

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 1st August 2024, 6.30 pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley and
www.youtube.com/user/ChorleyCouncil

Agenda

Apologies

1 **Declarations of Any Interests**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda.

If you have a pecuniary 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.

2 **Minutes of meeting Thursday, 14 March 2024 of Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

(Pages 3 - 8)

Minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday, 14 March 2024 attached for approval and signing by the Chair.

3 **Public Questions**

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

Scrutiny of the Executive Cabinet

4 **Executive Cabinet Minutes**

(Pages 9 - 26)

To consider the Executive Cabinet minutes of the meetings held on 21 March 2024, 13 June 2024 and 11 July 2024 (attached).

5 **Notice of Executive Decisions**

(Pages 27 - 66)

The latest [Notice of Executive Decisions](#) is on the council's website.

The document is also attached and correct as of 24 July 2024.

6 **Scrutiny Reporting Back - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24**

Report attached.

7 **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

To consider the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/25.

8 **Health Scrutiny Update**

Councillor Margaret France to be invited to provide an update.

9 **Reports from the Task and Finish Groups**

Suicide Bereavement and Prevention Task and Finish Group

To receive a verbal update from the Chair, Councillor Samantha Martin.

10 **Any urgent business previously agreed with the Chair**

Chris Sinnott
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor Debra Platt (Chair), Councillor Roy Lees (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Sarah Ainsworth, Kim Snape, Michelle Beach, Arjun Singh, Ryan Towers, Michelle Brown, Christine Heydon, Pauline McGovern (Clayton East, Brindle and Hoghton), Irene Amahwe, Russ Green, Samir Khan and Katie Wilkie.

If you need this information in a different format, such as larger print or translation, please get in touch on 515151 or chorley.gov.uk



Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date Thursday, 14 March 2024

Committee Members present: Councillors Roy Lees (Vice Chair in the Chair), Sarah Ainsworth, Kim Snape, Michelle Beach, Dedrah Moss, Arjun Singh, Michelle Brown, Christine Heydon, Samantha Martin and Debra Platt

Committee Members present virtually (non-voting): Councillors Pauline McGovern

Guests present: Beckie Ramsay, Doing it for Dylan Campaign
Chief Inspector Chris Abbott, Lancashire Constabulary
Councillors Beverley Murray, Executive Member (Early Intervention) and
Councillor Terry Howarth, Executive Member (Homes and Housing)

Officers: Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities and Leisure) and Laura-Jean Taylor (Head of Public Protection)

Apologies: Councillor Aidy Riggott

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

36 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no such declarations.

37 Minutes of the last meeting held on 25 January 2024

Resolved – That the minutes of the the meeting held on 25 January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

38 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

39 Executive Cabinet Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of meetings of the Executive Cabinet held in 18 January 2024 and 22 February 2024 be noted.

40 Notice of Executive Decisions

Resolved – That the Notice of Executive Decisions be noted.

41 Health Scrutiny Update

The Chair informed the Committee that there were had been no Lancashire County Council Health and Adult Care Scrutiny meetings held since the last health scrutiny update.

42 Water Safety - Doing it for Dylan Campaign

Beckie Ramsay from the “Doing it for Dylan” Water Safety Campaign gave a presentation about her campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of swimming in open water which had been inspired by the tragic death of her son, Dylan in 2011 who had decided to go swimming in a local quarry.

The presentation included a short dramatization showing two young characters, one of whom drowns after attempting to swim in open water. Beckie explained that this film was shown at schools at which she had given talks about water safety. It highlighted that anyone, even a strong swimmer, could get into difficulties in open water.

Her campaign had been mentioned at World Drowning Prevention Day in Australia and she has travelled all over the world to promote awareness of water safety including Kenya. She had won awards for her campaigning including from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

Beckie stressed that she was not against swimming in open water – she wanted to tackle lack of awareness of the dangers. Her approach would be “No lifeguard, no swimming”. The presentation demonstrated the importance of wearing protective clothing in open water as worn by rescue services.

Beckie informed the Committee that there had been no national public announcements from the Government on water safety since the 1970s. Open water often contained dangerous chemicals and she gave an example of one water source tested which had a PH of 11.6 (bleach is 12.2).

She indicated that since Dylan’s death thirteen years ago, annual drowning statistics have remained static i.e. 600 deaths a year, of which 400 were accidental. Beckie felt that there was a lot more which could be done to promote public awareness and improve water safety.

Some of Beckie’s proposed recommendations were:

- Improved warning signage at open water sites
- Councils engaging with landowners e.g. on adequate fencing and lighting
- Signage with suicide prevention information and locator apps for people at high risk
- Measures for water safety equipment nearby open water – e.g. rope– to be a designated bright colour so easily identifiable if stolen (trialled in Scotland);and to tackle theft and vandalism of equipment e.g. lifebuoys

- Locating high risk sites and raising public awareness
- Promoting awareness of water safety via schools, local media
- Encouraging the public to sign up to the “What3Words” locator app
- Installing Number Locator Boards every 50 metres along open water to help rescue services (this was trialled in Liverpool and rescue times were reduced from 23 to 9 minutes)
- Greater accountability for landowners to ensure water safety measures are in place
- To create a Lancashire wide approach so that Lancashire can lead on the issue.

Beckie also spoke about a voluntary organisation called “Beneath the Surface” which carried out private searches for missing persons once police resources had been exhausted. They use a piece of technology called “Aqua Eye” which was an underwater camera making it easier to locate people underwater.

Chief Inspector Chris Abbott, Lancashire Constabulary informed the Committee that he was already part of a water safety advisory board in West Lancs and that he would be willing to be involved in setting up a similar body here in Chorley. He acknowledged that funding in this area was an issue for both Lancashire police and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service however it was important to do as much as possible.

The Committee thanked Beckie for her excellent and informative presentation, particularly as it was a subject which had affected her personally. It was agreed that the Council should do everything it can to assist the campaign and take the proposed actions forward.

Resolved - It was recommended that:

- i) That a water safety action group be formed – the Council can help with setting up e.g. a Constitution and applying for grants
- ii) Councillors Michelle Brown, Michelle Beach and Sarah Ainsworth expressed interest in being involved in the group.

43 Community Safety Partnership/Crime and Disorder

The Director of Communities and Leisure, Jennifer Mullin presented a report providing an overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Chief Inspector Chris Abbott, Lancashire Constabulary and Laura Jean-Taylor, Head of Public Protection were also in attendance.

The report demonstrated the resilience of the CSP and its capability to provide a dynamic response.

The report included The Strategic Assessment 2022 (Appendix A) and then further broken down into Local District Profiles – (Appendix C), highlighting the key issues and risks across Lancashire.

Utilising the information contained with the strategic assessment, local knowledge and intelligence and the Lancashire Talking survey the CSP had drawn together a Chorley

and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership Action Plan (Appendix B). The plan detailed the established key priorities and the commitment of the Responsible Authorities towards each priority. A partnership event was held on 21 July 2023, which was a great success with great attendance and engagement across the partnership and Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations.

The report gave details of a number of police activities. Chief Inspector Chris Abbott indicated that Operation Centurion for example, launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner in July 2023 targeting ASB hot spots areas, had successfully targeted locally based issues and that overall crime figures were lower across the board.

Councillor Pauline McGovern made some suggestions to improve how information was presented in the report which were noted by Jennifer Mullin.

The issue of road safety was highlighted by Councillor Christine Heydon, in particular the need for additional signage on a single track lane which had recently been refused. Laura- Jean Taylor agreed to take this up through the appropriate channels.

A request was made for follow-up data on convictions. Chief Inspector Abbott agreed to provide the information.

It was requested that councillors be informed when PCSOs are moved to a different area.

The Chair referred to the drop in crime statistics in November 2022. Inspector Abbott suggested that this was likely due to a drop in social activity post COVID, which has since resumed.

Resolved –

- i) That the report be noted;
- ii) That the requests listed above be actioned.

44 Second Monitoring Report Overview and Scrutiny - Select Move

Councillor Terry Howarth, Executive Member (Homes and Housing) presented a report providing the second update of the work undertaken to deliver the 18 recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group for Select Move.

The report also gave details of two Select Move Customer Surveys which were completed between 14th November to 13th December 2023. One survey was sent to applicants where Chorley Council was managing the application, and the second survey was sent to applicants whose applications were managed by any other partner.

Councillor Howarth explained that one of the key recommendations, simplifying the banding, had been addressed in the Select Move Policy Review. The new policy had now been signed off by all three Local Authorities, (Chorley, Preston and South Ribble). The policy implementation has been delayed due to lack of CIVICA (IT software provider) capacity, however CIVICA will now start work developing updates

to the housing management system. They have committed to a new “go live” date in September 2024.

Councillor Howarth indicated that he was very pleased with the report and the progress made.

Resolved –

- i) That councillor Howarth be thanked for his attendance;
- ii) That the report be noted.

45 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24 was provided for information.

Resolved – That the document be noted.

46 Reports from the Task and Finish Groups

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Suicide Prevention and Bereavement

The Committee was informed that so far, three members had expressed interest in the Task Group: Councillors Michelle Beach, Samantha Martin and Christine Heydon.

It was noted that the issue was a Council priority and of particular concern in Chorley which had a high suicide rate.

Resolved - That the initial scoping meeting be open to all members to find out more.

47 Any urgent business previously agreed with the Chair

There was no urgent business.

