

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 22ND MARCH 2018, 6.30 PM

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, TOWN HALL, CHORLEY

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the above meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No	Item	
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B	MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2018 OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL	(Pages 55 - 58)
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8	FLOODING POSITION STATEMENT	(Pages 59 - 64)
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To consider the report of the Director (Customer and Digital).

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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**MINUTES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL****MEETING DATE Thursday, 8 March 2018****MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor John Walker (Chair), Councillor Roy Lees (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Matthew Lynch, Greg Morgan and Alistair Morwood**OFFICERS:** Mark Lester (Director (Business, Development and Growth)), Catherine (Performance and Partnerships Manager), Kate Howcroft (Policy Officer) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic and Member Services Team Leader)**APOLOGIES:** Councillor June Molyneaux**OTHER MEMBERS:** Councillor Alistair Bradley**18.OSP.47 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 30 November 2017 of Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel**

Decision: That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 30 November 2017 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

18.OSP.48 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no declarations of interest received.

18.OSP.49 Performance focus - Business, Development and Growth

The Performance Panel received a report from Mark Lester, Director (Business, Development and Growth), which outlined performance at quarter three 2017/18.

The services within the Directorate are

- Land and Property Services
- Development and Regeneration
- Market Walk, Markets and Town Centre
- Employment, Skills and Business Support

The Panel noted some of the corporate projects are being delivered by the Directorate, including the delivery of Primrose Gardens, the Market Walk extension and the Digital Office Park, amongst Directorate other projects.

Two of the Corporate Strategy indicators are performing off target at quarter three – the number of jobs created by council interventions and the number of jobs created through inward investment. The number of empty shops has reduced, resulting in lack of grant applications for the councils grant schemes and less than anticipated number of jobs created. Discussions are ongoing to change the nature of this indicator for next year.

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader, explained that there is an under supply of commercial premises in Chorley and that the new focus is on bringing forward major sites. Work has started on site at Strawberry Fields, master planning is underway for Cowling and will start shortly on Shady Lane. A road is now being constructed adjacent to the Digital Office Park which will accelerate the progress on the Alker Lane site.

The Primrose Gardens project is one week behind schedule - this is due to the recent inclement weather and there are no cost implications to this.

The Steeley Lane Gateway project has an amber rating as other projects have an impact on the timescales for delivery, including the Youth Zone.

The Market Walk extension project has a red rating. However, this project was considered at Full Council in January 2018 and the decision was taken to progress the option to commission a partial redesign of the layout to increase flexibility in lettings and then to continue the build at the earliest opportunity. There are still scenarios where the extension will not go ahead, but the administration believes that the extension is right for the future of the town centre.

Councillor Bradley explained that the project is a complex one, and to assist with this some of the interdependencies and risks have been re-evaluated. As part of this a parking solution to deliver more spaces in the short term is being implemented on Friday Street car park. In addition, there is now flexibility in terms of unit sizes. He noted there are always lessons to learn when undertaken projects of this nature.

Progress is being made on the demolition of Oak House in terms of stripping the building and a planning application is in progress to approve the change of use of the site. The number of car parking spaces on the Flat Iron will also be maximised.

Members noted that discussions are ongoing with the United Reform Church, but at this stage, the outcome of the discussions is not known.

A restructure is underway within the Directorate, with a proposal having been considered at the Executive Cabinet in December 2017. There is a target date of 1 April for the new structure to be in place.

A new Economic Development Strategy is being commissioned by South Ribble on behalf of Central Lancashire authorities to build the evidence base. The Chorley section of the Strategy will be drafted by Chorley Council, but there are strong reasons to share the evidence base with Central Lancashire authorities, including the City deal and existing work relating to the Local Plan. A grant has been received towards this work on the strength of the Strategy being delivered together.

Members discussed the performance indicators and noted that these are reviewed each year, in fact, the local indicators are currently under review. New indicators will reflect the new corporate priorities. It was suggested that indicators be grouped into, those that the council can have an impact on and indicators which are collected for information, but the council cannot influence.

Members noted that the Westway Integrated sports facility is closed in its current format due to complex interdependencies within the project and conditions linked to planning, funding and partnership arrangements the project has been closed. However, the Football Foundation has assisted the Council to re-scope the project and delivery of the facility will now be re-scoped and will be a project next year.

The Chair thanked Mark Lester and Councillor Bradley for their attendance.

Decision - That the report be noted.

Councillor Matthew Lynch left the meeting at 7.15pm.

18.OSP.50 Chorley Council Performance Monitoring Report - Quarter Three 2017/18

The Performance Panel considered a monitoring report from the Director (Policy and Governance) which was presented at the Executive Cabinet on 15 February.

Cath Hudspith, Performance and Partnerships Manager advised that the report set out performance against the Corporate Strategy and key service delivery measures for the third quarter of 2017/18, 1 October – 31 December 2017.

Overall, performance of key projects is good, with eleven (78%) of the projects rated as green, complete or closed. Two (14%) projects are currently rated amber and one (8%) is currently rated red; actions plans for each of these projects are contained within the report.

