

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

**Wednesday, 8th November
2006**

In the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley



Chief Executive's Office

Please ask for: Gordon Banks
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Date: 30 October 2006

Chief Executive: Donna Hall

Chorley
Council

Town Hall
Market Street
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1DP

Dear Councillor

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER 2006

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley on Wednesday, 8th November 2006 commencing at 6.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of any interests**

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

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

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 October 2006 (enclosed)

4. **Executive Cabinet - 9 November 2006**

To consider any reports on the agenda for the Executive Cabinet meeting to be held on 9 October 2006 which are not already on the agenda. (The Executive Cabinet agenda will be circulated to all members of the Committee)

Members of the Committee are requested to notify the **Democratic Services Section by 10.00am on Monday 6 November 2006**, if they wish to discuss any particular Executive Cabinet reports, to ensure the attendance of the appropriate Executive Cabinet Member and Officers.

5. **Approval of Play Strategy for the Borough (Pages 5 - 44)**

Report of Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (enclosed)

Continued....

The Committee, at its meeting on 5 September 2006, indicated that it wished to examine the report identified on the Forward Plan, in advance of its consideration by the Executive Cabinet on 9 November 2006.

6. **Lancashire Partnership - Strategy for an Ageing Population (Pages 45 - 64)**

Report of Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (enclosed)

7. **Updated Corporate Strategy (Pages 65 - 72)**

Report of Director of Policy and Performance (enclosed)

A coloured copy of the updated Corporate Strategy is attached as a separate document.

8. **Forward Plan (Pages 73 - 82)**

To consider the Council's Forward Plan for the four month period from 1 November 2006 to 28 February 2007 (enclosed).

9. **Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry (Pages 83 - 88)**

Presentation by the Director of Policy and Performance on the Corporate Assessment. This is in relation to the Committee's on going inquiry into the Council's performance against the key lines of enquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during CPA and Direction of Travel.

A copy of the Inquiry Outline document, Project Plan, Information Checklist and Witness Checklist are enclosed for members information.

10. **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (enclosed) (Pages 89 - 90)**

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

12. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following item of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

13. **Appointment of Service Provider for the Property Services Function (Pages 91 - 94)**

Report of Executive Director – Corporate and Customer (enclosed)

The Committee at its meeting on 5 September 2006, indicated that it wished to examine the report identified on the Forward Plan, in advance of its consideration by the Executive Cabinet on 9 November 2006.

The Executive Member for Resources (Councillor A Cullens) has been invited to attend the meeting.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Dennis Edgerley (Chair), Councillors Thomas McGowan, Kenneth Ball, Thomas Bedford, Terry Brown, Francis Culshaw, Mrs Marie Gray, Harold Heaton, Geoffrey Russell, Mrs Iris Smith, Christopher Snow and Greg Morgan) and for attendance.
2. Agenda and reports to Donna Hall (Chief Executive), Paul Morris (Executive Director - Corporate and Customer), Jamie Carson (Director of Leisure and Cultural Services), Lesley-Ann Fenton (Director of Policy and Performance), Steve Pearce (Assistant Head of Democratic Services) and Gordon Bankes (Democratic Services Officer) for attendance.
3. Agenda and reports to Councillors A Cullens Executive Member for Resources for attendance.

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

આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો: 01257 515822

ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپ کی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 4 October 2006

Present: Councillor Dennis Edgerley (Chair), Councillors Thomas McGowan, Kenneth Ball, Thomas Bedford, Terry Brown, Alan Cullens, Francis Culshaw, Mrs Marie Gray, Geoffrey Russell and Mrs Iris Smith

Also in attendance: Councillor Peter Malpas (Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration), Councillor Greg Morgan (Executive Member for Resources)

06.OS.40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Harold Heaton.

06.OS.41 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

None of the Members disclosed any interests in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

06.OS.42 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 September 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

06.OS.43 REVENUE BUDGET, 2006/07 - MONITORING REPORT NO. 3

The Committee received a report of the Director of Finance monitoring the current financial position of the Council compared to the budget and efficiency saving targets it set itself for 2006/07 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

The previous report to the Committee indicated that the projected outturn forecast an overspend of £66,000 but that the position had changed and the projection was now an overspend of £170,000, equating to 1% of the total budget.

Further savings would be produced with Directors being asked to identify cost reductions. A number of areas would be monitored closely in particular increased refuse collection costs, increase income streams from Development and Regeneration, concessionary travel and benefit costs and agency staff costs.

The Committee received information relating to the Concessionary Travel Scheme and that a number of questions had been raised with Lancashire County Council but none had been answered making forecasting unclear.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted and that the Committee and the Executive Cabinet receive a report at their next meeting on Concessionary Travel and the element of financial risk to the authority of this scheme.

06.OS.44 CHORLEY TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY

Further to Minute 06.05.46 Overview and Scrutiny Committee 5 September 2006, the Committee received from the Director of Development and Regeneration a report and presentation on the representations received on the draft Town Centre Strategy.

The Committee had indicated that it wished to examine the report in advance of its consideration by the Executive Cabinet on 5 October 2006.

The report and presentation indicated that a consultant had undertaken a study of Chorley Town Centre and the wider retail and leisure needs of the Borough. The report provided a detailed health check of the town centre and identified how the Town Centre could successfully adapt through to 2015 to provide for the retail and leisure requirements of the Borough's community.

The process had been taken forward in production of the draft Town Centre Strategy which would be a 10 year policy and action plan until 2016 which would be reviewed every 3 years.

The following four priority elements had been identified in the Town Centre because there had been a number of inter-related opportunities running through each strategic objective. The priority elements helped to focus on the necessary key measures and actions required to secure and enhance the Town Centre's vitality and viability.

- Town Centre Diversification

The Strategy planned to broaden the town centre's economic base by encouraging new small and middle-range outlets and stimulating the expansion of the evening economy.

- Town Centre Environment

The Strategy required the significant enhancement and maintenance of the town's physical fabric through, for example, improvements to the town's gateway areas and design guides for shop fronts.

- Accessibility and Movement

The Strategy aimed to build upon the current high levels of accessibility by reviewing car parking provision and pedestrian linkages within the Town Centre. Special reference was made to the proposals to create a prestigious Town Hall Square feature.

- Business Promotion and Support

More effective marketing and promotion of Chorley as a 'Contemporary Market Town' and partnership working were crucial to the delivery of the Strategy.

Members expressed concern that no mention of elements of Community Safety could be seen in the Strategy.

RESOLVED - 1) That the report and presentation be noted.

2) That Community Safety issues be raised in the priority element of Town Centre Environment.

3) That Town Centre Management be taken up by the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

06.OS.45 EXECUTIVE CABINET - 5 OCTOBER 2006

No other reports on the agenda for the Executive Cabinet on 5 October 2006 were considered for discussion.

06.OS.46 QUARTERLY BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2006/07 - MONITORING REPORT AS AT 30 JUNE 2006

The Director of Policy and Performance submitted a report monitoring the Authority's performance in relation to both the Best Value Performance Indicators and the

Council's Corporate Key Performance Indicators during the first quarter period as at 30 June 2006.

The report indicated the full list of Best Value Performance Indicators that are relevant to this Council and which are collected in accordance with definitions issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The Quarterly Business Plan monitoring statements had also been produced by the Directorates and these had been considered by the Committee.

The Committee were informed that in those areas where there had been a decline in performance, action plan had been prepared to address this with more detailed reports on those areas not achieving a target of 5% tolerance.

06.OS.47 QUARTERLY BUSINESS PLAN MONITORING STATEMENT - POLICY AND PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE

The Director of Policy and Performance submitted the Business Plan Monitoring Statement relating to her Directorate which identified the progress made against the key actions and performance indicators for the period 1 April 2006 to 30 June 2006.

The report indicated the activities of the Directorate over the last quarter and the good progress made towards integration of the previously diverse section since the Directorate was established in April 2006.

An Action Plan had been developed proposing a way to improve the percentage of invoices processed in 30 days.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

06.OS.48 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY

The Committee received a draft inquiry outline document for the scrutiny inquiry to be undertaken by the Committee on the Council's performance against the key lines of inquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during CPA and Direction of Travel.

A timetable had been set out by the Audit Commission for authorities wishing to apply for re categorisation and it would be these authorities, which the Committee could be looking at to gain information from their mistakes as well as achievements.

The Committee would be looking to invite the Council's Relationships Manager (Audit Commission) to the next meeting to gain background information.

The next meeting of the Committee would receive a presentation from the Director of Policy and Performance on the key issues and progress made since the Council received its last CPA in 2003 within the key issues debated in small groups.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

06.OS.49 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee received the Council's Forward Plan, which set out details of the key executive decisions expected to be taken between 1 October 2006 and 31 January 2007.

The Plan identified several matters for potential decisions by the Executive in November 2006 and the Committee were requested to indicate these items that it wishes to examine in advance of consideration by the Executive.

RESOLVED - That the Executive Cabinet be notified that this Committee wishes to examine reports on the following matters with the appropriate Executive Members and Directors, before final decisions are taken by the Executive.

- Agreement of Pay and Workforce Strategy.
- Approval of PCSO Pilot Scheme.

06.OS.50 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee were presented with the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2006/07.

The programme included the envisaged timescales for the on-going scrutiny enquiries and the planned debates for the periodic inventory of past inquiries.

RESOLVED - That the work programme be noted.

Chair



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Introduced by the Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Wellbeing)	Executive Cabinet	09/11/06

A PLAY STRATEGY FOR CHORLEY

PURPOSE OF REPORT`

1. This report seeks Members’ approval of the adoption of a Play Strategy for Chorley.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2. The Play Strategy will have a positive impact on several Corporate Priorities, for example:
 - Improving the chances for children and young people.
 - Improving the quality of life of the borough’s older people.
 - Healthier communities and reducing health inequalities.
 - Involving people in decision making and improving the well being of their communities.
 - Improving the local environment.
 - Contributing towards safer communities.

RISK ISSUES

3. The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy	✓	Information	
Reputation	✓	Regulatory/Legal	
Financial	✓	Operational	
People		Other	✓

4. An assessment of the key risks has been carried out. The production of the strategy mitigates the risks. There are financial risks related to the distribution of lottery funding. The application process and the grant conditions address the risks.