Chair

Date

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Minutes of **Executive Cabinet**

Meeting date **Thursday, 21 March 2024**

Committee Members present: Councillor Alistair Bradley (Executive Leader), Councillor Peter Wilson (Deputy Leader) and Councillors Alistair Bradley, Peter Wilson, Beverley Murray, Terry Howarth, Alistair Morwood, Margaret France and Adrian Lowe

Observers present: Councillors Michelle Beach, Julia Berry, Mark Clifford, Gordon France, Tommy Gray, Alex Hilton and Aidy Riggott and Craige Southern (attended virtually)

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Gayle Wootton (Director of Planning and Property), Dave Whelan (Head of Legal and Procurement), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

66 Deputy Monitoring Officer

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley, reminded members that this would be the last Executive Cabinet meeting for Dave Whelan, as he was due to retire the following month and thanked him for his service to the council.

67 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no declarations of any interests.

68 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 22 February 2024 of Executive Cabinet

Resolved: that the minutes of the Executive Cabinet meeting held on 22 February 2024 be confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Executive Leader.

69 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

70 Final Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Recruitment and Staff Retention

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Aidy Riggott, thanked the members of the Task Group for their report and invited Councillor Michelle Beach to present the findings and recommendations.

Councillor Beach set out the aims and objectives of the inquiry and noted that no wider issues had been identified. She thanked the membership of the group for their input, and the officers who had supported or fed into the inquiry.

Resolved: To receive the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group and accept it for consideration, with a view to the Executive Cabinet's recommended response to the recommendations being reported to a future meeting.

71 Procurement Strategy - Levelling Up Fund

The Executive Leader, and Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Service Reform Councillor Alistair Bradley, presented the report of the Director of Planning and Property.

Following a bid submission in June 2022, the Council was successful in securing £20m from the Government's Levelling Up fund (third round) for the regeneration of Chorley Town Centre. Full details were awaited from the government, however, the report set out the detailed procurement strategy which would support the delivery of the Levelling Up Fund projects.

The three locations were Bengal Street Residential Development, Civic Square Mixed-Use Development and the Health and Wellbeing Hub. Members noted the challenging timescales, and the need to balance cost, quality and value for money throughout the procurement exercise.

Resolved:

- 1. To approve the procurement strategy.**
- 2. To delegate the contract award for consultants and main contractor(s) to Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Service Reform for sign off.**

Reasons for recommendations

1. To progress the delivery of the Levelling Up Fund project.
2. To mitigate any risk to £20m of Levelling Up Funding.

Other options considered and rejected.

Options considered with regards to procurement have been outlined within the body of the report

72 Water Safety Policy update

The Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment), Councillor Adrian Lowe, presented the report of the Director (Customer and Digital).

The report presented the council's updated Water Safety Policy, which included a list of water bodies on council land.

Councillor Bradley noted the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had received a presentation regarding water safety the previous week and noted the importance of this issue.

Resolved: To approve the updated Water Safety Policy.

Reasons for recommendations

1. The revised policy is relevant, fit for purpose and meets legal and health and safety requirements as well as demonstrating our duty of care.
2. The policy better supports the effective management of these council assets and provides a greater degree of operational support.
3. The site assessment process has been reviewed and the risk scoring system amended to improve the risk assessments.

Other options considered and rejected

To not update the policy would potentially put the council at risk of breaching and/or failing to demonstrate our duty of care in relation to water bodies on council land.

73 Food waste collections

The Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment), Councillor Adrian Lowe, presented the report of the Director (Customer and Digital).

The report requested approval for changes to support the introduction of new statutory food collections by 31 March 2026.

Funding had been confirmed by Defra for capital costs (for new vehicles and containers), and would be provided for transitional costs, resource costs and ongoing service revenue costs, subject to future spending reviews.

The detail of this was yet to be confirmed and the Lancashire Waste Partnership, on behalf of all district councils, would be writing to Defra to seek assurances that all reasonable capital costs would be funded in full by Government. The outcome of this would be shared with members.

Although a high value procurement usually required a standard weighting of 15% for social value to be included in the evaluation, it was proposed that this be exempted due to the nature of the assets (purchase of fleet and containers). The quality criteria would incorporate an evaluation of environmental benefits. Furthermore, the framework suppliers had already demonstrated elements of social value in order to be accepted onto the frameworks.

Officers would evaluate the feasibility and benefits of jointly procuring containers and vehicles with South Ribble Council and potentially other district councils with the same requirements.

Members noted the food waste containers would be lockable, the liners for the food waste would be provided by the council and that an appropriate communications plan would be carried out to ensure that residents were aware of the changes.

Resolved:

1. **To introduce statutory weekly food waste collections to all properties across Chorley by 31 March 2026.**

2. To proceed to procure non-vented food waste caddies and liners via public sector frameworks and further competition tender exercise.
3. To proceed to procure specialised food waste collection vehicles via public sector frameworks and further competition tender exercise.
4. To agree the tender evaluation criteria for food waste containers and collection vehicles, based on 80% cost and 20% quality ratio.
5. To delegate to the Executive Member for Resources the authority to approve the award of contracts to the winning bidders.
6. To undertake an options modelling exercise to ensure the waste and recycling service is fully reviewed and achieves the councils environmental and fiscal priorities through improvements to collection rounds and frequencies.
7. To present a further report for approval of capital budgets for this project including a decision on the operating model and any improvements to existing service delivery.

Reasons for recommendations

1. The Environment Act 2021 sets into legislation the requirement for waste collection authorities to provide weekly food waste collections to all households by 31 March 2026.
2. It is anticipated that large numbers of local authorities will implement new or extended food waste collection services between 2024 and 2026. There will be a very high demand for new vehicles, containers, and liners during this period and so an early decision on key service elements will confirm tender specifications and enable procurements via frameworks to proceed without delay.
3. Although a high value procurement usually requires a standard weighting of 15% for social value to be evaluated, it is proposed that this is exempted due to the nature of the assets to be procured.
4. Delegated approval for contract awards is requested to streamline the procurement process.

Other options considered and rejected

1. To not introduce separate weekly food waste collections would be in breach of statutory duties imposed by the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
2. To introduce co-collected food waste would undermine the financial integrity of services.

74 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved: To exclude the public and press for the following item of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

75 New Letting - Unit 13 - Market Walk

The Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, presented the confidential report of the Director of Planning and Property which sought Member authorisation for the grant of a new lease of Unit 13 Market Walk.

Resolved:

1. To approve the terms outlined in this report.
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Governance to be authorised to complete the legal formalities in accordance with these terms.

Reasons for recommendations

1. Following a recent marketing exercise and negotiations between the parties, the proposed terms have been provisionally agreed and recommended by the Council's Retail Consultants and reflect current market conditions within the Market Walk Centre in line with other leases which have been recently agreed / completed. This proposal is also seen as a good opportunity to attract a well-known local retailer into the Market Walk Shopping Centre and increase footfall within the Centre.
2. The operator currently operate a store in Chorley town centre, it has been confirmed that they will not close this store as they are looking to expand their operation.

Other options considered and rejected

1. To continue with the occupation of the premises as a Vaccination Centre on a periodic licence basis.
2. To continue the marketing of the unit to achieve a slightly better rental outcome.

76 Allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds and Amendments to the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS)

The Executive Member (Planning and Development), Councillor Alistair Morwood, presented the confidential report of the Director (Planning and Property) which sought approval for projects to be added to the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS), CIL funds to be allocated to projects and the removal of completed projects from the IFS.

Resolved:

1. **To approve amendment of the IFS to include the following projects and approve the allocation of CIL funds to them totalling £1,226,388.20:**
 - **Improvements to Astley Village local shopping centre and community centre**
 - **Improvements to Chorley Bus Station**
 - **Improvements to Chapel Street, Chorley Town Centre**
 - **Improvements to Euxton local shopping centres (Runshaw Lane, Talbot Row and Talbot Drive)**
 - **Replacement of 83 bus shelters across the borough**
 - **Public EV charge points on Chorley Council long stay car parks**
 - **Gillett Playing Field Enhancements, Weavers Brow, Heath Charnock**
2. **To approve the allocation of £2 million additional funds to the following project which is already on the IFS:**
 - **Refurbishment of the Leisure Centres**
3. **To approve removal of the following projects from the IFS as they are now completed:**
 - **Car park to facilitate event parking for Astley Park and Westway on Westway, Euxton.**
 - **Highways and infrastructure (the provision of access to and within the site) and re-location of Eaves Lane GP Surgery and Community Centre development at Tatton, Chorley.**
 - **Refurbish market public toilets, Chorley.**
 - **Wigan Lane Archery Facility – new pavilion and associated infrastructure.**

Reasons for recommendations

To allocate CIL in the way it is intended and ensure the methodology of how it is allocated is transparent.

Other options considered and rejected

None.

Chair

Date



Minutes of **Executive Cabinet**

Meeting date **Thursday, 13 June 2024**

Committee Members present: Councillor Alistair Bradley (Executive Leader), Councillor Peter Wilson (Deputy Leader) and Councillors Alistair Bradley, Peter Wilson, Beverley Murray, Terry Howarth, Alistair Morwood and Adrian Lowe

Observers present: Councillors Michelle Beach, Danny Gee and Tommy Gray and Craige Southern (attended virtually)

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance/Monitoring Officer), Neil Halton (Head of Finance), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities and Leisure), Hollie Walmsley (Head of People, Policy and Partnerships) and Ruth Rimmington (Democratic Services Team Leader)

Apologies: Councillor Margaret France

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

1 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no declarations of any interests.

