

Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

Thursday, 25th January 2007

In the Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Chorley

At 6.30 pm



PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS/SPEAKING AT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETINGS

- Questions must be submitted to the Democratic Services Section by no later than midday, two working days before the day of the meeting to allow time to prepare appropriate responses and investigate issues 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 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its appropriate panels. This will provide an opportunity for members of the public to raise and ask questions on any issue falling within the remit of the Committee or Panel.

Chief Executive's Office

Please ask for: Gordon Banks
Direct Dial: (01257) 515123
E-mail address: gordon.banks@chorley.gov.uk
Date: 16 January 2007

Chief Executive: Donna Hall

Chorley
Council

Town Hall
Market Street
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1DP

Dear Councillor

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL - THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY 2007

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel to be held in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley on Thursday, 25th January 2007 commencing at 6.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Any Interests**

Members of the Committee are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, then the individual Member should not participate in a discussion on the matter and must withdraw from the room and not seek to influence a decision on the matter.

3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 30 November 2006 (enclosed)

4. **Budget Scrutiny for 2007/2008**

- To receive an update on the high cost areas identified during the 2006/2007 scrutiny relating to Planning Services and Environmental Services
- To review the 2006 cost profiles prepared by the Audit Commission as compared to those in 2005 for the Planning Services and Environmental Services
- To review the likely impact of the efficiencies and savings on the Councils ability to deliver the promises in the Corporate Plan and the mitigation being put in place

Report of the Director of Finance to follow.

Continued....

5. **Neighbourhood Working - Inquiry (Pages 5 - 8)**

The Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment will report on the current position regarding the progress of the Inquiry. A copy of the amended inquiry-scoping document is enclosed for consideration.

As a reminder for Members, the dates set aside to interview various witnesses are as follows:

- Thursday, 1 February 2007
- Thursday, 8 February 2007
- Wednesday, 14 February 2007
- Thursday, 1 March 2007

All meetings will commence at 6.30pm and be held in the Town Hall.


The Panel will be requested to determine the arrangements / witnesses to be interviewed at each of the above meetings.

6. **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2006/2007 (Pages 9 - 12)**

A copy of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for this Municipal Year with items relating to this Panel is enclosed

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

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair) and Councillors Peter Baker, Kenneth Ball, Alan Cain, Michael Davies, Doreen Dickinson, Anthony Gee, Daniel Gee, Keith Iddon, Roy Lees, Miss Margaret Iddon, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Michael Muncaster, Rosemary Russell, Shaun Smith and Edward Smith for attendance.
2. Agenda and reports to Colin Campbell (Executive Director - Environment and Community), Gary Hall (Director of Finance), John Lechmere (Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment) and Gordon Bankes (Democratic Services Officer) for attendance.

This information can be made available to you in larger print or on audio tape, or translated into your own language. Please telephone 01257 515118 to access this service.

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 آپکی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون

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Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 30 November 2006

Present: Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair) and Councillors Peter Baker, Kenneth Ball, Alan Cain, Doreen Dickinson, Anthony Gee, Daniel Gee, Keith Iddon, Roy Lees, Miss Margaret Iddon, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Rosemary Russell, Shaun Smith and Edward Smith

Also in attendance: Councillor Eric Bell (Executive Member for Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment) Councillor Peter Malpas (Executive Member for Development and Regeneration) Councillor Harold Heaton (Chair of Development Control Committee) and Councillors Terence Brown and Hasina Khan

06.ECS.39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

06.ECS.40 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No Members declared any interests in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

06.ECS.41 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 19 October 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

06.ECS.42 BUSINESS PLAN MONITORING STATEMENT - SECOND QUARTER

The Panel received the second quarter Business Plan Monitoring Statements for the under mentioned Directorates whose service and functions all fall within the remit and area of responsibility of the Panel.

Leisure and Culture
Housing Services
Development and Regeneration
Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment

The Panel received the Business Plan for the Leisure and Cultural Services Directorate. The Director informed the Panel that the only area of his service that had not reached the performance target was that of the number of visits by pupils in organised groups to Astley Hall. An action plan had been formulated with correct action to be undertaken.

The Panel received the Business Plan for the Housing Services Directorate with a representative informing Members that all areas of the service that required performance indicators had achieved above target performance indicators.

The Director of Development and Regeneration presented the Panel with the Business Plan for her Directorate.

The Panel had previously received notification that the percentage of major planning applications processed on time which had resulted in target dates not being achieved but these were now on track and were now improving.

Members raised issues on Section 106 agreements with a corporate working group established to manage developer contribution and a comprehensive S106 register would be available and would shortly be published on the web.

