

14 December 2007

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 2007

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the above meeting of the Council, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

6. **Executive Cabinet**

- c) Capital Programme 2007/08 - Monitoring Report (Pages 153 - 168)

Report enclosed

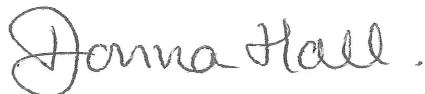
- e) General Report from Executive Cabinet meeting on 6 December 2007 (Pages 169 - 172)

Report enclosed

18. **Market Walk - Phase 2 Update** (Pages 173 - 180)

Confidential report enclosed

Yours sincerely



Donna Hall
Chief Executive

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Encs

Distribution

1. All Members of the Council and Chief Officers

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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 کیجئے: 01257 515823

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

CAPITAL PROGRAMME, 2007/08 - MONITORING

1. The Executive Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation) on the progress of the 2007/08 Capital Programme and recommending a revision of the Programme.
2. A copy of the report presented to the Executive Cabinet is attached so that Councillors have the opportunity of assessing the detailed report before making decisions on these recommendations. Appendices to the report include a scheme-by-scheme analysis of the Capital Programme and identify the proposed changes and slippage into 2008/09.
3. The report, in particular, draws attention to the projected increase in the overall budget for the Astley Park project which will, in turn, facilitate an additional grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund following a redesign of certain elements of the scheme.
4. We endorsed the suggested revision and increase of the current financial year's agreed capital budget from £8,798,310 to £10,175,240 and commend the report's recommendations for approval by the Council.

Recommendation

5. The Council is recommended:
 - (a) to accept an additional grant award of £373,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the cost of the Astley Park capital project and approve contributions of £106,000 towards the cost of the grant eligible expenditure and £17,000 for additional design fees not eligible for grant;
 - (b) to approve the revised capital programme for 2007/08 in the sum of £10,175,240, after taking account of the slippage of £1,176,650 expenditure to 2008/09.

COUNCILLOR A CULLENS
Executive Member for Resources

There are no background papers to this report

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation) (Introduced by the Executive Member for Resources, Councillor A Cullens)	Executive Cabinet	6 th December 2007

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2007/08

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Members on the progress of the 2007/08 Capital Programme, and to seek Member support and approval for a number of recommendations from the Strategy Group.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the Council accepts an additional grant award of £373,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the cost of the Astley Park capital project and contributes £106,000 towards the cost of the grant-eligible expenditure and £17,000 for additional design fees not eligible for grant.
3. That the revised capital programme for 2007/08 in the sum of £10,175,240 be approved and that slippage of £1,176,650 expenditure to 2008/09 onwards be noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

4. This report seeks approval to requested amendments and additions to the 2007/08 Capital Programme following a recent monitoring exercise and Strategy Group meeting. In particular, it is proposed that the overall budget of the Astley Park project is increased in order to ensure the successful completion of the scheme according to the timetable agreed with the Heritage Lottery Fund. Following a "value engineering" exercise and the redesign of certain aspects of the project, the HLF has offered additional grant funding, but match funding is also required from the Council. The delay to the building works phase of the project means that there is significant slippage of expenditure to next year, but the project is still expected to be completed on time.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

5. To ensure that the Capital Programme reflects and is capable of assisting the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

6. None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region	✓	Improved access to public services	✓
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance	✓	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	✓
Involving People in their Communities	✓	Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	✓

BACKGROUND

8. On 4th October 2007 Executive Cabinet approved the 2007/08 capital budget of £8,798,310. The programme is now forecast to be £10,175,240 and significant reasons for this increase are given below. A detailed analysis of the programme showing the changes, including slippage to next year, is shown at Appendix A.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

(A) Key Performance Indicators

9. High level monitoring of the capital programme is carried out through 3 performance indicators, which have been described in previous Executive Cabinet reports. Table 1 lists these and shows targets and current performance.