2 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 21 March 2024 of Executive Cabinet

Resolved: that the minutes of the Executive Cabinet meeting held 21 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Executive Leader.

3 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

4 Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the provisional outturn for revenue and reserves for 2023/24 for the council.

In summary, based on the position at 31 March 2024, the provisional outturn, which included the unfunded budget pressure of £146,000 following the payment of the 2023/24 pay award in November 2024, was an overspend of £1.170m.

The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy approved in February 2024 that the minimum level of General Fund Reserves should be maintained at £4m to protect the council against future financial risk, at 31 March 2024, the General Fund balance was £4.092m.

Councillor Bradley noted that many Lancashire Districts were also experiencing financial challenges, with some debts being one off in nature, and being required to be dealt with in the accounts.

Following a query it was noted that one instance related to a tenant, but as the matter was confidential and commercial in nature it was not appropriate to go into the detail.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the 2023/24 provisional outturn for revenue and reserves, based on the position at 31 March 2024.**
- 2. To note the virements made to and from the revenue budget during the period, as detailed in Appendix 2.**

Reasons for recommendation

To ensure the Council's budgetary targets are achieved.

Other options considered and rejected

None, it is a requirement to report quarterly on the Revenue Budgeting monitoring and Reserves.

5 Capital and Balance Sheet Outturn 2023-24

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out to report the outturn financial position of the council in respect of the capital programme at 31 March 2024, while key issues were highlighted and key variances explained, in addition to an overview of various elements contained within the Council's balance sheet at 31 March 2024.

In summary, the Capital Budget for 2023/24 was set at £21.103 by the Council in February 2023. This was increased due to the approval of the 2022/23 outturn to £22.998m, then amended in the Quarter 1, Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring Reports, which covered the first 9 months of the year to £15.882m as approved by the Executive Cabinet in February 2024.

Resolved:

- 1. To approve the revised capital programme, attached at Appendix A, which includes an amendment to the programme of £3.989m, as detailed at point 12 of this report.**
- 2. To note the variations to the programme (which are detailed by scheme at Appendix B and referenced within the body of the report).**
- 3. To note the position in the Balance Sheet monitoring section of the report, in respect of cash, investment and loan balances, and debtors, as at 31st March 2024.**

Reasons for recommendations

To ensure the Council's Capital Programme is monitored effectively.

Other options considered and rejected

None, it is a requirement to report quarterly on the Capital and Balance sheet budget monitoring.

6 Chorley Quarter Four Performance Monitoring Report 2023/24

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery which set out the performance against delivery of the Corporate Strategy during the fourth quarter of 2023/24, covered 1 January 2024 to March 2024.

Overall performance of the Corporate Strategy projects was good, with 84% (916) projects rated green and were progressing according to schedule. 16% (3) projects were rated Amber which was a warning of potential delays.

Councillor Alistair Morwood, Executive Member for Planning and Development, reported a correction to the report in that the % of major planning applications decided in 13 weeks was, in fact, 88%. This was within the target of 80%.

Members discussed the resident satisfaction scores and acknowledged that these were lower than previously, but still higher than the national average. Results from the LGA mirrored the results also.

The issue of fuel poverty was considered. This was due to a number of factors, including high utility bills, but also residents living in large, older properties or terraces which were not necessarily as insulated as other properties.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Reasons for recommendations

To ensure the effective performance monitoring of the Corporate Strategy and safeguard the delivery across 2023/24.

Other options considered and rejected

No other options have been considered or rejected. This is because the report does not present any items for decision.

7 Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework Refresh

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Change and Delivery which presented the refreshed Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework.

The report set out monitoring arrangements for contracts and partnerships whose significant justified additional scrutiny, this could be due to the combination of monetary value, length of the commitment, their impact on the council's strategic objectives or the level of associated risk.

The framework currently monitored 14 contracts and partnerships, 10 of which were also monitored by South Ribble's Key Contract and Partnership Framework. The framework refresh proposed to create a shared framework with South Ribble Borough

Council, to support aligned ways of working for shared services staff while ensuring the framework remained fit for purpose.

Resolved:

To approve the refreshed Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework.

Reasons for recommendations

To ensure that the framework remains fit for purpose and supports aligned ways of working within shared services.

Other options considered and rejected

To not refresh the framework, which would result in the identified improvements not being implemented. This was rejected as it would not ensure the framework remained fit for purpose.

To not share the updated framework with South Ribble Borough Council. This would mean that shared officers would adhere to different framework criteria, in cases for contracts monitored by both councils. This was rejected as it would not support aligned ways of working.

8 Merchant Acquiring Services Tender

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out agreement to enter a joint procurement exercise with South Ribble Borough Council and Preston City Council, supported by an external specialist consultant in the area to procure Merchant Acquiring Services.

Merchant Acquiring services were the means by which the council processed credit and debit card payments from customers. They allowed card transactions to be processed securely and ensure that customers were offered a choice of payment channels for council services. Council income collected via credit/debit cards equated to approximately £5.5m per year, and over 45,000 transactions.

Members discussed the criteria, noting the quality, social value and price for the contract.

Resolved:

- 1. To approve the procurement strategy as outlined in the report.**
- 2. To approve the proposed evaluation criteria for the contract.**
- 3. To delegate authority to the Executive Member (Resources) to enter into a contract with the successful bidder identified through the procurement process.**

Reasons for recommendations

The nature of the service to be procured is specialised so the advice and input of an expert, who can undertake the necessary research and analysis of bids is considered prudent.

A joint procurement with two other councils should present an attractive proposition to potential suppliers and should secure a competitive price and value for money.

The current cost to Chorley Council for these services is approximately £65,000 per year, and the contract proposed is for three years, plus an option to extend for a

further two years. It is anticipated that the savings can be secured through the procurement exercise.

The proposal is for BRC Consulting Services Limited (BRC) to manage a full market tender on behalf of the three councils. The tender will be undertaken as a joint exercise with a view to selecting one merchant acquirer who will deliver the same core service model to each Council but with separate contracts recognising that there will also be specific differences in requirements. Core service requirements, as well as service requirements specific to each council, will be incorporated into a single tender document.

Other options considered and rejected

An alternative option would be for the Council to enter a procurement exercise as a single organisation, and without external support. However, as a joint procurement exercise, the council should benefit from more competitive prices, and through the advice and expertise of a specialist, will be able to undertake a more effective evaluation of the bids submitted.

9 Closure of Council Charities

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, presented the report of the Director of Finance which set out the proposal to wind up and close four small charities and/or providing an administrative service, and to ensure proper use of any resulting funds.

The outlined charities no longer met their intended purpose in any meaningful way. As only minimal amounts of interest were generated, there was little that they could practically achieve. There were also no current trustees to conduct business of the charities.

The Charities were, 'Edward McKnight Memorial Fund', 'William Cocker Charity', 'H T Parke's Baths Fund', and 'W B Park's Charity'. The purpose of each of the charities was set out in the report.

Resolved:

- 1. That the William Cocker Charity, the WB Parks Charity, the HT Parkes Baths Fund and the McKnight Memorial Fund are closed, and that approval given to distribute any monies to similar charities or causes.**
- 2. That the determination of the recipients of the balance on each fund is delegated to the Chair of the Governance Committee and the Executive Member for Resources, the outcome of which to be reported to a future Governance Committee meeting.**

Reasons for recommendations

The charities no longer operate or meet the purpose they were initially set up to achieve. As well as placing an administrative burden upon the council in producing the accounts each year and managing the bank accounts, as the accounts have remained dormant, the funds have not been applied as intended.

Other options considered and rejected

The alternative option would be to keep the charities as they are now, and this has been rejected as of being no practical advantage and creating unnecessary work.

10 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

11 All Seasons Gym Refurbishment - Procurement Strategy

Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member for Early Intervention, presented the report of the Director of Communities which set out to approve the procurement strategy to undertake the All Seasons Leisure Centre Improvements.

All Seasons Leisure Centre was the largest of the three venues and offered both wet and dry facilities. The centre consisted of a 47-station gym, a 25m pool, a teaching pool, four courts and two court sport halls. Group exercise and group cycle studios, and two squash courts.

The Leisure Centre historically faced underinvestment while outsourced. However, since the council took back control, a significant opportunity presented itself to revitalise and enhance the services provided.

Members supported the investment into All Seasons.

Resolved:

- 1. To approve the procurement strategy for the refurbishment of the gym at All Seasons leisure centre.**
- 2. To approve the inclusion in the procurement exercise for the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels and additional metering and monitoring software at All Seasons Leisure centre. Funding for the works has been awarded from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund, this approval is subject to Council decision to confirm the acceptance of the funds.**
- 3. To approve a full public consultation on the family facilities in the pool and authority to award a direct contract following the completion of the consultation and to delegate the contract award to the Executive Member of Early Intervention to approve.**
- 4. To approve the direct contract award to Lyndhurst Precision Ltd for the manufacture of a pool walkway.**
- 5. To delegate the contract award for the main contractor to the Executive Member of Early Intervention for sign off.**
- 6. To note, following the completion of a condition survey further works maybe included in the refurbishment package to limit disruption, costs will be quantified at the second stage.**
- 7. To note, further reports will come forward as part of the wider leisure improvements.**

Reasons for recommendations

To continue the delivery of the Leisure Facility improvements across the borough.