BACKGROUND

5. The Executive Cabinet, at their meeting on 30 March 2006, approved a recommendation for the Council, working with the Chorley Play Partnership, to apply for Big Lottery Play Initiative funding. The cabinet also approved a recommendation that the Council be the accountable body for the Lottery grant.



6. The guidance for the Big Lottery Play Initiative funding described two key tasks that need to be completed in order to strengthen a bid for funding. The first is the development of a local play partnership that is fully engaged in the bid. The second is the production of a strategy that highlights local play needs and informs the allocation of lottery funding.
7. Chorley Council has been invited by the Big Lottery Fund to submit a bid up to the value of £208,007. This figure has been calculated using Chorley's child population weighted by the local level of poverty. Our project may last up to three years and requires no match funding, although the Big Lottery Fund will expect to see appropriate existing budgets working in harmony with Big Lottery Fund resources.

CHORLEY PLAY PARTNERSHIP

8. Chorley Play Forum was set up in April 1997 to find ways of making more effective use of limited resources for children's play in the borough. Over the next six years, the Forum, made up of representatives of voluntary, community and statutory organisations – including the Council – was involved in an advisory capacity mainly in relation to Council play initiatives. In 2004 the Forum felt that there was a need to become more pro-active in its own right, and consequently re-formed as Chorley Play Partnership. The Chorley Play Partnership mission statement is :

“Working in partnership to promote and increase quality play opportunities for children and young people across the borough of Chorley”.

DEVELOPING THE PLAY STRATEGY

9. Between January and May 2006, Chorley Play Partnership held a series of sub-meetings to draft a Play Strategy that was discussed at a Re-Visioning Day in early June, then taken out for 10 weeks' consultation. Distribution included: all Parish Councils; primary and secondary schools across the Borough via the Neighbourhood Wardens; Homestart and Barnardo's families; Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators; community organisations and events; Playday 2006; Community Safety Target Area groups; Celebrating Young Children event at Woodlands; Yarrow Valley Park and Get Up and Go activities.
10. Adults were encouraged to consider their own childhood experiences of play before commenting on their experiences of children playing today. Children, young people and adults were asked what they meant by "play", about the things that stopped people from playing, and about where and how play spaces could be improved.
11. Responses to the consultation were collated by a working group in August 2006, then incorporated into the Play Strategy and a preliminary action plan drawn up. A copy of the Play Strategy and the preliminary action plan is attached to this report. The strategy is designed to cover a 10 year period, to allow a realistic timescale for change. The preliminary action plan covers the first 5 years 2006 – 2011, when there will be a review of the strategy. The preliminary action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. This is important given the investigate/explore etc nature of many of the tasks. It is important to note that this is a partnership strategy, rather than a Chorley Council document.
12. The plan covers a wide range of initiatives and activities designed to improve access to quality play opportunities over a long term period. Some of these are dependent upon bidding successfully for external funding, including the £208,000 of lottery money, but most involve reviewing and possibly refocusing local energies by finding more effective ways of working in partnership. Therefore it is recommended that the Council's play expenditure is aligned to the Strategy and the delivery of its aims.

13. The single most important issue relating to play, borough-wide, was bullying and intimidation. Both children and adults rate this as their greatest concern. For children it is at least twice as important as their next highest concern which is vandalism and mess. Adults are also concerned about traffic.
14. The main priorities highlighted within the strategy can be grouped under three headings:
 - Safer Play
 - Inclusion and Involvement
 - Development of Skills and Information

THE NEXT STEPS

15. If the Play Strategy is approved, outline project bids will be invited in November/December. The criteria for the bids will reflect the priorities within the Play Strategy and those set out by the Big Lottery.
16. The bids will be considered by a small panel of assessors. The panel will have four members – two from Chorley Council (Councillors Perks and Bell) and a representative from the Chorley Play Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnership.
17. The approved bids will then form part of our application to the Big Lottery.
18. An officer group has been established to manage the bid process.
19. If approved, the Strategy will be reformatted so that it is easier for the general public, including children and young people, to read than the present format.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

20. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

21. Members should note that the Council will act as the accountable body for the lottery funding. The Council must therefore ensure that funds are used appropriately and due process is followed. The Partnership and strategy set out a clear vision for the area. Attracting funding to achieve the aims will be key and the Council has a part to play in facilitating this and aligning its own resources to the strategy to meet its own aspirations in the Corporate Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

22. That the Executive Cabinet approve the Play Strategy and that play expenditure be aligned to ensure it contributes towards the aims of the Strategy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

22. Approval will enable progress on actions within the Play Strategy and enhance partnership working that will ultimately help to reduce inequalities, get people more involved, improve access to quality play opportunities and develop Chorley as a good play to live and to play.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

23. An option would have been not to produce a strategy and not to apply for the £208,007 earmarked for Chorley. This was rejected.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Liz Morey	5812	16 October 2006	CSREP/1710DJ1



A Play Strategy for Chorley



A PLAY STRATEGY FOR CHORLEY

How this Strategy was developed

Between January and May 2006, Chorley Play Partnership held a series of meetings in order to draft a Play Strategy, that was discussed in detail at a Revision Day in early June, before being taken out for 10 weeks' consultation.

The adults taking part in the consultation were encouraged to consider their own childhood experiences of play before commenting on their experiences of children playing today. Children, young people and adults were asked what they meant by "play", about the things that stop people from playing, and about where and how play spaces could be improved.

Responses to the consultation were collated by a Working Group in August 2006, then incorporated into the draft Play Strategy and preliminary action plan.

The Strategy and action plan cover a wide range of initiatives and activities designed to improve access to quality play opportunities over a long term period. Some of these are dependent upon bidding successfully for external funding, but most involve reviewing and possibly refocusing local energies by finding more effective ways of working, in partnership.

The main priorities within the Play Strategy and action plan:

- Safer Play
- Inclusion and Involvement
- Developing skills and information

A PLAY STRATEGY FOR CHORLEY

1. Why Chorley needs a Play Strategy

'A consistent theme is the importance of having communities where there is somewhere safe to go and something to do...(providing) recreational activity for children and young people ...building the fabric of communities and increasing young people's skills, confidence and self-esteem'.

Every Child Matters, Government Green Paper, September 2003.

- 1.1 We know that play is essential to children's happiness, health and development. If children do not have the degree of freedom or access to the environments that they need to play, there are serious consequences for their quality of life and long term health and development.
- 1.2 A decline in play opportunities affects children generally, but affects disabled children and children with other social or economic disadvantages disproportionately.
- 1.3 The enjoyment of play and recreation is one of the key outcomes for children that local authorities are required to consider in drawing up co-ordinated children and young people's plans under the Children Act 2004.
- 1.4 'Getting Serious About Play: A review of children's play (2004)', written to advise the government on lottery funding for play, recommended that 'authorities should take the opportunity...to improve the planning and operation of play facilities across their area...in partnership with other local agencies, children and young people and local communities...'

In spring 2005, the Big Lottery Fund announced a £155 million strategic funding programme for play provision in England, to be based broadly on the recommendations of this review.

- 1.5 From September 2005, all local authority services for children and young people became subject to a joint area review. The review provides a comprehensive report on the outcomes for children and young people in the local area, and evaluates how local services work together to contribute to their achievements, progress and well-being. Joint area reviews are normally carried out at the same time as the Audit Commission's corporate assessment of the Council.

1.6 An effective Play Strategy for the Borough will:

- Promote longer term, more cross-cutting partnership working
- Develop strong leadership and support for play
- Promote and develop commitment to play at a strategic level
- Promote and develop inclusivity
- Enhance decision making and service provision

1.7 Play and best value

The Audit Commission identifies the development, adoption and implementation of an appropriate play policy and strategy by the local authority as a Best Value Performance Indicator in the Strategic Objective/Quality of Life category. Indicator PI 115.

While Chorley Council does not currently use this Performance Indicator within Best Value Reviews, good quality play provision, both supervised and unsupervised, developed strategically and managed properly, should represent best value over time as a valuable community asset.

1.8 Whilst the Play Strategy is informed by the findings of local organisations and agencies and relevant local statistics, we have used the views of 174 children and young people and 78 adults, collected through a consultation exercise carried out across the Borough in July and August 2006, to ensure that we are on the right track.

1.9 This Strategy is mainly targeted at play provision for children and young people aged up to sixteen years, but some projects may also benefit young people who are slightly older.

1.10 To allow sufficient time to address play-related issues across the Borough, we propose that this first Strategy should cover a 10 year period from 2006 – 2016, and that it should be reviewed in 2011.



2. What we mean by 'play'

Play can be difficult to define! The National Occupational Standards of the playwork, childcare and early years professions define play as 'freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child ... by playing, children learn and develop as individuals and as members of the community'.

Children in Chorley believe that play is (in order of importance):

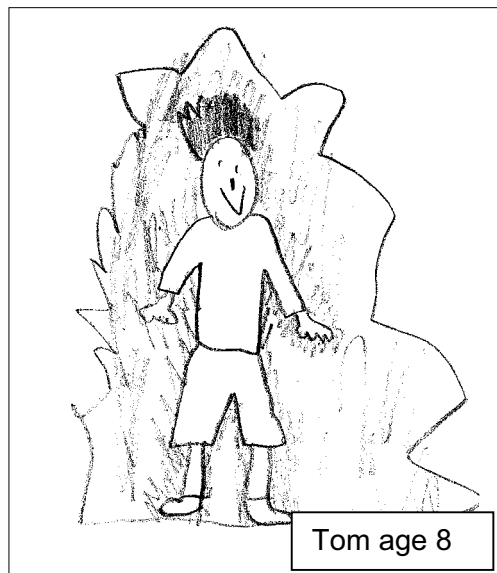
- Something you do with your friends
- Having fun
- Sporting activities
- Playing games like kerbie and tig
- Hanging out / being free
- Being active or occupied
- Outside or on the Rec or play area
- Riding bikes
- Inside, occasionally playing on computers

We asked adults in Chorley to think back to their own childhood, and tell us how THEY used to play:

- In the country, or fields
- On the Rec or play area
- Traditional games like marbles, hopscotch, jacks, conkers, skipping
- In the street or at home
- Sporting activities
- Riding bikes or roller skating
- In the woods or near water, climbing trees, making dens
- Make believe play and picnics
- Uniformed activities like Brownies, army cadets, or attending clubs and groups

I play mostly in the living room or in my room, in my house. I would like to row a boat or go fishing.

