400 jobs in Cumbria created through the Energy Coast Masterplan by 2027, through a mix of supply chain, local employment and housing initiatives.

Tourism

4.5.7 The following benefits are forecast:

	Day visitors	Overnight visitors	Total
Additional visitors	767,093	43,565	810,658
Additional spend	£22.3m	£2.1m	£24.4m
Jobs supported	353	33	386

4.10 Specific Actions

NB – Those specific actions highlighted as follows are for Mid Lancashire Partners **only**



Objective 1		
Securing growth via strategic regional and other major employment sites		
Specific Actions	Organisational Responsibility	Timescales /Milestones
Key government agencies (NWDA, Highways Agency, HCA) to work with Mid Lancashire partners and financial institutions to identify innovative ways to maximise the potential of land holdings .	NWDA, Highways Agency, HCA, Local Partners	By September 2010
Work with regional agencies, to clarify the policy context and process by which they will consider whether proposed changes to Green Belt boundaries can be made through the LDF process and conduct study work on the relative importance of the Green Belts areas around the major settlements in West Lancashire [Link to input to RS 2010 Part 1 consultation and subsequent development of supporting policies]	NWDA/4NW/GONW/Local partners	By September 2010
Local partners will work with Government and its Agencies to align priorities and negotiate and agree a Local Investment Plan to pump prime sites in order to ensure implementation of agreed and future commitments	HMT,DfT/CLG,NWDA,/HighwaysAgency/, HCA/Local Partners	By Dec 2010

Ensure appropriate prioritisation of investment in the four strategic regional sites in Mid Lancashire (Bailrigg Lancaster, Central Preston, Cuerden South Ribble, ROF Chorley) and Samlesbury – Partners are keen to ensure that maximum value is secured from future investment, by creating/enhancing those sites which offer the greatest potential for future growth via current and new knowledge based, high growth businesses.	Local partners	May 2010
Draw upon the NWDA Regional Strategy 2010 ‘Places’ work and the Lancashire Medium Sized Towns Study to reach consensus on the specific roles of Mid Lancashire’s cities/town centres (particularly Skelmersdale/Ormskirk, Chorley, Leyland, Preston and Lancaster/Morecambe), to act as a guide for wider regeneration activity thereby complementing the expansion of existing businesses and to securing the interest of potential new businesses.	Local partners	May 2010
Mid Lancashire partners to undertake a local brown-field/green-field study to potentially facilitate the release of land for strategic development purposes	Local partners	By September 2010
Objective 2		
Ensuring targeted local enterprise support		
In the context of BSSP, regional Business Link provision and NWDA/ERDF funded regional programmes, review and enhance business support services to high growth/knowledge based businesses in Mid Lancashire to provide the	NWDA/Local partners	By Winter 2010

<p>most effective support possible</p>		
<p>Work with NWDA/Business Link at the most efficient and effective spatial level, to consider flexible business support for fledgling businesses (especially in the knowledge based sector) to improve the success rate of new businesses and their continued growth, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of an Innovation Fund for Mid Lancashire, • flexibility in the use of Innovation Vouchers. to focus on specific sector and operational issues 	<p>NWDA/Business Link/Local Partners</p>	<p>By Summer 2011</p>
<p>Broker links between HEIs, FEIs, and Business Link, to encourage the development of a greater spatial focus and entrepreneurial culture within these organisations and linking better educational provision to jobs as part of the implementation of a Mid Lancashire Knowledge, Enterprise and Innovation Strategy</p>	<p>GONW/Local Partners/NWDA</p>	<p>By Summer 2010</p>
<p>Work with the area’s HEIs, FEIs and the private sector to develop a Mid Lancashire Knowledge, Enterprise and Innovation Strategy to focus on promoting and supporting sectors which offer the greatest potential for high GVA growth and job creation with an additional focus on key employment and investment sites – sectors to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear Technology • Environmental and renewable technologies • Digital Technologies 	<p>Local Partners</p>	<p>By Summer 2010</p>
<p>Local partners to do more to empower active third sector social</p>	<p>Local partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>enterprises to build their capacity sustainably, working alongside those organisations where appropriate, to tackle mutual issues including engagement with HEIs (Business Support and Student Engagement)</p>		
<p>Local partners to work with providers of business education into schools (eg Business in the Community and FE/HE to improve attitudes towards enterprise and enterprise culture.</p>	<p>LCC/NWDA/Local partners</p>	<p>To commence by academic year 2010/11</p>
<p>Linking to NW Vision and Media develop existing and identify new specific opportunities for collaborative working, relating to the digital and media sector, across the North West. supporting , amongst other issues, linkages to and between</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MediaCity in Salford, • Storey Creative Industries Centre, CityLab, InfoLab in Lancaster, • Media business incubators at Edge Hill University • Media Factory and Sandbox at UCLan and • 'Spin off' activity at Lancaster University and UCLan 	<p>Local & Regional Partners</p>	<p>By Winter 2010</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Objective 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Securing quality employment opportunities to tackle unemployment and worklessness</p>		
<p>Work with Government Departments and Mid Lancashire Universities to pilot a challenge type approach (similar to Future Jobs Fund) specifically targeted at ensuring that new graduates are supported in entering the labour market at graduation rather becoming unemployed building upon the UNITE programme run by Lancaster University/UCLan.</p>	<p>DWP/Local Partners</p>	<p>By Winter 2010</p>

<p>Consider how Government procurement (in line with EU regulations) can give greater weight to ensuring spending is recycled into local benefits, i.e. ensuring the economic benefits of developments in Nuclear and Renewable Energy technology are felt across Mid Lancashire, through in the inclusion of local contractors and labour in tenders, in addition to knowledge based activity</p>	<p>OGC</p>	<p>By Autumn 2010</p>
<p>Government to engage directly with local government partners to discuss options for retaining and supporting public sector employment. Significant relocations (over 100 jobs) to trigger an audit of the impact on the local economy and dialogue to discuss suitable alternatives.</p>	<p>OGC/HMT/Local Partners</p>	<p>Public sector relocations strategy agreed by Autumn 2010</p>
<p>Work with Government Departments to identify pockets of deprivation across Mid Lancashire that have an impact upon economic performance and design local actions to address issues (similar to a Working Neighbourhoods Fund approach).</p>	<p>DWP/CLG/Local Partners</p>	<p>To complete the review by Winter 2010</p>
<p>Address legislative and policy barriers, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • With Job Centre Plus, to produce a tailored package of advice and support suited to the requirements of the local population to include a 'Workwise' scheme to overcome restricted journey horizons for unemployed people. • To allow scaling up effective local schemes, such as the Skelmersdale community transport pilot, to assist people in making the transition from benefits to employment 	<p>CLG/Local partners</p> <p>JC+/Local partners</p>	<p>New initiatives in place within 6 months</p>
<p>Support appropriate Flexible New Deal and Mid Lancashire footprint interventions, to mitigate the impact</p>	<p>DWP/Jobcentre Plus/Local partners</p>	<p>From Autumn</p>

<p>of the recession on inactive residents and their pathways to employment. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of Local partners in reviewing New Deal contractor performance • Supporting the scaling up of the Preston Employment Partnership Model across Mid Lancashire 		<p>2010 Within 6 months</p>
<p>Broker a partnership with NHS Trusts to align priorities, consider commissioning issues and develop links to employment opportunities, in particular to bring forward integrated service offers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workless residents with the potential to return to employment, so long as they receive timely and intensive support • Workers at risk of becoming long-term out-of-work benefit claimants due to ill-health • SME businesses which account for over 95% of the Mid Lancashire business base but have limited workforce development and absence management capacity 	<p>DoH/CLG/DWP/ NHS//Local partners (to include the University of Cumbria/Edge Hill where associated work is underway).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Objective 4 Energy Sector</p>		
<p>Continue to strengthen decommissioning support for business to ensure that the right sort of enterprise, procurements and business support assistance is provided within the parameters of the Business Support Simplification Programme.</p>	<p>NWDA/Local Partners</p>	<p>By Autumn 2010</p>
<p>Consider the need for enhanced support, to include targeting of high growth and knowledge base businesses in the Energy Sector and initiatives to improve enterprise</p>	<p>NWDA/Fylde Coast Partners/Local Partners</p>	<p>By Autumn 2010</p>

<p>culture and skills, linking such work to the Mid Lancashire strategic development sites and related supply chain , for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expansion of the NDA Graduate Scheme based at Lancaster University to focus on lower tier Mid Lancashire, Lancashire and North West companies, • The promotion of the Nuclear Management Foundation Degree at UCLan, one of only two such degrees in England. • The utilisation of Mid Lancashire capacity, expertise and skills to physically implement Government proposals, e.g. Civil Engineering, Construction etc. 		
<p>Consider local inward investment opportunities (national/ international and public/private) to build on nuclear development and to seek diversification into other sectors, particularly energy-related, environmental technology and renewable, linking closely with the universities in the Mid Lancashire region. (NB. Link to Energy Coast discussions between Government/NWDA and the Fylde Coast to include Transport Infrastructure such as improvements to Carnforth Northern Hub ,).</p>	<p>BIS/DEC/UKTI/NWDA/Fylde Coast MAA Partners/Local Partners/ DfT, Public Transport operators, NWDA, GONW etc.</p>	<p>By Summer 2011</p>
<p>Local partners to develop a spatial framework for energy initiatives across Mid Lancashire, to inform LDF's where these are not already in place.</p>	<p>Local Partners</p>	<p>By Winter 2010</p>
<p>Support a strong business case for an upgrade to the National Grid's facility based at Heysham in support of the broader Energy Coast Initiative.</p>	<p>BIS/NWDA/National Grid/United Utilities/Local Partners</p>	<p>By Winter 2010</p>

Objective 5		
Visitor Economy		
Develop further towns in Mid Lancashire which contribute to the regional agenda of tourism/heritage by developing further assets, public realm and infrastructure within them.	Local Partners	Ongoing
Ensure brand alignment of the Mid Lancashire visitor economy product with the LBTB Lancashire branding and product themes.	Local Partners	By Spring 2011

4.11 Targets

Outcome	Baseline	April 2011	April 2012	April 2014	April 2019	PSA/DSO
GVA	No figure available					PSA7
VAT Stock	18,095					PSA7
Job Creation	5,559					PSA7
Unemployment Rates	Employment rate = 75.2%					PSA7
Incapacity Benefit	24,740					PSA8
FDI	No figure available					PSA7

5 Ensuring our infrastructure is capable of supporting our challenging economic growth ambitions

5.1 Contextual Introduction

5.1.1 A good transport network is essential if Mid Lancashire is to achieve its economic potential. The area is strategically located and already benefits from an excellent transport infrastructure which provides links both within the area and beyond and which can provide a basis on which to support the growth of the economy.

5.1.2 The key infrastructure and connections include:

- Road - The M6 motorway connects the Mid-Lancashire area and links into the M61, M65, M55 and M65 which converge just south of Preston. This infrastructure not only provides links within the Mid-Lancashire area but also makes it highly accessible further afield to Manchester, Liverpool and beyond.
- Rail – The area is also well connected by rail. The West coast Mainline runs through the area with Preston Station occupying a strategic point on the rail network providing links to Manchester, Liverpool Blackburn and Blackpool.
- Air – Mid-Lancashire has excellent links to three major airports with road and rail links to Manchester, Liverpool John Lennon and Blackpool Airports. Preston and Chorley both have regular direct rail connections to Manchester airport
- Sea – The area also provides valuable links via the Port of Heysham and the Isle of Man

5.2 Capitalising on our opportunities

5.2.1 The potential high connectivity of Mid-Lancashire, both within and outside the area itself, is a key strength. In an economy that is increasingly linked into complex supply chains and foreign markets, it is vital that the area maintains and enhances its competitive advantage by remaining highly accessible and easy to move around.

5.2.2 An additional element of the area's connectivity is its digital infrastructure. In some parts of the county, speeds are significantly behind national averages due to outdated facilities⁸. This is acting as a brake on the further development of technology-led businesses, particularly the small rural companies which are a key area of high-value growth.

5.3 Barriers and challenges faced

⁸ Mid Lancashire MAA, Audit of Evidence, GVA Grimley 2009

- 5.3.1 Currently the potential high connectivity of the area is not being maximised and is constrained by a number of barriers, specifically in relation to congestion and poor suburban railway links. For example, in Central Lancashire whilst Preston, Chorley and, to a lesser extent, Leyland train stations are well used by commuters other neighbourhood stations in the area are all relatively lightly used and passenger numbers are in decline. Bamber Bridge station attracted fewer than 70,000 passengers, while Euxton Balshaw Land and Lostock Hall stations attracted just 42,000 and 33,000 passengers respectively in 2006/07. Skelmersdale suffers from being the second largest town in the north west with no rail station at all.
- 5.3.2 Compare these numbers to the local stations on the Merseyrail network, most of which enjoy 15 minute frequency direct services in to Liverpool and the limitations of Chorley/Preston/South Ribble's local rail network is clear. Hoylake station on the Wirral is used by almost 300,000 passengers in 2006/07, Bebington by more than 430,000.
- 5.3.3 Congestion in urban areas along with key bottlenecks (such as that between Lancaster and Morecambe, the A6 to Lancaster through Galgate, the A570 in Ormskirk the M6 around Junction 31A and the centre of Preston generally), low public transport use caused by poor infrastructure and various other barriers to easy access are all impacting on the region's economic growth.
- 5.3.4 There are many ways in which congestion and poor public transport options impact negatively upon economic growth and development in general:
- Impact on productivity** - leading on from the above, the very high reliance on road travel for business trips means that working time is spent driving. The fact of congestion and the need to allow contingency time as journeys become less predictable inevitably results in increases in the amount of time used for travel rather than being productive. The lack of public transport options means that the productivity of business trips is reduced, which is a particular challenge for knowledge-intensive businesses for which good rail links are important.
- Attracting workers** - Lancashire has a particular challenge in competing for the skilled workers needed to support future economic needs, and the quality of the environment will be a key factor in attracting people to live in the area. Each place is different, with its own challenges in relation to accessibility, traffic severance, noise and air quality. Effective maintenance of the road network is also an important factor in influencing people's perceptions about the place in which they live.
- 5.3.5 It is necessary to consider the problems faced on a case-by-case basis, and develop solutions that are appropriate to the needs of each community, especially those in the vast rural areas for whom the urban idyll of a public transport solution is not realistic. The evidence shows that congestion will increase in the urban areas, which is likely to constrain the delivery of new housing. Effective spatial planning will be crucial in ensuring the 'hard-wiring' of a wide range of travel choices into new communities and breaking

the dependence on the car for travelling to work, shopping and accessing services. This will be crucial in the provision of new housing that is designed to attract the people with higher skills needed to help drive forward Lancashire's economy. Tailored solutions to enable rural employees to access alternative transport links into the heart of urban areas will deliver dividends.

Developing new sites for business - Lancashire has an ambitious programme for the delivery of new employment floorspace to cater for the needs of its future growth sectors. The evidence suggests that congestion is also a significant constraint to the delivery of this floorspace: without action being taken to unlock transport capacity or manage demand for travel at these sites, there is a danger that the sites will not be delivered, which will directly affect the ability to attract new jobs and higher value-added activity in the sub-region.

Connectivity - as rail becomes an increasingly important element of the travel mix, particularly between the growing City Regions of the North, there is a serious danger that parts of Lancashire will be excluded from future economic growth. At present, businesses in Lancashire do not rely on the rail network to address their travel needs. In future, the poor rail service provision in much of the sub-regions could become a major constraint to the economic potential of Lancashire. The enhancement of Preston Station as a passenger hub and the increased reliability and speed of links to it from connecting locations is a key to success.

Equality of opportunity – research by the Social Exclusion Unit earlier this decade demonstrated the implications of poor connections to services and employment on the most vulnerable in society. The policy response – planning for accessibility for vulnerable groups – is now well embedded in transport policy, although work is still needed to develop the evidence on how improved access to opportunities has impacted on people's life chances.

Climate change – the lack of reference to the challenge of climate change in the current Local Transport Plans is notable. Whilst there is reference to the need for the development of a 'sustainable' transport system, 'travel behaviour change' and 'minimising the need to travel', it is evident that some new thinking is needed to adequately address this goal. The current work in Lancashire in developing the evidence base on carbon emissions (and the challenge in reducing these emissions) will play a key role in developing this thinking.

Localised travel options - as bus networks are generally focused on urban centres they do not provide adequate access to much of the employment base in Lancashire. Whilst employers located in the town and city centres (including a large proportion of the public sector, as well as business services) are able to draw upon large labour catchments through urban bus networks, the needs of businesses located in peripheral urban and rural areas are not well addressed. This is the case for many of the

more recently developed business parks and industrial estates, where public transport access is particularly poor. This necessitates high levels of commuting by car and acts as a barrier to employment for people without access to their own vehicle.

Costs to business - business travel represents a cost to the business, and therefore there are strong financial incentives to make journeys as quickly as possible. The poor accessibility, lack of frequency and generally lack of door-to-door travel offered by public transport means that business travel is dominated by use of the car, with very little use made of bus and limited use made of local rail services. Public transport is only a realistic and attractive option for organisations located in the centres of Preston, Lancaster and Chorley – and only where this involves travel to other places served by the rail network. The ability to work while travelling is a critical selling point for the public transport network, but this is only viable on trains with adequate space and is not, in general, possible on the bus network.

- 5.3.6 Commuters find the region unattractive to enter and move around. Freight is slowed and made unreliable. Consumers are inconvenienced and put off spending in the area's shops.

ICT Infrastructure

- 5.3.7 The provision and take up of ICT infrastructure places some parts of Mid-Lancashire at a disadvantage. There are marked differences in the speed of broadband network access in different parts of the area, resulting in marked variations in the percentage of population and households taking up broadband⁹. Broadband take up is low in areas where the resident skills base is highest. This is acting as a potential barrier to economic growth, presenting a disadvantage for large parts of Lancashire who would, with the provision of Broadband, be attractive to businesses in potential growth sectors.