To provide the opportunity for Chorley Leisure to benefit from the latent demand in Chorley with the potential of attracting over 1000 new members, which would significantly increase income

Other options considered and rejected

Not to undertake the improvement works – this was discounted due to the current limited fitness offer provided, the opportunity to take advantage of the available latent demand and the opportunity to significantly increase the swimming offer.

Chair

Date

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Minutes of **Executive Cabinet**

Meeting date **Thursday, 11 July 2024**

Members present: Councillor Alistair Bradley (Executive Leader), Councillor Peter Wilson (Deputy Executive Leader) and Councillors Beverley Murray, Terry Howarth, Alistair Morwood, Margaret France and Adrian Lowe

Observers present: Councillors Michelle Beach, Gordon France, Danny Gee, Alex Hilton and Joan Williamson and (attending virtually) Councillors Craig Southern, Kim Snape and Hasina Khan

Officers: Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Sarah Bullock (Deputy Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director (Governance)), Caroline Wolfenden (Director of Change and Delivery), Gayle Wootton (Director of Planning and Property), Louise Mattinson (Director (Finance)), Hollie Walmsley (Head of People, Policy and Partnerships) and Ben Storey (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

Other Members: Councillor Michelle Beach, Gordon France, Danny Gee, Alex Hilton and Joan Williamson

12 Declarations of Any Interests

There were no declarations of any interests.

13 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 13 June 2024 of Executive Cabinet

Resolved: that the minutes of the Executive Cabinet meeting held 13 June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record for signing by the Executive Leader.

14 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

15 Productivity Plan

The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform) presented the report of the Deputy Chief Executive which sought the endorsement of the Executive Cabinet for the Chorley Productivity Plan to be submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, as required as part of the last Local Government Financial Settlement.

We welcomed the report and approved its submission.

Resolved:

To endorse the Chorley Productivity Plan (at Appendix 1) and agree that it can be submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Reasons for recommendations

The recommendation ensures that Chorley Council meets the request of Simon Hoare MP, detailed in his letter of April 2024 (Appendix 2).

Other options considered and rejected

Not applicable – all local authorities have been asked to submit a Productivity Plan. Following the announcement of a general election, this requirement was checked and it remained the case that submission of Productivity Plans should take place by 19 July 2024.

16 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

17 Property Valuations Tender

The Deputy Executive Leader and Cabinet Member (Resources) presented the confidential report of the Director of Finance which sought approval to undertake a joint procurement exercise with South Ribble Borough Council, in respect of asset valuation services for the purposes of financial accounts completion and insurance information.

Resolved:

- 1. To approve the procurement strategy as outlined in this report.**
- 2. To approve the proposed evaluation criteria for the contract.**
- 3. To delegate authority to the Executive Member (Resources) to award the contract to the successful bidder identified through the procurement process.**

Reasons for recommendations

The Council requires asset valuations for the purpose of completion of its accounts. It is also proposed to ask for valuations as supporting evidence for insurance purposes to improve the accuracy of cover procured. It is proposed to enter into a three year arrangement, with an option to extend for a further two years, to allow for consistency of relationship and information flows.

Other options considered and rejected

To use in house valuations. Given the considerable resource required, and within the specific time frames mandated by DLUHC to complete and publish audited statutory accounts, this was rejected.

18 Gillett Playing Fields Procurement Methodology

The Cabinet Member (Planning and Development) presented the confidential report of the Director of Planning and Property which sought approval for the proposed methodology to procure three elements in relation to improvement works at Gillet Playing Fields, delivery of cricket pitch improvements, creation of a football pitch and construction of a new changing pavilion.

As referenced within the report, the omission of the social value evaluation criteria with regards to the football pitch creation contract was highlighted to members, due to the specialism of contractors required to undertake the work and them being based in various parts of the country.

Resolved:

- 1. To approve that the cricket pitch contract will be procured as a medium value exercise with contract award to be approved by the Executive Member (Planning and Development) by Executive Member Decision.**
- 2. To approve the proposed procurement methodologies and evaluation criteria for the high value contract to create a new football pitch comprising a single stage open tender with suitability questionnaire / quality element and the use of the Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) intermediate works contract.**
- 3. To approve the omission of the social value evaluation criteria from the football pitch creation contract.**
- 4. To approve the proposed procurement methodologies and evaluation criteria for the high value contract to construct a new changing pavilion comprising a single stage open tender with suitability questionnaire / quality element / social value assessment and the use of the JCT standard form of building contract.**
- 5. To approve the delegation of contract award for both the football pitch creation and pavilion construction contracts to the Executive Member (Planning and Development) by Executive Member Decision.**

Reasons for recommendations

All funding is in receipt to deliver the cricket pitch improvement contract and approval to spend the money was given by Executive cabinet on 14 May 2024. There is a degree of urgency with this contract as the works are required to start in August 2024 in order to be complete and ready to play by the start of the cricket season in May 2025.

All funding is in receipt to deliver the football pitch creation contract and approval to spend the money was given by Executive cabinet on 14 May 2024. It is proposed that this work this will commence on site in March 2025 allowing a full year to establish before being ready to play in August 2026.

Some funding required to deliver the pavilion contract is still pending (and subject to receipt of S106 funding), with an unconfirmed timescale for receipt, therefore the pavilion contract will only be tendered once this funding is in place and detailed timescales cannot be confirmed at this stage.

It is felt that the nature of the football pitch creation procurement exercise would be unlikely to realise sufficient social value to justify the standard minimum evaluation weighting in respect of Social Value.

Other options considered and rejected

Procuring the contracts in aggregate was considered. However, there is a need to urgently start the cricket pitch works in August 2024 to allow uninterrupted use of the pitch by Chorley Cricket Club during the cricket season. There is also a complex funding picture with some Section 106 funding in receipt and some pending therefore a flexible approach to deliver the works as separate contracts is required.

Evaluating the tenders on the basis of 100% cost was considered, however, in order to attract quality contractors with a good track record for delivery of similar schemes, a quality element was included.

19 Any urgent business previously agreed with the Chair

There was no urgent business.

Chair

Date

Chorley Council – Notice of Executive Decisions

1. This document gives 28 days notice of ‘key’ and other major decisions which the Executive Cabinet and Executive Members expect to take. The document is updated as required and is available to the public on the Council’s website at www.chorley.gov.uk or from the Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley, PR7 1DP.

2. A ‘Key’ Decision is defined as:
 - a) Any executive decision which is likely to result in the Council incurring significant expenditure or the making of savings where there is:
 - a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more; or
 - a contract worth £100,000 or more; or
 - a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more.
 - b) Any executive decision which will have a significant impact in environmental, physical, social or economic terms on communities living or working in two or more electoral wards. This includes any plans or strategies which are not within the meaning of the Council’s Policy Framework set out in Article 4 of the Council’s Constitution.
 - c) Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council’s Constitution, a ‘Key’ Decision may not be taken, unless 28 days notice have been given in this document;
 - d) The law and the Council’s Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in this document in accordance with General Exception and Special Urgency provisions.

3. The Executive Cabinet is made up of the Executive Leader, Deputy Leader and five Executive Members with the following portfolios:

Executive Leader and Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	Councillor Alistair Bradley
Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Member (Resources)	Councillor Peter Wilson
Executive Member (Early Intervention)	Councillor Beverley Murray
Executive Member (Homes and Housing)	Councillor Terry Howarth
Executive Member (Planning and Development)	Councillor Alistair Morwood
Executive Member (Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships)	Councillor Margaret France
Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)	Councillor Adrian Lowe

4. Copies of the Council’s Constitution and agenda and minutes for all meetings of the Council may be accessed on the Council’s website: www.chorley.gov.uk. If there are any queries, including objections to items being considered in private, please contact the Council on 01257 515151 or email contact@chorley.gov.uk. Please note representations should be received 14 days before the date the decision is due to be taken.

5. This Forward Plan is a formal notice that some of the decisions listed will be held in private because the report will contain exempt information listed under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as set out below and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.:
1. Information relating to any individual.
 2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
 4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
 5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
 6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes –
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
 7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Chris Sinnott, Chief Executive

Last updated: 24 July 2024

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Future meetings of the Executive Cabinet where there is an intention to hold part of a meeting in private: 13 June 2024, 11 July 2024, 12 September 2024, and 10 October 2024							
August							
Revenue Budget Monitoring Q1	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member (Resources)		12 Sep 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Finance)
Capital and Balance Sheet Monitoring Report Q1	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member (Resources)		12 Sep 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Finance)
Chorley Quarter One Performance Monitoring Report 2024-25	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member (Resources)		12 Sep 2024	Open		Report of the Chief Executive

