

15 July 2011

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 19TH JULY 2011

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

8. **Local Development Framework: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document - Preferred Option Stage (Pages 137 - 140)**
Report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy (enclosed).
13. **Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Task and Finish Groups (Pages 141 - 144)**
General report of the meeting held on 11 July 2011 (enclosed).
17. **To consider the following Notice of Motions given in accordance with Council procedure Rule 10**

Councillor Dennis Edgerley has submitted the following motion:

3. “This Council resolves to withdraw support from that part of the Botany/Great Knowley employment site to the east of the Leeds Liverpool canal, as a site of sub regional importance. It further resolves to inform the inspector considering the Central Lancashire Core Strategy of this decision immediately”

Councillor Peter Wilson has submitted the following motion:

4. “This Council supports the Police Federation and local residents in their opposition to the severe cuts being made to the police budget by the coalition government. The Council condemns the government for imposing such measures which will see a reduction in the number of officers, a reduction in the number of police staff, a reduction in the number of police stations, and a reduction in the number of police vehicles across Lancashire and seriously undermine crime prevention strategies currently in place. Therefore in order to help build on the good work done by the police, Council and other agencies in the area of crime reduction the Council urges the government to withdraw from imposing cuts of 20% on our police force and ensure that community safety remains a top priority.”

Yours sincerely

Donna Hall

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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

01257 515823 کیجئے:

ITEM 8 – SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

LDF: SITE ALLOCATIONS & DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES DPD – PREFERRED OPTIONS STAGE

1. On 11 July 2011, the inspector for the examination of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy made an announcement on proposed housing policy. The announcement (attached) expresses concerns about the soundness of the strategy on housing matters, and in particular as to whether the strategy conforms to Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) with regard to housing delivery.
2. The inspector notes that the matter could be addressed through recommendations on his part, whereby the Core Strategy should follow the annual housing completions of RSS throughout the plan period, and for those figures to be regarded as a minimum. The inspector intends to formally provide a form of policy wording for the consideration by the three Councils. At the time of preparing this note, it has not been received, but is expected shortly. As a significant change in approach, this matter would need to be addressed by the Full Council, and will be in due course.
3. Officers hold the view that the inspector has taken this approach in the light of a recent judgment at the court of Appeal in relation to Cala Homes, the effect of which is that it is considered unlawful to allow the intended revocation of RSS to be treated as a material consideration in plan making.
4. The approach to site allocation has been informed by the Core Strategy position on the housing requirement, and the LDF Site Allocations & Development Management DPD must be in conformity with the Core Strategy. Attention will be drawn to the inspector’s position in the preferred option version of the DPD and the views of consultees sought during the consultation.
5. Table 1 below shows the housing position based on policy 4 of the Core Strategy, and RSS. Using the RSS figures has the effect of cancelling the 20% reduction proposed for 2010-2012, a difference of 166 units (i.e. 417-334 = 83 x 2 years = 166). The proposed allocations would result in a surplus of 169 units against the core strategy, and +3 units against the RSS figures.

TABLE 1	Core Strategy (417 pa, less reduction of 20% for 2 years 2010-2012)	RSS (417 pa)
Requirement 2003-2026	9,425	9,591
Net completions 2003-2011	3,284	3,284
Residual Requirement	6,141	6,307
Commitments & Proposed Allocations	6,310	6,310
Surplus/ Deficit	+ 169	+ 3

6. It remains factually the case that RSS was prepared prior to the economic downturn, and that it was based on an optimistic assumptions about future economic growth. National Government remains committed to the delivery of the Localism Bill, and the intention to revoke RSS remains a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. This administration still aspires to lower housing targets, and the work to inform this is being commissioned. It is considered that an early review of the core strategy's housing targets (whatever they may be as a result of the inspector's position) can be progressed.
7. In the light of :
 - a) the risks and issues identified in the main report;
 - b) the fact that the proposed allocations are sufficient to meet the proposed RSS target albeit with a small surplus;
 - c) the fact that the formal views of the three Councils are not yet known on the matter of the inspector's position on the Core Strategy; and
 - d) that the preferred option consultation process will allow for the views of interested parties on this matter to be sought;

it is considered appropriate to progress with the proposed allocations.