- 5.3.8 As mainly larger urban conurbations are offered increasing speeds of access to the internet, parts of Lancashire will very quickly become digitally remote. LCC is exploring partnership options which could be used to develop innovative ways of delivering ICT and Broadband provision across the County.

⁹ Mid Lancashire MAA, Audit of Evidence, GVA Grimley 2009

5.4 A summary of our vision

- 5.4.1 Smart, coordinated transport planning is critical to the vision of outstanding economic growth that lies at the heart of this MAA.

The Mid-Lancashire of the future will be easy to move around on public transport, with cheap, attractive options available close to housing, retail, employment and cultural/tourism offer.

Roads will be freer-flowing and attractive to car and freight users that remain.

Links further afield will be timetabled to minimise journey times and maximise convenience.

Carbon emissions caused by all transport usage in the area will fall and the overall cost to the area of energy pricing and ill-health will be reduced significantly.

- 5.4.2 The transport vision for Mid-Lancashire will also allow populations on the Fylde Coast and in Pennine Lancashire better access to the opportunities provided by the area as a high growth powerhouse for the sub-regions. Access east and west will be improved, increasing the attractiveness of the area as a destination for work and shopping. This will also improve access to both areas and ensure synergies with the actions identified in the two MAAs already drafted.

- 5.4.3 At the southern and western borders of the area, linkages will be improved to the city regions of Liverpool and Greater Manchester, allowing commuters to move in both directions more easily and encouraging companies to develop supply chains which span the North West region. Similarly, Lancaster and Morecambe will link more effectively with South Cumbria and beyond to better exploit its coastal ports as freight connections between northern Britain and the rest of the world in addition to facilitating access to and from the Energy Coast.

5.5 The opportunities if we collectively choose to act

- 5.5.1 Our proposals for additional investment in delivering an integrated transport strategy will provide a mechanism to tackle congestion and improve connectivity between the communities of Mid Lancashire and the employment hot-spots, particularly the regional centres of Preston and Lancaster.

- 5.5.2 Capital investment by public agencies and private providers in new transport and digital infrastructure will increase connectivity both within and outside the area, opening up the economy to greater investment and trading opportunities, as well as a more highly skilled workforce.

- 5.5.3 We engaged independent consultants to assess the potential economic impacts of our proposed interventions detailed below and they have concluded as follows:

Transport

5.5.4 Based on information available at present the following outputs and outcomes are forecast:

- Reduced journey times on public transport equate to 1,066 equivalent employment value of time savings;
- Modal switch with assumed time savings equate to 612 equivalent employment value of time savings;
- Reduced road congestion equates to 1,162 equivalent employment value of time savings;
- High Speed Rail generates agglomeration benefits of £7.8m per annum for the Mid Lancashire economy once fully operational. It is recognised that the final route and phasing of the network is dependent on the outcome of the consultation process on the HSR White Paper.

Digital Infrastructure

5.5.5 The estimated economic uplift is focused on the business sector. It is also recognised that learning and other benefits will potentially accrue from the digital theme but these have not been modelled at this stage. The forecast impact is 203 gross jobs created, with an associated increase in GVA of £12.8m per annum.

Housing

5.5.6 Implementation of the proposed actions alongside the broader objectives of the Mid Lancashire Housing Strategy will ensure that housing choice is enhanced. This will help to attract and retain working households in the area with subsequent benefits for local spend levels. Interventions in the housing market should be aligned with economic priorities where possible to allow resulting benefits to be maximised.

5.5.7 Identified actions focus on strategy development and increased discussion of issues and opportunities across housing market areas. As a result there are limited opportunities to map economic benefits at this stage. As programmes are finalised further information regarding direct benefits may become available although the rationale for housing interventions is closely associated with the ability to deliver to broader objectives set out through the MAA.

Specific Actions

NB – Those specific actions highlighted as follows are for Mid Lancashire Partners only



Objective 1		
Delivering a leading edge integrated transport network		
Specific Actions	Organisational Responsibility	Timescales /Milestones
Subject to the announcement to be made by the Secretary of State at the end of March 2010, DfT will engage with Mid Lancashire MAA partners on the possible development of High Speed Rail as it affects the Lancashire and the north West.	DfT/Mid Lancashire MAA Partners	To be agreed
In advance of the formal consultation process for replacement franchises, DfT will engage with Mid Lancashire MAA along with the Fylde Coast MAA to determine the evidence that will need to be gathered in considering an improved rail service on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manchester – Bolton – Preston - Blackpool North line following electrification, and • The Preston – Wigan – Liverpool route 	DfT/Mid Lancashire MAA Partners	To be agreed
DfT will engage with Mid Lancashire MAA through the Community Rail Partnership to develop ways of improving the rail service between Ormskirk and Preston.	DfT/Mid Lancashire MAA Partners	To be agreed
To work jointly with Government and its Agencies to consider joint investment proposals (including via local partners pooling	DfT/Highways Agency NWDA/Network Rail	Link to above

<p>resources) and agree an investment plan to deliver current and future schemes. This plan will consider the following key issues:</p> <p>The need of a revised junction layout at J33 of the M6 to enable access to an area of growth in technology linking with Higher Education establishments.</p> <p>The need for improved sustainable connectivity between Lancaster and Morecambe.</p> <p>Connectivity between West Lancashire and Liverpool</p> <p>The limitation on growth caused by the difficulty of East –West movements through Ormskirk.</p> <p>Severe congestion focusing on the area of Junction 32 of the M6 and Junction 1 of the M55 and how this may limit growth in North and Central Preston.</p> <p>The need to provide adequate transport infrastructure to serve the Cuerden Regional investment Site.</p>		
<p>DfT to work with Mid Lancashire MAA partners to identify options for improving rail access to Skelmersdale.</p>	<p>DfT/Mid Lancashire MAA Partners</p>	<p>To be agreed</p>
<p>Mid Lancashire authorities to meet with the DfT to facilitate discussions on implementation schedule for Central Lancashire & Blackpool Housing Growth Point infrastructure issues</p>	<p>DfT/HCA/CLG/GONW/NWDA/Blackpool BC</p>	<p>By Autumn 2010</p>
<p>Work with partners on the proposals for improvements to Preston Station Rail Hub and the wider impacts.</p>	<p>DfT,NWDA/Network Rail/Local partners/LBTB</p>	<p>By Summer 2010</p>
<p>Work with partners to maximise public transport usage and</p>	<p>DfT/NWDA</p>	<p>By Spring</p>

<p>mitigate any further increase in congestion through the identification of key corridors and hubs and how they can interconnect with the wider network to enable future growth in Central Lancashire</p>		<p>2011</p>
<p>Mid Lancashire MAA to engage with DfT and other partners on a study of how to link deprived inner wards with employment opportunities</p>		<p>By Autumn 2010</p>
<p>To encourage a consistent and joined up focus on delivering local transport, local partners commit to the alignment of Local Transport Planning across the 5 districts under LTP3. We would like to see our commitment encouraging more joined up transport planning across the North West.</p>	<p>Local Partners</p>	<p>By April 2011</p>
<p>To secure support from Government to ensuring that the recently announced comprehensive high speed rail link proposal connects with Mid Lancashire. and associated infrastructure improvements support growth in the East and West of the sub region.</p>	<p>DfT, Network Rail</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>To pilot further development of intelligent transport and integration systems such as smartcard, common ticketing, variable message signing, better passenger and driver information provision linked to lessons from the CIVITAS programme.</p>	<p>Local partners</p>	<p>By April 2010</p>
<p>Building upon the national exemplar of the CIVITAS programme local partners to commit to high-profile joint social marketing to reduce high car use</p>	<p>Local partners</p>	<p>Date TBA</p>

<p>by 10% and associated emissions, making local populations aware of public transport alternatives through personalised travel planning, with a focus on short, leisure and education related journeys. Will require the creation of a pooled development fund.</p>		
<p>Local partners to consider the best way to provide sustainable transport options in both rural and urban areas, for those individuals making the transition to employment and training from long term incapacity benefit.</p>	<p>Local partners</p>	<p>Review options by Jan 2010 Start pilot April 2010</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Objective 2 To take full advantage of the opportunities provided in a digital age</p>		
<p>The digital divide in Lancashire, particularly the quality and in certain areas lack of broadband provision is limiting the development of key sectors and businesses in Mid Lancashire. We would like joint discussions to take place between local authorities, chambers of commerce and BIS/NWDA to investigate and identify appropriate actions and investment from telecoms providers and partners to bring the area up to national standards viz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Lancashire be prioritised as a key area for discussions centrally concerning the next generation of Broadband through Digital Britain • Mid Lancashire strategic sites prioritised for the next generation fibre connection • provision for SDSL and Wi-Fi for the whole of Lancashire to ensure that the digital divide does not widen and all 	<p>BIS/NWDA/Local Partners/Private Sector</p>	<p>By Summer 2010?</p>

<p>areas within Mid-Lancs have access to the basic connection identified in Digital Britain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising both UCLAN and Lancaster University connectivity to Media:City <p>These discussions also to involve ensuring the benefits of Media:City are felt in Mid Lancashire, linking to SME growth.</p> <p>These discussion will be informed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWDAs current work on Next Generation Access, and • The Northern Net Pilot and its linkages to Media:City 		
<p>To produce a Digital Strategy – outlining in more detail the specific future requirements of the key sectors for Mid-Lancashire and spatially identifying 'clusters' and key sites. To support conversations with private sector providers.</p>	<p>Local partners</p>	<p>?</p>
<p>Mid Lancashire will apply to be a National Digital Testbed pilot as identified in the Digital Britain report. This is due to the knowledge capital potential in the area linked to the HE provision, entrepreneurial base and ICT capabilities. Investments in improvements to speed and capacity will be necessary to exploit the economic potential of the ICT base – partners will utilise existing expertise and networks, such as CLEO, shared services agreements and Lancashire County Council ISP facilities to</p>	<p>Local Partners</p>	<p>In accordance with Government timetable</p>

improve local service delivery.		
Objective 3		
Ensuring our housing offer is capable of fulfilling the needs of existing residents and attracting people to the area		
<p>Secure the support of Government and its Agencies to an appropriate range of housing interventions across Mid Lancashire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in Preston, Chorley and Leyland via the prioritisation of funding for the Central Lancashire and Blackpool Growth Point • via investment in public sector housing across the area including rural communities and in particular in Skelmersdale where HRA Rent Pooling Subsidy rules are a barrier 	<p>CLG/HCA</p> <p>Local Partners</p> <p>Housing Associations</p> <p>Private Sector</p>	?
<p>Undertake a single conversation with the Homes and Communities Agency to reach agreement on the development of a housing investment package for Mid Lancashire</p>	CLG/HCA	<p>Conversation by April 2009</p> <p>Plan by Summer 2010</p>
<p>Discussions on housing market linkages between Lancaster and South Lakes/South Cumbria</p>	HCA/CLG/Local partners	By April 2009
<p>Discussion of labour market and housing issues between West Lancs DC and Merseyside City Region</p>	GONW, NWDA, Northern Way Secretariat, HCA, Merseyside CR and other appropriate partners	By April 2009
<p>Ensure that strategic housing issues for Mid Lancashire are developed through a Mid Lancashire Housing Strategy and integrated into the Mid Lancashire Spatial Guide</p>	Local Partners	?

<p>Ensure issues around graduate attraction and retention are addressed within the Housing Strategies, providing affordable and attractive housing at key sites, particularly urban centres.</p>	<p>Local partners</p>	<p>By Christmas 2010</p>
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5.6 Targets

Outcome	Baseline	April 2010	April 2011	April 2014	April 2019	PSA/DSO
Car use / volumes	PCC					PSA5
Emissions	6.3373 tonnes CO2					PSA27
Journey times	4.2 mins					PSA5
Public transport usage	No figure available					PSA5/27
Average bandwidth speed	No figure Available					TBC

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6 Capitalising on our unique attributes to support and sustain our commitment to raise skills and develop a knowledge led economy

6.1 Contextual introduction

6.1.1 The further development of a knowledge led economy is a core element of future economic growth and the reinforcing of skills is a critical component. Mid Lancashire remains the main concentration of knowledge based employment across Lancashire. The Mid Lancashire authorities provide approximately 52,000 of Lancashire's 105,000 knowledge based jobs – knowledge based employment at 21% of total employee jobs in Preston and ~25% of employee jobs in Lancaster is well in excess of the Lancashire average and above the Northwest average.

6.1.2 Key skills, education and knowledge economy related attributes of the area include:

- 12% of all businesses were knowledge based in April 2008 (compared with 13.3% North West)
- 18.2% of all employment was in knowledge based businesses in April 2008 (compared with 21.8% North West)¹⁰
- The top knowledge based employment sectors are Hospital activities and Higher Education
- 27.5% of the working age population had NVQ4+ - Jan – Dec 2008 (compared with 25.6% North West). This is reinforced in “Cities Outlook 2010”, which ranks “Preston” 21st best out of 64 “cities”¹¹
- 11.2% of the working age population had no qualifications – Jan – Dec 2008 (compared with 14.7% North West). Again reinforced in “Cities Outlook 2010” which ranks Preston 23rd best out of 64 cities
- contains four universities – UCLan (including campuses in Cumbria and Pennine Lancashire), Edge Hill, Lancaster, and Cumbria (Lancaster campus) – a total of around 58,000 students.

6.2 Capitalising on our opportunities

6.2.1 A key strength of Mid Lancashire is the presence of Lancashire's three Universities and a campus of the University of Cumbria. Together these four institutions make a significant contribution to the Mid-Lancashire economies, help to attract and retain talented undergraduates and post-graduates, provide a skilled labour force for Mid-Lancashire employers, and provide spin off benefits

¹⁰ These percentages exclude 4,000 workers at Samlesbury (in Ribble Valley) and 6,000 employees at Warton (in Fylde) employed by BAe Systems

¹¹ “Preston includes Chorley, Preston and South Ribble

such as world class research, graduate start ups and enhanced awareness of Mid Lancashire in the rest of the UK and internationally. They present a clear opportunity for greater innovation and initiating and diffusing knowledge transfer. We are extremely keen to secure maximum competitive advantage from these assets for the Mid Lancashire economy.

6.2.2 For example, the outward facing academic areas at Lancaster/Uclan Universities such as, ICT, Media, Environmental Sciences and Engineering together with the overarching world class Management School¹² at Lancaster create numerous potential entrepreneurs but the lack of graduate level opportunities means that it does not take long for these people to move elsewhere.

¹² Lancaster University's Management School is ranked 4th in the UK and 24th in the World in the Financial Times Global MBA rankings

6.3 Barriers and challenges faced

6.3.1 Given the presence within Mid Lancashire of its many positive economic assets, the key ingredients for knowledge based growth, including its Higher Education institutions; the West Coast Mainline and M6 corridor; Lancashire's strongest retail centre (Preston); strategic employment sites (e.g. Cuerden, Buckshaw and Preston East) and its diverse and resilient business base this performance could be considered a concern for Mid Lancashire, and especially Preston / South Ribble. There is an apparent disconnect between the key ingredients of what makes places work – its inherent potential and Mid Lancashire's ability to capture higher value knowledge growth.

6.3.2 Mid Lancashire has only seen a modest increase in knowledge based employment since 1998, adding just 899 knowledge based jobs, consequently although Mid Lancashire has added a considerable number of employee jobs, the share of those jobs in knowledge based sectors has fallen. Currently there is an over reliance on the public sector to lead the knowledge economy.

6.3.3 Whilst the position has improved with the expansion of Edge Hill and UCLan, the area still has difficulties in attracting and retaining talent. There are a number of reasons for this, including employment opportunities and the quality of the life style offer in Mid Lancashire's towns. For example, at present 95% of UCLans' graduates are in employment or further study six months after graduation. Of this total, only a third stay to work in Lancashire. Unsurprisingly students originally from Lancashire are far more likely to stay and work in Lancashire (66%) than those from elsewhere in the North West (43%). Very few of UCLan's students from elsewhere in the UK (14%) stay to work in Lancashire. Graduates from Lancaster tend to leave the area as they are often unable to find graduate level employment.

6.3.4 Whilst our universities have well regarded courses, with national reputations in most of our top priority employment growth sectors (see below), we are currently forecasting a skills gap of 48,000 employees at Level 4 by 2015. We clearly need to start to act now to mitigate the adverse impact of future skills gaps:

- Advanced manufacturing/engineering including aerospace
- Energy especially nuclear and renewables
- Media/Creative industries
- The digital economy
- Environmental technologies
- The Visitor Economy
- Professional/business services
- Leadership and innovation
- Relocating central government departments and other public sector

6.3.5 An overall up-skilling of the working age population is required as, for example, by 2015 the Mid Lancashire area skills deficit at Level 2 could be 74,000. Even if 50% of people at Level 2 were upskilled to the next level the gap at Level 2 would still be 49,000. There are also areas within Mid Lancashire where high proportions of residents have no qualifications – in Skelmersdale, parts of

Morecambe and East Preston – these areas correlates with those areas of deprivation in Mid Lancashire. In December 2008 Preston and West Lancashire had 12.7 and 12.5% of their respective populations with no qualifications, around the national average of 12.3%.

6.3.6 Other key issues which we aim to address through raising skills levels and prioritising a knowledge led economy include:

- The need to build more balanced portfolio of high value sectors; and
- Reducing the reliance in our extensive rural areas on low salaried service and agriculture sector jobs.

6.4 A summary of our vision

6.4.1 The relatively inexpensive area of Mid-Lancashire will be at the centre of a knowledge-led economy, with economic activity heavily focused on high value-added activities driven by well established knowledge dissemination within both entrepreneurial local HEIs and a private sector that invests heavily in research and development.

6.4.2 High quality educational facilities, leading edge research departments and a highly skilled workforce will create a virtuous circle to attract high quality investment and further skilled workers from within the UK and abroad.

6.4.3 Sophisticated and productive joint working between commercial and academic fields will enable more employers and researchers to move fluidly around and into the area, regularly swapping between learning and production.