Jack, aged 9 years.



3. The benefits of play

- 3.1 Play is essential for children's healthy physical, emotional, social and cognitive development, and growing research shows that opportunities for free play are the best way of ensuring this.
We know that play contributes to children's physical and emotional wellbeing, and is part of a healthy lifestyle.
- 3.2 Community-based play activities can help make the best use of natural environments, and contribute to children's environmental awareness.
- 3.3 The development, usage and sustainability of opportunities to play is a priority issue for most neighbourhoods, and is often the catalyst for community action.
- 3.4 Positive play experiences and opportunities could help to reduce the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour, which children and young people often attribute to boredom and frustration.
- 3.5 "Play" can be seen as an adult concept – children tend to "do" play, rather than talk about it. Engagement in play is a universal activity, and with the right support, can be inclusive for all.
- 3.6 Play can contribute significantly towards achieving the five inter-dependent outcomes of Every Child Matters, a shared national programme of change with clear focus on children and young people. These outcomes are:
- Being healthy
 - Staying safe
 - Enjoying and achieving
 - Making a positive contribution
 - Achieving economic wellbeing



4. Removing barriers to play

'The overwhelming cry from both parents and young people is around the lack of activities and facilities...the thing they say would most improve family life is the provision of places to go and things to do...where they can spend their leisure time with their friends.'

Margaret Hodge, Minister for Children and Families, January 2005

'Both children and adults would like there to be less vandalism and no bullying, and to feel safer'

Chorley Play Partnership Play Survey results Oct/Nov 2005

- 4.1 Children and young people commonly identify many things that can get in the way of their play, recreation and enjoyment of public space.

Children in Chorley said that the following things stopped them from playing when and where they want to:

- Bullying and intimidation – these were rated as the main obstacle to play by more than 90% of children and young people responding to the consultation
- Vandalism/mess
- Parents or being grounded
- Lack of time, too many responsibilities
- Nowhere to play, or damaged facilities
- Neighbours or other adults' attitudes
- Traffic and parked cars
- The weather

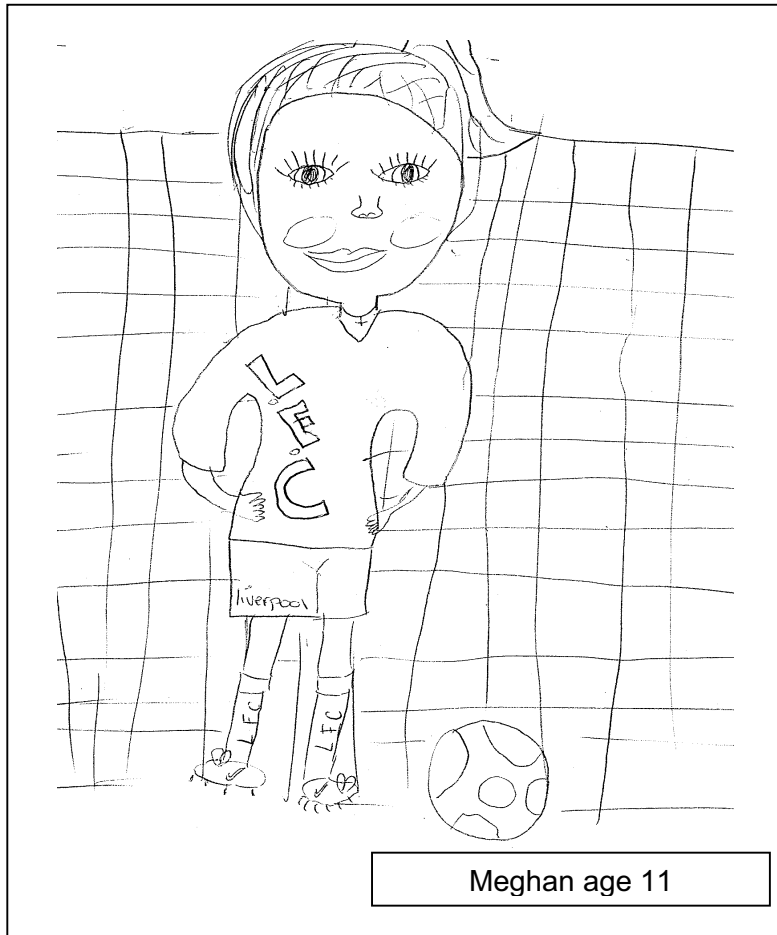
The adults that responded listed similar obstacles to children playing in their area:

- Fear and intimidation – again, this was listed by a high percentage of people
- Traffic
- Nowhere to go, nothing to do
- Neighbours or other adults' attitudes
- Parents not around to support or encourage play
- A few people felt that television and computers had a negative effect

I don't play out. I would really like to play football.

Rebecca, aged 10 years

I like to play at the park with my friends there are some things that are ok...not so good is that it has lots of things for toddlers when not so many go, so it gets really boring. **Amy, aged 10 years**



5. Developing inclusive play

'Inclusive play provision is open and accessible to all and takes positive action in removing disabling barriers so that disabled children and non-disabled children can participate'.

Alison John, for *Kidsactive* and the Better Play Awards

- 5.1 Negative attitudes and inaccessible physical environments exacerbate the general problems experienced by most children, and create enormous barriers to the enjoyment of disabled children's right to play independently.

A sensory garden - lots of things to touch and feel - play equipment for wheelchair users

A Chorley Parent – July 2006

- 5.2 Certain children can be disproportionately excluded from play provision. For example, Asian children – and girls in particular – are sometimes discouraged from attending mainstream play services because of a range of cultural and ethnic pressures. We need to ensure that children and families are actively encouraged to take part in the planning, design and enjoyment of play facilities.
- 5.3 Anti-social behaviour is cited as a barrier to play, both nationally and locally. Groups of children or young people 'hanging out' in public areas are often seen as posing a threat or a nuisance, even when they are simply enjoying being together. Many children and young people complain that they don't have access to space that is theirs because of perceived, or actual, anti-social behaviour.

I like playing on the park there is lots to do and lots of my friends go there too. But the bad point is that lots of older kids wander around there too, so it doesn't feel so safe at times.

Abbie, 10 years old.

- 5.4 Young people are often seen as the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, but in terms of parks, recreation grounds and play spaces, they also suffer from the anti-social behaviour of both other children and young people, and of adults – ranging from the possibility of attack in unlit areas, to adults allowing dogs to roam loose in children's areas. Involving children and young people in the design process could alleviate some of these issues.

- 5.5 Children and young people, and their parents and carers, are also concerned about the maintenance of parks and green spaces.
- 5.6 The Kids Inclusion Framework for Local Authorities sets out guidelines for putting policy into practice to include disabled children and young people in play and childcare services.

'This Framework reflects Kids' belief that disabled children and young people should have a right to be part of any local play environment they choose. Local authorities can use this ... to help meet their responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act and the Ten Year Strategy for Childcare, promoting equal access to play for disabled children...'

KIDS, 2005.

The Framework suggests key areas to address in promoting and supporting inclusive play that can be considered within a play Action Plan for Chorley

Involvement in the development of good quality, local play facilities would provide enormous opportunities to increase young people's positive participation in their community.

I play on the park sometimes if my mates are there so sometimes it is good and sometimes it is bad because people don't treat the things with respect

Rachael, aged 11 years

5.7 **Levels of deprivation in the Borough**

Chorley Borough is divided into 65 Super Output Areas, which are each given a ranking in the index of multiple deprivation.

The areas of the Borough falling into the 20% most overall deprived of English wards in 2004 included:

- The area between Stump Lane and Lyons Lane.
- Cowling and Eaves Lane South/and the Healey Nab area.
- Botany Bay / Coltsfoot Drive area.
- Chorley Town Centre East.
- East of Pall Mall / West of Pilling Lane area.
- Moor Road North / Eaves Green Area.
- Clayton Brook North West.

Areas within the Borough which, in 2004, fell into the 20% most deprived in terms of health and disability included all the above areas, plus:

- Adlington Town South
- Buckshaw Village and Astley Village North
- Gillibrand South / Moor Road South area.
- Gillibrand Central / Tootell Street Area
- Whittle le Woods North and West
- Clayton Brook South West and North East
- Coppull Central

Although Chorley is not considered to be a deprived area on the whole, the statistics mask the Borough's poor health and levels of disability. Good quality play provision is an accepted way of improving children and young people's health, and needs to be developed in response to these statistics.

Wards in the Borough amongst the 20% most deprived in terms of access to housing and services were shown to be:

- Brindle and Hoghton
- Great Knowley and Little Knowley
- Ulnes Walton
- Pennine and Whittle le Woods South East

If access to services such as GP's, post offices and schools is limited, it could be assumed that access to play services might also be limited. Rural areas, though not traditionally deprived, may be in urgent need of play services.