Performance Indicator	Target 2007/08	Performance Nov 2007
1. The % of the capital programme budget actually spent	90	23
2. The % of projects using the toolkit	70	76
3. The % of capital schemes intended to be completed during the year actually completed	85	29

Table 1 – Capital Programme 2007/08 – Key Performance Indicators

- 10. The percentage of the budget actually spent is lower than forecast for the time of year, however there are significant commitments in the financial system, which are likely to be met by the time of the next monitoring report.
- 11. The percentage of projects using the toolkit exceeds the target, is very encouraging and is likely to increase as the year progresses and more staff are trained in project management skills.
- 12. Although the percentage of capital schemes actually completed is quite low, this reflects the fact that many of the schemes e.g. disabled facilities grants payment cannot be shown as completed until year-end.

(B) Capital Monitoring 2007/08

13.

Executive Cabinet Date	Details	£	Note
4/10/07	Approved Capital Programme	8,798,310	
	<u>Less</u>		
	Slippage	(1,176,650)	A
	<u>Plus</u>		
	Other Changes	<u>2,553,580</u>	B
	Total	<u>10,175,240</u>	

Note A: Appendix A shows the full capital programme and identifies slippage to 2008/09 and other changes.

Note B: Appendix B is a scheme-by-scheme analysis of the other changes with brief explanations of the changes. The offer letter from the Heritage Lottery Fund is presented as Appendix C.

(C) Capital Receipts Monitoring 2007/08

14. There are limited large disposals expected during 2007/08. The former King Street premises have been sold and the sale of housing development land at Eaves Green is imminent. In respect of the latter, a third of the sum is required to pay the ransom value due to English Partnerships, and the balance will be paid to Lancashire County Council as a further contribution towards the cost of the Eaves Green Link Road.

Based on the level of sales to date, a sum of £1m has been included as the estimated share receivable by the Council from Chorley Community Housing in respect of Preserved Right To Buy sales of dwellings to our former tenants.

In addition, the Council has agreed to transfer land at Gillibrand Fields and Fairview Farm, Adlington to housing associations in return for nomination rights to properties to be built there, rather than cash, in order to promote affordable housing in the Borough.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment.	

16. The financial implications of the report are covered in the body of the report.

GARY HALL
 ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Barbara Charnock/Michael L. Jackson	5457/5490	16 Nov 07	CapitalProgrammeMonitoringReport Dec

Capital Programme Monitoring 2007/08

Scheme

Assistant Chief Executive (Policy & Performance)

- Project Management Support Capitalisation
- Website Refresh
- Contribution to Pitch Drainage Bishop Rawsthorne School
- External Funding Pot
- Charnock Richard FC
- Pump priming the Local Public Services Board

Assistant Chief Executive (Policy & Performance) Total

Director of Corporate Governance

- Pump Priming the Area Forum
- Legal Case Management System

Director of Corporate Governance Total

Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation and Improvement)

- Capitalised Restructuring Costs
- Planned Maintenance of Fixed Assets
- Town Hall Disabled Access and Refurbishment
- Gillibrand Link Road - land assembly

Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation and Improvement) Total

Director of Human Resources

- e-Enabling HR systems - Training
- HR Management System

Director of Human Resources Total

2007/08 Current Estimate £	Slippage to 2008/09 £	Other Changes £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
40,000			40,000		40,000
14,840			14,840		14,840
19,990			19,990	19,990	0
9,650			9,650		9,650
6,000			6,000		6,000
40,000			40,000	40,000	0
130,480	0	0	130,480	59,990	70,490
50,000			50,000	50,000	0
31,750	(31,750)		0		0
81,750	(31,750)	0	50,000	50,000	0
667,000			667,000		667,000
200,000			200,000		200,000
0		11,300	11,300		11,300
0		731,000	731,000		731,000
867,000	0	742,300	1,609,300	0	1,609,300
30,000			30,000		30,000
68,500			68,500		68,500
98,500	0	0	98,500	0	98,500