6.5 The scale of the opportunity if we collectively choose to act

6.5.1 The enterprise and innovation theme provides a core element of the MAA. As the target sectors are some of the key growth areas in the North West economy over the next 10 years, the MAA focuses on how to maximise the share of this growth in Mid Lancashire.

6.5.2 The estimated additional gross employment impact of this theme is 1,350 jobs:

- Maximising benefits from existing programmes - 458 jobs
- New pilot initiatives - 34 jobs
- Digital and creative sector - 279 jobs
- Knowledge strategy - 579 jobs

6.5.3 A significant contribution is anticipated from this theme to higher levels skills objectives, and clearly linkages are evident to the strategic sites themes particularly with regard to developments such as Lancaster Science Park.

6.6 What we are proposing to do via this MAA

NB – Those specific actions highlighted as follows are for Mid Lancashire Partners **only**

Objective 1		
To enhance knowledge and innovation in Mid Lancashire		
Specific Actions	Organisational Responsibility	Timescales /Milestones
<p>To work in conjunction with and obtain the support/sponsorship of BIS/NWDA to establish a protocol between a range of partners on developing and aligning policy to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support high GVA business growth • increase the supply of the identified skills and expertise to support high growth sectors • develop proposals for facilitated innovation networks, in key knowledge based sectors, 	<p>BIS/NWDA/Local partners</p>	<p>Sept 2010</p>
<p>To work with the NWDA and Government Departments to consider how we can better maximise the economic benefits of Mid Lancashire Universities leading role in the development of new technology, notable examples being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nuclear technology • environmental and renewable technologies • digital technologies • media/creative • rapid/sustainable/advanced manufacturing • leadership and innovation 	<p>NWDA/BIS/Local Partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

including the development of supply chains		
<p>To consider how best to work with Colleges and Universities to improve the competitive advantage of Mid Lancashire by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting the supply mechanism for talent and high value graduate professionals, e.g. enhancing existing graduate internship programmes to increase support to higher value businesses • increasing support for high value enterprises and opportunities • accelerating the establishment of business accommodation, particularly at Lancaster Science Park and within Greater Preston to retain nascent knowledge based entrepreneurs and start ups in Lancashire • enhance the benefit to Mid-Lancashire of national and regionally funded programmes such as innovation vouchers, LEAD, HLSP, KTPs, etc. • improve managerial skills for microbusinesses 	NWDA/Local Partners	By Autumn 2010
Local partners to work with NWDA/BIS to maximise the benefits of economic and innovation “bridges” with international partners in China and India, for example “Environmental innovation for the Chinese Market” including the use of International Students to work within Mid Lancashire companies.	NWDA/BIS	Ongoing
Local partners to support HEIs in strategic developments and funding proposals which will bring benefit to Mid-Lancashire	Local Partners	Ongoing
Objective 2		
To improve skills levels generally and specifically in Mid Lancashire’s key growth sectors		
Local partners, businesses and skills groups to provide more nuanced and detailed predictions of skills needs to support strategic planning of provision within training and education	Local partners	First predictions to be available in

<p>providers.</p>		<p>12 months</p>
<p>Local partners to use the Lancashire wide Skills Strategy as the basis for the development and delivery of a Mid Lancashire Employment and Skills Strategy with a view to seeking section 4 powers in order to influence the LSC and SFA.</p> <p>Strategy to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support universities in increasing the scope and range of placement/internship programmes which encourage graduates to consider a wider range of career options (eg in SMEs), encourage companies to recognise the value of NVQ4 level skills to their business in order to enhance graduate retention and upskill those already in the commercial sector • ensuring appropriate infrastructure is in place to deliver, additional level 4 and 5 provision to meet the specific and predicted skills needs of the Mid Lancashire economy, complementing LAA targets. • development of a skills development programme and knowledge transfer strategy across the local economy. • commitment to address local sector skills shortages to identify a range of interventions that can be integrated into core curriculum provision for trade and professional qualifications and training, and delivered as part of integrated CPD programmes. • Working with Myerscough College to ensure appropriate educational support for the rural economy • Development of public/private partnership to link skills with businesses including apprenticeships schemes • Work with businesses, employer groupings, etc, to encourage the upskilling of the workforce 	<p>Local partners</p>	<p>Strategy to be developed by Summer 2010</p>

<p>Ensure local public sector employers act as exemplars of lifelong training for staff (for example Lancaster City Council’s Work & Skills Plan), developing and training employees to improve individual productivity and build capacity, including development of a pan-Lancashire public sector (including the Civil Service) apprenticeship scheme</p>	<p>Local partners</p>	<p>?</p>
<p>Work with local partners to develop pilot Apprenticeship Degrees to link Diplomas</p>	<p>HEFCE/Local Partners</p>	<p>By September 2011</p>

6.7 Targets

6.7.1 The actions listed under this theme are specifically designed to complement and add to the work of the LSPs in the area on LAA targets. The focus is on higher-level skills as these are not as specifically addressed in the LAAs.

Outcome	Baseline	April 2010	April 2011	April 2014	April 2019	PSA/DSO
<p>People achieving NVQ levels 2, 3, 4</p>	<p>People qualified to at least Level 4 = 29.1%</p> <p>People qualified to at least Level 3 = 52.7%</p> <p>People qualified to at least Level 2 = 72.9%</p>					<p>PSA2</p>
<p>Hours of on-the-job training</p>	<p>21.3%</p>					<p>PSA 2</p>
<p>Educational places in area</p>	<p>No figure available</p>					<p>PSA 2</p>
<p>Graduate retention</p>	<p>1,490 but this figure does not make</p>					<p>PSA 7</p>

	sense					
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7 **Capacity to Deliver and Governance**

7.1 **Capacity**

Mid-Lancashire partners are determined to deliver on this MAA through improved communication, coordination and collaboration. Whilst Lancashire already has a strong track record of joint working, Mid Lancashire partners are committed to improvements in these areas via the implementation of specific actions designed to support the delivery of transformational projects and new ways of working together, both within the area and with external partners.

This MAA will support more collaborative delivery of services to improve the quality and consistency of both operational and back office provision. The aim will be to improve the quality and cost of services overall while providing businesses, outside agencies and the public who consume the services with an integrated approach. This will support the exploration of the shared services agenda.

Improved coordination and communication between and by the Mid-Lancashire authorities provides an opportunity to positively influence the investment made in the area by both public agencies and private investors.

There is a need for a range of practical measures to harmonise messaging and the communication of needs and incentives to encourage investment in what is a fertile area for business growth including more developed governance arrangements based upon a Mid Lancashire Executive Board (Leaders and Chief Executives).

Lancashire has a relatively mature shared service landscape compared to many two tier areas and is delivering good results and excellent efficiencies. However, there is an opportunity through the Team Lancashire approach, and the funding available through the new Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, to speed up shared service development and enable the development of high quality business cases to evidence new shared service opportunities.

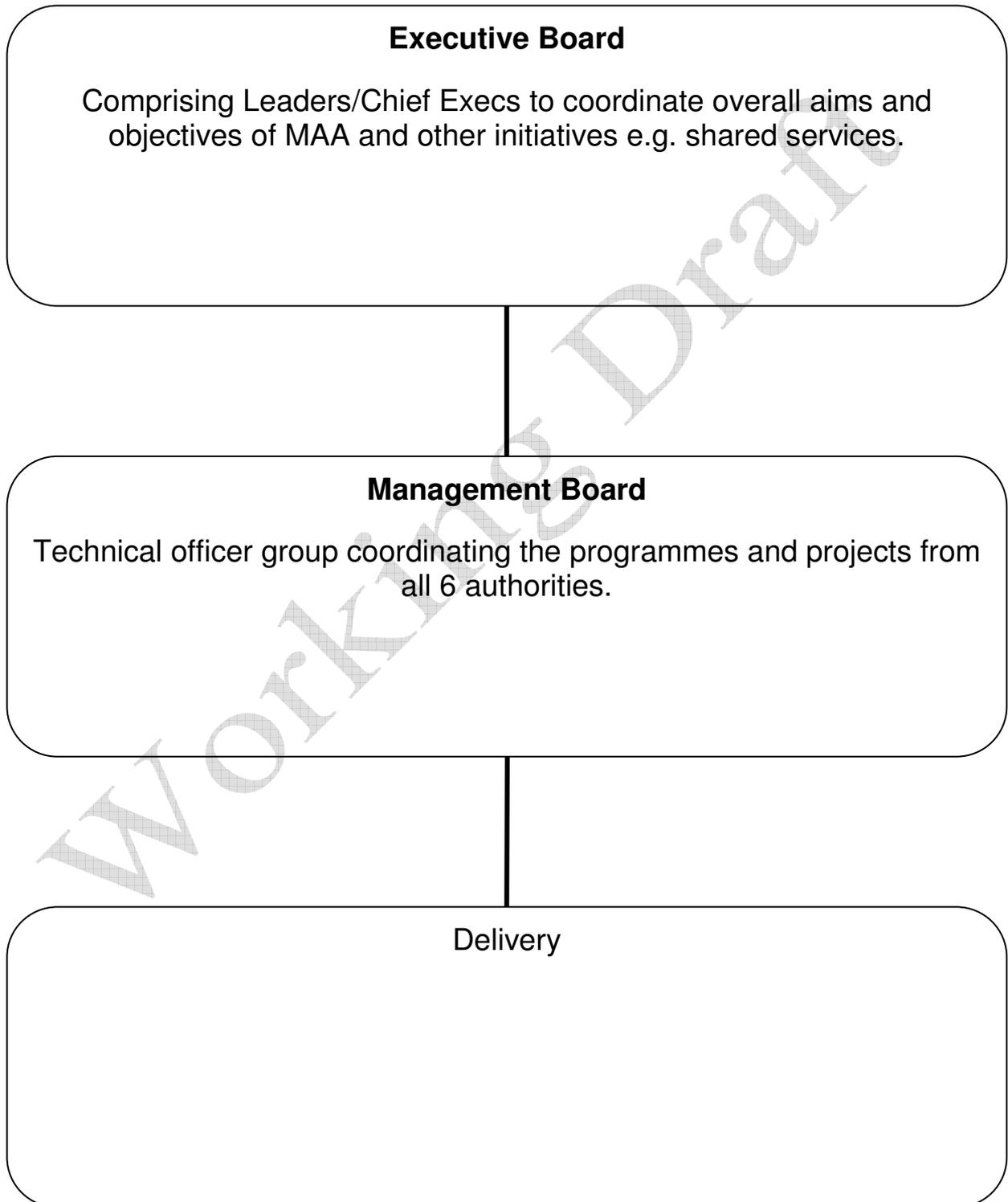
Based upon the agreed MAA Asks a series of actions will be undertaken by partners to enhance local capacity including the development of structured portfolio of strategic Employment and Investment sites and collaborative working on joint initiatives such as the Future Jobs Fund and the Mid Lancashire Housing Strategy.

CAPACITY ANALYSIS RESULTS

7.2 **Governance**

The Mid Lancashire MAA will be governed through an Executive Board made up of Mid Lancashire Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives that will oversee, co ordinate and monitor the implementation of the MAA and any related initiatives. The group will give final approval on strategic issues affecting the Mid Lancashire footprint. The Executive Board will be supported by a technical Management Board representative of all authorities and will undertake detailed activity on behalf of the

Executive Board in order to support effective and efficient delivery at the relevant thematic or spatial level.



7.3 Relationship with the Lancashire Local Area Agreement

The Mid Lancashire MAA is innovative in that it covers a two tier area already covered by a single Local Area Agreement , albeit which also includes the majority of the Fylde Coast and Pennine Lancashire MAA areas. However, like the other two MAAs in the Lancashire sub region the Mid Lancashire MAA builds upon and provides added value to the Lancashire LAA. Specifically, the Mid Lancashire MAA focuses unlocking the **full** economic potential of Mid Lancashire as a high GVA/knowledge based economy. As a result the MAA targets, although not exclusively, the benefits of developing a knowledge based economy linked to higher level skills and recognised Employment and Investment sites in the Mid Lancashire area. Achieving this aspiration will of course support the aims of the Lancashire LAA.

The table below details the relationship between specific Lancashire LAA Economy and Environment Theme outcomes and the Mid Lancashire MAA (To be inserted)

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8 Measuring Success

8.1.1 The proposals set out in this MAA are designed to bring significant gains in terms of Mid Lancashire economic performance and thereby improve not only the quality of life of individuals but also contribute towards building safer, stronger and more prosperous communities. In addition, we expect there to be a ripple effect in terms of economic performance which will benefit the other parts of the Lancashire sub-region and beyond.

8.1.2 To measure this impact, this section sets out a series of key performance indicators (KPIs). There are several thematic areas where we have considered indicators and targets but the data is not sufficiently mature or accurate for measurement and target setting (for instance average bandwidth speed). We will continue to monitor these areas with the aim of developing robust measurements over the next 2-3 year period.

8.1.3 In addition, a series of more specific targets, predominantly relating to real outcomes/outputs that the MAA is focused on delivering, are summarised below and included in the specific MAA themes described earlier in this document.

8.1.4 There is some overlap between the MAA indicators and the 198 indicators of the Government's Performance Framework for local authorities and Local Authority Partnerships. However, the MAA is a distinct process, aimed at achieving change at the Mid Lancashire area level which cannot be better achieved in the context of an LAA.

8.1.5 The MAA indicators have been designed on the basis of three principles:

- The methodologies underpinning the data must be widely recognised as **sound**.
- The indicators must be sufficiently precise and robust to be useful and illustrative over the planning horizon.
- The data series must optimally show **developments over time across Mid Lancashire** as a single entity.

8.1.6 The indicators are not designed for comparison with other spatial areas, or to highlight differences between component parts of Mid Lancashire. The indicators are focused on elements that a successful MAA will specifically bring added value to, over and above what other levels of governance will be likely to achieve. Whilst it is not entirely possible (in particular with the KPIs) the intention is, as far as practicable, to screen out outputs where the determinant levers lie predominantly at the local, regional or national level.

8.1.7 Key Performance Indicators and Targets

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Outcome	MAA Theme	Baseline	April 2011	April 2012	April 2014	April 2020	PSA/ DSO	Lancs LAA 10-11 Target	Lancs LAA 11-12 Target	Lancs LAA 12-13 Target
Increase in annual [real] GVA output	Economy/Infrastructure/Skills	EKOS to assist					PSA 7 BIS	N/A (This is not an LAA indicator)		
Increase in GVA per hour worked (£ per hour)	Economy/Infrastructure/Skills	EKOS to assist					PSA 7 BIS	N/A (This is not an LAA indicator)		
Increase in Stock of VAT and PAYE registered companies (NI 171)	Economy/Infrastructure/Skills	51.99 per 10,000 inhabitants					PSA 7 BIS	55.6	No target	No target
VAT and PAYE registered small businesses showing growth (NI 172)	Economy/Infrastructure/Skills	14.6%					PSA 7 BIS	N/A (This is not an LAA indicator)		
Increase in employment rate (NI151)	Economy/Infrastructure/Skills	75.2%					PSA 8 DWP	N/A (This is not an LAA indicator)		
Reduction in incapacity/severe disablement benefits in payment (NI 152)	Economy/Infrastructure/Skills	11.4%					PSA 8 DWP	12.2%	No target	No target
Reduction in per capita CO2 emissions (NI186)	Infrastructure	6.3 tonnes CO2 per capita					PSA 27 DECC	12.5%	No target	No target
Increase in people achieving NVQ level 4	Knowledge/Skills	29.1%					PSA 2 BIS	30.08%	No target	No target
Increase in %age of hours of on the job training	Knowledge/Skills	21.3%					PSA 2 BIS	N/A (this is not an LAA indicator)		
Tourism revenue (STEAM 2008 figures)	Economy	£894.41 million						N/A (this is not an LAA indicator)		
Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) (NI 155)	Economy/Infrastructure	152					PSA 20 CLG	512	No target	No target

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director - Partnerships, Planning & Policy (Introduced by the Executive Member for Business)	Executive Cabinet	25 th March 2010

THE REFRESH OF CHORLEY'S ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Members on the process to refresh Chorley's Economic Regeneration Strategy and to seek approval for the first draft version (attached at Appendix A) to be circulated for formal consultation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the first draft refresh of Chorley's Economic Regeneration Strategy (contained in Appendix A) is approved for formal consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The refresh of Chorley's Economic Regeneration Strategy is a key project within the Corporate Strategy for delivery by September 2010. Following a workshop event with the Board of the Local Strategic Partnership, a first draft version has been prepared for formal consultation with partners and key stakeholders. This refresh is an opportunity for Chorley Partnership to reflect on successes from the previous strategy and to highlight future shared priorities and actions during these challenging economic times and as we head towards recovery. It is proposed that the final version of the strategy, which will be fully designed with illustrations in the corporate style, along with an associated action plan, will be presented to Executive Cabinet in August 2010.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

4. Since the refreshed strategy will provide the structure for the development of shared priorities and actions to be delivered in cross-sector partnership it is important to share the first draft strategy with partners and key stakeholders for their comment and sign up.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region	√	Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	√	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	√
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	

BACKGROUND

7. The current Economic Regeneration Strategy for Chorley was adopted in 2006. Economic circumstances have changed and with new emerging national, regional and sub-regional policies (including the Mid-Lancashire Multi-Area Agreement) the strategy requires a refresh. Considerable progress has been made in delivering the current strategy and it is timely to define future key priorities and actions over the next three to five years.

THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY REFRESH 2010

8. Following a workshop event with the Board of the Local Strategic Partnership, a first draft refresh of Chorley’s Economic Regeneration Strategy is attached at Appendix A. The document provides an introduction to Chorley’s Economic Regeneration Strategy and Vision, details Chorley’s story of economic success, and considers new and emerging policies within which Chorley’s economy is being shaped. Chorley Partnership has refreshed its priority themes which will focus on:

- Promoting niche knowledge-based inward investment
- Creating a thriving ‘Contemporary Market Town’
- Supporting a strong and knowledge-led indigenous business base; and
- Ensuring residents and communities reach their full economic potential.