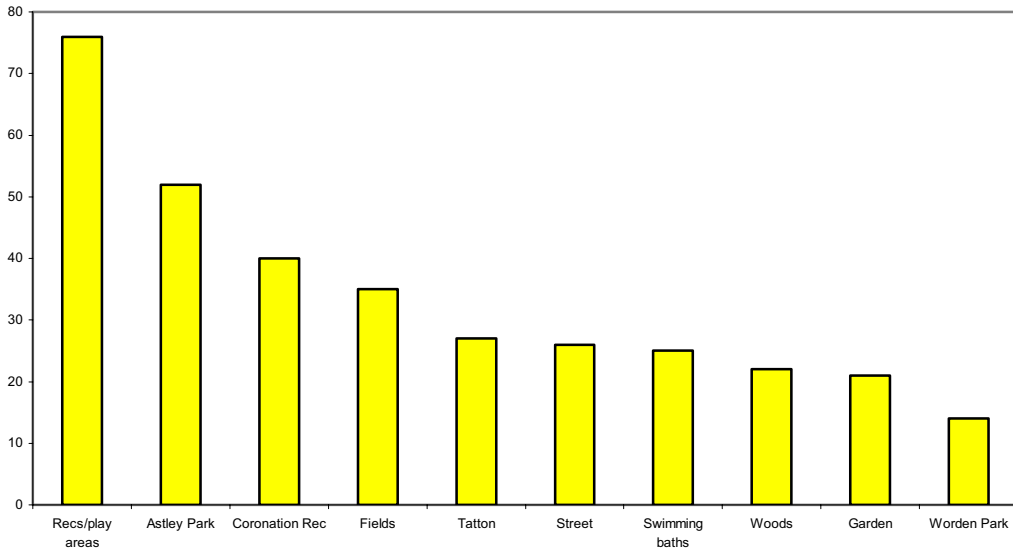
We need to consider all of the above areas of the Borough within our play Action Plan.

5.8 Population figures – children and young people under 16

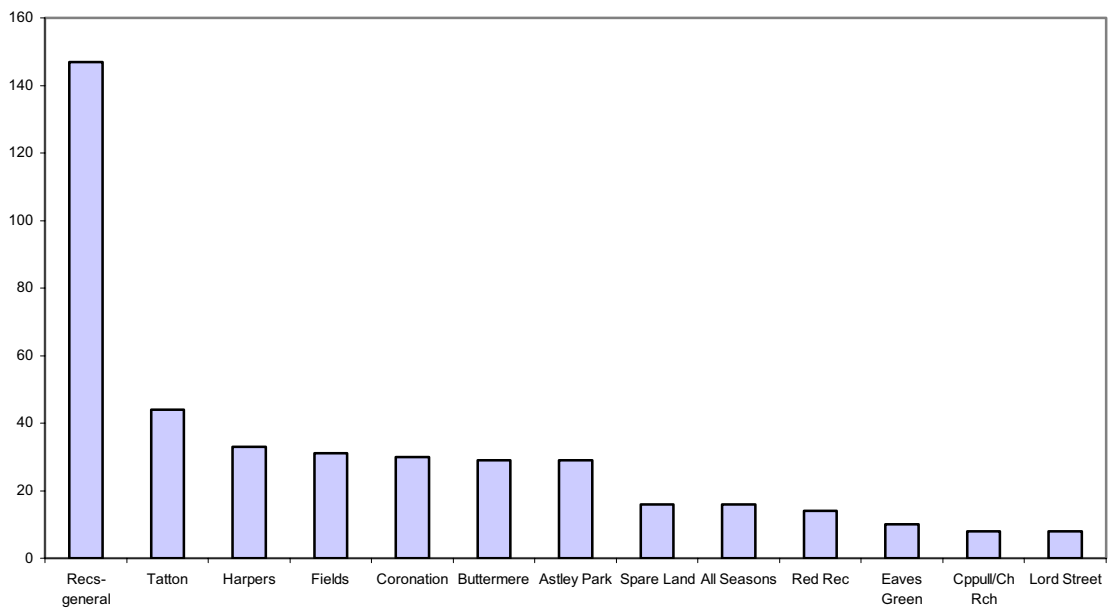
The 2001 Census of Population shows percentages of total population of children and young people under 16 in Wards within the Borough, which can be used to assess needs within a play Action Plan. These are shown as an appendix to this Strategy.

5.9 Where are the good places to play – and which places need to be improved?

In their responses to the Summer 2006 consultation, children said that the following were good places to play across Chorley:



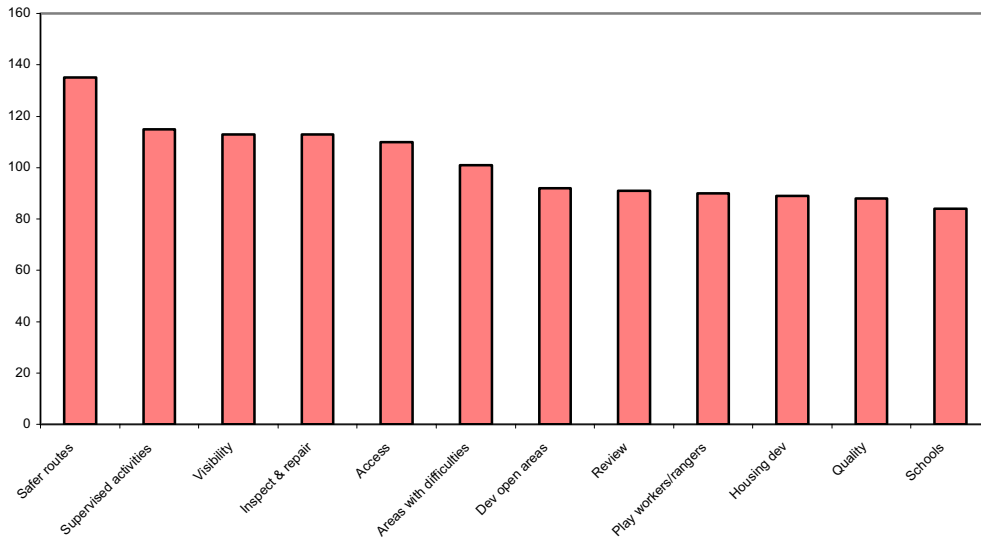
They also felt that certain areas needed to be improved:



Children and young people's reasons for highlighting certain play places, and their suggestions for improvements are shown as an appendix to this Strategy.

5.10 What do children and young people think should be included in the Play Strategy?

As part of the Summer 2006 consultation, children were offered a range of 12 different topics that might be included within the Strategy, if they felt that they were important enough. They a great deal of thought and consideration into this exercise, which led to these results:



These topics will be considered within the play Action Plan.

6. Developing Opportunities for Play

- 6.1 Children need to be allowed to be children, wherever they are. A certain number of prescribed, fenced-off areas with a quota of manufactured equipment are just one response to their needs. The Play Strategy and Action Plan are intended to help develop and create the widest possible range of play opportunities.
- 6.2 We want to create a child-friendly Borough and greater recognition of the importance of play across a range of policy areas that affects children's lives. By engaging with children and young people, we can promote a sense of shared ownership and responsibility for sustainable public space. In this way, we can encourage the Borough's young people to identify with, and feel a sense of belonging to their physical, social and natural environment.
- 6.3 We need to promote access for all children through inclusive principles and good practice, as well as by highlighting distinct areas for action to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act.
- 6.4 Half of all days in the year are weekends or school holidays, when, given the opportunity, children will play for many hours. If given the opportunity, they will also play before, after and on the way to and from school.

I play everywhere **Jay, 11 years old**

- 6.5 Children's preferred out-of-school play spaces are often where they can see and be seen by a trusted adult. Putting children and their play spaces 'out of sight and out of mind' leads to facilities that are little used and often vandalised.

Children like their play space to be visible and readily accessible, to be at the heart of the community and environment that they are familiar with, where they feel socially secure.

Successful play spaces take into account children's need to see and be seen, without compromising the need for a rich and varied environment, and the ability to hang out, chill, and feel free – one of Chorley children's top 5 criteria for "play" .

- 6.6 Children instinctively like to be within the heart of their neighbourhoods, and tend to play where they are likely to meet friends and other members of the community. This is why they like to congregate in front of shops, on street corners and other well-used public spaces. Being with friends was the number one play priority for children responding to recent consultation.

I play on my street because there's lots of friends and it is busy.
Jasmine, aged 10 years

All children depend upon the suitability of communal environments to be able to play safely.

If they don't actually play on the roads and pavements themselves (and many often do) they depend on these being safe routes to spaces where they can play.

Children responding to the Play Strategy consultation have raised the issue of busy roads and also parked cars, as obstacles to safe play. Parents and other adults feel extremely strongly that traffic danger is a significant obstacle.

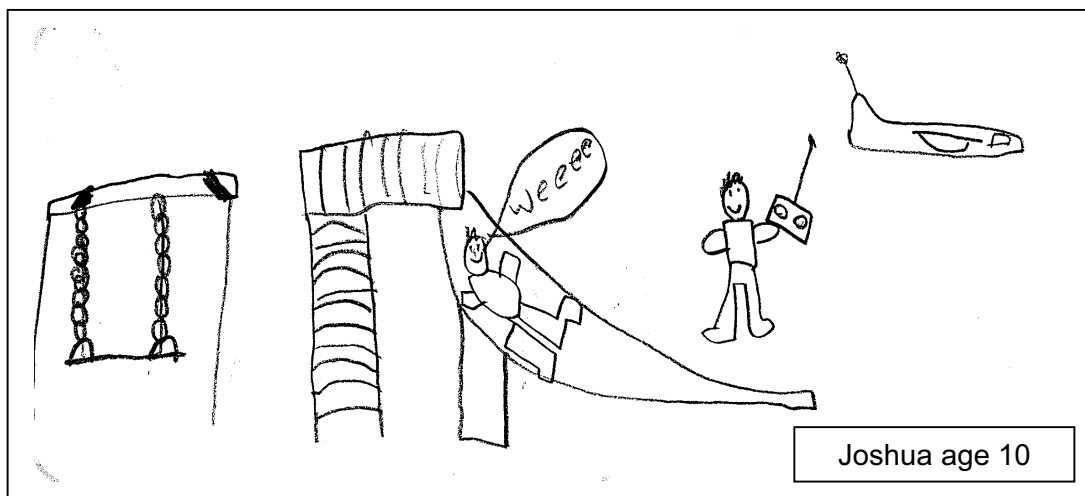
Our Play Strategy needs to find ways to minimise the threat of traffic and other perceived dangers to children playing outdoors by linking with Street Scene initiatives.