Capital Programme Monitoring 2007/08

Scheme

Director of ICT

Website Development (incl. ICT salary capitalisation)
Thin Client Pilot/Full Integration
Telephony
Data Storage Solution

Director of ICT Total

Corporate Director (Business)

Disabled Facilities Grants
Housing Renewal
- Home Repair Grants
- Energy Grants
- Handyperson Scheme
Refurbishment of Cotswold House Homeless Unit
Regeneration Projects - Design Fees
Chorley Strategic Regional Site
Town Centre Paving Project
eDevelopment and Building Control Project
Groundwork Projects
Adlington Rail Station Improvements (S106 funded)
Common Bank - Big Wood Reservoir
Provision of Affordable Housing
Regional Housing Pot Capital Grant funded schemes
Affordable Housing Halliwell Street Project 2007-2010
Homeless prevention Central Lancs Sanctuary Scheme Project
Affordable Housing HALS Project 07/09
EAGA Energy Efficiency
Affordable Housing Project (Site Assembly)
Delivering the Chorley Town Centre Strategy
Marketing Chorley
Eaves Green Link Road - contribution to LCC scheme

2007/08 Current Estimate £	Slippage to 2008/09 £	Other Changes £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
30,000			30,000		30,000
251,150			251,150		251,150
137,000			137,000		137,000
67,350			67,350		67,350
485,500	0	0	485,500	0	485,500
355,000			355,000	235,000	120,000
105,000			105,000		105,000
101,880			101,880		101,880
10,000			10,000		10,000
40,000			40,000	40,000	0
103,220			103,220		103,220
576,530			576,530		576,530
33,080			33,080	33,080	0
32,490			32,490		32,490
14,050		15,000	29,050		29,050
7,500			7,500	7,500	0
330,000			330,000	330,000	0
79,720		(61,060)	18,660		18,660
693,000		(597,780)	95,220	95,220	0
		79,000	79,000	79,000	0
		28,500	28,500	28,500	0
		460,000	460,000	460,000	0
		110,000	110,000	110,000	0
580,000			580,000	580,000	0
100,000			100,000	100,000	0
10,000			10,000	10,000	0
		1,214,150	1,214,150	266,750	947,400

Appendix A

Capital Programme Monitoring 2007/08

Scheme

Corporate Director (Business) Total

2007/08 Current Estimate £	Slippage to 2008/09 £	Other Changes £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
3,171,470	0	1,247,810	4,419,280	2,375,050	2,044,230

Capital Programme Monitoring 2007/08

Scheme

Corporate Director (People)

- Leisure Centres Capital Investment
- Duxbury Park Golf Course capital investment
- Astley Park Improvements - Construction
- Brinscall Swimming Pool Refurbishment
- Village Hall & Community Centres Projects
- Astley Hall/Park CCTV
- Cemetery Development

Corporate Director (People) Total

Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods)

- Extension to Chorley Cemetery (new burial area)
- Litter/Dog Waste/On-street recycling bins
- Replacement of recycling/litter bins & containers
- Enhanced Recycling/Kerbside Collection
- Adlington Play Development (S106 funded)
- Harpers Lane Recreation Ground Imps (S106 funded)
- Planting Schemes IT System
- Astley Park Woodland Management
- Chorley Cemetery Lodge Refurbishment
- Various traffic calming/local road safety schemes
- Highway improvements - Gillibrand estate/Southlands
- Intelligent Management Information
- Play/Recreation Facilities (S106 funded)
- Alleygates
- DEFRA Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant scheme
- Memorial Safety - Closed Churchyards
- Ulines Walton Play/Leisure Schemes (S106 funded)
- Corporate Play Development Plan
- Vacant Dwellings
- Building Safer Communities
- Coppull Playzone