Key indicators are also suggested which will allow us to monitor our performance.

It is now proposed that the draft strategy is circulated to partners and key stakeholders for formal consultation. It is proposed that the final version of the strategy, which will be fully designed with illustrations in the corporate style, along with an associated action plan, will be presented to Executive Cabinet in August 2010.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

9. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors’ comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	√

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS, PLANNING & POLICY

10. The refresh of the Economic Regeneration Strategy is an opportunity for Chorley Partnership to reflect on successes from the previous strategy and highlight future shared priorities and actions during these challenging economic times and as we head towards recovery.

LESLEY-ANN FENTON
DIRECTOR – PARTNERSHIPS, PLANNING & POLICY

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Cath Burns	5305	08/03/2010	D&RRep/Economic Development

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APPENDIX A**REFRESH OF THE CHORLEY ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY**Foreword

Welcome to the refreshed Economic Regeneration Strategy for Chorley. First published in 2006, the Strategy proposed a number of key actions to maximise economic opportunity, drive up value added activity and boost economic inclusion in order to achieve sustainable growth over the next 10 – 15 years.

This refreshed edition has been compiled as a result of changing economic circumstances and also emerging new national, regional and sub-regional economic strategies including the Mid-Lancashire Multi-Area Agreement. Considerable progress has been made in delivering the Strategy and it is timely to define future key priorities and actions over the next 3 – 5 years.

We have achieved a lot. The significant increase in employee job growth places Chorley in the top 20% of districts nationally. Similarly unemployment is at one of the lowest levels in Lancashire. We are achieving record levels for business start up and survival. In many respects the prognosis for Chorley's economy continues to be bright.

Through feedback with partners and other stakeholders, this year we have refreshed our Strategy and set four Strategic themes which will guide the work of Chorley Partnership and the Economic Regeneration Group over the coming years.

This Strategy demonstrates the commitment to and success of partnership working in Chorley. Together we can ensure the continued long-term prosperity and regional importance of Chorley.

Allan W Jones
Chair, Chorley Partnership and Economic Regeneration Group

Contents

Introduction to Chorley's Economic Regeneration Strategy and Vision.

An Economic Success Story.

Chorley's Economy: Defining the future

The Strategy – Our Priorities

- Promoting niche knowledge-based inward investment

- Creating a thriving 'Contemporary Market Town'

- Supporting a strong and knowledge-led indigenous business base

- Ensuring residents and communities reach their full economic potential

Measuring Performance

Introduction to Chorley's Economic Regeneration Strategy and Vision

The Chorley Economic Regeneration Strategy was produced in 2006 by the Chorley Partnership, in consultation with partners and key stakeholders from public, private and voluntary sectors in Chorley. The Strategy was designed to facilitate sustainable economic growth over the next 10 – 15 years. Since then, economic circumstances have changed and there are many emerging new national, regional and sub-regional economic strategies, including the Mid-Lancashire Multi-Area Agreement.

We have also achieved a great deal since 2006 against our original set of priorities and actions. With this in mind, we have decided to refresh the Economic Regeneration Strategy to reflect the priorities for the Borough from 2010 onwards and to celebrate the progress we have made since 2006 in achieving the aims of the original Economic Regeneration Strategy.

A thriving and vibrant economy is a top priority for Chorley Partnership and partners recognise that the economy is central to and impacts on housing, health, crime, community and life chance opportunities. The refreshed Strategy will provide the structure for the development of shared priorities and actions to be delivered in partnership across public, private and voluntary sector over the next 3 – 5 years.

Vision

By 2021 Chorley will have capitalised on its premier location as a place to do business, complemented by a thriving contemporary market town.

This strategy will maximise economic opportunity, drive up value added activity and boost economic inclusion to achieve sustainable growth and strengthen Chorley's economic position in Central Lancashire.

What this Strategy means for Chorley.

- New economic activity valued at £'a' million, underpinned by private investment plans worth £'b' million into the Borough
- The creation of 'c' new jobs, with more than 'd' new jobs in higher value sectors
- Achieving greater prosperity for all – £'e' increased value of economic activity per head of population

An Economic Success Story

Chorley has many of the key components of economic success – a premier location at the heart of the North West motorway network; market catchments of Manchester, Liverpool and Preston; a highly skilled workforce; top performing schools; glorious countryside; high quality of life and a strong economic structure orientated towards growth.

The prognosis going forward is very bright – Chorley offers considerable economic growth potential and can make an effective contribution to sub-regional, regional and national economic growth objectives.

A Thriving Economy

Economic indicators show a robustness of the Chorley economy in weathering the current economic downturn. The Borough can boast:

- A strong economic structure aligned with the Central Lancashire sub-regional economy, which has significantly out-performed surrounding areas.
- A diverse economy with a range of sector strengths within the high growth sectors promoting economic stability – Business and Professional Services, Food and Drink, Digital and Creative, and Advanced Engineering and Materials.
- A recent significant increase in employee job growth by 35.00%, placing Chorley in the top 20% of districts nationally.
- A high business density of 37 per 10,000 resident adults as against the country average of 35 per 10,000.
- Good skills profile with levels of NVQ2 and higher qualifications above the county and regional levels.
- Higher labour force economic activity at 84.3% of the working age population which has remained constantly above the regional and national averages.
- Good educational attainment – four out of six secondary schools in Chorley achieve higher GCSE pass rates than the national average with 70% of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE A – C grades compared to 65.3% nationally.
- Balanced housing stock – with a higher proportion of detached and semi-detached housing than regional / national benchmarks and a more modern housing stock than many other parts of Lancashire.

Key Challenges

While recent trends indicate further strong economic growth potential, there are some key challenges facing the Borough which need to be addressed. The key challenges are:

- Commuting patterns: addressing the mass out migration of the workforce on a daily basis.
- Low workplace-based earnings: addressing the difference between work-based earnings within the Borough and in surrounding authorities which currently provide an incentive to commuting.
- Ensuring a continuous supply of employment land for inward investment: overcoming supply-side constraints to economic development and the demand side of attracting inward investment into the Borough.
- Chorley Town Centre: maintaining Chorley's position in the retail hierarchy, growing the quality of its offer and providing a distinctive town centre environment.
- Economic structure: putting in place measures to lesson economic dependence upon more vulnerable sectors which are influenced by globalisation, maximising potential from niche knowledge-based sectors and links with University of Central Lancashire, Higher Educational Institutions and Further Educational Institutions.
- Deprivation: addressing pockets of multiple deprivation, reconnecting deprived areas with the evident opportunities which exist and addressing entrenched employability difficulties.

Chorley's Economy – Defining the Future

There are a number of new and emerging strategies within which local economic development is being shaped. Primarily these are the Mid-Lancashire Multi-Area Agreement (MAA), Blackpool and Central Lancashire Housing Growth Point and the Central Lancashire Economic Development Strategy.

The Mid-Lancashire (MAA) intends to promote economic development across Chorley, Lancaster, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire districts, and has as its strategic objectives:

1. Maximising the potential of our key economic development and regeneration attributes.
2. Ensuring our infrastructure is capable of supporting our challenging economic growth opportunities.
3. Capitalising on our unique educational attributes to support and sustain our commitment to a knowledge-led economy.

These objectives are critical to maximising the potential of Mid-Lancashire to act as a catalyst for accelerated growth across the sub-region and to become a key contributor to leading the UK economy out of recession.

In recognition of the growth potential of Central Lancashire, the Blackpool and Central Lancashire Housing Growth Point aims to accelerate levels of new house building and associated infrastructure provision in the area.

An economic regeneration strategy has been prepared for the economic footprint of Central Lancashire, which covers Chorley, South Ribble and Preston districts. By 2026 Central Lancashire will be recognized as a highly sought after place to live and work in the North West. Central Lancashire will play a leading role in Lancashire's world class economy and have sustainable economic growth based on the area's unique assets.

The Strategy – Our Priority Themes

Although we are hopeful that the worst part of the recession has ended, Chorley Council and partners will continue to deliver bespoke responses to support businesses and the community during this challenging economic climate.

The Chorley Partnership has refreshed its priority themes, which will focus on achieving the vision and identifying the actions required to achieve this over the next 3 – 5 years. Key targets that will indicate how well we are performing have also been identified and agreed by partners and key stakeholders:

- Promoting niche knowledge-based inward investment.
- Creating a thriving 'Contemporary Market Town'.
- Supporting a strong and knowledge-led indigenous business base.
- Ensuring residents and communities reach their full economic potential.

PRIORITY 1. Promoting niche knowledge-based inward investment

Attracting large inward investors in recognised high growth sectors will strengthen Chorley's economic base and provide better paid jobs locally.

SUCCESS STORY: The Revolution, Buckshaw

The Revolution is Chorley's Strategic Regional site and provides a 128 acre (52 ha) high quality logistics and industrial park, and has attracted high profile occupants Multiport and Encon, creating 'a' number of jobs locally.

The involvement of Helio Slough – developers of The Revolution – has generated further investment at neighbouring site 'Buckshaw Link' to provide a highly prestigious 15 acres (6 ha) site of 20 speculatively built warehouse/industrial units developed to a high specification.

This is a flagship project, not only for Chorley, but for the Region as a whole, and has been brought about with relatively little public sector funding

Adjacent to The Revolution is Buckshaw Village which is currently being developed as an urban village consisting of housing, employment and green space.

Whilst The Revolution is a positive story for Chorley, there are a number of challenges ahead. The current economic downturn has stalled the rate of investment at Buckshaw and needs to be reversed. We also need to ensure a quality supply of sites for inward investment in the medium to long term.

Priorities for Action

1. Support the completion of The Revolution Strategic Regional Site.
2. Ensure the implementation of Buckshaw Railway Station.
3. Bring forward development at Botany/Great Knowley.
4. Develop a succession strategy for major inward investment; identifying a site for the longer term.
5. Develop and deliver an inward investment plan building on Chorley's niche knowledge-based sectors.
6. Maximise opportunities for Chorley to grow as a location for Government and agency-based institutions.

7. Ensuring sustainable housing growth via Blackpool and Central Lancashire Housing Growth Point.

Economic Regeneration Group – Choose Chorley for business

The new inward investment brochure 'Choose Chorley for business' showcases the Chorley offer to attract new investors to the area.

PRIORITY 2. Creating a thriving 'Contemporary Market Town'

This priority is about maintaining Chorley's position in the retail hierarchy, growing the quality of its offer and providing a distinctive and attractive town centre environment.

Chorley Town Centre is well known throughout the North West for its famous markets. The Town Centre boasts a diverse mix of traditional streets, markets, fine buildings and newer developments like Market Walk.

New multi-million pound shopping and leisure developments at Market Walk and Market Street, along with re-invigorated markets, are vital to Chorley's future, to create a contemporary market town, where people can enjoy a wealth of stores and attractions to rival neighbouring cities and shopping centres in the North West. Its redevelopment will take place over the next 10 years and will attract new retail and commercial investment, bringing thousands of new jobs and increased visitor levels.

SUCCESS STORY: Chorley Covered Markets

During 2009 Chorley Covered Market, owned and managed by Chorley Council, has been completely revamped with grand entrances to welcome shoppers to the market, a roof over the central aisle for the first time to improve the shopping experience, new lighting making it much brighter, full redecoration, and a new floor surface and layout for easier access.

These improvements have helped to boost trade and continue to attract visitors.

The 2008 Town Centre Audit and Design Strategy provides a detailed guide to future Town Centre interventions and thus providing direction for our Priorities for Action.

Priorities for Action

1. Securing the redevelopment of the Pall Mall Triangle including public realm improvements along Market Street.
2. Develop short and long term proposals for improvements to the Flat Iron area as a multi-functional market, civic amenity and car park.
3. Progress Market Walk Phase II shopping development.
4. Develop and deliver a marketing package.
5. Develop a strategy for a hierarchy of signage
6. Refresh and deliver a Town Centre Management Action Plan.
7. Identify new phase of development opportunities for the town centre.
8. Investing in our heritage assets to grow the visitor economy.

Economic Regeneration Group – Town Centre and Markets Manager

Chorley Town Centre is fairly unique in having its own Town Centre and Markets Manager to ensure the effective day to day smooth running of the Town Centre for our customers, traders and stakeholders.

PRIORITY 3. Supporting a strong and knowledge-led indigenous business base

Chorley has a diverse economy with a range of sector strengths including growth sectors such as Business and Professional Services, Food and Drink, Digital and Creative and Advanced Engineering and Materials. This theme is about supporting existing local businesses to survive and grow and maximising potential from knowledge-based sectors and links with UCLAN, Higher Educational Institutions and Further Educational Institutions.

SUCCESS STORY: Chorley Council and Business Link North West Partnership

Chorley Council working in partnership with Business Link North West has been supporting businesses as we head towards recovery – providing independent business support and information to businesses which is totally free to access and use.

Paul Hindle, Director of Lumenata Lighting Design Ltd who provide energy saving commercial and domestic lighting applications, has this to say about us:

“The guidance and support given has enabled me to make my vision a reality. I know I can always ask for my Advisors’ opinion and can trust the response – which has been essential in such challenging times”.

Priorities for Action

1. Supporting the completion of industrial premises at Buckshaw Link.
2. Promoting early development of new supply at Group 1 land, Buckshaw Village.
3. Supporting premises provision for university-led incubation and spin-out companies; supporting cluster development and knowledge transfer.
4. Encouraging new product development and refurbishment of industrial/office premises.
5. Supporting the delivery of the Lancashire West Local Development Scheme to grow and diversify rural economies.
6. To promote local supply networks; including food production.
7. Maximising potential to develop a shared business support infrastructure with Business Link and other partners.
8. In partnership with Business Link, strengthen economic trade and university linkages with India, China and USA.

Economic Regeneration Group – Sustainability and Climate Change.

‘Going Green’ is a top priority for the Economic Regeneration Group. Working in partnership, businesses are being supported with free environmental diagnostic reviews, Council funded grant assistance packages, climate change business club, breakfast events and other forms of financial support.

PRIORITY 4. Ensuring residents and communities reach their full economic potential.

Despite Chorley being a relatively wealthy borough, there are pockets of multiple deprivation and residents in unemployment with low skills and low educational attainment. This theme is about linking deprivation to economic opportunity, removing barriers to employment, enhancing local skills, and maximising opportunities for our budding entrepreneurs.

SUCCESS STORY: Generating and Sustaining new business starts.

Business Venture Group, a local enterprise agency, are the appointed local supplier of new business start up and support service in Central Lancashire; with Chorley Council acting as Accountable Body.

In a recent article by the Sunday Times, Chorley was ranked as one of the best places to start a business in the UK. The performance table demonstrates our year on year success.

Chorley New Business Starts and Survival Performance						
Measure	2007/2008		2008/2009		2009/2010	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
New Businesses Established	53	74	53	82		
Sustained for 12 months	82%	81%	81%	96%		
Sustained for 24 months	76%	79%	76%	94%		

Priorities for Action

1. Continue to exploit new opportunities and to support existing employment initiatives such as Chorley Employment Charter, Redundancy Task Force, Connect to Work and Future Jobs Fund.
2. Look into the feasibility of a Chorley based ‘Coaching Academy’ to provide an enhanced full-time jobs club.
3. Maximising potential to develop a shared employment and skills infrastructure with Business Link, Mid Lancashire Employment and Skills Board and other partners.
4. Managing the delivery of the Central Lancashire Intensive Start-Up Support Programme; including bespoke support to rural areas.
5. Developing opportunities in the third sector; including volunteering and social enterprise
6. Providing managed workspace and incubator units.
7. Improving local transport accessibility, the provision of a new railway station at Coppull, improving car parking at Chorley and Adlington railway station, Chorley-Wigan quality bus corridor and innovative rural transport solutions.
8. Sub-regional transport enhancements including the electrification of Manchester-Blackpool rail line and Chorley/South Ribble/Preston express bus service and quality bus corridor.

Economic Regeneration Group – Redundancy Task Force.

A team of committed professional public/private sector organisations have been established to provide quality advice, information, guidance and support to businesses and their staff within a redundancy situation.

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

Indicator of Success	Baseline	Target March 2011	Target March 2012	Target March 2013
NI 151 Overall employment rate				
NI 152 Working age people on out of work benefits (CS 1.3.2) (LAA)				
NI 166 Average earnings of employees in area (CS 1.4.1) (LAA)				
NI 171 VAT Registrations BERR DSO & Schedule D				
NI 172 VAT Registered businesses in the area showing growth				
NI 173 People falling out of work and onto incapacity growth				
CS No of jobs created/preserved – needs revising				
CS 1.1.1 No of new businesses established (SCS)				
CS 1.1.2 No of new businesses established and sustained for 12 months (SCS)				
CS 1.1.3 No of new businesses established and sustained for 24 months (SCS)				
Sqm of business floorspace created/improved (SCS)				
CS 1.2.1 Town Centre visits (SCS)				
CS Town Centre visitor satisfaction on the range and choice of shops				
CS 1.2.3 Vacant Town Centre floorspace (SCS)				
CS % gap in median workplace earnings between Chorley and Lancashire				
CS No of Chorley residents moving into sustainable employment and ceasing to claim incapacity benefit and income support				

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy (Introduced by the Executive Member for Business)	Executive Cabinet	25 th March 2010

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY 2010-2012

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To report back on the progress of the private sector housing assistance policy consultation process as agreed at Executive Cabinet on the 3rd December 2009 and to request delegated approval of the policy following the end of the extended consultation period.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To approve in principle the private sector housing assistance policy which has been updated to reflect the consultation response received to date.
3. That the Executive Member for Business be granted delegated authority to approve the final version of the private sector housing assistance policy, including any minor amendments required at the conclusion of the consultation period on the 13th April 2010.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

4. Following the in principle approval of the private sector housing assistance policy by Executive Cabinet in December 2009 this report presents the revised policy and summarises the changes made to the policy based on the consultation received to date.
5. These main changes include:
 - a) improvements to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) service standards;
 - b) changes to the Minor Repairs Grant to maximise and reinvest in the budget while still offering the same standard of service;
 - c) introduction of an optional support service in the commissioning of MRA works; and
 - d) improved clarity on the eligibility and conditions of the Energy Efficiency Assistance grant in order to ensure we target our resources to help vulnerable and low income households.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

6. The proposed policy is designed to offer a mechanism to provide housing assistance to customers in private housing, in a way that maximises the effective use of resources in targeting customers in most need.
7. The policy integrates the various strands of housing assistance and enables the Council to provide a more coherent approach to improving housing conditions in the borough.