Performance of the Corporate Strategy indicators and key service delivery measures is also good. 83% of Corporate Strategy measures are performing on or above target or within the 5% threshold and 80% of key service delivery measures are performing on or above target or within the 5% threshold. Those indicators performing below target have action plans outlined with measures to improve performance.

Members queried whether the Council contracts with Eric Wright Group required that a percentage of local people are employed to deliver the contract. Cath Hudspith undertook to find out the details of this and report back to Members.

In response to a query, it was noted that there have been performance issues with Veolia and the missed collection indicator. Veolia are being monitored, although Members noted that residents sometimes presented the wrong bin.

Members highlighted the indicator relating to sickness absence, but noted that performance was during the October to December period when sickness absence tends to be higher.

Cath Hudspith queried if Members had any feedback on the format of the report, Members advised the information is useful.

Decision - That the report be noted.

Chair

Date



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Customer and Digital)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	22 March 2018

FLOOD POSITION STATEMENT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform Members of the he current position of the Chorley Council Flood Relief Scheme, including volumes of applications and amounts of monies pending and already paid out.
2. To give an overview of wider flooding issues in the borough and the action taken to address these.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

3. That the position statement for the Flood Relief Scheme is noted.
4. That the action being taken to address wider flooding issues in the borough is noted.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	✓	A strong local economy	✓
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

BACKGROUND

6. A total of 426 properties in the borough were confirmed as flooded as a result of Storm Eva on 26 December 2015.
7. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, (MHCLG (previously the DCLG)) guidance was issued as to the types of financial help that would be made available to those affected and the qualifying criteria that would apply.
8. These measures included direct financial help and relief from council tax and business rates payments.
9. Lancashire County Council, as the accountable body, also issued guidance based on that received from the DCLG.
10. The council was required to devise its own Flood Relief Scheme based upon this guidance and criteria.

CHORLEY COUNCIL FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

11. Chorley Council's scheme was made up of a number of different elements based upon the guidance. The council tax discount and the business rates relief elements of the scheme

were matters for the district councils to determine but the recommendation was that all districts take a similar approach.

12. The table at Appendix 1 is a summary of the financial support that was made available by Chorley.
13. There was also a local discretionary relief fund, The Lancashire Flood Appeal. This was administered by the Community Foundation for Lancashire and raised money for those affected by the flooding. A total of 22 grants were made in the Chorley area, totalling £70,250.
14. The table below summarises the numbers of properties affected and the numbers of grants and discounts awarded:

	Number of Properties Awarded	Amount Awarded	Amount Received	Amount Outstanding	
Domestic properties confirmed as flooded	386	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Community grants of £500 paid	386	£193,000	£193,000	n/a	Final claim to be made to LCC in early September
Businesses confirmed flooded	32	n/a	n/a	n/a	Includes charitable organisations, church buildings and nursing homes
Business grants of £2,500 paid	22	£75,083	n/a	n/a	Delivered by BOOST Business Lancashire
Council tax flood discount	431	£195,672	£125,433	£70,239	Includes parallel properties
Business rates relief	10	£17,528	£16,198	£1,330	Relief only awarded as a 'top-up'

PROPERTY LEVEL RESILIENCE GRANTS

15. The purpose of this funding was to help homeowners and businesses fund measures that would make their properties more resilient to future flooding. A grant of up to £5,000 was available to each eligible property.
16. A MHCLG portal is completed each month to inform them of the latest position. Interim claims are then made to LCC for reimbursement of the monies paid out.

CLOSURE DATE FOR THE PLRG

17. The council closed its scheme to new applications on 30 November 2017. There are currently 28 outstanding applications. There have been some lengthy delays in work being completed due to the fact that many flood doors and barriers are bespoke and as such have a long lead time for manufacture.
18. Recent information has indicated that the MHCLG are intending to close the scheme on 31 March 2018 with final payments for reimbursement to the council being made in June 2018. We are seeking confirmation that any grants paid out after this time will still be reimbursed.
19. The table below summarises the number of grant applications made and paid out:

Number of applications received	Number of grants approved	Amount of grant funding approved	Number of grants paid out	Amount of grant funding paid out	Amount reimbursed
216 (Borough wide)	211	£933,654	182	£809,900	£617,823
170 (Croston	170	£819,126	0	0	0

unclaimed)					
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20. These totals include unclaimed grants for properties in Croston where a grant application has not been made by the owner despite a number of reminders being issued. The council made a significant financial contribution of £1M to the Croston Flood Risk Management Scheme which is vital in reducing the risk of flooding to the community.
21. The council is endeavouring to secure grant funding which the government has already earmarked for the protection of the community of Croston and has been in correspondence with ministers over a number of months regarding this.
22. The Government's response has been that the funding was made available for flood resilience measures at a property level and may not be put towards a capital scheme.
23. The council has the support of Lindsay Hoyle MP and Seema Kennedy MP and continues to petition the government.