2007/08 Current Estimate £	Slippage to 2008/09 £	Other Changes £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
716,250			716,250		716,250
465,240	(46,400)		418,840		418,840
1,644,690	(1,092,000)	496,130	1,048,820	817,940	230,880
190,000			190,000		190,000
120,000			120,000		120,000
24,000		10,000	34,000	24,000	10,000
13,000	(6,500)		6,500		6,500
3,173,180	(1,144,900)	506,130	2,534,410	841,940	1,692,470
830			830		830
16,390			16,390		16,390
50,000			50,000		50,000
158,000			158,000		158,000
25,000			25,000	25,000	0
30,000			30,000	30,000	0
350		(350)	0		0
56,000			56,000	56,000	0
13,000			13,000		13,000
18,000			18,000		18,000
90,000			90,000	90,000	0
78,960		350	79,310	50,000	29,310
37,880			37,880	37,880	0
40,000			40,000		40,000
44,970			44,970	44,970	0
		20,000	20,000		20,000
10,630			10,630	10,630	0
50,000			50,000		50,000
18,660		(18,660)	0		0
26,760			26,760	26,760	0
25,000			25,000	25,000	0

Capital Programme Monitoring 2007/08

Scheme

Lighting at Coronation Recreation Ground

Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods) Total

Capital Programme Total

2007/08 Current Estimate £	Slippage to 2008/09 £	Other Changes £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
0		56,000	56,000	56,000	0
790,430	0	57,340	847,770	452,240	395,530
8,798,310	(1,176,650)	2,553,580	10,175,240	3,779,220	6,396,020

Capital Programme Monitoring 2007/08

Scheme

Financing the Capital Programme

Prudential Borrowing
 Unrestricted Capital Receipts
 Housing Investment Programme Restricted Capital Receipts
 Capital Receipt earmarked for Strategic Regional Site
 Preserved RTB Capital Receipts from CCH
 Revenue Budget - Specific Revenue Reserves or Budgets

CBC Resources

Ext. Contributions - Developers
 Ext. Contributions - Lottery Bodies
 Ext. Contributions - Other
 Government Grants - Disabled Facilities Grants
 Government Grants - DEFRA
 Government Grants - Housing Capital Grant
 Government Grants - LPSA1
 Government Grants - LABGI
 Government Grants - Other

External Funding

Total capital resources

TOTAL CAPITAL FINANCING

2007/08 Current Estimate £	Slippage to 2008/09 £	Other Changes £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
3,319,290	(268,810)	(21,190)	3,029,290		3,029,290
471,520	(12,400)	860,880	1,320,000		1,320,000
358,540			358,540		358,540
576,530			576,530		576,530
0		1,000,000	1,000,000		1,000,000
111,660			111,660		111,660
4,837,540	(281,210)	1,839,690	6,396,020	0	6,396,020
1,068,800		266,750	1,335,550	1,335,550	0
1,322,240	(895,440)	445,140	871,940	871,940	0
330,000		2,000	332,000	332,000	0
180,000			180,000	180,000	0
44,970			44,970	44,970	0
788,000			788,000	788,000	0
50,000			50,000	50,000	0
150,000			150,000	150,000	0
26,760			26,760	26,760	0
3,960,770	(895,440)	713,890	3,779,220	3,779,220	0
8,798,310	(1,176,650)	2,553,580	10,175,240	3,779,220	6,396,020
8,798,310	(1,176,650)	2,553,580	10,175,240	3,779,220	6,396,020

Capital Programme Monitoring 2007/08**Scheme****Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation and Improvement)**

Town Hall Disabled Access and Refurbishment

Gillibrand Link Road - land assembly

Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation and Improvement) Total**Corporate Director (Business)**