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval for the contract award procedure and evaluation criteria for- 1) Purchase of Tipper vans 2) Trade waste services for council buildings 3) Depot Waste Services 4) Clinical Waste Collections	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	12 Sep 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Weed Control Policy	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)		12 Sep 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Policy for managing unreasonable customer behaviour	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)		31 Jul 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Finance System Procurement	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	12 Sep 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Finance)
Merchant Services Contract Award	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	12 Sep 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Finance)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Future meetings							
Asset Valuations Contract Award	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	14 Nov 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Finance)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Executive Member Decisions							
Executive Leader and Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Services Reform)							
Contract Award to Essensys Ltd Request	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Chief Executive
Decarbonisation & Improvement Work (Leisure Centres) - Consultant Appointment	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)		May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Architect Contract Award - Levelling Up Fund	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)			22 May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Levelling Up Fund - Contract Award Design Team Consultants	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)		A contract worth £100,000 or more	10 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the
Chorley Bus Station - Procurement Strategy	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	Councillor Alistair Bradley	A contract worth £100,000 or more	6 Aug 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Member (Resources)							
Approval for the Contract Award for the Procurement of AV Equipment	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Proposed Grant of Wayleave to EG Group-Land at Clayton Sports Centre	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		24 Jun 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Grant of a 3 year lease to Denatec, Unit 5 at Strawberry Meadows	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	17 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Grant of a Lease to Fleur Designs on units 32 and 33 at Strawberry Meadows	Executive Member (Resources)	Councillor Peter Wilson	A contract worth £100,000 or more	17 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Grant of a 6-year lease Units C12 and C 13 Strawberry Meadows Business Park	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		Before 9 Feb 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive
Grant of a Lease - Office 6 - Strawberry Fields Digital Office Park	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		Before 18 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Grant of Lease to Panache Cruises for office 33 at Strawberry Fields	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	17 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Grant of a lease - Office 33 Strawberry Fields Digital Office Park	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		17 Aug 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Strawberry Fields Digital Office Hub - Grant of a Lease - Offices 33a 34 35 36 37	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		Before 7 Jul 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive
Grant of a 6 Year Lease to Louise Davies for Salon Unit at Tatton Gardens	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		17 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Grant of a 5 year Lease to Beauty Without Vanity at Salon Unit, Primrose Gardens	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		17 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Policy Review: National Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief Policy	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		June 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval for the Contract Award for the Procurement of Meeting Room Technology	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	Approval for the Contract Award Procedure and Evaluation Criteria for ICT Hardware and Software: https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=8036&Ver=4	Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval of contract award for Backup and DR	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval for the Contract Award for the Procurement of In Cab CCTV and Driver Technology	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	Approval for the Contract Award Procedure for ICT Hardware and Software - https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=9422&Ver=4	Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval for the Contract Award for the Procurement of CCTV Support	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	1 May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval of contract award for CCTV	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	1 May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval for the Contract Award for the Procurement of Elections Software	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	Approval for the Contract Award Procedure and Evaluation Criteria for ICT Hardware and Software: https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=8036&Ver=4	Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval for the Contract Award for the Procurement of GIS (mapping)	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	May 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	Approval for the Contract Award Procedure and Evaluation Criteria for ICT Hardware and Software: https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=8036&Ver=4	Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval of contract award for GIS	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval for the Contract Award for the Procurement of ICT Helpdesk Solution	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	September 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	Approval for the Contract Award Procedure and Evaluation Criteria for ICT Hardware and Software: https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=8036&Ver=4	Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval of contract award for ICT Hardware	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval of contract award for ICT Helpdesk	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval of contract award for Managed Services	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval of contract award for Professional Services	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval of contract award for Housing Software	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Elections Software Award of Contract	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	7 May 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval of contract award for Patching and Vulnerability Management	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval of contract award for Case Management Software	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval of contract award for Waste Management Software	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	31 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Approval of contract award for Email archiving/journaling	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	29 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approval of contract award for Payment provider	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	22 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Hardship Relief	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		April 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 1: Information relating to an individual.		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Discretionary Rate Relief 2022/2023	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		April 2023	Open		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Applications to waive Council Tax Long-Term Empty Premium	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		July 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 1: Information relating to any individual.		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Mutual Agreement	Executive Member (Resources)			9 Nov 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 1: Information relating to any individual.		Report of the Director (Finance)
HR Policy Framework	Executive Member (Resources)			17 May 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Change and Delivery)
Procurement Restructure	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		11 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Governance)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Contract Award - Remediation & Demolition Works - Bengal Street Depot	Executive Member (Resources)		A contract worth £100,000 or more	14 Jan 2024	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the
Contract Award - Professional Design Team (Depot Relocation Ackhurst Site)	Executive Member (Resources)		A contract worth £100,000 or more	20 Oct 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Disposal of 3 Parking Spaces at Farrington Street Car Park Chorley	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		October 2022	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Commercial Services)
Land Rear of 50 and 52 Fairview Drive Adlington	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		September 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).	No	Report of the Director (Commercial Services)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Land at Southport Road/Balshaw Lane Euxton - request to use Open Space	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		Before 2 Aug 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Brookfield and Ingholme - Agreement for Compensation for Release of Restrictive Covenant	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		30 Nov 2022	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Commercial Services), Deputy Chief Executive
Merchant Services Contract Award	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	4 Oct 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Renewal of a Lease - Unit 16 Market Walk	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		Before 27 Jul 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Chief Executive
Proposed Renewal of Lease - Newsagents Kiosk Chorley Interchange	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		Before 23 May 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Unit 9B Market Walk, Chorley-Proposed Lease Renewal	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		May 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Unit 17, Market Walk, Chorley-Renewal of Lease	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		Before 30 Sep 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Unit 19 Market Walk Chorley- Proposed renewal of Lease to Signet Trading Ltd. t/a H.Samuel	Leader and Deputy Leader/Director Briefing Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		Before 29 Mar 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Kiosk/Cafe Coronation Recreation Ground Chorley	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		October 2022	Fully exempt	Contract Award for the Refurbishment of Coronation Recreation Ground Refreshment Kiosk: http://mod/mglsueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=72018&optionId=0&\$LO\$=1	Report of the Director (Commercial Services)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Lease of Cafe Coach House Astley Park	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	October 2022	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Commercial Services)
Business Engagement Grants	Executive Member (Resources)			October 2022	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Shop Front Grant	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		October 2022	Fully exempt	Vacant Property and Shop Front Grants - Programme Evaluation - https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=44900	Report of the Director (Commercial Services)
Shop Front Grant EMD - Ronnies Bar	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)		16 Aug 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Change and Delivery)
Shop Front Grant EMD - KT Boutique	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform)		20 Aug 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Change and Delivery)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Approve an application for ERVS	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		October 2022	Fully exempt Paragraph 1: Information relating to any individual.		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive
Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Replacement for Short Stay Car Park	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment), Councillor Peter Wilson		5 Dec 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive
Chorley Cemetery Toilet Refurbishment	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		13 Feb 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Astley Hall Complex - Provision of Cafe Facility	Executive Member (Resources)		A change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	27 Mar 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Governance)
Shop Mobility Core Funding	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		19 Jun 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Customer Payment Provider	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)	A significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards	18 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Grant of a 5 Year Lease to Safe World	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		13 Jul 2023	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)
Grant of a 5 Year Lease to Jarion	Executive Member (Resources)	Executive Member (Resources)		13 Jul 2023	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Executive Member (Early Intervention)							
Public Health Funerals Policy	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	Executive Member (Early Intervention)		4 Apr 2023	Open		Report of the Director (Communities and Leisure)
Appointment of Consultant to Prepare Proposal and Specification of Decarbonisation and Improvement Works at Leisure Centres Managed by Chorley Leisure Limited	Executive Member (Early Intervention)			29 Jun 2023	Fully exempt Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).		Report of the Director (Commercial Services)
Agency Agreement Chorley Leisure Ltd	Leader and Deputy Leader/Director Briefing Executive Member (Early Intervention)	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	A change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	28 Jun 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Governance)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
All Seasons Gym Refurbishment - Contract Award Stage 1	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	12 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the
All Seasons Leisure Centre Improvements - Contract Award Stage 2	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	A contract worth £100,000 or more	29 Aug 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the
Grafton Street Alley Gate	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	Executive Member (Early Intervention)		20 Oct 2023	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Communities and Leisure)
Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	A significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards	29 Feb 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Communities and Leisure)
Food Hygiene Rating- Re-Inspection Fee	Executive Member (Early Intervention)	Executive Member (Early Intervention)		19 Jun 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Communities and Leisure)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Executive Member (Homes and Housing)							
Extra Care Policies	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)		October 2022	Open		Report of the Director (Commercial Services)
Communities and Housing Move to the New Terms and Conditions	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)	Executive Member (Homes and Housing), Executive Member (Early Intervention)		Before 16 Aug 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Communities and Leisure)
Land at Eaves Green	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)		16 Aug 2023	Open		Report of the Director (Communities and Leisure)
HMO Minimum Amenity Standards and Conditions	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)		31 Jul 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Communities and Leisure)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Adoption of revised Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)	A significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards	July 2023	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Communities and Leisure)
Acquisition of Property No 14	Executive Member (Homes and Housing)	Councillor Peter Wilson	A significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards	June 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Executive Member (Planning and Development)							
Gillet Playing Fields Pitch Improvement Tender Evaluation Criteria	Executive Member (Planning and Development)		A contract worth £100,000 or more	30 May 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the
Gillett Playing Fields Cricket Pitch Improvement Contract Award	Executive Member (Planning and Development)	Executive Member (Planning and Development)		24 Jul 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the Director (Planning and Property)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Executive Member (Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships)							
Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)							
Policy Review: National Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief Policy	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)		26 Jun 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Policy Review: NNDR Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	Leader and Deputy Leader/Director Briefing Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)		13 Jun 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Reason the decision is key	Earliest Date decision can be taken	Will the public be excluded?	Are there any background papers?	Documents to be considered by Decision taker
Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Policy	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)		13 Jun 2024	Open		Report of the Director (Customer and Digital)
Shared Streetscene and Waste Management	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)	Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment)		June 2024	Fully exempt		Report of the

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Scrutiny Reporting Back

Chorley Council's Annual Report on
Overview and Scrutiny

2023/24



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1. Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Councillor Debra Platt

Current Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024/25

(previous Chair Councillor Aidy Riggott 2023/24)



Councillor Roy Lees

Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2023/24 and 2024/25

Committee Membership 2023/24

Aidy Riggott (in the Chair until May 2024)
Roy Lees (Vice chair)

Sarah Ainsworth
Michelle Brown
Michelle Beach
Christine Heydon
Dedrah Moss
Samantha Martin
Pauline McGovern
Arjun Singh
Kim Snape
Ryan Towers
Joan Williamson

2. Introduction by the Chair and Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had a busy year undertaking a varied and extensive work programme.