WORK ON WIDER FLOODING ISSUES

24. Since the extensive flooding in December, there has been work taking place in a number of specific areas where flooding is a known issue. The main areas are as follows:
 - a. The Common, Adlington where the council has worked with United Utilities and LCC on an ongoing investigation into the causes and some remedial actions have been completed. This is currently with LCC Flood Risk Management Team to investigate the local drainage network and capacity issues.
 - b. Town Lane and Waterhouse Green, Whittle-le-Woods where the council completed some remedial actions and met with a community group about local resilience measures that the council can support. The council has installed a community sandbag store including equipment to enable residents to minimise the impact of localised flooding. A local resident's flood action group has been formed and it is understood they now have a flood action plan in place.
 - c. Hurst Brook, Coppull where a site inspection took place to make an assessment. The planning enforcement team have not identified any planning breaches as a result of development in the area. Residents have taken advantage of the property level resilience grant scheme.
 - d. Clematis Close Euxton where the council met with residents and has worked with LCC to provide a short to medium term solution. LCC have installed a new enhanced trash screen that is easier to clear debris from and residents have also benefited from works to prevent bank erosion and a new flood barrier scheme along the banking of Euxton Brook.
 - e. Weldbank Lane, Chorley where a site visit with United Utilities and LCC has taken place. LCC have taken this forward to deal with.

MAKING SPACE FOR WATER

25. This is a multi-agency group that features representatives of Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council, United Utilities and the Environment Agency. The group meets quarterly to discuss drainage and flooding problems and determine what actions can be taken. The LCC Flood Risk Management team chairs the meeting and maintains a list of flooding 'hotspots'. These will include localised issues where they have an impact upon the highway network.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SECTION 19 INVESTIGATION

26. As the lead flood authority, LCC has a role in co-ordinating flood risk activities and collaborative works and ensuring information is communicated.
27. Owing to the severity of the December 2015 floods, LCC has completed a Section 19 investigation to ensure that their legal obligations are met and that affected communities are identified and appropriate prioritised actions are put in place. Croston remains a designated high flood risk area.

28. District level reports have been published by LCC which will be updated quarterly. These provide communities with information about what the relevant authorities are doing in their areas and also information about what residents and businesses can do to protect their own premises in future.
29. There are also recommended County-wide, District-wide and Community actions in the reports. As the report is a living document, the actions in the report are updated as they are completed. The Making Space for Water group is a forum for discussion of actions.
30. The emphasis is on a collaborative approach and all risk management authorities working together. The actions are focussed on investigation and managing flood risk. A preliminary review was carried out for all areas flooded in December 2015 and some examples of specific actions are as follows:

Adlington	Site inspection at Crawford Avenue followed by pipe replacement and high pressure jetting
	Gullies cleared on Market Street
Bretherton	Gullies cleared and root cutting carried out at Pompian Brow
	Funding secured for improved highways drainage on South Road
Coppull	Gullies cleaned at Coppull Moor Lane
	Trash screen installed and gullies cleaned at Chapel Lane
Eccleston	Environment Agency to conduct an initial assessment of flood reduction measures
Whittle le Woods	Gullies cleaned in Carr Brook area. Chorley Council working with the Environment Agency and householders to find a community flood wall solution

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

31. Following a letter to parish councils asking if the council could support them with managing flood risks and assisting with a local response, expressions of interest were received from Eccleston and Whittle-le-Woods Parish Councils and Adlington Town Council.
32. We have liaised with these councils and community flood groups, and have set up community sandbag and equipment storage for local communities to readily access when flooding occurs in at-risk areas.
33. We have liaised with relevant parish councils and residents and set up community sandbag storage at Drapers Avenue Eccleston, Lodge Bank Brinscall and Town Lane Whittle-le-Woods.

Croston Flood Risk Management Scheme

34. The Croston Flood Risk Management Scheme which is now complete. This scheme decreases the river level through Croston during a flood event by restricting the amount of water flowing through the new structure and embankment, holding back the water in a flood storage basin upstream. The defences were put into operation for the first time over the weekend of 21 and 22 October 2017, successfully protecting the residents and the community.
35. It is expected the likelihood and severity of flooding will be significantly reduced. There may still be some issues with surface water flooding which will be duly considered and investigated once we have a heavy rainfall event.

Chorley Council Flood Plan

36. The plan sets out the actions to be taken by the council following notification of a flooding incident or possible flooding or severe weather event in the Borough. It includes site specific information for Croston.

37. A revision of the council's flood plan is currently underway and is due to be completed by the end of the month. Members may wish for the new, updated plan to be presented to a meeting at a later date.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	✓	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

39. The MHCLG has previously stated that there will be a reconciliation exercise based on outturn figures to ensure that authorities receive no more and no less than their actual costs. The table below shows a summary of the total grants awarded by the Council and the grants received to date.

	Grant Awarded £	Grant Received £	Grant Due £
Community Grants	193,000	193,000	-
Council Tax Discount	195,672	125,433	70,239
Business Rates Relief	17,528	16,198	1,330
PLRG	809,900	617,823	192,077
TOTAL	1,216,100	952,454	263,646

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

40. There are no comments

ASIM KHAN
DIRECTOR (CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Helen Sutton	515449	March 18	Flood position statement

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