Groundwork Projects

Provision of Affordable Housing

Regional Housing Pot Capital Grant funded schemes

Affordable Housing Halliwell Street Project 2007-2010

Homeless prevention Central Lancs Sanctuary Scheme Project

Affordable Housing HALS Project 07/09

EAGA Energy Efficiency

Eaves Green Link Road - contribution to LCC scheme

Corporate Director (Business) Total**Corporate Director (People)**

Astley Park Improvements - Construction

Astley Hall/Park CCTV

Corporate Director (People) Total

Other Changes £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £	Comments
11,300		11,300	Final consultancy costs re main refurbishment contract
731,000		731,000	Increased cost of compensation and associated costs
742,300	0	742,300	
15,000		15,000	Levering additional resources from other parties for small environmental projects
(61,060)	(79,720)	18,660	Transferred from Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods)
(597,780)	(597,780)	0	Reallocation of resource to specific projects
79,000	79,000	0	Use of existing resource
28,500	28,500	0	Use of existing resource
460,000	460,000	0	Use of existing resource
110,000	110,000	0	Use of existing resource
1,214,150	266,750	947,400	Additional contribution to LCC's costs and payment of ransom value re development land, financed from S106 and earmarked capital receipt
1,247,810	266,750	981,060	
496,130	391,140	104,990	Revision to project cost agreed with Heritage Lottery Fund who provide 82% grant-funding, plus £17,000 additional design costs not eligible for grant
10,000		10,000	Increase required to complete existing project
506,130	391,140	114,990	

Capital Programme Monitoring 2007/08

Scheme

Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods)

Planting Schemes IT System
 Intelligent Management Information
 Memorial Safety - Closed Churchyards
 Vacant Dwellings
 Lighting at Coronation Recreation Ground

Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods) Total**Capital Programme Total**Financing the Capital Programme

Prudential Borrowing

Unrestricted Capital Receipts

Preserved RTB Capital Receipts from CCH

CBC Resources

Ext. Contributions - Developers
 Ext. Contributions - Lottery Bodies
 Ext. Contributions - Other

External Funding**TOTAL CAPITAL FINANCING**

Other Changes £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £	Comments
(350)		(350)	Transferred to Intelligent Management Information
350		350	Balance of Planting Schemes budget
20,000		20,000	Urgent work St John's Whittle le Woods
(18,660)		(18,660)	Transferred to Corporate Director (Business)
56,000	56,000	0	Big Lottery Fund scheme
57,340	56,000	1,340	
2,553,580	713,890	1,839,690	
(21,190)		(21,190)	Replaced by use of capital receipts
860,880		860,880	Receipt earmarked for Eaves Green Link Road project
1,000,000		1,000,000	Estimated receipts due from CCH
1,839,690	0	1,839,690	
266,750	266,750	0	S106 re Eaves Green Link Road
445,140	445,140	0	Increase re Astley Park and Coronation RG
2,000	2,000	0	Contribution to Coronation RG project
713,890	713,890	0	
2,553,580	713,890	1,839,690	



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2 October 2007

PK-01-00970/2

Suzanne Cox
Chorley Borough Council
Civic Offices
Union Street
Chorley
Lancashire
PR3 2NQ

Astley Park – Grant Increase

Please find attached a side letter confirming the award of a further £373,000 towards the continuing restoration of Astley Park and buildings within it including the Coach House and Pavilion. The letter also confirms that Trustees agreed to the change to the approved purposes allowing the removal from the scheme of the lighting to Chorley Approach.

The increase allows for a number of relatively minor across the board increases as well as for a number of more substantial increases including:

- work to the Coach House taking into account the increase in tender price and the recommended higher specification for some items as set out in your Request for Grant Increase
- toilets provided in the farmhouse
- partial re-roofing of the Coach House
- basic refurbishment of the pavilion to provide toilets and changing room facilities
- new benches and bins
- a new wall to be built between the boiler house and Astley Hall to ensure the security of the Hall after hours
- additional contingency
- additional fees

The costs set out below are a guideline and there is room for movement between cost headings if necessary. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Julia Doughan
 Grants Officer, North West Team
 Direct line: 0161 831 0859
juliad@hlf.org.uk