There was sad news at the start of the municipal year when Councillor Keith Iddon, who was initially appointed Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, died in June 2023. Councillor Aidy Riggott was subsequently appointed Chair by Council in July 2023.

Councillor Roy Lees was appointed Vice Chair.

There were also several new members welcomed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel, which consisted of six members and met five times monitored the business planning and performance of the council along with a focus on each of the Directorates in turn.

Over the year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee observed the completion of the Recruitment and Staff Retention Overview and Scrutiny Task Group.

Following the approval at Executive Cabinet, the committee continued to receive monitoring reports which included information about implementation and success of previous scrutiny reviews, these were:

- Select Move
- Community Safety Partnership / Crime and Disorder.

3. Challenging Performance

The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel scrutinised the performance of the council with all monitoring information considered. Scrutinising performance is essential to ensure key details are examined, questioned and that consistency prevailed.

The panel for the 2023/24 Panel consisted of:

- Councillor Aidy Riggott (Chair)
- Councillor Roy Lees (Vice Chair)
- Councillor Sarah Ainsworth
- Councillor Michelle Brown
- Councillor Arjun Singh
- Councillor Kim Snape

Customer and Digital

Adrian Lowe, Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment) presented the report with Asim Khan, Director (Customer and Digital) and Chris Walmsley, Head of Streetscene and Waste.

The Performance Panel noted and discussed the following key performance indicators:

-11 of the directorate's performance indicators were on or above target. Of the 39 business plan projects, 25 were rated green or completed, and 14 were rated amber. Both Corporate Strategy Projects were rated green.

-Financially there was an underspend of £35,000.

-Two Corporate Strategy indicators were above target, the 'percentage of household waste sent for refuse, recycling, or composting' was worse than Quarter 3, but within the 5% threshold.

-The figure for 'average days to process a new council tax support and housing benefit claim' was worse than Q4 2021/22 due to the number of complex cases received in the year. There were also delays caused by matters outside the control of the council.

-The figure for 'percentage of ground maintenance service requests completed on time' was incorrect within the report and was actually above target at 87.8%.

-The new Corporate Strategy Project for the year was to deliver improvements to the public transport networks. The council had possession of 83 bus shelters and there is a 5-year improvement plan for them all. The first year will see 19 bus shelters replaced.

-18 vacancies had been filled but there remained outstanding vacancies. There were 4 vacant apprenticeships and 3 other vacant posts.

-In relation to the figure of dissatisfaction, there was not a correlation between the increase in online service and dissatisfaction. The online service was designed for convenience, although it was noted that the service could contribute to the delays some faced.

There were ongoing operational issues with the contractor. Recycling had stagnated which impacted the figure for '% of waste recycled'. For additional increase of this figure, there required behavioural changes from residents and certainty from government. There is a delay from central government to conclude waste and recycling initiatives now expected in 2025, in the meantime, and in the absence of the government position, the council was currently in the process of drafting its own waste and recycling strategy.

Policy and Governance

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Service Reform and Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented a report providing a performance update for the Policy and Governance Directorate. This included:

- An overall directorate summary and budget position,
- An overview of performance at quarter two 2023/2024
- An update on the Corporate Strategy projects.

Chris Moister, Director of Governance and Louise Mattinson, Director of Finance were also in attendance.

A number of questions / queries were raised by the Panel, and the responses were as follows:

Overall employment rate – members queried the figure as it differed significantly from the rest of the region average. Councillor Bradley agreed that the figure needed to be investigated further, and if accurate to identify the reasons.

Corporate projects – Improve our Council buildings – Councillor Bradley explained the delays were related to the decarbonisation scheme and the need to meet government criteria which was very strict.

Internal audit reviews – Chris Moister explained that all management actions had been agreed with the service. It may be that work in some areas was complete, however, if they had yet to be ticked off in the system (.i.e at the deadline of end of the month or the quarter), the action would still be shown as outstanding in the report. He stressed that overall, things were moving in the right direction.

Astley Hall Bookings – Councillor Wilson agreed to provide a breakdown of footfall figures split into local residents and visitors.

Digital connectivity in rural areas - Rural England Prosperity Fund grants – Cllr Bradley indicated that the take up had been very good. He would be receiving a full report in due course and an update would subsequently be provided to the Panel.

Council business networking / events – Councillor Bradley indicated we are now taking a different approach – it is working well but there is more we can do.

Response times for complaints to the Chief Executive and MP - identify what is the issue / reason for delay and review the appropriateness of the target if necessary.

Communities and Leisure

Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member (Early Intervention), presented a report providing members with a performance update for the Communities and Leisure Directorate which included:

- An overall directorate summary and budget position at September 2023,
- An overview of key performance measures at quarter two 2023/24, and
- An update on the Corporate Strategy projects.

The report also indicated that the Leisure Company transferred over to the Communities Directorate in September 2023, therefore, this is the first time that a report on the Company has come to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel. It was clarified that the Board met on a regular basis (formally four times a year) and held informal meetings / briefings inbetween to discuss any issues.

Jennifer Mullin, Director of Communities stressed that demand in the area was being looked at with a view to targeting resources to increase leisure centre membership.

Councillor Murray indicated that Cosy Homes Lancashire Scheme was benefiting local residents.

A question was asked regarding promotion of the Home Energy Support Scheme and availability of information for members. Cllr Murray indicated that the postholder running the scheme had only recently been appointed, however she would circulate information to members.

A question was asked regarding the Anti Social Behaviour action plan. The Director of Communities explained that Chorley INSPIRE were assisting the Council with their outreach work, which would be the subject of a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 January 2024.

Planning and Development

The Executive Member for Planning, Councillor Alistair Morwood, and the Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Sector Reform, Councillor Alistair Bradley, presented a report providing a performance update for the Planning and Property Update which included:

- An overall directorate summary and budget position
- An overview of key performance measures at quarter three 2023/24
- An update on the Corporate Strategy projects.

The Directorate was noted to be unusual due to covering several Executive Portfolios.

Councillor Morwood referred to the Local Plan which had been moved from red to amber status since the Business Plan Update had been considered. Councillor Morwood explained that the Local Plan had previously been in red due to the delays in progress i.e. needing to be considered at the Local Plan Working Group and then Council. Now that the matter is moving forward it has been moved up to amber.

Councillor Bradley addressed the performance indicators in respect of property services. It was noted that there was an 80% overspend. He indicated that the council was still catching up on repairs and maintenance on properties dating back to COVID. He also stressed that some slippage was related to underspend rather than overspend.

Councillor Bradley informed the Committee that he did not expect the significant overspend to be recurrent in future years as it was largely due to factors such as outstanding property repairs and utility costs (which are expected to be lower in subsequent years).

As regards bad debt provision, he explained that some businesses had built up bad debts during COVID and were still trying to get back on track. The Council's approach was to take long term view to encourage businesses to stay in the town centre. The council has a good record of dealing with debt recovery for both residents and businesses.

It was also noted that Levelling Up Funding and projects considered at the Development and Assets Working Group would be subject to scrutiny in future. The Panel resolved that Levelling Up Funding and projects considered at the Development and Assets Working Group to be included in the future Overview and Scrutiny Work. Programme.

Quarterly Performance Monitoring

Quarter Four Performance Report

The Panel considered the quarter four performance report from January – March 2023.

Key achievements included Tatton Gardens with the connected GP surgery and café. Following the completion of the scheme, the council continued to commit to the corporate strategy and develop further options for high quality, affordable and green housing.

The amber rated key project was the delivery of the local plan. Reasons explained included vacancies within the team which impacted the capacity to deliver the project. Recruitment was underway and some of the posts had been successfully recruited. It was also noted that the project contained complexity due to working with two other authorities. It was questioned by the Panel if the project should be rated red, however, for a project to be rated red, the project would be stopped, off track with no plan to move forward. Actions were currently in place to bring the project back on track, it was noted that more leeway was provided due to partnership working with two other authorities.

Of the key service measures, four were better than target, one was worse than target but within threshold, 'percentage of business rates (NNDR) collected' and one was worse than target and outside of threshold, 'town centre vacancy rate'. The reason was due to the pandemic. Actions were in place to encourage vibrance in the town centre. The figure for the list of units within the town centre and those earmarked as available would be reported back.

It was agreed that future quarterly performance monitoring reports would be presented by the Executive Member.

Business Plan Update 2023/24

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Service Reform and Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented a report providing an update on the delivery of service level projects outlined in the business plans.

Councillor Bradley highlighted that of the total 81 projects:

54 were rated as **Green (67%)**
10 were considered **Completed (12%)**
16 were rated as **Amber (20%)**
1 was rated as **Red (1%)**

Councillor Bradley explained that the project rated red was in relation to the finance system project, which had been delayed for the reasons explained in paragraph 14, i.e. to ensure a stable environment before proceeding with the purchase of a new system.

The Panel members raised queries on the following topics in the report:

2023 Events Programme .
Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy
Finance systems project delay
Long term empty property checks
Special Expenses

UKSPF programme
Exploration of joint district health scrutiny.