8. The updated policy presented here for consideration reflects the consultation feedback received to date.
9. Following an extension of the consultation period requested by the Equality Forum, delegated responsibility is now requested to approve any further changes to the policy which are considered appropriate between now and the end of the consultation period on the 13th April 2010. This will enable the policy to be in effect by the end of April as planned.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10. None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

11. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	✓
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	✓	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	✓
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	✓

BACKGROUND

12. The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order 2002 gave Local Authorities in England and Wales new powers to improve living conditions in their area. This power enables an authority to provide any assistance to provide assistance to any person for:
 - a) the acquisition of alternative living accommodation, where the council wish to purchase a person’s home as an alternative to adapting improving or repairing it.
 - b) The adaptation or improvement of living accommodation (including by alteration, conversion or enlargement).
 - c) The repair of living accommodation;
 - d) The demolition of buildings comprising or including living accommodation.
 - e) The construction of replacement living accommodation to replace that which has been demolished.
13. Reflecting this legislation, the Council introduced an interim Housing Renewal Grant Policy in July 2003. This policy was subject to a review and amendment in April 2004 and a draft Housing Renewal Grant Policy was produced in early 2006, prior to the commencement of the outsourcing of the delivery of the Council’s housing grants to Anchor Staying Put South Lancashire in 2006.
14. The updated Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy reflects the updated legislation and government thinking as set out in ‘Delivering Housing Adaptations for Disabled People: A Good Practice Guide’ (CLG, 2006) and ‘Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an ageing society’ (CLG, 2008).
15. Therefore it is now timely, in light of updated legislation and best practice, to revise the policy to ensure it meets the needs of the community as well as providing an efficient and effective mechanism to target resources on the most vulnerable households.

16. Whilst it is acknowledged that the prime responsibility for maintaining and improving private sector housing rests with home owners, the Council is committed to improving housing quality across all tenures. It is recognised that there are vulnerable home owners who cannot afford to repair or improve their homes and who may not be able to obtain loans from commercial lenders. This policy provides an opportunity for the Council to clearly set out its position for the next two years in an approach that maximises the effectiveness of its use of resources.
17. The provision of advice and information to everyone will be the bedrock of the new in house Home Improvement Agency and this policy reflects this. The reduction in capital finance has reduced the level of grant assistance the Council can offer, but information can still be provided to homeowners about repair and maintenance of their home.
18. The issue of effective use of resources is an important consideration not least in a challenging financial climate but also because of the way the Audit Commission assesses the effectiveness of the Strategic Housing Function.
19. The Audit Commission have indicated that, through Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and inspection of private sector housing functions, they will assess:
 - a) How effectively the Council have targeted resources at people living in the worst housing conditions
 - b) How effective the Council is in providing Value for Money. In this context it will judge the Council's ability to level in additional resources.
 - c) The Councils capacity to demonstrate positive outcomes for residents.
20. Thus the Councils ability to respond positively to these requirements will influence how the Strategic Housing service is perceived externally.
21. The draft policy was approved in principle, subject to consultation at Executive Cabinet on 3rd December 2009. Following discussions at the Equality Forum on the 19th January and to comply with the Compact Agreement the consultation period was extended to 13th April 2010 to ensure a full 12 week consultation period.
22. The policy was due to be approved by Executive Cabinet in March however due to the extended consultation and the Executive Cabinet recess delegated responsibility to approve the policy is requested in order to enable the new policy to be implemented in April 2010 as planned.
23. The Strategic Housing Partnership which include members from the Citizens Advice Bureau, Help the Homeless, NHS, Social Services, private landlords and voluntary services, have also be consulted on the revised policy.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

24. Responses to the consultation to date have lead to the following minor changes to the private sector housing assistance policy. In summary the changes are:
25. Prioritisation of DFG's has been removed from the policy as it could have been deemed to be discriminatory however we still aim to fast track cases which are defined as urgent by the occupational therapist referrals. The team will endeavour to make a decision about an application within the eight week timeframe, which is below the six months required by legislation.
26. The repayment of grant monies for the Minor Repairs Assistance (MRA) Grants has extended to require 100% repayment in perpetuity when the property is sold or transferred. All repayments will be fed back into the minor repairs grants budget to maximise best use of

our limited resources available for these grants in order to help other vulnerable households.

- 27. Similarly the maximum MRA grant available has been reduced from £5,000 to £3,000 (except in exceptional circumstances, where the chief office can approve up to £5,000). This more accurately reflects the costs of repairs which these grants are aimed at funding and again enables the Council to make the most out of the limited MRA budget available, and ultimately help more people.
- 28. The policy introduces an offer of support from the Council to commission works where an MRA grant has not been awarded, however a small fee will need to be charged in order to cover costs. This will be recycled back into the service and is in line with best practice.
- 29. The clarity on the eligibility and conditions of the Energy Efficiency Assistance has been improved to ensure that the grants help vulnerable households on low income to achieve affordable warmth.
- 30. Finally we are working with the regional group 4NW to establish a regional loans group which should produce economies of scale, however these arrangements are unlikely to be in place until 2011/12, therefore the home improvement loans section has been updated to reflect this.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

- 31. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	✓
Legal	✓	No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS, PLANNING AND POLICY

- 32. The key focus of this policy is to ensure we continue to improve housing quality of private sector housing across the borough. The policy is currently out to consultation and has been presented to the Equality Forum for consideration. In addition, in line with the Council's equality scheme the policy will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and all reasonable endeavours will be made to ensure none of the Council's seven equality strands will be disadvantaged.

LESLEY-ANN FENTON
 DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS, PLANNING AND POLICY

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Rebecca Ostapski	5779	04/03/2010	Housing Assistance Policy March 10

Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy

2010 - 2012



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Introduction

This policy outlines Chorley Council's intentions to provide support, information and advice to homeowners, tenants of private rented properties and private landlords for the repair, improvement and adaptation of housing.

This policy replaces the Housing Renewal Grant Policy 2004-05. The policy reflects the updated legislation and government thinking as set out in documents such as "Delivering Housing Adaptations for Disabled People: A Good Practice Guide" (CLG, 2006) and "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an ageing society" (CLG, 2008). This policy will continue to be updated in accordance with changes in government policy.

Chorley Council takes the view that the prime responsibility for maintaining and improving housing rests with the people who own them, and also endorses the view that the greater proportion of funding for repairs and improvements should come from the private sector, rather than relying on grant assistance provided by the Council.

However, the Council is committed to improving housing quality across tenures including owner occupation and private renting. It is acknowledged that there are vulnerable homeowners who cannot afford the work to repair or improve their homes and who may not be able to obtain loans from commercial lenders, and there are people who need support in carrying out repairs.

From 1st April 2010, the Council will have an in house service, the 'Chorley Home Improvement Agency' and this will deliver the advice and assistance programme described in this policy. Advice and information about improving and repairing homes will be available to everyone.

A key theme throughout the policy is of Decent Homes, in terms of increasing the proportion of the local population living in Decent Homes. All Local Authorities must endeavour to bring vulnerable people's homes up to the Decent Homes Standard (DHS), with a target of 70% by 2010 and 75% by 2020. Chorley's progress against this target will be monitored by the publication of a Private Sector Housing Stock Condition survey, the outcomes of which are scheduled to be available by the middle of 2010.

A key element of the DHS are the thermal comfort criteria which specify energy efficiency standards that a property should meet to comply with the DHS. Energy efficiency improvements are the most cost-effective means of raising housing standards to ensure compliance. The government has estimated that an energy rating of SAP 65 is an acceptable proxy for affordable warmth. Research suggests that around 22% (4.7 million dwellings) of the English housing stock meets this standard.

The Council's drive to improve housing is taking place against the backdrop of demographic changes that are likely to see a marked increase in the percentage of older people living in the borough over the next 20 years. The total population of Chorley is projected to rise to 106,600 by 2010 and 114,700 by 2020. It is predicted that there will be a significant increase in people aged 60 or over. Latest population estimates indicate that by 2015 18.9% of Chorley's population will be over 65, compared with a Lancashire wide estimate of 19.7% and a North West estimate of 18.2%. By 2020 these proportions are set to rise further, with 20.6% of the Chorley population being over 65 compared with 20.8% across Lancashire and 19.2% in the North West region. In 2006 it was

estimated that 15.5% of the Chorley population was aged 65 or over, but by 2020 it is estimated that 23,600 (20.6%) of the population will be in this age range.

See Appendix 1 for a definition of the Decent Homes Standard
First version November 2009

Policy Aims

The key aims of this policy are as follows:

- To provide advice, information and support on repair, maintenance and adaptation of properties.
- To offer a framework of assistance to vulnerable groups thereby increasing the number of vulnerable households living in decent accommodation (Public Service Agreement 7).
- To increase the number of households able to heat their homes at reasonable cost (reducing fuel poverty).
- To reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the Borough's private housing stock.
- To increase the number of households taking up the Government's Warm Front initiative to improve the thermal efficiency of their homes.
- To help to improve the physical conditions of homes and neighbourhoods.
- To assist disabled people with adaptations to facilitate their movement in and around their home, thus enabling improvement to their quality of life.
- In offering assistance, the Council is seeking to empower people to help themselves and in doing so, we may signpost customers to services offered by other organisations.
- To ensure that the policy is applied in accordance with legislative provisions and best practice.
- To treat individuals consistently and fairly regardless of age, sex, gender, disability and sexual orientation and to ensure that individual's rights under Data Protection and Human Rights legislation are protected.

How the Policy Links to the Council's Corporate Strategy

People - Improving Equality of Opportunity and Life Chances (Long term outcomes)

- *Improved life chances for young people and children*

In taking steps to help to achieve the Decent Homes target we are contributing to the provision of warmer, safer, more energy efficient homes that in turn help the life chances for our young people and children.

- *Improved quality of life for the borough's older people*

The policy seeks to establish a set of measures that can assist the most vulnerable members of society. Older people are the main beneficiaries of Disabled Facilities Grants and the policy sets out to ensure that the Council's resources are used effectively to help those in need.

- *Healthier Communities and reduced health inequalities*

Poor housing can have a detrimental effect on the health, safety and well being of the occupants, particularly those in vulnerable groups. Concerns include aspects such as excess winter deaths due to hypothermia, the impact of cold and damp housing on the incidence of childhood asthma and the effects on mental and emotional health for people on low incomes who need substantial repairs to their homes. The existence of a clear policy is intended to help to address these societal inequalities.

Housing Assistance Covered By This Policy

The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 gives Councils the power to provide assistance for the purpose of improving living conditions in the area.

The Order allows assistance to be provided to any person, for the purpose of enabling that person to:

- Acquire living accommodation
- Adapt or improve living accommodation
- Repair living accommodation

In Chorley the Order is applied by three main strands of activity, namely:

- Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)
- Minor Repairs Assistance (MRA)
- Energy Efficiency Assistance (EEA)

The following pages will deal with each element.

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)

Under Part 1 of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 Chorley Borough Council has a legal duty to provide specialist adaptations to meet the care and mobility needs of people with disabilities to enable them to live independently with privacy and dignity. The need for this adaptation is determined by an Occupational Therapist from the Lancashire County Council's Social Services Department. Housing Services will only act on the recommendations made by an Occupational Therapist. Providing the work is considered appropriate and reasonable, the Council will administer the DFG.

Grant assistance under this policy will be limited to the maximum grant in accordance with the legislation (currently £30,000 as at 2009-10). Adaptations falling below the value of £500 are undertaken by Social Services.

DFGs for Tenants of Housing Association Properties

In legal terms, the ultimate responsibility for funding adaptations lies with the Council. However, Housing Associations have a clear housing duty to their tenants, whereas the Council has a duty to everyone in their area.

As part of the Transfer Agreement between the Council and Chorley Community Housing (CCH), it was agreed that CCH would fund all adaptations to their own stock during the first 5 years of their existence (2007 to 2012). CCH tenants should therefore approach CCH for assistance in the first instance.

All households who are resident in intermediate housing i.e. those living in Shared Ownership/Low Cost Home Ownership properties would be classed as "private" occupiers for the purpose of DFG applications and such customers should approach the Council for assistance in the first instance.

Eligibility

- Any disabled person, as described by the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996.
- The duty is primary, absolute and is contained in the Guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) in June 2006 "*Delivering Housing Adaptations for Disabled People: A Good Practice Guide*".
- The duty is "tenure blind", thus adaptations should be provided for those in need, irrespective of the type of home that they live in.
- Applicants must be over 18. Landlords may apply on behalf of tenants, and parents or guardians may apply on behalf of disabled children.
- The property must be a legal residence including dwellings, mobile homes, caravans and houseboats.
- Works that are essential as described in s23(1) of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996. Works must be reasonable and practicable to carry out, as determined by a designated Council Officer in consultation with an Occupational Therapist and the applicant.

Conditions

All applications are subject to a test of financial resources in accordance with the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (as amended) to determine the amount to be contributed by the applicant to the cost of the works.

The test of financial resources will not be applied in cases where an application is being made on behalf of a child or young person with a disability, in accordance with legislation.

Eligible Works

- Works to aid entry and exit from a building
- To aid access into and around the living areas, bedroom, kitchen and toilet
- To improve or provide heating and/or light controls
- To make the dwelling safe for the disabled occupant and other person residing with him/her
- Access to and from a garden by a disabled occupant
- Where the existing footprint or layout of the dwelling, including outbuildings and garages, can be adapted or converted to accommodate the facilities required, the Council will not consider any extension to the property. Where an extension is necessary and there is no other option, the Council will consider the most cost effective method of delivering the applicant's requirements.
- Where the applicant has a preference for works that are over and above those necessary to meet the disabled person's needs (such as an extension rather than the provision of stairlift and level access shower) the Council will only fund the cost of the original recommended works, the rest being funded by the applicant.
- The Council does not offer discretionary DFGs nor does it provide any other discretionary top-up grants for adaptations. Any amount above the statutory maximum level must be self financed.
- Applicants for grant aid will not be considered where works have already been completed. Applications for grants where works have commenced but have not been completed will only be considered where the applicant can demonstrate exceptional circumstances why they did not apply and seek approval prior to the commencement of the works. In this case, any works already completed will be excluded from the application.

Service standards

- Whilst the legislation requires a decision from the Council within 6 months of receiving the full application, the Council will aim to achieve this within 8 weeks. Priority will be given to enquiries where there appears to the Council to be a serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of the occupants of a dwelling.
- In accordance with legislation, the Council will aim to facilitate the installation of all disabled adaptations within 12 months after approval is granted.
- The Council will aim to process applications fairly, efficiently, courteously and promptly.
- The Council will aim to pay all grant money due within 30 days of a valid claim on certified work.

During the period that the Council is considering the application, a number of options will be explored with the applicant who will receive a visit from staff:

- Signposting to housing advice (for possible move to RSL and/or private sector)
- Complete a financial assessment to determine eligibility for assistance
- Explore customer funding contributions
- Liaise with Housing Associations to determine whether it is more cost efficient to transfer rather than adapt

Adapted Property Database

The Council and our RSL partners are working together to develop a database of adapted homes, in Chorley Borough. This will enable the partners to identify any homes which are adapted and where those adaptations are no longer required.

RSLs have the discretion to offer an existing tenant in an adapted social rented property, a 'Disturbance Grant' to move into a non adapted property. This would enable the needs of a disabled person to be met.

This policy is solely voluntary, for both the tenant living in the adapted property and the DFG applicant who may be offered the existing adapted property.

There are clear benefits to this policy both to the partners and also to the customers as it will ensure resources within the Borough are effectively utilised and may in certain circumstances, enable needs to be met more quickly.

Minor Repairs Assistance (MRA)

The purpose of Minor Repairs Assistance, which is a discretionary rather than mandatory form of assistance, is to help vulnerable households on low incomes to carry out repairs and improvements to their home which will enable them to bring the property up to Decent Homes Standard.

A single MRA grant shall be provided to eligible applicants, to provide a decent, safe, secure and warm home not involving major repair or renovation.

Eligibility

- To qualify under MRA the applicant/s must be either owner occupiers or private tenants with a valid tenancy agreement.
- Owner occupier applicants must be at least 18 years old and must have an owner's interest in the property and either be currently resident or have a family member resident within it.
- Private tenant applicants must have a valid tenancy agreement.
- The applicants are required to have lived in or owned the property for at least 3 years prior to the date of application.
- The dwelling subject to the request for assistance must be at least 10 years old **and** fail the Decent homes standard **or** be assessed as requiring safety or security measures.
- An application cannot be made if a grant has been awarded on the dwelling within the last five years.
- The enquiry or application for assistance must have been firstly assessed and considered unsuitable for loans assistance before it can be considered for grant assistance.
- Tenants of Registered Social Landlords are not eligible to apply. However all households who are resident in intermediate housing and who have a repairing obligation to their homes (i.e. those living in Shared Ownership/Low Cost Home Ownership properties) would be classed as "private" occupiers for the purpose of MRA applications and such customers would be eligible to apply. The Council will liaise with the RSL in such cases.