ANNOUNCEMENT

During the last few days, and following the evidence put to me during the 7 Hearings which have taken place, I have been giving a great deal of consideration to certain housing matters contained in the Core Strategy. In essence, I have very grave doubts that the Core Strategy in its present form is sound in its housing policies. You will recall that in the note of 28 April 2011, the Programme Officer stated that the Inspector would need to be satisfied that a sufficient amount of housing could be delivered at the right time and in the right places during the plan period. I have to say that having considered the evidence from all the participants I am not convinced that this has been achieved. I am not convinced that, in matters of housing, the Core Strategy generally conforms with the RSS, and I am not persuaded that matters should be put right in the Site Allocations DPD. In my view, the Core Strategy should provide a suitable framework for the preparation of the next generation of plans, particularly the Allocations DPD, by leaving no doubt where, when and how the correct amount of housing will be delivered.

I consider that the matter can be put right, and in a timely fashion. But it implies some fairly radical draft recommendations on my part. Although I have obviously not had the time since the previous hearings to put these intended recommendations in a precise form of words, I would expect them to be along the lines of the Core Strategy having to adopt the annual housing completions indicated in the RSS throughout the plan period and set out on page 69 of the Core Strategy. I would also expect to recommend that this figure be regarded as a minimum requirement, mainly because of such considerations as the Government's agenda for growth and the relationship between housing and the economy. I would give the Council and the participants an opportunity to comment on draft recommendations on this matter, either by way of written representations or with another hearing.

I see no need to discuss this today, for two reasons:

- a) It would mean going over evidence already provided, all of which I have taken into account in coming to these conclusions;
- b) I shall be writing to the Councils setting out draft recommendations for the Core Strategy's housing policies, and suggesting a way forward. The important point to remember is that the Examination remains open until the Councils receive my Report.

Richard E Hollox
Inspector
12 July 2011

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REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

1. This report summarises the business transacted at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 July 2011.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11 JULY 2011

Executive Cabinet – 31 March 2011 and 23 June 2011

2. Members considered the minutes of the last two Executive Cabinet meetings and discussions took place in relation to the following items:

Council's Community Engagement Strategy

- Information on how the Council's new Citizen's Jury would operate

Business Plan Monitoring Statements

3. The Committee received Directorate Business Plan Monitoring Statements covering the second half of 2010/11. Each of the reports also included an update on the directorate business improvement plans for 2011/12, linked to the Corporate Strategy.
4. In each case, reports highlighted key achievements and actions in directorates, including those projects which were not on schedule, along with performance and revenue budget information.

Partnership, Planning and Partnerships

5. Key achievements for the directorate included:
 - The LDF Core Strategy had been agreed by the three Central Lancashire Councils and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the deadline of 31 March 2011.
 - In continuing to push forward the affordable housing action plan, 173 affordable houses had been delivered, exceeding the target of 50.
6. All except one of the key actions in the Business Improvement Plan had been delivered on schedule and an explanation was given as to why the action to deliver Landlord Accreditation with South Ribble Borough Council was currently off track.

People and Places

7. There was a number of notable achievements for the directorate that included:
 - A significant senior management restructure within the directorate that had resulted in £150,000 worth of savings and had reduced the number of service heads to two. The new structure embedded neighbourhood working within the operation of the directorate and consolidated contract management.