Quarter Two Performance Monitoring Report

The Executive Member (Resources), Councillor Peter Wilson, presented a report setting out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the second quarter on 2023/24, covering 1 July 2023 – 30 September 2023.

Councillor Wilson referred to the performance indicator showing a lower than expected rate of employment for Chorley (64%) compared to the regional average. He stressed that the reasons were being investigated although he was not convinced the figure was an accurate given that it did not accord with other indicators (e.g. which showed Chorley had a lower than average unemployment rate). It would next be reported in the Executive Cabinet's quarter 3 monitoring report in March. The

Chair requested that if there was an issue of note or concern, to bring it to the attention of the Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member (Early Intervention), who was also in attendance, responded to queries relating to leisure centres following the appointment of the new activities manager in post.

Further to a query regarding the NEET (Not in education, employment or training) figure, the Panel were informed that the data had now been obtained from Lancashire County Council. The figure for Chorley was 1.7% which was within target.

The Chair highlighted the delays in the adoption of the Local Plan and the resulting performance indicator going from amber to red. He suggested that, once the Local Plan had gained traction and was closer to adoption, the Panel may wish to scrutinise the background as to how the Council arrived in this position.

Quarter Three Performance Monitoring Report

The Executive Member for Resources, Councillor Peter Wilson, and Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Sector Reform, presented a report setting out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the third quarter of 2023/24, covering 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023.

Councillor Wilson indicated that the Council was in a good position and delivering on its Corporate Strategy.

He referred to the need to make leisure centres more sustainable and the lower than national average Employment Rate, which was initially queried on 11 January 2024 (Minute 12). He confirmed that the figure was correct and therefore needs to be addressed.

A query was made about the Household Support Fund. Jennifer Mullin, the Director of Communities and Leisure explained that Central Government were only going to provide funding for a further six months beyond 31 March 2024.

As regards the performance indicator for percentage of 16-17 year old NEETs (Not in education, employment or training), it was highlighted that there were several reasons for this post COVID trend, including increased mental health issues, however steps were being taken to address it via place/space/care partnerships, Chorley and South Ribble Partnership, and early intervention work for 13-14 year olds.

The Chair expressed concern about the Local Plan and timescale slippage but accepted that the position had now changed.

The Committee also discussed economic activity in Chorley, which was linked to NEETs. It was noted that apprenticeships were in decline, however Chorley was offering grants for apprenticeships.

The Panel agreed that the following areas be included in the 2024/25 Overview and Scrutiny work Programme:

- Local Plan
- NEETs and Economic activity – October / November 2024.

4. The Overview and Scrutiny Task Groups

Recruitment and Staff Retention – Chaired by Councillor Michelle Beach

The final report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Recruitment and Staff Retention was presented to the Committee in January 2023.

The aim was to identify any underlying issues relating to recruitment and staff retention, and if so, to address them ensuring the Council has an excellent workforce, providing quality services to residents and a reputation as a good employer.

The Task Group met on several occasions over the course of 4 months from September to December, gathering evidence from a range of witnesses and sources including Hollie Walmsley, Head of Human Resources (the lead officer for the study), UNISON branch secretary Lesley Miller, survey responses from the Council's Senior Management Team and an interview with the Executive Member for Resources.

The recommendations, which were accepted by the Executive Cabinet, were as follows:

1. That the Council's Senior Management Team be requested to investigate the feasibility of the Council working towards the Living Wage Accreditation, and if promising, present their proposals to Executive Cabinet

2. That the Council actively promotes health and wellbeing (including mental health) support available as part of its overall employee benefits package
3. That the Executive Member for Resources monitor recruitment and retention figures over the next 6 – 12 months especially in identified key risk areas
4. That a member learning session be arranged on an annual basis to update on workforce planning
5. To include performance reporting data on recruitment and staff retention on the new members portal from the new recruitment system

The report was presented at Executive Cabinet in March 2024 and the actions are in progress.

Suicide Bereavement and Prevention – Chaired by Councillor Samantha Martin

An informal meeting open to all members was held at the end of March 2024 to discuss ideas and information that might be relevant to the review.

The review topic formally commenced in May 2024 and is in progress. The Task Group have considered information provided at interview from the Council's Social Prescribing Service, LCC Public Health and Lancashire MIND. They are also planning to meet with Bereavement Support Groups and Lancashire Constabulary. The review is due for completion in September 2024.

5. Budget Scrutiny

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member (Resources) presented the report on the Draft Budget 2024/25 which had been considered and agreed at Executive Cabinet on 18 January 2024. Louise Mattinson, Director of Finance was also in attendance.

The report set out the draft budget position for the council for 2024/25 and the forecast for 2025/26, reflecting the information contained within the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement announced on 18th December 2023.

Councillor Wilson explained that the budget consultation process, which had now started, included the following proposals:

- A proposed 2.99% increase in council tax in 2024/25 with no proposed cuts to services;
- A forecast balanced budget for 2024/25, based on a 2.99% increase in council tax as noted above and the use of £0.365m of reserves;

A forecast budget shortfall for 2025/26 of £1.575m, to be addressed through the development and delivery of the council's savings programme

Proposals for the labour administration to invest in the priority areas identified in the report.

Councillor Wilson highlighted the investments which generate net income for the Council, such as the Market Walk Shopping Centre, Primrose Gardens, Strawberry Meadows and Tatton Gardens.

It was noted in the report that the figures in the report may be subject to change, pending receipt of the Final Local Government Financial Settlement announcement which is due from Government in early February 2024. The Council has only received a one year settlement. In the absence of any figures or framework from Government, it is almost impossible to prepare a credible financial strategy beyond 31 March 2025 with any degree of confidence in the underlying assumptions. It was therefore difficult to develop the Medium Term Strategy in this context. There were also financial risks and uncertainties which would have an impact on the Council's budget such as staffing costs following an agreed pay award.

Councillor Wilson responded to two issues raised by the Chair, in relation to energy costs and impact on projects for the area. Councillor Wilson indicated that hopefully energy costs would reduce, however they were unlikely to return to rates of 12 months ago. In relation to projects, e.g. arising from the Levelling Up Funding, these are still on track and would not be adversely impacted.

Finally, Councillor Wilson indicated that due to the financial challenges being faced by the Council, the Executive Cabinet would be looking closely at all areas of the Council in the next twelve months and suggested that scrutiny would have a key role in that process.

6. Topics presented to the Committee

Cycling Update

Matt Evans, Air Quality and Climate Change Officer presented the report. The work grew from the Overview and Scrutiny Sustainable Public Transport Task Group. Following the unsuccessful formation of a cycling task group, it was agreed that the work would be picked up and continued by the Climate Change Working Group.

Social media was a key tool in communicating and directing people to information and promoting active travel in the borough.

Consultations took place for internal staff and the general public. The public responded constructively, and reported higher likelihood of visiting the town if there were improved cycling facilities and infrastructure.

Internally, it was resolved to understand the failure to improve cycling uptake following requested facilities and measures. It was indicated that the distance from the facilities at Bengal Street and the Town Hall was too great, and there was concern about damage to new ICT equipment.

The bike pods were to be moved from Bengal Street to Portland Street Car Park. The new location should benefit commuters, workers and visitors to the town centre.

There were aims to repurpose the Town Hall basement and provide separate shower and changing facilities for staff.

The council had continued to work with the County Council to ensure that Chorley was well represented within the Lancashire Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Partnership. The next draft had been delayed but expected to be published in August. A consultation was currently underway.

The process and progress would be reported to the Climate Change Working Group.

Work completed for the new Local Plan aimed to encourage developers to work with the active travel team to promote active travel. Work was to be completed with the Planning department to ensure that an emphasis was placed on walking, wheeling and cycling while considering planning applications.

It was raised by members that on the 'Check Out Chorley' website there was information lacking related to Charnock Richard, Eccleston and Heskin, despite being popular with cyclists. It was confirmed that additional work could be done, and a meeting could be arranged outside of the Committee to seek further details.

Cost of Living Action Plan- Update

Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member (Early Intervention) presented a report of the Director of Communities updating members on the Cost of Living Action Plan. Councillor Murray conveyed her thanks to the Communities team and the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector network.

There were still some gaps, however. She highlighted page 45 of the report, which outlined a proposal to address furniture poverty by creating a new and recycled white goods and furniture scheme.

The Director of Communities, Jennifer Mullin, indicated that people could access information about support available such as food clubs via the Council website / social media, via telephone, leaflets, partner/ voluntary organisations, and postcards delivered to households. She agreed to provide members with data about recipients of the Household Support Fund.

One member highlighted the difficulty of getting support to groups such as pensioners, some of whom just miss qualifying for pension credit but were still on very modest incomes. Councillor Murray agreed vulnerable pensioners were one of the hard to reach groups; in such cases the Council works with partner organisations to identify people who use food banks and will hopefully reach people not accessing

information digitally by distributing postcards. It was suggested that these postcards be distributed in community venues such as GP surgeries and libraries. It was also suggested that as winter approaches information about the location of warm hubs be included.

Wheelchair Accessibility

Adam Nickson, Head of Property and Development presented a report of the Deputy Chief Executive updating members regarding wheelchair accessibility across Council buildings and externally in Chorley.

The work which had recently been carried out at the back of the town hall to provide access to meetings for wheelchair users was commended.