Conditions

- There will be no means test for applicants whose household contains a member in receipt of at least one of the qualifying benefits below:
 - Income Support
 - Housing Benefit
 - Council Tax Benefit
 - Income based Jobseekers Allowance
 - Guarantee Pension Credit
 - Working Tax Credit with disability element and income of no more than £15,050
 - Child Tax Credit with income of no more than £15,050
 - Attendance Allowance

- Disability Living Allowance
 - War Disablement Pension
 - Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
- Owner occupiers and tenant applicants not in receipt of the above benefits or on Working Tax Credit will be assessed using the Government's test of financial resources (means test) to determine if the applicant qualifies and if so the level of income and any contribution that the applicant may be required to make. These applicants will be subject to the same means test as for the mandatory DFGs.
 - Where a contribution is required the Council will normally require payment of the amount before the commencement of works.
 - Applicants for grant aid will not be considered where works have already been completed. Applications for grants where works have commenced but have not been completed will only be considered where the applicant can demonstrate exceptional circumstances why they did not apply and seek approval prior to the commencement of the works. In this case, any works already completed will be excluded from the application.
 - Repayment of grant monies in full (excluding fees) is repayable if the property is sold or transferred in perpetuity.
 - No grant (or loan) will be approved in respect of a dwelling which will **not** meet the Decent Homes standard upon completion of the works.
 - Where a grant or loan application is received for a dwelling which is a listed building and/or is situated in a Conservation Area, the scheme shall be undertaken with regard to the views and requirements of the Council's Building Control section and of the Conservation Officer. The specification of eligible works and the materials and methods to be used in such schemes shall reflect the dwelling's listed status and/or its situation in a Conservation Area.

Prioritisation

A priority system will be used to administer the MRA budget, as it is expected that demand will outstrip supply.

Priority 1

The home fails the decent homes standard, where there are one or more Category 1 hazards (under the Housing Health and Safety Ratings System) and where there is an imminent risk of injury or illness to the household e.g. electric shock, unsafe/dangerous appliances, unsafe structures or parts, no hot water, no heating.

Priority 2

Home fails the decent home standard, has one or more Category 1 hazards, but does not present an imminent risk of illness or injury to the household.

Priority 3

Home fails the decent homes standard but there are no Category 1 hazards present.
Residents of intermediate housing - ie those living in Shared Ownership/Low Cost Home Ownership properties

Eligible Works

- Examples include dealing with unsafe or dangerous electrical wiring or gas fittings, or small scale works such as providing security measures or repairing leaking pipes, damp proof course, rotted windows and doors, rotted floor boards and staircases.
- The Council will **not** use MRA grant to “top up” Warmfront energy grants, nor to fund ancillary works relating to DFG works (such as when a stair lift is installed, if it is discovered that the wiring is inadequate, it may be necessary to rewire at the same time. The MRA could not be used for this purpose).
- The maximum value of grant assistance shall be £3,000 exclusive of VAT, however in exceptional circumstances up to a further £2,000 may be awarded at the chief officers discretion.
- The Council will charge the customer an administration fee of 10% of the total grant award for each MRA grant that it processes.

Service Standards

- The Council will consider all applications for assistance under this policy within a period of 6 months from receipt of application.
- The Council will aim to process applications efficiently, courteously and promptly.
- The Council can provide applicants who are ineligible for a grant with help and support to commission repairs and improvements if required, however a small fee may be charged. This fee will be recycled back into the service in line with best practice.
- All work undertaken by contractors shall be:
 - a) in accordance with Health and Safety regulations
 - b) in accordance with manufacturers’ recommendations and best practice
 - c) in accordance with current legislation
 - d) to the satisfaction of the Council, who will inspect all works.

Energy Efficiency Assistance (EEA)

Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 requires Councils to improve the energy efficiency of homes in their area, ie to reduce energy usage and carbon dioxide emission within the housing stock. The energy efficiency of homes is measured in a number of ways. One well known way is the SAP rating (SAP stands for Standard Assessment Procedure).

Energy – gas and electricity – used in the home is responsible for around 25% of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions. Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas produced when electricity is generated or gas is burned, is a major contributor to climate change (“global warming”).

Energy efficiency measures help to bring warmer, healthier homes to older and vulnerable people living in ‘fuel poverty’. Fuel poverty is defined as the need to spend more than 10% of household income on domestic energy in order to achieve a warm and healthy indoor environment.

Fuel poverty results from a combination of low household income, high energy prices and poor heating and insulation standards. The definition of fuel poverty does not take account of the amount that a household *actually* spends on fuel, nor the amount available for the household to spend on fuel after other costs have been met.

In the past 5 years the numbers in fuel poverty have risen dramatically largely due to the substantial increases in the price of gas and electricity to domestic customers since 2003. In the North West the percentage of households in fuel poverty rose from 6.6% (190,000 households) in 2004 to 22.1% (631,000) in 2007. The average for England rose from 5.9% in 2004 to 18.4% in 2008.

A significant threat (a Category 1 Hazard) is statistically most likely to result from inadequate heating and insulation provision which poses a hazard from cold conditions – particularly where occupants of the dwelling are elderly or very young.

Communities and Local Government (CLG), in guidance issued on the DHS, suggests that an energy efficiency rating of below SAP 352 can be taken as a simple proxy for a Category 1 Cold Hazard. In fact, an analysis of English House Condition Survey data suggests that more than one million homes that comply with the Thermal Comfort element of the DHS have a SAP rating of below 30. In total, some 2.2 million dwellings (10% of all housing) have a SAP rating of 30 or below.

The Government's Warm Front scheme (www.warmfront.co.uk) provides a package of insulation and/or heating measures up to a maximum value of £3,500 (with effect from 23rd April 2009). Under Warm Front, householders can receive a combination of the following:

- Loft insulation
- Draught proofing
- Cavity wall insulation

- Hot water tank insulation.

For full details of the eligibility for Warm Front assistance see Appendix 3

Energy Efficiency Assistance (EEA)

The purpose of Energy Efficiency Assistance (EEA), which is a discretionary rather than mandatory form of assistance, is to help vulnerable households on low incomes to achieve affordable warmth. Improving the energy efficiency of the private sector housing stock will also have a positive impact upon the Council's performance on NI 187 targets.

Eligibility

The Council will not fund any applications from customers who are able to access Warm Front grants (see Appendix 3 for full details of Warm Front eligibility).

- To qualify applicants should be spending more than 10% of their disposable income to heat the home.
- Homes should be over 10 years old or have been converted more than 10 years ago for flats or maisonettes.
- Applicants must be in receipt of one or more of the qualifying benefits, which are:
 - Income support or minimum income guarantee.
 - Housing benefit
 - Income based jobseekers allowance
 - Council tax benefit
 - Pension credit
- Or the applicant's state pension makes up 50% or more of the household income.

In addition to secure a grant applicants must be either:

- Owner occupiers
- Private tenants with a valid tenancy agreement
- All households who are resident in intermediate housing and who have a repairing obligation to their homes (i.e. those living in Shared Ownership/Low Cost Home Ownership properties) would be classed as "private" occupiers for the purpose of EEA applications and such customers would be eligible to apply.
- Private landlords who have been accredited under the Council's private landlord accreditation scheme

Conditions

The Council will fund the provision of cavity wall and loft insulation to a published maximum £50 per measure with the householder paying the difference.

To enable low income households (who may be in fuel poverty but who are not on benefits) the Council will fund the whole amount in the first instance and will agree with the householder to repay the outstanding amount in instalments over a maximum of one year.

Eligible Works

- Loft insulation
- Cavity wall insulation

Service Standards

- The Council will aim to process applications efficiently, courteously and promptly.
- The Council will refer all applicants to the nominated contractor(s) within 3 working days
- All work undertaken by contractors shall be:
 - a) in accordance with Health and Safety regulations
 - b) in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations and best practice
 - c) in accordance with current legislation
 - d) to the satisfaction of the Council, who will inspect a percentage of the works undertaken.

Home Improvement Loans

Chorley Council recognises the advantages of equity release schemes and the benefits of loans to 'recycle' funding, particularly given the limited financial resources available and the level of demand for assistance. Many Councils have now taken the option of introducing equity release schemes.

The provision of loans assistance shall be carried out in partnership with an external organisation under contract following tender procedures. It is envisaged that this service will be available in 2011/12. Detailed contract terms and conditions will set out how the organisation will provide the loans service including eligibility criteria and conditions. The contract will be for a fixed term.

Proposed eligible works and service standards are detailed below however these are subject to change.

Eligible Works

The guiding principle is that the work will contribute to achieving the DHS and presents a suitable investment decision on that basis.

- Measures to remedy dampness or timber treatment works for dry or wet rot
- Dealing with sub standard/dangerous electrics/gas flues/fires
- Remedial structural works
- Improvements to bathroom and kitchen amenities including dangerous layouts
- Works to tackle dangers encountered by steep or winding stairs
- Provision of new external doors and windows
- Provision of adequate hot water or heating systems
- Redecoration and other associated works relating to areas affected by the carrying out of mandatory grant works.

Service Standards

- The applicant seeking assistance should be advised about a wide range of loan products not just one product
- The applicant should be financially assessed by the partner organisation to determine what if any loan product would best meet the applicant's financial circumstances
- The loan organisation must be accredited by the FSA
- The partner organisation shall report to the Council within 3 months of referral whether a loan product has been procured, the type of loan and the amount of loan (to reflect the cost of the works and any ancillary and agency fees including loan fees).

Procedures and Processes

The Council's Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy has been developed to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 and Government guidance and ensures:

- The provision of good information, advice and publicity summarising the authority's policy and procedures.
- A pre-application process (where appropriate) to enable the rapid assessment of initial enquiries.
- An application form and certificates which follow the Government's Housing Renewal Guidance (e.g. details of applicant and property, proof of title).
- Before providing assistance setting out in writing to each person the terms and conditions to which the assistance is to be subject.
- Officers satisfying themselves that every applicant has received appropriate advice and information about the extent and nature of any obligation (whether financial or otherwise) they might be entering into.
- That a person's ability to contribute towards any assistance is taken into account; that an Approval Notice is issued which follows the Government's Housing Renewal Guidance and includes details of the grant assistance and how it is to be repaid.
- That work for which the assistance is being provided, or conditions relating to the assistance, can only be varied with the consent of persons likely to be materially affected.
- That the consent of the owner and tenant of the dwelling is obtained before works are undertaken, providing the tenant does not unreasonably refuse to consent.
- That the consent of the person being provided with assistance is obtained before revoking any conditions applying to the assistance.
- Risk and fraud is minimised by following the Government's Housing Renewal Guidance and working closely with Internal Audit.

With the exception of DFG, all grants are subject to availability of funding and are based on a first come, first served basis. In the event that funding is no longer available, customers will be advised accordingly and provided with information appropriate to their circumstances.

Complaints or Comments about this Policy

We welcome any queries, complaints or suggestions. You should set out any comments in writing and send them to the Head of Housing at the Civic Centre, Union Street, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 1AL. All comments will be carefully considered and we will also give you a written reply. Where appropriate, we will also contact you to discuss the views that you have put forward.

Appeals about Decisions in Individual Cases

This appeals procedure will deal with appeals about how the policy is operated in individual cases, for example, where an enquiry or application for assistance is refused or where Council policy has not been applied correctly or there has been a mistake. The appeals procedure will not deal with the amount of assistance awarded since the amount is effectively determined by:

- Council policy and the means test, and
- A professional and technical evaluation of the nature and extent of works required.

Appeals will not be considered on the grounds that the appellant simply disagrees with the policy. However, any written comments and complaints about the policy will be considered by the Head of Housing as described above.

All unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing of grounds of intention to refuse, the availability of the grievance and appeals mechanism and the time limit for grievance or appeal (i.e. that all grievances or appeals should be submitted in writing to the Head of Housing within 21 days of the date of approval or refusal). Any grievance or appeal made outside the time limit will not be considered.

On receipt of an appeal, the applicant will thereafter be given a further 21 days in which to submit the grounds for appeal. The Head of Housing may also arrange at this stage for a representative to meet with the appellant to clarify facts. In practice, the meeting will be with the relevant Team Leader or the Service Manager.

Initially, all cases should be dealt with as a grievance using the Council's existing procedure for dealing with complaints. The Head of Housing shall arrange for a senior officer not involved in the original decision to review the case and advise the applicant of the outcome. The applicant has a further 21 days to then pursue an appeal if they are still aggrieved. Where such an appeal is received, the case will be referred to an Appeal Panel. The Appeal Panel will consist of three councillors.

The Panel hearing will involve the following:

Pre-hearing

- Notification inviting applicant to appear in person, advising of format and providing a copy of the report.
- The applicant is required to notify the Head of Housing at least 7 days prior to the hearing that they intend to make oral representation or disagree with the report.

Hearing

- Applicant and Team Leader/Service Manager invited to the Panel.
- Team Leader/Service Manager presents case.
- Applicant presents case.

The Panel may question either party.

- Panel considers case and informs officer and applicant of decision verbally.

Post Hearing

- Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy notifies applicant of decision in writing and Head of Housing thereafter either approves or refuses the Assistance as appropriate.

Monitoring this policy

The Strategic Housing Unit will be responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to and is effective. The Head of Housing will monitor the take-up of the various strands of Housing assistance and will monitor the budget on a monthly basis.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and it may be refreshed earlier to reflect any changes in legislation, statutory guidance, local priorities or capital funding availability.

Appendix 1

Definition of the Decent Homes Standard (DHS)

The summary of the definition of a 'Decent Home' is found in the CLG document "*A Decent Home – the definition and guidance for implementation*" (June 2006):

- a) It meets the current minimum standard for housing
- b) It is in a reasonable state of repair
- c) It has reasonably modern services and facilities
- d) It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort

a) It meets the current minimum standard for housing

The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) was introduced as part of the Housing Act 2004. It came into force in April 2006. HHSRS replaced the Housing Fitness Standard as the first criterion of the DHS. HHSRS is a risk based approach to tackling unsatisfactory housing conditions.

To be decent, a dwelling should be free from category 1 hazards. The existence of such hazards should be a trigger for remedial action unless practical steps cannot be taken without disproportionate expense or disruption.

b) It is in a reasonable state of repair

A dwelling satisfied this criterion unless:

- 1) One or more key building components (ie external walls, lintels, roof structure, roof covering, chimney, windows, external doors, gas central heating boiler, electrics) are old and, because of their condition need replacing or major repair **or**
- 2) Two or more other building components are old and, because of their condition, need replacing or major repair

A building component must be old **and** requiring replacement or major repair to satisfy this criterion.

c) It has reasonably modern services and facilities

A dwelling is considered not to meet this criterion if it lacks 3 or more of the following facilities:

1. A reasonably modern kitchen (20 years old or less)
2. A kitchen with adequate space and layout
3. A reasonably modern bathroom (30 years old or less)
4. An appropriately located bathroom and WC
5. Adequate external noise insulation (where external noise is a problem)
6. Adequate size and layout of common entrance areas for blocks of flats

d) It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort

A dwelling should have both efficient heating and effective insulation, defined as:

- Any gas or oil programmable central heating; or
- Electric storage heaters; or
- Warm air systems; or
- Underfloor systems; or
- Programmable LPG/solid fuel central heating; or
- Similarly efficient heating systems that are developed in the future

Dwellings with gas or oil programmable central heating systems should have cavity wall insulation or at least 50mm of loft insulation (where it is possible) to decent. Dwellings with other systems should have cavity wall insulation and at least 200mm of loft insulation (where it is possible) to be decent.

Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)

The HHSRS is a method of risk assessing hazards that may be found in residential accommodation. Homes should be free of any avoidable or unnecessary hazards as listed in the table below.

Physiological	Psychological	Infection	Accidents
Damp and Mould Growth	Crowding and space	Domestic hygiene, pests and refuse	Falling between levels
Excess Cold	Lighting	Personal hygiene, sanitation and drainage	Falls associated with baths etc
Excess Heat	Noise	Food supply	Falling on level surfaces
Volatile Organic Compounds	Entry by intruders	Water supply	Falling on stairs
Biocides			Electrical hazards
Lead			Flames, hot surfaces
Asbestos and manufactured mineral fibres			Structural collapse and falling elements
Carbon monoxide and fuel combustion products			Position and operability of amenities
Uncombusted fuelled gas			Fire
Radiation			Explosions
			Collision and entrapment

Warm Front Eligibility Criteria

Warm Front is a Government funded initiative which reports to the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Householders who own their own property or rent from a private landlord may be eligible for Warm Front if they meet the following criteria:

1. Householders aged 60 or over in receipt of one or more of the following benefits

- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit
- Income Support
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

2. Householders with a child under 16, or pregnant with maternity certificate MAT-B1, and in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit
- Income Support
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

3. Householders in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:

- Working Tax Credit (with an income of less than £15,460 and which must include a disability element)
- Child Tax Credit (with an income of less than £15,4690)
- Attendance Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance
- Income Support (which must include a disability premium)
- Housing Benefit (which must include a disability premium)
- Council Tax Benefit (which must include a disability premium)
- War Disablement Pension (which must include a mobility supplement or Constant Attendance Allowance)
- Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (which must include Constant Attendance Allowance)

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods)	Cabinet	25 March 2010

NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING 2009 – 2010 PROGRESS REPORT AND PROPOSALS FOR 2010-2011.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide an update on our first year's Neighbourhood Working progress, including the 2009-2010 Neighbourhood Action Plans.
2. To make recommendations for the facilitation and further development of Neighbourhood Working in 2010-2011 and beyond.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

3. It is recommended that the 2010-2011 progress be noted and that draft Neighbourhood Action Plans and proposals for 2010-2011 are approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

4. A December 2007 Executive Cabinet report highlighted a number of desired outcomes of neighbourhood working, including:
 - A Neighbourhood Team approach
 - Quality of life
 - Support for the neighbourhood
 - Confidence in local service providers
5. As our first full year of implementing a new neighbourhood working process, 2009 – 2010 has presented all partner organisations with a learning curve that has been challenging but very beneficial. New relationships and partnerships have developed, issues and concerns have been highlighted, and joint solutions promoted. All partners, including residents, have been able to question each other's systems and procedures and clarify how things actually work, at a very local level.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

6. Strong partnership working and community engagement are key to our priorities of involving people in their communities, improving equality of opportunity and life chances, developing the character and feel of Chorley as a great place to live, and ensuring that Chorley is a performing organisation.