I play on my bike a lot. It is not very good because cars always come.
Ben, 8 years old

- 6.9 Chorley's Play Areas Strategy highlights the need for larger, showcase facilities, offering central neighbourhood facilities that bring communities together, with as varied a range of attractions as possible. Tatton Recreation Ground in East Chorley has been a good example of this. The 2006 play consultation results will allow us to review this as part of an Action Plan.
- 6.10 Fixed equipment playgrounds have their place, but children also need access to space to run, climb, skip, hide, play with ropes, jump, practise cartwheels, throw and kick balls, make friends, fall out, grow things, tell stories, climb trees, take risks, get wet, explore nature, build dens, get dirty, dress up, keep animals, dig holes, swing on tyres, shout, fight, invent games, make things, paint pictures, talk with their friends or just sit.
- 6.11 We need to address safety not just by ensuring the safety of play equipment, but by striving to provide spaces and activities where children feel socially safe, but are also able to engage in exciting and challenging activity.

I play on a field it is fun and you can make dens and make a bridge to cross the river. But I don't like it when people set the trees on fire and trash all your hard work.
Georgina, aged 8 years.

- 6.12 The need to feel free from fear of bullying and intimidation and a desire to see a reduction in vandalism at play places has been highlighted as a major concern for both children and adults in the Borough. The play Action Plan must consider ways to increase effective supervision and security, whilst still encouraging a sense of freedom and creative play.
- 6.13 Although a large number of people in Chorley currently provide play work as part of, for example, Early Years provision, or activities within uniformed groups and out of school provision, we do not currently have a specifically recognised play workforce.
- 6.14 We have also experienced difficulty in the past in attracting workers to undergo training that is specifically geared to Playwork. We need to address this as part of the play Action Plan, particularly with a view to developing inclusive play.



7. **Where play fits in locally**

Chorley Council's Corporate Strategy for 2006/07 – 2008/09

Producing a Play Strategy is a strategic priority Chorley Council, with the objective of reducing pockets of inequality within the Borough.

Creative Connections – Chorley Borough's Cultural Strategy 2003-2008

Play is seen as an important element within Chorley's Cultural Strategy. This Strategy uses a definition of culture that includes children's play, playgrounds and play activities within the material dimension of culture, and states that:

'Culture is an integral element in improving the quality of life of the Borough's communities and tackling social, regeneration, health and other issues'.

Chorley Borough's Community Strategy 2005 – 2025

The Community Strategy outlines a vision for the future of the Borough, which includes:

- People in the Borough will be safe and feel safe
- People will be involved in decision-making and in improving the wellbeing of their communities
- All people will have good access to good public services, including public transport.

Children's play is not currently listed specifically within the Borough's Community Strategy or Action Plan for 2005 – 2008 but we aim to redress this within the next Community Strategy Action Plan.

Lancashire County Council's Children and Young People's Plan

The County Council's draft Plan identifies 28 priority areas of work aimed at delivering the five "Every Child Matters" outcomes.

The Lancashire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership would be responsible for ensuring co-operation between local partners on the delivery of the priority outcomes.

Chorley Borough Council have proposed that more local priorities be included within the County's draft Children and Young People's Plan.

The Chorley Community Safety Strategy 2005 – 2008

Includes within its Safe and Secure Streets priority area youth issues, road safety and anti social behaviour. Actions include an assessment of youth provision, targeting 'hotspot' areas by Neighbourhood Wardens, working with Leisure and Cultural Services at Chorley Borough Council to appropriately target play equipment, and improving communications about available facilities to young people. Funding has been targeted to provide activities that will divert young people from committing anti social behaviour. Community Safety Target Area Groups work in partnership to develop and maintain play space, and also raise funds to deliver play and recreational activities within their areas. This model has also been used in other areas, for example, Astley Village, Euxton and Wheelton where there are nuisance issues. There are very clear links between the work of the Council's Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Directorate, and the issues and concerns raised by the July-August 2006 consultation responses.

Chorley Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel Report into Provision of Youth Activities in Chorley – May 2005.

This report, following consultation, makes a list of recommendations which include better promotion of services, lobbying for more use of school facilities out of school hours, linking the Borough and County Councils' websites, re-establishing the Borough's Youth Council, encouraging volunteer training and development and looking at ways to promote the involvement of parents.

Chorley Borough Council Street Scene, Neighbourhood and Environment Services - Play Areas Strategy

A five-year Play Area Development Programme formulated by Chorley Borough Council's then Leisure Services Department, in 2003 – 2004, is nearing the end of its term. The fifth year of the plan was specified as a review year, so that a new rolling programme for refurbishment could be developed.

This plan is being reviewed in line with the recent play consultation findings.

Chorley Borough Council – Green Spaces Strategy September 2004

The Borough's Green Spaces Strategy states that new guidance places greater emphasis on the quality of open space, rather than the quantity, and the development of provision standards specific to the needs of the local area. Revisions to the guidance recognised the importance of sport and recreation in people's quality of life, and in promoting social inclusion, community cohesion, health and well being. A number of general principles are included within Planning Policy Guidance 17:

- Promoting accessibility by non-motorised forms of transport and public transport
- Locating intensive forms of use where they can promote town centre vitality and visibility
- Avoiding loss of amenity or biodiversity
- Improving quality through good design
- Adding to and enhancing the existing range of facilities

- Considering security and personal safety
- Meeting regeneration needs of areas, and social inclusion.

Quality Audit

A Quality Audit carried out as part of the Borough's Green Spaces Strategy in 2004 assessed 26 sites against 27 criteria derived from the national Green Flag Award standard. The criteria used are grouped under eight headings, with a maximum score of 100 for each site:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, safe and Secure
- Clean and Well maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

Site name	Score
<i>Yarrow Valley Country Park</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Hic-Bibi Nature Reserve</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>Mawdesley Millenium Green</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Wymott Park, Doorstep Green</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Balshaw Lane Play Area</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Astley Park</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Coronation Recreation Ground</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>Tatton Recreation Ground</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Jubilee Recreation Ground</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Eccleston Millenium Green</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>King George's Field</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Withnell Linear Park</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Chorley Borough Average</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Eccleston Village Playground & Playing Fields</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Rangletts Recreation Ground</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Brinscall Recreation Ground</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Chorley Cemetery</i>	<i>43</i>
<i>Rear of Brindle Village Hall</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Bretherton Parish Institute Recreation Ground</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Abbey Village Playground</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Lodge Bank</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Blainscough Wood Nature Reserve</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Carr Brook Linear Park</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Hurst Brook/Alder Grove</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Gough Lane Play Area</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Withnell Fold Recreation Ground</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Duxbury Park (gardens only)</i>	<i>23</i>

These areas need to be included within the play Action Plan for further auditing and review.

Chorley Borough Local Development Framework

Local Plan

The existing Local Plan includes a number of policies impacting on the management and development of formal and informal play space:

- Public Open Space Requirements in Housing Developments
- Ornamental Open Space Requirements
- Playing Space Requirements
- Sports and Play Provision
- Protection of Existing Play and Other Open Space
- Public, Private, Educational and Institutional Playing Fields, Parks and Other Recreational Open Space
- Amenity Open Space
- Dual Use of Educational facilities

The Local Plan will be replaced by a Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will be made up of a number of Local development Documents (LDDs). The LDDs covering sport and play provision will contain policies relating to the above and will replace the Local Plan policies when adopted.

Statement of Community Involvement

The Local Development Framework Statement of Community Involvement submission to the Secretary of State, September 2005 sets out the Borough Council's intentions to consult as widely as possible about planning-related matters.

Chorley Play Partnership was consulted as part of the process of developing the Statement.

It is important to ensure that groups and organisations working to develop play opportunities in the Borough are included and take an active part in future consultation.

Parish Plans

Several of the Borough's Parishes have produced Parish Plans that refer to the need for adequate and appropriate play and recreational facilities for children and young people, and concerns about juvenile nuisance, in Villages and rural areas around the Borough.

Some Parish Councils are responsible for the maintenance of Play Areas in their catchment area.

External Funding

The Council's Procurement Policy will provide a detailed framework for supporting funding applications and implementing the action plan.

Chorley Play Partnership

Chorley Play Partnership, formerly Chorley Play Forum, devoted a considerable amount of time and effort in 2005 to development work within the Partnership itself. Two main priorities were agreed:

- To look for funding to employ a Co-ordinator to develop involvement by organisations who do not yet see the potential benefits, or their links with play.
- To consult children, parents and carers during October and November 2005.

Other work during the year has been to address the Partnership's public image, consider ways to develop work with children and families, and to promote key partnerships, and to learn more about developing inclusive play. Chorley Play Partnership is also the body through which this Play Strategy has been drafted.



PLAY PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS INCLUDE:

Chorley Council – Directorates and Services

Leisure and Cultural Services

Community Development, Sports Development, Young People's Activities, Yarrow Valley Park.

Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment

Green Spaces, Neighbourhood Wardens

Planning and Regeneration

Planning Policy.

Homestart

Home-Start is a voluntary organisation operating in Chorley that is committed to promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under five years of age, supporting them primarily in their own homes. Families are also encouraged to take part in family support groups offering a safe environment where confidence and skills such as recognising the importance of play are actively encouraged and developed.

In 2004 Home Start adopted the Early Years "Birth to Three Matters" framework, celebrating the skill and competence of babies and young children, and highlighting the interrelationship between growth, learning through play, development and the environment in which they learn.

Neighbourhood Groups

Since 2004, Positive Action in Chorley East (PAiCE) and the South West Chorley Community Safety Group (SWITCH), and smaller groups within their catchment areas, have actively supported play for children and young people in their neighbourhoods by bidding for funds to develop a wide range of out of school activities. Funding bodies have included Awards for All and the Local Network Fund. Astley Village Action have provided play opportunities for 4 years and are active with the Partnership. Clayton Brook Together are also represented within Chorley Play Partnership.

Barnardo's

Barnardo's work with 180 disabled children and young people living in Chorley and South Ribble. Currently, with the help of the Children's Fund, approximately 90 of the children are supported in Chorley to access activities of their choice. The main aim of the project is to support children in a variety of activities both term time and after school, developing inclusive opportunities in local play and leisure facilities.

Training is available for organisations that children are accessing, and staff and volunteer support is available when children access services.

Barnardo's are currently providing support for children to access brownies, cubs, scouts, leisure centre activities, football, horse riding, after school clubs and youth service activities, and are constantly looking to develop further links.