The Panel received the Business Plan relating to the Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Directorate. The Director indicated the performance variation for the number of missed collections per 100,000 collections of household waste had improved following several initiatives from the Council and some extra investment from the contractor.

RESOLVED – That the Business Plan Monitoring Statement be noted.

06.ECS.43 NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING INQUIRY

The Panel received the initial report entitled “The Scope and Prospects for Neighbourhood Working in Chorley” by the Partners in Charge, commissioned to act as consultants to the inquiry.

The report aimed to brief the inquiry on the scope of “Neighbourhood Working”, the various models and some practical examples, the potential costs and benefits and the elements of neighbourhood working that existed in Chorley.

At the end of each section of the report, there was a box with a number of key questions which the Inquiry should consider before it started. Answers to these questions would help Councillors to focus on those lines of inquiry most likely to produce practical results for Chorley.

RESOLVED – 1) That the initial report prepared by the consultant be noted.

2) That a series of meeting dates be established for Members to meet with witnesses, the first meeting to be with the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Policy and Performance.

06.ECS.44 LANCASHIRE CARE NHS TRUST - NHS FOUNDATION TRUST CONSULTATION

The Panel welcomed Mr David Tomlinson from the Lancashire Care NHS Trust on their wish to become a NHS Foundation Trust. He explained the plans and the improvements that the Trust would be carrying out to enable them to deliver even better mental health and substance misuse services to the people of Lancashire.

As part of the consultation process the Trust was requested to consult with stakeholders. The Council’s comments on the proposals were welcomed so that they could incorporate the views in their plans for the future.

Members received notification on how the Trust would be governed and the number of governors which would make up the Council of Governors representing different groups. Each group had been allocated a number of seats. The governors would make sure that the views of the community were considered when the Board of Directors developed plans.

RESOLVED – That the Panel welcomes the proposals for the Lancashire Care NHS Trust on their wish to become a NHS Foundation Trust however the Panel requested that Chorley Borough Council receive a fair share of representation on the Council of Governors.

06.ECS.45 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07

The Panel received the current Overview and Scrutiny Works Programme for 2006/07 Municipal Year and discussed the items relating to the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Chair

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***OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY PROJECT OUTLINE:
Revised draft***

Review Topic: Neighbourhood Working

Investigation by: Environment & Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Type: Inquiry

Objectives:

- 1) To assess the extent to which the Directorate now provides services on a Neighbourhood basis and to develop recommendations for future development of localised services.
- 2) To recommend an appropriate model for neighbourhood working in Chorley taking account of size, services, partners, resources and governance
- 3) To consider and compare best practices from other districts and elsewhere.
- 4) To recommend an achievable strategy for delivery of the proposed model

Desired Outcomes:

1. To identify services and activities appropriate for neighbourhood delivery.
2. To recommend criteria to identify 'neighbourhoods' for the purpose of neighbourhood working
3. To take account of changes set out in the Government's White Paper published in October 2006.
4. To deliver recommendations which implement a neighbourhood management and engagement strategy.
5. To explore the possibility of a manageable action plan for neighbourhood working and localised service delivery.

Terms of Reference:

1. To conduct an investigation into current neighbourhood working in Chorley and identify and recommend possible improvements
2. To report the inquiry's findings and recommendations initially to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3. To explore and take account of best practice from both inside and outside Chorley.

Key Issues:

1. The Corporate Strategy includes a project to be prepared on neighbourhood management and engagement strategy.
2. Following the Area Forum pilots, there are proposals to roll out Community Forums across the Borough
3. It is a priority to improve customer feedback and services

Risks:

1. Raising expectations beyond capacity to deliver.
2. Differentiation of services across different neighbourhoods may result in policy management problems
3. Potential demand on resources from additional governance, management and restructuring costs

Venue(s): Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley

Timescale:

Start: July 2006

Finish: end March 2007

Information Requirements and Sources:**Documents/evidence:** *(what/why?)*

Extensive documentation on neighbourhood management elsewhere, in particular

- evaluations of NRU-supported neighbourhood management pilots
 - evaluations of other NM examples including those in Liverpool, Poplar, Salford and Wolverhampton
 - Reports on Resource Mapping Report (Blackburn)
 - Safer and Greener Charter for Bolton (Great Lever case study)
 - 'From community garden to Westminster' (Groundwork/Centre for local economic strategies)
- (Provides substantial base of information on good practice elsewhere)

Other relevant examples of neighbourhood initiatives

Local Government White Paper published in October 2006.