7. Through neighbourhood working we can both engage with residents and partners at grass roots level, and strive towards continuous improvement in our own organisational performance, by further developing our understanding of Chorley’s culture, needs and aspirations, in order to provide the best possible services through the most effective use of shared resources.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8. We have tried other models of neighbourhood working through the previous Area and Community Forums, and have found that the current model appears to be a closer “fit” for Chorley’s purpose and demographic.
9. Neighbourhood working and the action plans illustrate how we have responded to lessons learned, and could be key to our CAA (Comprehensive Area Assessment), providing evidence of how we implement, in partnership, our duty to involve and engage our local communities.
10. Discontinuing neighbourhood working could jeopardise the further development of community engagement and partnership working at a neighbourhood level.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

11. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	√	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	√
Involving people in their communities	√	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	√

BACKGROUND

12. During 2006-7, the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertook an extensive inquiry into Neighbourhood Working. The Executive Cabinet accepted the inquiry’s initial findings and recommendations on 6 December 2007, and also, in February 2008, a further report outlining details of resources allocated for delivery and an overall action plan with timescales for implementation.
13. Monitoring reports were presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 September 2009, Executive Cabinet on 12 November 2009. A further report will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny on for 22 March 2010. Progress reports and recommendations were also received favourably by the Chorley Partnership Board in January and November 2009.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING – 2009-2010 FINDINGS

14. Partnership working

The seven “virtual” Neighbourhood Teams have been involved in a wide range of locally-based working groups and project teams. A recent informal consultation exercise through the Neighbourhood Teams provided this information:

	Council	Partners
Have made new contacts through Neighbourhood Working	70%	80%
Have gained new information about specific Neighbourhoods	80%	73%
Have been able to use the concept of Neighbourhood Working to support projects working on in 2009-2010	80%	67%
Have got to know Council Members better	70%	47%
Have got to know Parish Councils better	70%	40%
Have been able to use partners support to promote projects and activities working on in 2009-2010	50%	73%

15. Neighbourhood Action Plans

There are a total of 115 projects within the 2009-2010 Neighbourhood Action Plans. At the start of February 2010 progress had been made on 87% of these. In order to maximise local engagement, we adopted a somewhat groundbreaking, flexible approach to project development, and as a result, several projects have evolved in response to local needs and aspirations, and have been proposed as continuing projects for 2010-2011.

16. Draft Neighbourhood Action Plans that take this process of evolution into account have been prepared, and also include new projects highlighted by Council Members and partners, through Ward Walks, Neighbourhood Area Tours and the Neighbourhood Teams. The draft Neighbourhood Action Plans for 2010-2011 are included as an appendix to this report.

17. Community Environmental Action Projects

Environmental action projects, developed in partnership, have taken place in 6 of the 7 Neighbourhood Areas - Chorley Town West, Chorley Town East, North Western, North Eastern, Western and Eastern Parishes, in 2009-2010. No project requests came in from Southern Parishes. A further project is in the planning stages for Eastern Parishes, to take place in early summer 2010. These projects are funded through the Neighbourhood Working Pump Priming fund.

18. Promoting Neighbourhood Working

We have developed a specific Neighbourhood Working logo/strapline, using the Chorley Smile brand. This has been incorporated into, for example, Day of Action fliers, and will also be produced in the form of a plaque to promote completed Action Plan projects. We have developed a page for each of the Neighbourhood Areas on the Council website, and are looking at ways to further develop this opportunity. Several press articles have promoted the Borough's Neighbourhood Areas' projects, and some of these have reached publications elsewhere in the region. Some of our partners have also promoted their

involvement in Neighbourhood Working in Chorley through their own newsletters, web pages and press releases.

19. During the recent round of meetings Members requested more information about Neighbourhood Working and, in particular, examples of good practice that could be replicated in other areas. Raising the profile of Neighbourhood Working will be a priority in 2010/11.

20. Examples of specific initiatives

The following bullet points give a flavour of some of the successes during 2009/10, by Neighbourhood area

Chorley Town West

- Working with residents to help turn their vision of a community park into a reality
- Starting up a Chorley North West Partnership to increase networking opportunities
- Two community noticeboards to be installed in the near future

Chorley Town East

- Healey Nab partnership working and Heritage Trail
- Day of action in WTSLG Streets area, as the start of closer partnership approach to community and environmental issues.
- Plans for Community Open Day launch of new outdoor facilities at Lord Street Youth and Community Centre – part of general promotion of activities.

North Western

- Buckshaw community survey in partnership with SRBC
- Closer partnership working – older people's activities in Astley Village
- Plans for Astley Village Community Day to take place late May 2010

North Eastern

- Environmental improvement plan – Wilderswood pond
- Remedial works scheduled for Riley Green Pinfold
- Partnership approach to refurbishments at Hoghton Village Hall

Western Parishes

- Intergeneration activities in Eccleston – including recent Pancake Day event involving Scouts, Over 60's, Parish Council, local primary school, Library.
- New tools and secure storage, Mawdesley Millennium Green
- Ulms Walton Community Action Project

Eastern Parishes

- Supporting Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall environmental works and development planning
- Canal banks walk project in conjunction with Chorley Town East, Adlington and Heath Charnock Parish Councils, British Waterways, Albany High School and others.
- Improvements to Withnell Fold Memorial Garden

Southern Parishes

- Contribution towards cost of fencing railway subway to reduce anti social behaviour

- Development of Longfield Community Hub
- Contribution towards costs of re-siting Heskin play area

21. Proposals for 2010-2011

Councillors within each Neighbourhood Area have reviewed progress on their 2009-20 Neighbourhood Action Plans and agreed priorities for 2010-2011. Their proposals are included as Appendix to this report.

22. Members have expressed a clear interest in developing greater opportunities to engage with the Neighbourhood Working process. To this end, in addition to the annual Action Plan setting meetings in January/February, and Neighbourhood Tours in September/October, we will be working together to identify the preferred options for Members in each Neighbourhood Area. Members are also encouraged to arrange periodic Ward Walks with their Neighbourhood Officers.

23. Now that the concepts and processes of Neighbourhood Working are more firmly embedded we will consider, with our partners, the potential for greater impact on wider, more strategic issues, at neighbourhood level. For example, health issues, leisure provision, environmental priorities, economic development, community safety, culture and heritage, volunteering, community management of local assets, support for families, and communities of interest.

24. During 2010-2011 we also intend to work both corporately and with partners at a more strategic level to identify and propose initiatives to address some of these wider issues in 2011-2012. This will include identifying clearer links within:

- Our Sustainable Community, Community Cohesion and Community Engagement Strategies;
- Promoting Neighbourhood Area connections and representation through Chorley Partnership's thematic groups, for example, Community Safety, The Children's Trust, Stronger and More Involved Communities, Neighbourhood, Environment and Streetscene;
- Developing work around Public Realm issues with, for example, Lancashire County Council, parish/town council's, neighbourhood area partnerships and VCF groups

25. In addition to developing a more strategic approach to neighbourhood issues, we recognise that local residents, community organisations and Councillors are keen to retain a very local emphasis on efficient response to the environmental and street scene issues that are often key to people's wellbeing and quality of life. We are identifying ways in which we can improve our systems and procedures in order to raise awareness of the importance placed on having a good quality streetscene/environment, make it clear how people can report on failings to improve their neighbourhood, take action and let people know.

26. Neighbourhood Area Action Plan projects – Pump priming budget allocation and spend

Members will recall that £150,000 was allocated to the initial stages of neighbourhood Working. During 2009-2010 we have spent £44,000.00 of the pump priming fund, leaving £106,000 to carry forward into 2010-2011, and beyond.

Members have allocated the remaining project-related funding in support of their Neighbourhood Area Action Plan for 2010-2011.

The remaining Community Action/Environmental Projects, Communications/Promotional and Contingency funds are available to allocate throughout the year, in response to local proposals.

	Total Allocation	2009/2010	2010/11, and beyond
Chorley Town West	25,800	5,800	20,000
Chorley Town East	24,200	700	23,500
Eastern Parishes	16,500	4,000	12,500
Western Parishes	12,500	3,500	9,000
Southern Parishes	12,000	8,000	4,000
North Western Parishes	15,500	3,800	11,700
North Eastern Parishes	12,700	10,700	2,000
Community Action/Environmental projects	20,000	5,000	15,000
Communications/promotional	5,000	1,500	3,500
Contingency budget	5,800	1,000	4,800
TOTALS	150,000	44,000	106,000

27. External resources brought into Neighbourhood Action Plan projects 2009-2010, and options for 2010-2011

Each Neighbourhood Area saw wide range of additional partnership funding in support of specific Action Plan projects, and other area-based initiatives. Partners include Lancashire County Council, Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust, Chorley Community Housing, Places for People, British Waterways, Network Rail, Parish Councils and voluntary, community and faith sector organisations. We haven't yet been able to produce a breakdown of specific amounts but hope to do so within the first half of 2010-2011.

28. As Members have proposed that providing external funding application support should be a Borough-wide priority for Neighbourhood Working in 2010-2011, this will be included in our project management plans.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

29. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	√

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR PLACES AND PEOPLE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Liz Morey	5812	26 February 2010	***

Neighbourhood Action Plan 2010-2011

Chorley Town East

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Agenda Item 9



CHORLEY TOWN EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

	Project	Outcomes	Measures
STRONGER AND MORE INVOLVED COMMUNITIES	Support plans to develop and extend facilities at Tatton Community Centre, including car parking (subject to planning permission).	Support for local facilities and increased opportunities for community involvement	Development plans produced; Applications submitted; External funding opportunities investigated; Feedback from local groups and organisations
	Find ways to support and develop community involvement in facilities at Chorley Youth and Community Centre, Lord St, including the refurbished outdoor play and leisure space on Lyons Lane	Support for local facilities and increased opportunities for community involvement	Development plans produced; Number of new groups/activities/initiatives developed; Number and range of promotional outlets used; Community feedback
	Work in partnership to promote and celebrate positive activities and opportunities for young people to develop their social awareness and citizenship in the Chorley Town East Neighbourhood Area. To include encouraging young people to take part in activities in both urban and rural areas.	Increased access to positive activities and experiences for young people across the Neighbourhood Area; Increased community cohesion	Number and range of promotional outlets used; Range of both urban and rural opportunities promoted; Number of activities/initiatives developed; Community feedback

	<i>Consider the status of the disused Plaza cinema as a site of interest at one of the gateways into the town centre. (This project to be discussed before final decision to include)</i>		
LOCAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION	Work with partners to promote health and wellbeing across the Neighbourhood Area	Increased access to information, services and facilities promoting healthy living and wellbeing	Number and range of promotional outlets used; Number of existing services and facilities promoted; Number of opportunities to develop new services and facilities identified; Community feedback
PLAY, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES	Use as many different ways as possible to display and promote information about local services and facilities in all parts of the Neighbourhood Area, including the increased use of community notice boards.	Increased access to information, services and facilities	Number and range of promotional outlets used; Number of existing services and facilities promoted; Community feedback
	Bring all the relevant partners together and develop an action plan to link and promote access to and community usage of: Canal bank walks; Healey Nab; Brock Rd area linear park; Drumhead Rd green space	Increased access to informal community open and green spaces across the neighbourhood Area	Development and implementation of of action plan; Planned and completed physical improvements; Number and range of promotional opportunities used; External funding opportunities investigated; Community feedback

	<p>Look for funds to improve, and protect outdoor play and leisure space at Harpers Lane and Rangleetts/Duke Street Recreation Grounds</p>	<p>Improved appearance, safety and accessibility of formal play spaces</p>	<p>Planned and completed physical improvements; Number and range of promotional opportunities used; External funding opportunities investigated; Community feedback</p>
<p>IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT</p>	<p>Look for possible ways to improve condition of “backs”, and to manage longer term maintenance:</p> <p>Cobden-Kershaw Streets Grey Heights View-Colyton Rd East Rossall Rd – Pennine Rd Talbot Street – rear of Eaves Lane Pennine Rd – Froom St Duke Street-Ashby Street Poplar St-Smith St-Pilling Lane Goulding St – Bolton Road Duke Street (opposite school) Mayfield Rd and surrounding streets</p>	<p>Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood; promoting and developing a sense of local ownership of shared space</p>	<p>Number of physical environmental improvements made; Community engagement, involvement and feedback</p>
<p>TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS</p>	<p>Investigate opportunities to improve: Bolton Rd/Pilling Lane traffic lights, Goulding Street/Pilling Lane parking bays and parking congestion in Gloucester/Mayfield Roads, through potential use of Section 106 monies from developments taking place in the area.</p>	<p>Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety</p>	<p>Planned or completed improvements</p>

Neighbourhood Action Plan 2010-2011

Chorley Town West

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Agenda Item 9



CHORLEY TOWN WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

	Project	Outcomes	Measures
STRONGER AND MORE INVOLVED COMMUNITIES	<p>Agree a Community Action Plan to encourage Chorley South West residents to get involved in their neighbourhood Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing community facilities at Chorley Moor Community House and Eaves Green Community Centre, and also a potential new community centre in the Buttermere area ; • Increasing volunteering and supporting the Time Bank project; • Protecting and developing green spaces including the Community Park project and Gillibrand South play area; • Promoting community safety, including involvement in PACT and Neighbourhood Watch; • Improved access via footpaths and public transport 	<p>Develop the range of neighbourhood facilities and opportunities for community involvement, and increase feelings of community safety</p>	<p>Number and range of promotional outlets used; Number of volunteers involved in Time Bank project; Development plans in place for community green space; Levels of involvement in PACT and Neighbourhood Watch; Community safety improvements planned or completed; External funding opportunities investigated; Community feedback</p>

	Identify and support opportunities to promote and develop local facilities, through the Chorley North West Partnership, including the St John Ambulance Hall, Library Street	Support for local facilities and increased opportunities for community involvement	Development plans produced; Number of new groups/activities/initiatives developed; Number and range of promotional outlets used; Community feedback
LOCAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION	Use a wide range of different ways to promote and get more people involved in local facilities and services including public transport, health care and support for families in Chorley Town West	Increased access to information, services and facilities	Number and range of promotional outlets used; Number of existing services and facilities promoted; Number of opportunities to develop new services and facilities identified; Community feedback
	Encourage families to get involved in play and Get Up and Go activities in Chorley South West, including Gillibrand North area.	Increased access to a range of positive activities	Number and range of promotional outlets used; Number of activities promoted; Number of Neighbourhood-Area based activities available; Number of places taken up by Chorley Town West residents; Community feedback
PLAY, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES	Work with the Friends of Astley park to protect, develop and improve the sensory garden and bowling green areas in the Park.	Increased access to community open and green spaces across the neighbourhood Area	Development and implementation of of action plan; Planned and completed physical improvements; External funding opportunities investigated; Community feedback

	Complete drainage and consider options for leisure/play space development at Eaves Green community open space	Increased access to community open and green spaces across the neighbourhood Area	Development and implementation of of action plan; Planned and completed physical improvements; Number and range of promotional opportunities used; External funding opportunities investigated; Community feedback
IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT	Continue to press for development/improvement of the former Shell garage site, Preston Road	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood;	Number of physical environmental improvements made;
	Work with partners to clarify intentions and develop usage of former Douglas House site, Moor Road	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood; ensuring local residents are consulted and informed	Community engagement opportunities identified; Action plan developed; Community feedback
	Review and consider all aspects of alley gates proposal, Walleys Road	Investigate opportunities to improve appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood investigate; ensuring local residents are engaged and informed	Planned or completed improvements
TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS	Develop a plan to address traffic/highways and environmental issues around the Devonshire Rd/West St/Lennon St area	Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety	Planned or completed improvements

	Consider options for residents' parking Hamilton Road (Devonshire Rd-Ashfield Rd)	Investigate opportunities to improve appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood investigate; ensuring local residents are engaged and informed	Planned or completed improvements
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Neighbourhood Action Plan 2010-2011

Eastern Parishes



EASTERN PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

	Project	Outcomes	Measures
STRONGER AND MORE INVOLVED COMMUNITIES	Work in partnership to improve facilities and increase residents' involvement in Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall and play area	Support for local facilities and increased opportunities for community involvement	Formulation of development plans; Number of promotional outlets used; Number of external funding bids; Community feedback
	Consider options to consult and engage with Wheelton and Withnell residents on neighbourhood issues.	Increased opportunities for community engagement	Number of engagement initiatives; Community feedback
LOCAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION	Develop a publication to promote local services and facilities, to residents in Adlington, Anderton and Heath Charnock, including those living within new housing developments	Increased access to information, services and facilities	Publication of Directory; Community involvement and feedback
	Investigate the potential for more trains to stop at Adlington railway station	Increased access to information, services and facilities	Planned or completed improvements

PLAY, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES	Complete play area and football pitch at Fairview, Adlington and consider options to develop community usage of spare land next to the Youth and Community Centre	Community involvement in developing, managing and using play and leisure facilities	Number of engagement initiatives; Agreed pitch management and maintenance arrangements Completion of play area; Community feedback
	Promote Adlington Circular Walk canal walks and marina as leisure opportunities in Adlington and Heath Charnock, and consider option of arts trail	Community involvement in developing, managing and using play and leisure facilities	Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback
	Improve visibility of all weather pitch on Railway Road, Brinscall; identify and promote new types of community usage	Community involvement in developing, managing and using play and leisure facilities	Planned or completed improvements; Number of promotional outlets used; Community feedback and involvement
	Consider different options and funding opportunities for developing community outdoor space at Lodge Bank, Brinscall	Community involvement in developing, managing and using play and leisure facilities	Planned or completed improvements; Funding opportunities explored; Community feedback
IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT	Improve environment around Queensway - Brinscall, Ryecroft – Heapey and Acresfield - Adlington, and investigate opportunities for community action days.	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood	Number of physical environmental improvements made; Community feedback And involvement