Chorley and District Neighbourhood Watch Association

Whilst CADNWA may not seem to be an obvious play partner, there are over 250 Co-ordinators working at grass-roots level in local communities, who can provide vital links between all ages, backgrounds and abilities, and help to develop positive responses to difficulties experienced in their neighbourhoods

Lancashire County Council Early Years and Childcare Development Service.



Community and voluntary organisations

Community and voluntary organisations in Chorley deliver a variety of play activities for children from birth to teenage years, through play and toddler groups, youth groups, and by volunteering to help run play events such as Playday. They are a vital part of play provision and development across the Borough, and are encouraged to join the Partnership.



Children taking part in the Play Strategy consultation at Playday 2006

8. The Purpose and Scope of the Strategy

Purpose:

- 8.1 To enable the Borough Council and its partners to establish clear policies on play, and convey a vision of what we want to achieve, by considering the needs of children, young people and their families across a range of policy and strategy areas.
- 8.2 To develop an action plan with clear and identifiable milestones, promoting a more holistic view of play provision, distribution and quality, and providing a basis for a more consistent approach, identifying gaps in provision and the need for improvements
- 8.3 Increasing the number of areas of the Borough where all children and young people feel safe and welcomed, and improving quality of life for the whole community, by engaging its young people in challenging negative perceptions and encouraging shared ownership of, and responsibility for, open space and the built environment.
- 8.4 The Strategy seeks to meet the needs of children and young people of local communities, including groups that have traditionally suffered exclusion, such as disabled children and young people, those from minority ethnic and refugee communities, girls and young women, looked-after children and young people, and those at risk from social exclusion.
- 8.5 It will help partners to comply with relevant legislations, and help in meeting requirements for assessments and audits
- 8.6 It will help in identifying priorities, planning for improvements and highlighting issues of quantity, quality and inclusivity.
- 8.7 It will help to target unallocated budgets through Section 106 agreements for play space, and the effectiveness of other budgets by targeting expenditure based on need. It will also encourage flexible and imaginative thinking around the provision of different types of play space.
- 8.8 It will help with development plans, controls, decision-making and reviews, and with the negotiation of developer agreements
- 8.9 It will contribute to best value reviews, and promote partnership working, social inclusion and community involvement.

Scope:

- 8.10 Assessing and analysing not just the quantity, quality and current usage of existing play spaces and facilities, but also the current inclusivity of the public facilities against the needs and wishes of local children and young people, taking into account issues of gender, ethnicity and disability.
- 8.11 Assessing and analysing where and how children are playing and identifying where they are not. Assessing what modifications need to be made to existing open spaces and playgrounds against current and future need.

I play in my street and I don't like it because it says No ball games
Jessica, aged 10 years

- 8.12 Making play a corporate priority, reflected across a range of developments such as neighbourhood renewal and regeneration. The range of partners involved in the play strategy's development will reflect this cross-cutting approach.
- 8.13 Involving a range of stakeholders including children and young people of all ages and backgrounds and their parents and carers.
- 8.14 Assessing the quantity, quality and accessibility of supervised play opportunities, such as the Council's Get Up and Go programme.



9. What the Strategy could achieve:

- 9.1 Protecting and improving play provision in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and safety
- 9.2 Ensuring that play provision is inclusive and meets the needs of all local children and young people
- 9.3 Promoting greater social inclusion for all ages and abilities.
- 9.4 Developing a balance between supervised and unsupervised provision according to local need
- 9.5 Ensuring that play space enhances the quality of the local environment, community and neighbourhood.
- 9.6 Providing a clear framework for investment priorities, action and workforce development
- 9.7 Supporting the aims of the Every Child Matters programme of change, by promoting the importance of the 5 outcomes, and working towards achieving them.
- 9.8 Making clear links to other relevant strategies and plans in the Borough

By basing the Strategy on:

- 9.9 Involving children and young people right from the start
- 9.10 A clear vision and policy framework
- 9.11 Shared understanding of the principles of play
- 9.12 Shared understanding of inclusion and the social model of disability, that looks at the ways in which disabled people are often prevented from taking part on an equal basis by physical barriers or by people's attitudes.

I would love to ride a bike but I can't as I have no balance and need stabilizers but I'm too big for a small bike

Ryan, aged 13 years

- 9.13 Understanding the needs and aspirations of local children and young people
- 9.14 Forming collaborative and enabling partnerships

- 9.15 Understanding risk and safety issues in relation to children's play
- 9.16 Quality long-term inclusive and accessible design principles.
- 9.17 Sustainable management and maintenance arrangements

The current facilities are good in and of themselves. However they need to be cleaned properly and better policed/secured.

A Chorley parent.

- 9.18 Understanding and promoting the recognised objectives of good play provision



10. How we can make the Play Strategy Happen

By developing policies for play

Policies to protect play space, address deficiencies, enhance existing provision and create new provision need to form part of an Action Plan.

By involving children and young people

- Involving all children in the design, location and regeneration of play space, in a meaningful way.
- Enabling children and young people to present projects to others
- Promoting social inclusion by challenging stereotypes
- Developing a safe and secure atmosphere around play space
- Bringing everyone together who can help
- Develop policy-makers' will to involve young people in decision-making.

Through the Local Plan / Local Development Framework

The Local Plan identifies how the need to protect and develop play space is met. The Local Development Framework, which will replace the Local Plan, will also identify this. The Statement of Community Involvement specifies the role of the community play sector.

Development plans identify all open space in the borough that is to be protected, including play space. Consideration is given to the identification of standards for play space in new development.

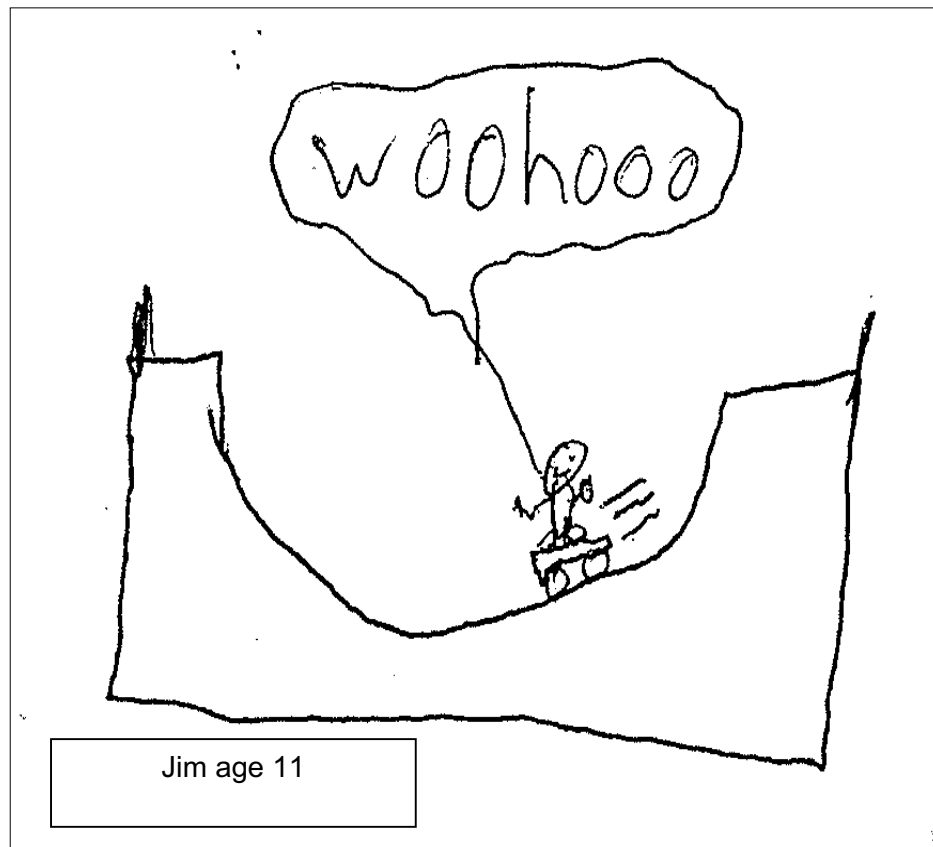
By taking play seriously within Developers' Agreements

Planning conditions, local area agreements and Section 106 'planning gain' agreements can be used to address identified quantitative and qualitative deficiencies in provision or where new development would increase the need for provision. Agreements can secure both capital and revenue funding to provide for the future maintenance of open space. Boroughs should develop a broad strategy for the use and negotiation of Section 106 agreements.

As part of the Local development Framework a Planning Contributions Development Plan Document will be produced which will set out the principles by which planning contributions will be required – including contributions for play space.

Developing even stronger community and partnership working

Creating partnerships and increased community involvement in the use and management of facilities can help in project implementation. Supporting community organisations may lead to an increase in schemes and greater feeling of ownership of children's play facilities locally.