However, a couple of issues were highlighted as follows:

Wheelchair accessibility at the front of the town hall

Disability awareness in the plans for Primrose Gardens

Lack of disabled access at restaurants in Chorley, i.e. who had benefited from Council grants. Adam Nickson indicated that he would feedback to relevant colleagues in the Council.

Youth Diversionary and Outreach Services

Councillor Bev Murray, Executive Member (Early Intervention) presented a report of the Director of Communities providing an overview of youth diversionary and outreach support services in the borough, including:

Tackling anti social behaviour – engagement of the Public Protection Team
INSPIRE Youth Zone Detached Outreach Programme
Children and Family Wellbeing Detached Service
Lancashire Violence Reduction Network
Preston North End

Councillor Murray responded to questions from the Committee. Arising from the discussions it was agreed that details about the INSPIRE outreach programme (i.e. forthcoming planned activities in which areas) be communicated to members (e.g. via in the Know).

It was also suggested that INSPIRE be invited to jointly participate with the Council in local democracy week to engage with young people outside a school setting.

Town Centre Action Plan Update

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Member (Economic Development and Public Service Reform), presented a report providing an overview of the matters related to anti-social behaviour (ASB) in connection with Chorley Town Centre.

Arising from the discussion it was agreed in principle that a similar framework be applied to other urban hub areas in the borough, as anti social behaviour can be sporadic and move outside Chorley Town Centre. The Chair suggested that if there were patterns of anti social behaviour which related to the approval of planning applications (retail outlets, eating outlets etc) it may be possible to put something in place at the planning stage.

Water Safety – Doing it for Dylan Campaign

Beckie Ramsay from the “Doing it for Dylan” Water Safety Campaign gave a presentation about her campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of swimming in open water which had been inspired by the tragic death of her son, Dylan in 2011 who had decided to go swimming in a local quarry.

The presentation included a short dramatization showing two young characters, one of whom drowns after attempting to swim in open water. Beckie explained that this film was shown at schools at which she had given talks about water safety. It highlighted that anyone, even a strong swimmer, could get into difficulties in open water.

Her campaign had been mentioned at World Drowning Prevention Day in Australia and she has travelled all over the world to promote awareness of water safety including Kenya. She had won awards for her campaigning including from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

Beckie stressed that she was not against swimming in open water – she wanted to tackle lack of awareness of the dangers. Her approach would be “No lifeguard, no swimming”. The presentation demonstrated the importance of wearing protective clothing in open water as worn by rescue services.

Beckie informed the Committee that there had been no national public announcements from the Government on water safety since the 1970s. Open water often contained dangerous chemicals and she gave an example of one water source tested which had a PH of 11.6 (bleach is 12.2).

She indicated that since Dylan’s death thirteen years ago, annual drowning statistics have remained static i.e. 600 deaths a year, of which 400 were accidental. Beckie felt that there was a lot more which could be done to promote public awareness and improve water safety.

Some of Beckie’s proposed recommendations were:

- Improved warning signage at open water sites
- Councils engaging with landowners e.g. on adequate fencing and lighting
- Signage with suicide prevention information and locator apps for people at high risk
- Measures for water safety equipment nearby open water –
 - e.g. rope– to be a designated bright colour so easily identifiable if stolen (trialled in Scotland);and
 - to tackle theft and vandalism of equipment e.g. lifebuoys
- Locating high risk sites and raising public awareness
- Promoting awareness of water safety via schools, local media

Encouraging the public to sign up to the “What3Words” locator app
Installing Number Locator Boards every 50 metres along open water to help rescue services (this was trialled in Liverpool and rescue times were reduced from 23 to 9 minutes)
Greater accountability for landowners to ensure water safety measures are in place
To create a Lancashire wide approach so that Lancashire can lead on the issue.

Beckie also spoke about a voluntary organisation called “Beneath the Surface” which carried out private searches for missing persons once police resources had been exhausted. They use a piece of technology called “Aqua Eye” which was an underwater camera making it easier to locate people underwater.

Chief Inspector Chris Abbott, Lancashire Constabulary informed the Committee that he was already part of a water safety advisory board in West Lancs and that he would be willing to be involved in setting up a similar body here in Chorley. He acknowledged that funding in this area was an issue for both Lancashire police and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service however it was important to do as much as possible.

The Committee thanked Beckie for her excellent and informative presentation, particularly as it was a subject which had affected her personally. It was agreed that the Council should do everything it can to assist the campaign and take the proposed actions forward.

Crime and Disorder – Community Safety Partnership

The Director of Communities and Leisure, Jennifer Mullin presented a report providing an overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Chief Inspector Chris Abbott, Lancashire Constabulary and Laura Jean-Taylor, Head of Public Protection were also in attendance.

The report demonstrated the resilience of the CSP and its capability to provide a dynamic response.

The report included The Strategic Assessment 2022 and then further broken down into Local District Profiles, highlighting the key issues and risks across Lancashire.

Utilising the information contained with the strategic assessment, local knowledge and intelligence and the Lancashire Talking survey the CSP had drawn together a Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership Action Plan. The plan detailed the established key priorities and the commitment of the Responsible Authorities towards each priority. A partnership event was held on 21 July 2023, which was a great success with great attendance and engagement across the partnership and Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations.

The report gave details of a number of police activities. Chief Inspector Chris Abbott indicated that Operation Centurion for example, launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner in July 2023 targeting ASB hot spots areas, had successfully targeted locally based issues and that overall crime figures were lower across the board.

Updates from the Lancashire County Council's Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Over the course of the year, the Committee were periodically provided updates from the Lancashire County Council's Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee that was attended by Councillor Margaret France.

Lancashire and South Cumbria New Hospital Programme - Two new hospitals on two new sites, Royal Preston, and Royal Lancaster Hospital. Unfortunately, the start date had been pushed back to 2030 at the earliest.

Virtual Wards - 393 virtual beds across Lancashire, and were used to manage and monitor patients at home, and allowing additional space at hospitals.

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams - Results and outcomes were better when services were closer to the community, it was the goal for residents to be able to take control of their health and wellbeing. It was believed that there was a push to reduce hospital beds and there were concerns raised that a replication could be observed of the issues that developed with the closure of psychiatric hospitals in favour of care in the community.

It was confirmed that the Integrated Care Board was told by NHS England to reduce their budget by 30%, which was considered to be difficult given the demands on the costs and required building maintenance.

It was clarified that agency costs were significant due to the difficulty in filling the vacant roles. There was a knowledge gap, and more staff were leaving than were being replaced. It was however noted, that the Lancashire Teaching trust had doctors and nurses available on bank to take extra shifts and were prioritised over agency staff.

An update on the NHS Community Mental Health Transformation Programme:

4 Community Mental Health Teams or hubs mirroring the 'Place' model in preparation for a go live date of 16/10/23

Introducing Mental Health Practitioners into Primary Care

Lancashire MIND working with VCFS agencies to map out provision of services

Easy access to specialist mental health services - no 'wrong door' approach

Multidisciplinary assessments - the right help at the right time.

Councillor France also gave updates on:

Happier Minds, the work of LCC Public Health team around alcohol, drugs, self harm and suicide across Lancashire.

- NHS Lancashire Place Update and Future Arrangements

NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board – Recovery and Transformation

Concern was expressed by the Committee about NHS dentist provision in Lancashire.

Achievements on the work of the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board's priorities – Healthy Hearts, Happier Minds and Best Start in Life. It was noted that Chorley had a particular issue in terms of suicide risk.

7. Monitoring Reports

Select Move – First Monitoring Report - October 2023

Councillor Terry Howarth, Executive Member (Homes and Housing) presented a report of the Director of Communities providing the first update of the work undertaken to deliver the 18 recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group for Select Move.

One member referred to page 62, recommendation 15 of the report regarding the demographics of people moving into the area through the 25% allowance not through Select Move and asked if the information had been requested from the Housing Associations again. The Director of Communities confirmed that the information had been requested again quite recently and that officers would continue to chase this up.

One member informed the Committee that they had met with the housing team last week and found it useful to have information about the properties available to bid on such as the waiting times. The Director Communities indicated that this was available via the Select Move system. It was agreed that a note be provided to new members on the Select Move system.

Select Move - Second Monitoring Report – March 2024

Councillor Terry Howarth, Executive Member (Homes and Housing) presented a report providing the second update of the work undertaken to deliver the 18 recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group for Select Move.

The report also gave details of two Select Move Customer Surveys which were completed between 14th November to 13th December 2023. One survey was sent to applicants where Chorley Council was managing the application, and the second survey was sent to applicants whose applications were managed by any other partner.

Councillor Howarth explained that one of the key recommendations, simplifying the banding, had been addressed in the Select Move Policy Review. The new policy had now been signed off by all three Local Authorities, (Chorley, Preston and South Ribble). The policy implementation has been delayed due to lack of CIVICA (IT software provider) capacity, however CIVICA will now start work developing updates to the housing management system. They have committed to a new “go live” date in September 2024.

Councillor Howarth indicated that he was very pleased with the report and the progress made.

8. Conclusion and the Year Ahead

It had been an interesting year for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, scrutinising, reviewing, and exploring topics that were of interest and concern to Members and to the public.

The Committee is committed to working closely with Members, partners, Officers, and the Executive and will continue to challenge and hold the Executive to account while remaining a critical friend to ensure positive outcomes.

In the forthcoming municipal year, there will be four meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and four meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel.

Following the elections, the Committee's Membership has changed. Councillor Debra Platt is now the Chair and there are newly elected members on the Committee.

In August, the Committee will consider the upcoming work programme.