- The Coach House Cafe at Astley Park had received a Civic Society Award.
 - The Council-managed Community Centres usage figures had increased by more than 1,000 hours of usage compared to the same time last year.
 - Yarrow Park had received Country Park Accreditation.
8. The majority of key actions in the Business Improvement Plan had been delivered on schedule and a table containing those actions that were currently behind schedule was included that gave reasons for the delay and what mitigating action was being taken.
9. It was noted that the One Stop Health Shop was achieving well. The service was capturing certain groups of people who would not normally attend the doctors, and the facility provides access to basic health checks and acts as a referral mechanism for other health services. Due to its success the service had been extended to March 2012.

Transformation Directorate

10. There had been a number of notable achievements delivered that included:
- The Council's updated Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System had been developed and the delivery of public sector advice had been extended in Union Street with both the County Council and the HMRC now offering services from that location.
 - We have retained our Government Connect accreditation which means the Council's data is as secure as it can be when transacting electronically.
 - The Financial Shared Services had implemented a single Financial Information System across the two participating Council's of Chorley and South Ribble.
11. The report also highlighted those actions that were currently behind schedule, giving delays for the delays and what action had been taken to get back on track.
12. The delivery of financial training for members this year was a key action. Whilst targeted activity on treasury management did take place on time for the Audit Committee, the general training was delayed. The training had taken place but the session was poorly attended by Members and arrangements were being discussed to provide further sessions.

Chorley Partnership Annual Report 2010/11

13. We received a report of the Chief Executive on the activities and performance of the Chorley Partnership in 2010/11. The report commented particularly on the progress and impact of the Local Strategic Partnership sponsored projects and how they contribute to the achievement of the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy.
14. The following significant statistics and trends revealed in the report:
- Crime is down overall by 1.7% compared to 2009/10.

- The rate of alcohol admissions has reduced and is lower than the North West average.
 - 67 new business start-ups are recorded against a target figure of 53.
15. The 'Healthy Shotz' project was highlighted as having been particularly successful and had exceeded the initial target set of 600 young people accessing the project. Sessions had included alcohol awareness, alcohol safety and a harm reduction messages competition.

Fourth Quarter Performance Report 2010/2011

16. We considered a report of the Chief Executive setting out the Authority's performance in respect of the key projects included in the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the fourth quarter of 2010/11.
17. The report revealed excellent performance with the vast majority of projects either on track, completed or scheduled to start later in the year. Of the two projects currently rated amber, one would now be completed in the original timescales, with the other set to be completed by the end of the second quarter.
18. Performance on the key performance indicators is strong, with 95% of the measures performing above target or within the 5% tolerance and it was explained what measures had been put into place to improve on the performance of the three key service delivery measures that are currently below target.

Scrutiny Work Programme for 2011/12

19. We received a report of the Director of Transformation to agree a work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12.
20. It was noted that two task groups were only partway through their work and would continue to meet into this year. The Lancastrian Room Scrutiny Task Group would now be chaired by Councillor Debra Platt and the new membership was confirmed. The joint NHS Reform Task Group with South Ribble Council had only recently started its work and due to changes following all out elections in South Ribble, the task group was to continue but with significant changes in the membership. Membership from Chorley would remain the same.
21. Following potential scrutiny review topics that had been received from Members at the end of 2010/11, the Committee agreed to a review on Tourism, incorporating Astley Hall and Park, to be chaired by Councillor Peter Wilson.
22. To allow Members to consider what aspects of crime and disorder we should scrutinise, a report was requested on potential topics for the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Executive's Response to Overview and Scrutiny Review of Accommodation Assets

23. The Committee were pleased to note that the Executive Cabinet had accepted the set of principles that had been set out in the scrutiny review of asset management, in respect of the Council's office accommodation and we were provided with details that demonstrated the progress made to date, on each of the recommendations for each of the sites identified.

2010/11 Year End Progress Report on the Performance of Key Partnerships

24. We received and considered a confidential report on the performance of the Council's key partnership arrangements. The report is produced in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Framework for Partnership Working and any performance or risk issues identified were drawn to our attention.

RECOMMENDATION

25. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR A LOWE
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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There are no background papers to this report.