Developing an effective, cross cutting Preliminary Action Plan for play in Chorley

PLAY ACTION PLAN 2006 – 2011

TASK	ACTIONS		LEAD AGENCY/PARTNERS	TIMESCALE (Municipal year)
Consider ways to address issue of play space bullying and intimidation	Many of these could be achieved through staff and volunteer time, and by refocusing some priorities. Actions with financial implications are identified.		Chorley Council SN&ED	2007-2008
	Analyse arrangements for supervision of play space and report back to Chorley Council with proposals		Chorley Play Partnership	2007-2008
	Consult Parish Councils within this process		Chorley Play Partnership	2006-2010
	Include reduction of bullying and intimidation around play spaces as a priority within BLF Play Initiatives portfolio		Chorley Council/Chorley Play Partnership	2006 – 2010
	Consider the possibility of piloting a Play Rangers project and identify potential funding bids		Chorley Council SN&ED	2007 – 2008
	Determine the most appropriate locations and designs for future play facilities			

	<p>Continue promoting activity sessions in Community Safety Target Areas for young people at risk of or involved in offending/anti social behaviour – specifically designed by and for young people</p> <p>Identify funding opportunities to further develop after school sessions based in primary schools providing sessions of drama, art, fit kids and dance</p> <p>Continue to support and develop after school Live music sessions on weekdays, and also on Saturday mornings, at the Music Café</p> <p>Identify funding opportunities to continue to develop and promote inclusive play opportunities for children and young people in the Community Safety Target Areas and other areas with play needs</p> <p>Continue to develop sports opportunities through the School Sports Partnership</p> <p>Consider all proposals in line with Secure By Design principles</p> <p>Ensure that the Play Strategy features within the Borough's 2008 –2011 Community Safety Strategy</p>	<p>Prevent and Deter; South Lancashire Arts Partnership, Chorley BC, Connexions, Educational Welfare, Social Services, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service</p> <p>South Lancashire Arts Partnership; Lancs CC Extended Schools</p> <p>South Lancashire Arts Partnership</p> <p>PAICE, SWITCH, Astley Village Action, Clayton Brook Together, parish councils and other groups</p> <p>Chorley BC Leisure and Culture</p> <p>MAPS Team</p> <p>Chorley Play Partnership</p>	<p>2006 - ongoing</p> <p>2006 - ongoing</p> <p>2006 - ongoing</p> <p>2006 - ongoing</p> <p>2006 - ongoing</p> <p>2006 – 2011</p> <p>2007-2008</p>
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<p>Consider ways to address issue of play space vandalism</p>	<p>Analyse play space inspection and maintenance arrangements and report back to Chorley Council with proposals Consult Parish Councils within this process Consider all proposals in line with Secure By Design principles</p>	<p>Chorley Council SN&ED MAPS Team</p>	<p>2007-2008 2006 - 2011</p>
<p>Consider ways to address traffic concerns</p>	<p>Raise as an issue through the Borough's Community Safety Partnership Link Play Strategy to traffic/transport-related policies for the Borough Consider all proposals in line with Secure by Design principles</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety Chorley Council Planning & Regeneration MAPS Team</p>	<p>2006 – 2008 2007 – 2011 2007 - 2011</p>
<p>Consider ways to address negative perceptions of play and raise the positive image of play across the Borough</p>	<p>Identify funding and other resources to produce and distribute positive publicity material Carry out mapping exercise to identify designated informal open play spaces Develop clear approach to managing play space-related conflict within neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership Chorley Council SN & ED Chorley Play Partnership Chorley Council SN & ED</p>	<p>2007-2011 2007-2008 2007-2009</p>

<p>Review provision of organised activities</p>	<p>Consider accessibility and inclusivity of the Get Up and Go programme as part of Equality Impact Assessment</p> <p>Carry out an audit of play activities organised by voluntary, community and faith sector organisations</p>	<p>Chorley Council Leisure & Culture, CS Target Area Groups</p> <p>Chorley Play Partnership</p>	<p>2006-2008</p> <p>2006 - 2008</p>
<p>Review Play Areas Strategy</p>		<p>Chorley Council SN&ED</p>	<p>2007-2008</p>
<p>Review Green Spaces Quality audit</p>	<p>Consider Audit results in line with Play Strategy consultation results</p>	<p>Chorley Council SN&ED, L & C, Chorley Play Partnership</p>	<p>2007-2008</p>
<p>Develop strategy for involving children and young people</p>	<p>Consider good practice guidelines Draw up possible options Consult children and young people via schools and other organisations, Youth Council, Lancashire Youth Charter.</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership Chorley Council Policy & Performance, Lancashire County Council</p>	<p>2006 - 2008</p>
<p>Develop inclusive play</p>	<p>Draw up actions using the KIDS Framework</p> <p>Consider the possibility of piloting a Play Rangers project and identify potential funding bids</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership</p> <p>Chorley Council/Chorley Play Partnership</p>	<p>2006 – 2007</p> <p>2006 - 2010</p>

<p>Ensure that the Play Strategy links with Planning Policy</p>	<p>Ensure that the Play Strategy is taken into account within the Local Development Framework</p> <p>Consider ways to clarify play space arrangements and information within Developers' Agreements</p> <p>Consider all proposals in line with Secure By Design principles</p>	<p>Chorley Council Planning and Regeneration</p> <p>Chorley Council Planning and Regeneration</p> <p>MAPS Team</p>	<p>2007-20011</p> <p>2007-20011</p> <p>2007 - 2011</p>
<p>Identify playwork development opportunities</p>	<p>Consult local groups and organisations, audit existing play workforce and identify training and development needs</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership</p>	<p>2007-2008</p>
<p>Develop playwork training opportunities</p>	<p>Identify relevant qualifications and best practice from other areas.</p> <p>Audit training opportunities available in the area</p> <p>Identify possible funding to develop a training programme</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership</p> <p>Lancashire College, Runshaw College, LCC Early Years and Childcare Service, Chorley & South Ribble CVS, community, voluntary and faith sector organisations</p>	<p>2007-2008</p>
<p>Consider ways to improve information and signage about play space</p>	<p>Audit and review existing information sources</p> <p>Audit and review existing play space signage</p> <p>Develop improvement strategy</p> <p>Identify funding opportunities</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership, voluntary and community sector organisations</p>	<p>2008 - 2009</p>

<p>Consider ways to further develop Chorley Play Partnership</p>	<p>Identify potential funding to employ a development worker as proposed 2005-2006</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership/Chorley Council</p>	<p>2006 - 2007</p>
<p>Ensure that play is included as an issue within the next Community Strategy</p>	<p>Introduce play as an issue of concern within thematic groups</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership/Chorley Partnership</p>	<p>2007-2008</p>
<p>Ensure that the Chorley Play Strategy features within the LCC Children and Young People's Plan</p>		<p>Chorley Council Chorley Play Partnership</p>	<p>2006 - 2008</p>
<p>Address Child Protection issues</p>	<p>Draft and consider adoption of a Child Protection Policy for the organisation</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership Chorley Borough Council Other Chorley Play Partnership member organisations, where applicable</p>	<p>2006 - 2007</p>
<p>Review Play Strategy</p>	<p>Review progress on action plan annually and report back via Chorley Play Partnership Annual General Meeting (January)</p>	<p>Chorley Play Partnership and partner organisations within</p>	<p>Ongoing with full review of Strategy in 2010-2011</p>

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Introduced by the Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well-Being, Cllr Mark Perks)	Executive Cabinet	09/11/06

LANCASHIRE PARTNERSHIP – STRATEGY FOR AN AGEING POPULATION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To agree a Chorley Council response to the Lancashire Partnership – Strategy For An Ageing Population consultation exercise.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The strategy cuts across a number of the Council’s strategic objectives. The most direct impact is on the strategic objective to improve equality of opportunities and life chances for all. One of the long-term outcomes for this strategic objective is to improve the quality of life for the Borough’s older people.

RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy	✓	Information	
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial		Operational	
People		Other	

- At this consultation stage, the key risk is around alignment between the Lancashire Partnership’s strategic thinking and Chorley Council’s strategic thinking responding to the Consultation is an attempt to mitigate any risk.

BACKGROUND

- The development of this strategy was commissioned by the Lancashire Partnership. It was an action identified in the County’s Community Plan – Ambition Lancashire.
- The need for the strategy is explained in the document as being:
 - The population of Lancashire is aging.
 - Older people themselves are changing.
 - Government policy is changing.



7. The development of the strategy has involved over 300 older people and staff from organisations across the county. In addition working groups of older people and officers have been directly involved in developing the thinking and proposals for action that underpin the strategy.
8. The Strategy and actions that flow from it will be important to the Council. It will influence the work of the LSP and the Local Area Agreement. The outcomes arising from this area of work will be key in CPA assessment.

STRATEGY FOR AN AGING POPULATION

9. Attached to this report is an executive summary of the strategy.
10. The full report is 208 pages long. Any members who are interested in seeing the full report can access it on the web:

http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/consultation/aging_population/index.asp

11. In brief there are 5 outcomes within the strategy and each of the 5 outcomes has a number of related aims. They are:

Outcome 1 – financially and materially secure

- Aims:
- Older people to have an adequate income
 - Older people have the opportunity to work

Outcome 2 – accessing mainstream services

- Aims:
- Older people have access to information, advice, brokerage
 - Older people have access to services

Outcome 3 – making a contribution

- Aims:
- Older people are engaged in decision making
 - Older people are contributing to community life
 - Older people are building links with younger people
 - Older people are free from discrimination

Outcome 4 – health and well

- Aims:
- Older people will be physically, mentally and emotionally healthy
 - Older people will have good social networks
 - Older people will have access to community based activities

Outcome 5 – safe and supported

- Aims:
- Older people and their carers will receive appropriate support
 - Older people will feel safe in their homes and communities
 - Older people will have decent, appropriate accommodation

SUGGESTED RESPONSE

12. The following points are a suggested response at this stage. Members may wish to comment on the suggestions and refine, delete or add to them, as they see appropriate.
13. Chorley Council welcomes the production of the strategy and recognises the need to enhance the delivery of services for older people in order to ensure that older people have an improved quality of life.
14. The Council feel that the document is very aspirational but that it has to be more pragmatic in its approach. However, the Council recognises that this pragmatic approach may be introduced as the strategic outcomes and aims are translated into local delivery. If this is the case, it would be welcomed.
15. Within Chorley Council's Corporate Strategy we have an outcome to improve the quality of life for the borough's older people. One of the key projects in our Corporate Strategy is the production of a Chorley Older People's action plan. The strategy document highlights the importance of policies for older people being an intrinsic part of a range of organisations strategic thinking. It is crucial that effective partnership working is in place to ensure that our respective strategic priorities are aligned and also resulting in improved partnership working at an operational level.
16. The Council would wish to see a step change in joint working arrangements. From a situation, at best, where agencies are aware of each others priorities and work together on an ad hoc basis: to a situation where we jointly prioritise at an operational level and deliver more seamless services that are jointly designed and commissioned.
17. The strategy, quite rightly, highlights the importance of older people having a range of opportunities to remain active. There is a financial argument that by ensuring people remain active citizens they will require less funding for treatment of ill health. The strategy does not go into any great detail about how resources can be re-allocated from treatment through to prevention and development work. As a District Council that's main focus is around the prevention and development work, we would wish to see a review of how resources are allocated, ultimately would want to see resources being redirected towards the prevention and development work we help support.
18. Chorley Local Strategic Partnership have considered the strategy and are in broad agreement with the comments made by Chorley Council. However, they did raise one specific issue, that the Council would support, around further highlighting of the important role that the voluntary, community and faith sector plays in older people's lives.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19. A copy of this report will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 7 November 2006. An update on their discussions will be given at the meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

20. There are no specific Human Resource implications arising from the consultation. However, in preparing Chorley Council's Older People's action plan the Council will need to be mindful of recent changes in legislation and the objectives of this strategy.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

21. At this stage there are no direct financial implications for the Council.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

22. The Executive Cabinet are asked to approve the suggested response in this report and to make any amendments or further comments that they feel are appropriate.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

23. So that the views of Chorley Council are considered as part of the final Lancashire Partnership their Strategy For An Ageing Population document.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

24. Not to respond. This was not considered an appropriate option.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Carson	5815	20 October 2006	LCSREP/93554LM

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

Executive Summary

This Executive Summary follows the structure of the report and summarises the key findings and proposals.