Detailed breakdown of cost increases after value engineering

walled garden/nursery garden including new wall	£114,291
coach house including courtyard roof	£181,429
benches/bins	£69,796
demolition	£20,900
play area, pets corner, adventure play	£43,839
pavilion	£104,517
Chorley Approach	£32,979
Ackhurst Approach	£5,800
lighting	£7,727
external works	£50
woodland clearance	£24,175
subtotal	£605,503
value engineering cost savings	£186,754
total	£418,749
contingency	£78,147
fees	£51,233
subtotal	£129,380
total increase in costs	£548,129
minus cost of lighting	£69,000
minus Chorley BC partnership funding @ 22%	£106,000
HLF grant increase request @ 78%	£373,129

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

GENERAL REPORT FROM 6 DECEMBER 2007 MEETING

1. This report summarises briefly the principal items considered at the 6 December 2007 meeting of the Executive Cabinet. A report on the main issues debated at the 15 November 2007 meeting, together with separate reports that require specific Council decisions, appears elsewhere on the Council's agenda.

Introduction of Neighbourhood Working in Chorley

2. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor D Edgerley) presented the Committee's recommendations on the findings of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel following its inquiry into methods of neighbourhood working. The Committee had recommended:
 - the creation of 8 Neighbourhood Areas based on the Neighbourhood Policing Areas;
 - consideration be given to Parishing the non-parished areas of Chorley;
 - consideration be given to the future of Target Area Partnerships due to expire in March 2008.
3. A Sub-Group of the Executive has been set up to consider the Committee's recommendations in the wider context of neighbourhood working and we have, therefore, deferred further consideration of the report to await the Sub-Group's findings, expected to be ready for submission to the 14 February 2008 meeting of the Executive Cabinet. This will allow all factors relating to capacity, costings and likely effectiveness of proposals to be assessed.

Joint District and Lancashire County Council Locality Plan for Chorley

4. The Executive Cabinet approved and adopted a Joint Locality Plan for Chorley which has been produced by the Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council. Delegated authority has been granted to the Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Performance to agree any textual alterations or amendments recommended by Lancashire County Council's Cabinet or the Lancashire Locals Committee for Chorley.
5. The Plan has emerged from the enhanced two-tier working arrangements between the County Council and Lancashire District Authorities. Its aim is to identify and clarify the main objectives and projects linked to the corporate priorities of the County Council and Chorley Council to be pursued over the next 12 months by both Authorities either separately or jointly. While it was accepted that the Locality Plan could be made to be slightly more specific in its identification of projects, the Executive Member emphasised that the Plan represents only an indicative illustration of the separate and joint functions of the two Authorities which can be used as the broad framework through which to monitor the achievement of the identified objectives.

Chorley Partnership – Progress Update

6. We received the quarterly progress report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance) on the continuing improvement and effectiveness of the Chorley Partnership.
7. The LSP has been instrumental in the compilation and adoption of the Sustainable Community Strategy for Chorley and is currently considering its response to the consultation on the 40 indicators appropriate for Chorley that the LSP could recommend for inclusion in the revised Local Area Agreement for Lancashire.

8. The Improvement and Development Agency has recently conducted a Peer Review of the Chorley LSP. Its draft findings are, for the most part, extremely positive and complimentary in its recognition of the LSP's progress and innovative working on a number of projects. An LSP Improvement Plan will be prepared to address the areas identified for further development.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant – Consultation on Allocation Mechanism

9. The Executive Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director (Business) on plans to alter the allocation mechanism for the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant.
10. The consultation paper recommends that future grants be allocated on the basis of the following two elements:

- (a) The Plan Making Element

This will require Councils to identify and ensure the delivery of both a 5 and 15 year supply of housing land and to deliver sound Development Plan Documents. This Council is already able to identify a 5 year supply of potential housing sites and work is continuing to identify the 15 year supply. We are also likely to benefit from the proposal to award authorities for joint working on Development Plan Documents and Strategic Housing Market Assessments.

- (b) The Housing Element

This element aims to reward authorities that construct additional housing at a level equivalent to at least 0.75% of the existing housing stock. In Chorley, this will require more than 336 houses to be built each year to secure the grant, but this is, in fact, fewer than the housing target set out in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy Panel report.