	Address maintenance issues, Bett Lane highways/footpaths Wheelton, and junction of Moss lane and Springs Crescent, Whittle le Woods	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood	Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback
	Identify options to improve appearance of Adlington cemetery and the potential to develop allotments on adjacent land.	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood; investigate potential community food growing opportunities	Number of physical environmental improvements made; Community feedback And involvement
TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS	Identify opportunities to improve and manage parking congestion and school crossings in the neighbourhood area.	Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety	Planned or completed improvements
	Press for adoption of highways, Fairview estate	Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety	Planned or completed improvements
	Assess the potential for a footpath crossing at the junction of Moss Lane, Heapey.	Identify opportunities to resolve environmental and community safety issues	Planned or completed improvements

Neighbourhood Action Plan 2010-2011

North Eastern Parishes



NORTH EASTERN PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

	Project	Outcomes	Measures
STRONGER AND MORE INVOLVED COMMUNITIES	Consult and engage local residents in plans to develop the indoor and outdoor usage of Hoghton Village Hall and Brindle Community Hall, and support the proposed asset transfer of Clayton Brook Village Hall.	Support for local facilities and increased opportunities for community involvement	; Consultation feedback; Formulation of development plans; Outcome of asset transfer process
	Continue the Clayton Brook Village Centre project, to include: links between play areas and community safety improvements, work towards further improvements to the Village Centre car park, and developing a programme of community activities, including support for the planned Multicultural Event in June 2010.	Further community safety and environmental improvements and increased opportunities for community involvement	Number of community safety and environmental improvement initiatives developed; Number of community activities; Community feedback
LOCAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION	Display and promote information about local services and facilities in all parts of the North Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Area, including Children's Centre services and health services for children, public transport to hospitals, and shopping facilities.	Increased access to information, services and facilities	Number of services and activities promoted; Number of new outlets used

PLAY, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES	Clean up and improve the area around the duck pond at Greenwood/Camwood, Clayton le Woods.	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood	Number of physical environmental improvements made; Community feedback
IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT	Continue to consider funding options to develop a Community Action Project for North Eastern Parishes to include: The Brindle Parish Pound and Sand Pit; The Riley Green Pinfold; The wall and pond area at Wilderswood Close, Clayton-le-Woods	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood	Number of physical environmental improvements made; Community feedback
TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS	Consider options for road safety/traffic control improvements at Hayrick junction of A49 and B5256; Pendle Rd/Lancaster Lane; and Lords Croft junctions in Clayton le Woods; Smithy/Sandy Lane and Water St, Brindle.	Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety	Planned or completed improvements
	Assess traffic calming measures on Clayton Brook Road, Great Greens Lane, Westwood Road and in the area generally, exploring potential links to School Green Travel Plans.	Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety	Planned or completed improvements
	Project management of Gough Lane resurfacing proposal, Clayton Brook	Identify opportunities to resolve environmental and community safety issues	Planned or completed improvements

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Neighbourhood Action Plan 2010-2011

North Western Parishes



NORTH WESTERN PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

	Project	Outcomes	Measures
STRONGER AND MORE INVOLVED COMMUNITIES	Promote and develop local residents' use of community facilities across the Neighbourhood Area	Support for local facilities and increased opportunities for community involvement	Number of promotional outlets used; Feedback from local groups and organisations
	Support and develop a range of community services and facilities in Buckshaw Village	Support for local facilities and increased opportunities for community involvement	Number of new groups/activities developed
	Continue to develop and promote partnership working in Astley Village	Increased opportunities for joint working and resource sharing	Number of new activities /initiatives demonstrating partnership involvement
	Support development opportunities for activities for older people and for children and young people in Astley Village	Increased opportunities for community involvement	Number of new activities developed and community feedback.
LOCAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION/ PLAY, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES	Develop a Community Action project in Euxton to include access to local services and facilities via the Library and development of leisure/playspace for young people in and around the Greenside area.	Increased access to information, services and facilities	Number of new services promoted through the Library; Feedback from service providers; Number of new play/leisure activities developed; Community feedback
IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT	Promote and develop environmental improvements at the Westway Ponds/ Community Nature Reserve in Astley Village	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood	Number of physical environmental improvements made; Community feedback

	Assess the need for environmental improvements at Whittle Hills Tunnel/Moss Bridge, Whittle le Woods	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood	Number of physical environmental improvements made; Community feedback
TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS	Assess traffic control measures at junction Dawbers Lane and A49, Euxton.	Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety	Planned or completed improvements
	Assess traffic control measures on Euxton Lane	Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety	Planned or completed improvements

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Neighbourhood Action Plan 2010-2011

Southern Parishes



SOUTHERN PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

	Project	Outcomes	Measures
STRONGER AND MORE INVOLVED COMMUNITIES	Support the development of Charnock Richard Community Facility on Church Lane,	Support and develop local facilities and increase community involvement	Progress on agreed development plans; External funding opportunities investigated; Community involvement and feedback
	Continue to develop a Community Action plan for Longfield estate, Coppull including the establishment of a community hub and investigating options for play space improvements	Increased opportunities to develop community cohesion and engagement	Number of partnership initiatives and activities delivered; External funding opportunities investigated; Community involvement and feedback
	Heskin Village Hall – provide development support with funding bids and other development projects	Support and develop local facilities and increase community involvement	Development plans in place; Number or promotional outlets used; New activities/initiatives organised; External funding opportunities investigated; Community feedback
PLAY, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES	Examine funding opportunities to develop and improve Mossy Close play area and Orchard Gardens, Charnock Richard	Support and develop local facilities and increase community involvement	Agreed development plans; External funding opportunities investigated; Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback

	Develop a project plan for Town Lane play area, now re-sited at The Meadows in Heskin.	Community involvement in developing, managing and using play and leisure facilities	Agreed development plans; External funding opportunities investigated; Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback
	Identify funding opportunities and other resources to continue development of the Coppull Leisure Park Project.	Community involvement in developing, managing and using play and leisure facilities	Agreed development plans; External funding opportunities investigated; Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback
	Formulate a development plan for the proposed Community Garden area, Chapel Lane, Coppull	Community involvement in developing, managing and using play and leisure facilities	Agreed development plans; External funding opportunities investigated; Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback
IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT	Examine external funding opportunities to improve the car park at Charnock Richard Football/Cricket Club, with a view to increasing local access to this community facility.	Improving the appearance, safety and environmental standard of the neighbourhood	Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback
TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS	Examine the feasibility of introducing traffic calming measures on Chorley Lane, Charnock Richard	Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety	Planned or completed improvements

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Neighbourhood Action Plan 2010-2011

Western Parishes



WESTERN PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

	Project	Outcomes	Measures
STRONGER AND MORE INVOLVED COMMUNITIES	Support and extend activities for older people across the Western Parishes Neighbourhood Area, including more events and activities involving both younger and older residents	Increased opportunities for intergenerational community involvement	Number of activities organised; Community feedback
	Continue to develop a community action project in Ulnes Walton - a range of projects have been proposed, including: Youth Involvement Day Reinstating Prayer Cross Access improvements, Play Park	Increased opportunities to develop community cohesion and engagement	Number of partnership initiatives and activities delivered; Community feedback
	Identify, promote and develop leisure activities and facilities, particularly for young people, in Croston and Bretherton.	Increased opportunities to develop community cohesion and engagement	Number of activities organised; Number or promotional outlets used; Community feedback
LOCAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION	Promote and review existing public transport options and any ways to develop new ones	Increased access to information, services and facilities	Review of existing provision; Number and range of promotional outlets used; Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback

	Promote Children's Centre services including new Phase III provision	Increased access to information, services and facilities	Number and range of promotional outlets used; Community feedback
PLAY, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES	Support development and maintenance plans for Ecclestone and Mawdesley Millennium Greens	Community involvement in developing, managing and using outdoor leisure facilities	Number of engagement initiatives; Agreed development plans and maintenance arrangements External funding opportunities investigated; Community feedback
	Consider options and funding opportunities to transform the Recreation grounds in Station Road, Croston and South Road, Bretherton	Community involvement in developing, managing and using play and leisure facilities	Planned or completed improvements; External funding opportunities investigated Community feedback
IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT	Consider any options to reduce risk of flooding Carr Lane, junction of Out Lane and Orchard Close in Croston	Improving the appearance, safety and environmental standard of the neighbourhood	Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback
	Consider environmental improvement options at: Castle Walk, Town Rd, Highfield Rd, and Pear Tree, Croston – including dog fouling notices.	Improving the appearance and environmental standard of the neighbourhood	Planned or completed improvements; Community feedback
TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS	Investigate the possibility of re-positioning traffic directional signs via Bretherton rather than Croston	Identify potential opportunities to further improve community safety	Planned or completed improvements

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member for People, Councillor John Walker)	Executive Cabinet	25 th March 2010

CORE FUNDING 2010/2011

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To consider Core Funding Applications for 2010/2011.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the recommendations in Appendix A to this report be approved, subject to the Director of People and Places agreeing, and signing off, a Core Funding Agreement with each organisation awarded a Core Funding Grant.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Core Funding awards are provided to local voluntary, community and faith sector organisations whose activities contribute towards Chorley's Sustainable Community Strategy. This year, the Core Funding is an amalgamation of Chorley Council Core Grants, Chorley Partnership Funding and Central Lancashire Health Inequalities Grants. This streamlined approach enables less application and monitoring for groups, and a central admin base for partners. The report contains recommendations to provide support for local voluntary, community and faith sector organisations.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To provide key local organisations with Core Funding for 2010/11 to enable them to continue with their work, which contributes towards the Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- Not to award Core Funding Grants in 2010/11

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region	X	Develop local solutions to climate change.	X
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	X	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	X
Involving people in their communities	X	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	



BACKGROUND

7. Core Funding is revenue grant aid to organisations that provide non-profit making services in the Borough that further the strategic themes in the Borough’s Sustainable Community Strategy.
8. Following a Core Funding Review that has taken place over 2009/10 to look at the grant sources provided through Lancashire, this year, the Core Funding is an amalgamation of Chorley Council Core Grants, Chorley Partnership Funding and Central Lancashire Health Inequalities Grants. This streamlined approach enables less application and monitoring for groups, and a central admin base for partners.
9. A condition of grant aid to all organisations that receive Core Funding is that they agree and sign a Core Funding Agreement. The Agreement specifies the service to be provided, the beneficiaries, the times the service is to be provided, performance measures and where appropriate conditions regarding safeguarding policies for children and vulnerable adults are required.
10. A letter and an application form were sent to previous recipients of core funding from Chorley Council, Chorley Partnership and the Central Lancashire PCT Health Inequalities Grants.
11. Eighteen applications were received, as detailed in Appendix A. If these recommendations are approved, 15 of the 18 would receive some form of funding, with two that are still being looked at and considered. The total allocation from these 15 applications is £150,685 from this Core Grant plus additional contributions from the PCT.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

12. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors’ comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF *****

13. ***

DIRECTOR NAME
 DIRECTOR DESIGNATION

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Sarah James	5348	2 nd March 2010	Core Funding 2010/11

Applicant	Background	Recommendation
Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility	<p>Chorley and South Ribble Shopmobility have requested £14,500 funding for 2010/11. This is an increase from 2009/10 when they were awarded £10,500 as a Chorley Council Core Grant and £450 from Central Lancashire PCT.</p> <p>The applicant contributes towards making Chorley a thriving town centre, reducing pockets of inequality and improving access to public services.</p>	<p>This applicant be removed from the Core Grants application process, and funds be found from the mainstream budget to support this essential service.</p>
'Improving Life Chances for Young People At Risk', The Arts Partnership	<p>The Arts Partnership have requested £7,000 Core Grant funding, and £7,940 for the Aspects Project for 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were awarded £7,000 from Chorley Council Core Grants, and £7,744 from Chorley Partnership funding.</p> <p>This applicant contributes towards positive activities for children and young people, increasing volunteering opportunities, getting people involved in their communities and developing the character of the borough. The funding is to assist with the delivery of a range of scheme and opportunities around social factors, such as employment skills, training, lifestyles, alcohol harm, obesity etc.</p>	<p>A Core Grant of £7,000 be awarded for 2010/2011, and a grant of £7,940 be awarded for the Aspects Project for 2010/11.</p> <p>Total Grant to be awarded is £14,940.</p>
'Chorley Discrimination and Racism Assistance', Preston and Weston Lancashire Racial Equality Council (PWLEC).	<p>The PWLEC have requested £7,230 funding in 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were awarded £1,500 from Chorley Council Core Grants.</p> <p>This applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality and improved access to and take up of public services.</p>	<p>That no Core Grant be provided in 2010/11 as the application fails to meet the Funding Criteria.</p>
'Family Support', Homestart.	<p>Homestart have requested £20,000 funding in 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were awarded £5,125 from Chorley Council Core Grants, and £10,000 from Chorley Partnership</p>	<p>A Core Grant of £20,000 be awarded for 2010/2011.</p>

	<p>funding, and £700 from Central Lancashire PCT.</p> <p>The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality, getting people involved in their communities via volunteering and improving access to public services.</p>	
'Manage Your Money Better', CAB	<p>The CAB have requested £38,340 funding in 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were awarded £20,464 from Chorley Partnership funding.</p> <p>This applicant contributes towards most of the strategic objectives most notably reducing pockets of inequality.</p>	A Core Grant of £10,000 be awarded for 2010/2011.
'CABability', CAB	<p>The CAB have requested £32,000 funding in 2010/11. They did not receive any funding for this project in 2009/10.</p> <p>This applicant contributes towards most of the strategic objectives most notably reducing pockets of inequality.</p>	That Central Lancashire PCT will provide financial support for this service for 2010/11.
'Core Advice Services', CAB	<p>The CAB have requested £67,240, plus £18,200 to cover accommodation costs. In 2009/10, they were awarded £67,240, plus £18,200 to cover accommodation costs from Chorley Council Core Grants. This applicant contributes towards most of the strategic objectives most notably reducing pockets of inequality.</p>	A Core Grant of £75,000 be awarded for 2010/2011 (to include the accommodation costs).
Chorley and District Sports Forum	<p>The Chorley and District Sports Forum have requested £5,000 funding in 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were awarded £5,435 from Chorley Council Core Grants.</p> <p>This applicant contributes towards the delivery of positive activities for children and young people, reducing inequalities, involving people in their communities and improving health.</p>	A Core Grant of £5,000 be awarded for 2010/11.
'Chorley Pensioners Running Costs', 'Chorley Pensioners Association	<p>Chorley Pensioners have requested £350 funding in 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were</p>	A Core Grant of £350 be awarded for 2010/2011.

	<p>awarded £350 from Chorley Council Core Grants.</p> <p>This funding is requested for their general operating costs. The main areas of expenditure include room hire, speakers expenses, and attending regional and national conferences. The Association addresses isolation amongst older people, involving people in their communities and improving quality of opportunity and life chances.</p>	
Chorley and South Ribble Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)	<p>Chorley and South Ribble Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) have requested funding for 2010/2011 of £4,165 to cover their rent of the Farmhouse to the rear of Astley Hall. In 2009/10, they were awarded £4,165 from Chorley Council Core Grants.</p> <p>The applicant supports the local voluntary and community sector, who, in turn, contribute to all strategic objectives in the Sustainable Community Strategy.</p>	A Core Grant of £4,165 be awarded for 2010/2011.
'H Factor' Chorley and South Ribble Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)	<p>The CVS have requested £5,000 funding for 2010/2011 for the H Factor Project. This project has been funded via the Chorley Partnership in 2009/10 to an amount of £3,500.</p>	That Central Lancashire PCT will work with the CVS to arrange a health awareness event.
'Chorley Street Pastors', Ascension Trust.	<p>The Ascension Trust have requested £7,000 funding for 2010/11 for the Street Pastors Project. This project has been funded via the Chorley Partnership in 2009/10 to an amount of £5,000.</p>	A Core Grant of £7,000 be awarded for 2010/2011.
'Chorley Lifestyle Centre', Age Concern	<p>Age Concern have requested £7,600 funding for 2010/11 for the Chorley Lifestyle Centre. In 2009/10, the Chorley Partnership awarded the Lifestyle Centre £25,000 for refurbishment.</p>	A Core Grant of £7,600 be awarded for 2010/2011.
Groundwork Lancashire West and Wigan	<p>Groundwork have requested £27,000 funding in 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were awarded</p>	More information has been requested from Groundwork regarding the details of this

	£22,000 for Chorley Council Core Grants, and £5,000 from the Chorley Partnership.	project, therefore it is requested that Cllr Walker be given the delegated authority to make the decision on this application when this information has been received.
Chorley Women's Centre	Chorley Women's Centre have requested £6,050 for 2010/2011. In 2009/10, they were awarded £4,460 from Chorley Council Core Grants and £1,499 from Central Lancashire PCT. The applicant contributes towards increasing volunteering opportunities, getting people involved in their communities and reducing pockets of inequality.	A Core Grant of £4,550 be awarded for 2010/2011.
'Evening and Saturday Dial A Bus Service', Central Lancashire Dial A Ride	Dial A Ride have requested £2,080 funding for 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were awarded £2080 from Chorley Council Core Grants. The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality and getting people involved in their communities.	A Core Grant of £2080 be awarded for 2010/11 provided NowCards cannot be used on the service. To develop this further with LCC and Central Lancs Dial A Ride.
'Health and Well-being for BME Older People and Families', Saheliyaan Asian Women's Forum	Saheliyaan Asian Women's Forum have requested £2,500 funding for 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were awarded £2,700 from Central Lancashire PCT. The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality and health inequalities and getting people involved in their communities.	That Central Lancashire PCT will provide support for this service.
The Chorley Help Hub	Help the Homeless have requested £6,500 funding for 2010/11. In 2009/10, they were awarded £650 from Chorley Council Core Grants. The applicant contributes towards reducing pockets of inequality and getting people involved in their communities through volunteering.	More information has been requested from Help the Homeless regarding the details of this project, therefore it is requested that Cllr Walker be given the delegated authority to make the decision on this application when this information has been received.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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