(Contains recommendations for developing neighbourhood management)

Witnesses: *(who, why?)*

- Chief executive (Donna Hall)
- Director of Policy and Performance (Lesley Ann Fenton)
- Director of Finance (Gary Hall)
- National experts - Richard Crossley (Head of Neighbourhood Management, DCLG); Ed Cox (Local government Information Unit and Togetherwecan Network); possible alternatives if unavailable
- Managers of exemplar projects from elsewhere
- Police (Chief Inspector Andrew Murphy and Chief Inspector Debby Howard)
- Housing services – Housing directorate/Chorley Community Housing and Places for People group
- Leisure Services – Jamie Carson and Liz Morey
- Lancashire County council – senior officer responsible for local area agreement (will become statutory requirement, will be focus for performance and should impact on neighbourhood working and targets)
- Parish Councils
- Groundwork representative
- Active community groups, agencies and partnerships

Consultation/Research: *(what, why, who?)*

Scoping document to inform the background to the Inquiry and to cover:

- Definition of neighbourhood working
 - Classification of models for neighbourhood management
 - Review of practice and learning from elsewhere (based on documentation, above)
 - Current neighbourhood working in Chorley
 - Developing government policy
- Prepared by external consultant

Successful outcomes are subject to consultation with external stakeholders and with communities in particular actively involved groups and parish councils.

Site Visits: *(where, why, when?)*

Other Lancashire Districts from Blackburn, Bolton (alternatively: Salford; Manchester)

- to see examples of established models for neighbourhood management on range of scales

Visit to meetings of PAiCE, SWITCH, Clayton Brook Together

Visit to one or more Parish Councils

- to examine scope of interest in participating in neighbourhood management from currently active communities

(Note - this second visit could take the form of a community conference)

<p>Officer Support:</p> <p>Lead Officer: John Lechmere</p> <p>Democratic Services Officer: Gordon Bankes</p> <p>Corporate Policy Officer: Director of Policy & Performance (Lesley-Ann Fenton)</p>	<p>Likely Budget Requirements:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>Purpose</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>£</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Site Visit Cash</td> <td style="text-align: right;">200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>200.00</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>£</u>	Site Visit Cash	200.00	Total	<u>200.00</u>
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Total	<u>200.00</u>						

<p>Target Body for Findings/Recommendations</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Cabinet</p> <p>Potential partners and stakeholders in neighbourhood working</p> <p>Community groups and parish councils.</p>

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME – 2006/07

Function/topic	Assigned to	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
1. Scrutiny Inquiries													
Council's performance against the key line of enquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during CPA and Direction of Travel.	OSC					*	*	*	*	*	*		
Contact Centre: Efficiencies and Partnership with LCC	CCOSP		*		*	*	*		*		*		
Neighbourhood Working	ECOSP		*		*	*	*		*		*		
2. Holding the Executive to Account													
Annual Budget Consultation	OSC						*	*	*				
Provisional full year Performance Indicator	OSC										*		
Business Plan and Performance Indicator Updates	ECOSP					*	*				*		
	CCOSP					*	*				*		
	OSC					*		*			*		
BVPP (Corporate Plan overall performance)	OSC					*					*		
Monitoring of Sickness Absence (6 monthly update)	OSC						*					*	
Budget Scrutiny	OSC CCOSP ECOSP								*	*			
3. Policy Development and Review													
Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan 2006/07	OSC				*							*	
Corporate Improvement Plan 2004-2007 Update (Corporate Strategy)	OSC								*				
OSC - Overview and Scrutiny Committee		ECOSP - Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel											
CCOSP - Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel													

MONITORING OF PREVIOUS SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

Scrutiny Inquiry	Assigned to	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
Chorley Markets - Occupancy of Stalls & Associated Matters	CCOSP								*				
Juvenile Nuisance	ECOSP				*								
Provision of Youth Activities in Chorley	ECOSP										*		
One-Stop Shop/Contact Centre	CCOSP					*					*		
Accessibility of Cycling as a Leisure Pursuit	ECOSP							*					
Parkwise Scheme	CCOSP								*				

Monitoring of Budget Scrutiny Recommendations													
Environmental Services	ECOSP						*		*				
Revenues and Benefits	CCOSP						*		*				
Planning Services	ECOSP						*		*				

Rolling Programme of Scrutiny Inquiries to be Programmed

Priority Order	Topic/Issue Title	Date Included	Priority Score	Source
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 	<p><u>Full Scrutiny Inquiries</u></p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Job Evaluation</p> <p>The effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership in the delivery of reduced levels of crime in the Borough.</p> <p>Corporate and Customer Panel</p> <p>Gershon Efficiencies Staff Sickness Absences</p> <p>Environment and Community Panel</p> <p>Inequalities in the Borough Town Centre Strategy</p>	<p>June 2006</p>	<p>All within the Corporate Strategy</p>	<p>Corporate Strategy</p>

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