11. We approved the Corporate Director's suggested response to the Government's consultation document.

Growth Point Designation – Expression of Interest Bid

12. The Executive Cabinet endorsed the submission of an Expression of Interest Bid for Growth Point designation of the Central Lancashire (Chorley, Preston and South Ribble) and Blackpool areas.
13. Councils in the North of England have been invited by the Government to apply to become Growth Points and, on the advice of the Government Office for the North West, Consultants were appointed to prepare an Expression of Interest Bid for the designation of the Central Lancashire and Blackpool areas, with costs being shared equally by the respective Authorities.
14. Growth Point designation will relax the stipulations in the Regional Spatial Strategy that restrict housing growth in order to allow the acceleration of house building across Central Lancashire and Blackpool over the next 9 years. The designation will also provide additional funding for the provision of infrastructure and increased opportunities for the delivery of up to 4,000 affordable homes.
15. The bid represents only an expression of interest in the Growth Point designation at this stage and does not commit any of the Authorities to a specific degree of growth or development, which will, in turn, be determined by the Local Development Framework process.

Draft Capital Programme, 2008/09 – 2010/11 and Draft General Fund Revenue Budget for 2008/09

16. The Executive Cabinet approved, for consultation purposes, the draft Capital Programme for the three year period from 2008/09 to 2010/11, together with the draft General Fund revenue budget proposals for 2008/09.
17. The draft Capital Programme focuses primarily on projects aimed at supporting the key priorities of the Corporate Strategy to secure the provision of affordable housing units in the Borough and the regeneration of the town centre, but will also allow development in other important areas. The programme has also been drafted with the aim of containing the overall borrowing requirements and maximising Government grant assistance.
18. The draft General Fund revenue budget has been compiled to take account of the need to bridge a projected budget deficit of £640,000 and to maintain a sufficiently high level of working balances. The savings proposed, additional income to be generated and a prospective 3% increase in Chorley's proportion of Council Tax is expected not only to achieve a balanced budget, but also an opportunity to invest up to £265,000 in projects linked to the Council's key priorities.
19. Representations received during the consultation period will be answered before the final Programme and revenue budget are determined.

Medium Term Financial Strategy, 2008/09 – 2010/11

20. The Executive Cabinet has approved and adopted the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2008/09 to 2010/11. The Strategy sets out in financial terms the expected resources required to finance the Council's policy commitments and identifies the likely sources and methods of funding the General Fund and Capital Programme over the three year period.
21. The Strategy contains a series of assumptions and forecasts on the various levels of Council Tax, Government grant aid and borrowing required to sustain the Capital Programme and revenue budget, each of which will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

People Directorate – Management Restructure

22. We agreed proposals submitted by the Corporate Director (People) to alter the management structure of his Directorate for the purpose of consultation with affected staff and trade unions.
23. The proposed new structure has been compiled to take account of the functions that were transferred to the Directorate following the recent Business Process Architecture restructure and to create greater capacity to develop partnership working in the areas of health, children and young people, and older people.

Financial Shared Services

24. The Executive Cabinet gave authority to progress the projected partnership venture with South Ribble Borough Council for the delivery of shared financial services on the basis of the key principles and terms outlined in a report submitted by the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation).
25. This follows the conclusions of the feasibility study commissioned by the two Authorities and the North West Centre of Excellence that there is potential to develop a shared service solution to a number of financial issues facing both Councils. The negotiations on the innovative project will, therefore, be pursued on the following key broad principles, on the understanding and acceptance that a number of issues (particularly in relation to property

and asset management) will need further examination before final agreement can be reached:

- the creation of a Joint Committee structure to oversee the implementation and management of the venture;
- the hosting of identified elements of the financial services by individual Councils;
- the creation of two joint senior posts to manage the Financial and Assurance functions;
- the development of a cost sharing agreement that would share the main costs of the project equally between the two Councils.

26. We envisage that this partnership project will ultimately deliver efficiency savings, although additional costs may be incurred during the initial implementation stages.

Recommendation

27. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR P GOLDSWORTHY
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report

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