The Choice for Lancashire – facing up to the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population

The make-up of the population in Lancashire is changing dramatically. The ability of all partners to get to grip with the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population will shape the future wealth and opportunity for the county as a whole.

Lancashire is therefore at a crossroads. The choices it makes, and the priority it gives to adopting this strategy and planning for an ageing population will impact profoundly on the prosperity and well-being of the county and its inhabitants in 20 years time.

Chapter 1: Introduction

The development of this strategy was commissioned by the Lancashire Partnership. It was an action identified in the county's community plan *Ambition Lancashire*, which also set out a vision for the future and ambitions in relation to older people.

Ambition Lancashire – vision for 2025

Lancashire is a County where older people are empowered to live their lives in the way they choose and where their skills and expertise are valued

Ambition Lancashire – ambitions

- Maximise the life opportunities for older people and engage them in all levels of decision making
- Promote older people's health, safety and independence and ensure that all older people and their carers are treated with respect, dignity and fairness

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

Lancashire needs a strategy because:

- The population is ageing
- Older people themselves are changing
- Government policy is changing

The development of this strategy has involved over 300 older people and staff from organisations across the county. In addition working groups of older people and officers have been directly involved in developing the thinking and proposals for action that underpin the strategy.

The strategy is built upon priorities identified by today's and tomorrow's older people and rooted in what they say is important to quality of life and well-being in older age.

Chapter 2: Growing older in Lancashire

This strategy is driven by:

- Changes to the population of Lancashire and to the place of older people in society, and by
- The need to deliver what older people say they want in order to ensure a good quality of life

This chapter of the strategy examines:

- The changes expected in the population over the next 20 years
- Trends in society
- What matters to older people

Population change: The population is ageing, with the number of children and young people reducing and the number of people aged 50+ increasing. This trend will continue over the next 20 years. The highest percentage growth will be of older people aged 85+. Growth levels vary across different parts of the county.

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

Trends in society: Although it is difficult to predict what society will look like in 20 years time we can look at some of the most significant trends that are likely to influence what society might be like then. Our analysis suggests that the main trends are likely to be:

- A more diverse society with more older people, people living longer, more and varied black or minority ethnic communities, wider differences in household and individual wealth
- More households and more varied types of households.
- An older workforce with people working longer and older people making up a greater proportion of the workforce. More flexible working practices to enable older people to continue in work
- Continued technological and global change
- Increased pressure on public services as a result of growing expectations and the potential for an increase in the numbers of people with significant health care needs – especially as a result of the very significant projected increase in people aged 75 and over
- The impact of climate change and growing pressure to be more environmentally sustainable
- Expectations of greater responsiveness from and quality of services – both public and private. Older people being seen increasingly as an important market (the power of the 'grey pound')
- Increasing demands for people to be able to be involved in making decisions about their own lives

These trends will not be experienced evenly by all older people. Greater choice and diversity could go alongside deepening inequalities and greater fragmentation. Trends in rural areas will be different from urban. Within both rural and urban areas there will be differences as well.

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

These trends will impact across all aspects of life, including:

Family and community
Health, care and support
Finance and pensions
Citizenship

Housing
Work
Leisure
Transport

What matters to older people: National and local research have provided information on what is important to older people.

Although it is difficult to predict what the older population and the society they live in will look like in future generations, it seems likely that older people will:

- Have higher expectations
- Be healthier and more active
- Be working longer but looking for more flexible work and retirement options
- Place a higher demand on state services, benefits and support
- Increasingly emphasise issues of choice and control in how services are designed and delivered
- Need good information, and access to key services such as transport to enjoy independence and a good quality of life

What does this all mean for developing a strategy:

- It emphasises the need for a comprehensive, strategic approach to address the challenges that an ageing society will bring
- The strategy will need to address new issues – especially around the role that older people will play in the workforce – as well as the traditional concerns such as health, transport, and social care
- The role of public services will need to change from a focus on providing support to people to promoting the role of older people as active citizens in their communities
- Service provision will remain very important but services will need to change their approach from one of doing things for

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

people to doing things with people – viewing older people as partners rather than just ‘users’ or consumers. Services will need to become more individualised and flexible

- An increased responsibility on all agencies to promote active and healthy lifestyle opportunities
- There will be a need to ensure that older people are engaged in decision making at all levels
- As the proportion of older people in the population grows there will be an expectation that the resources devoted to addressing their needs will grow as well
- There is an important role for councils in particular in providing ‘community leadership’ and in managing diversity and variation

Chapter 3: National and local policy context

National context: Over the past few years there has been a growing recognition nationally of the need to completely change the way in which we think about older people and the challenge of an ageing society. This is reflected in both national and local policies.

The policy debate is beginning to broaden from the traditional focus on ill health and frail older people to encompass an agenda which is about:

- Promoting quality of life and well-being
- Addressing ageism
- Recognising older people as equal citizens in society, and
- Valuing the contribution older people make in their communities in all sorts of ways

Government policy in relation to older people has generally been fragmented and without an overall focus – in marked contrast, for example, to its approach towards children and families. However, this is now changing as the Government begins to understand and to get to grips with the implications of an ageing society. Over the last 18 months the Government has issued a suite of policy and strategy documents which begin to move towards an overall vision and

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

approach to public policy in relation to older people. Key themes across these documents include:

- Putting more power and decision making directly in the hands of older people
- Moving from a focus on vulnerable older people to the older population as a whole
- Creating a culture of opportunity for older people
- Addressing issues of social exclusion for older people
- Promoting a culture of enabling vulnerable older people to live their lives in the community- supporting what they 'can' do

The government is also developing a more comprehensive performance framework on which local authorities and their partners will be judged. For example, the Comprehensive Performance Assessment demands comprehensive strategies, full engagement of older people as partners in decision making and access to a wide range of services for older people. The Local Area Agreement also identifies older people as a key population group to address.

Local policy context: the local context at county level is set by the high priority that the Lancashire Partnership has given older people in *Ambition Lancashire*, and through the Local Area Agreement. This is putting older people and planning for an ageing population on the map. District Councils, the NHS, and some other organizations across all sectors are also beginning to understand the implications of an ageing society for what they do.

However, the strategy analysis carried out showed a wide range of strategies that do not explicitly identify or address the challenges of an ageing society.

Chapter 4: What we want to achieve

Chapter 4 sets out the outcomes, aims and objectives for the strategy and a set of proposed actions. Some actions are clear and specific. Others are ideas that will need more debate from stakeholders to firm them up.

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

The chapter is organized around an 'outcomes framework' which brings together all the elements of the strategy into one place. The aim of the framework is to be able to see, at a glance, the areas that the strategy covers. The framework starts with the 2 'ambitions' set out in *'older people's Lancashire'*¹. It then identifies 5 overall outcomes for the strategy - that older people should be:

- Financially and materially secure
- Accessing mainstream services
- Making a positive contribution
- Healthy and well, and
- Safe and supported

Each of these then has 'aims' which address specific issues such as transport, employment, feeling safe and so on. We have chosen these to reflect the issues that older people say are important. There is, inevitably, a lot of crossover between issues and we have indicated where this is especially the case. The outcomes framework is shown on pages xii and xiii.

This approach also allows for the fact that what is required will differ across the county and the implementation of this strategy will need to reflect this local variation.

The objectives are, for the most part, things that we think should be achieved by 2025. The actions concentrate on what needs to be done by 2015. It is not sensible or realistic to imagine that we can plan in detail for more than 10 years ahead – the strategy will need to be revised and updated to ensure that the appropriate actions continue to be included. This is a similar approach to the one taken in *'Ambition Lancashire'*.

How it will all fit together

Older people in Lancashire have said that they are looking for information and services to better connected, and to be engaged fully as partners in taking the strategy forward. In chapter 4 we provide a number of diagrams to illustrate how systems, services and

¹ *'Ambition Lancashire'*: pp 82-83

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

partnership structures need to be developed and fit together better in the future. Here in the Executive Summary we have picked out 3 areas for joining up, which we set out below.

Information = Knowledge = Power

The diagram on page ix (see Fig. 7 in main report) shows the importance of older people having access to good quality accessible information about the range of issues that impact on their lives. With good information older people are able to choose to buy the goods and services they need to retain control of their lives and sustain independence.

Linking information to advice, assessment and brokerage to improve access to services

Good information enables older people to self assess and then:

- Either to purchase the services they want directly for themselves
- Or to seek advice, and/or a more formal assessment, together with practical help (sometimes called brokerage) to support them in securing the services they need to sustain choice and as much independence as possible in older age, even if they become frail

The diagram on page x (see Fig. 8 from main report) illustrates how this can work.

Building an engagement and partnership structure with older people

Older people need to be engaged as partners in decision making. Acting on this aim - see *Aim 3a* in chapter 4 – very early on in the life of this strategy will be fundamental in changing our perceptions of older people in society, in harnessing the talents of older people, and in underpinning the long-term change required in planning successfully for an ageing population. The diagram on page xi – Fig. 9 in the main report – sets out the district and county structure we propose.

Fig. 7 (from Chapter 4)

THE MARKET - PUTTING OLDER PEOPLE IN CONTROL – THE MENU

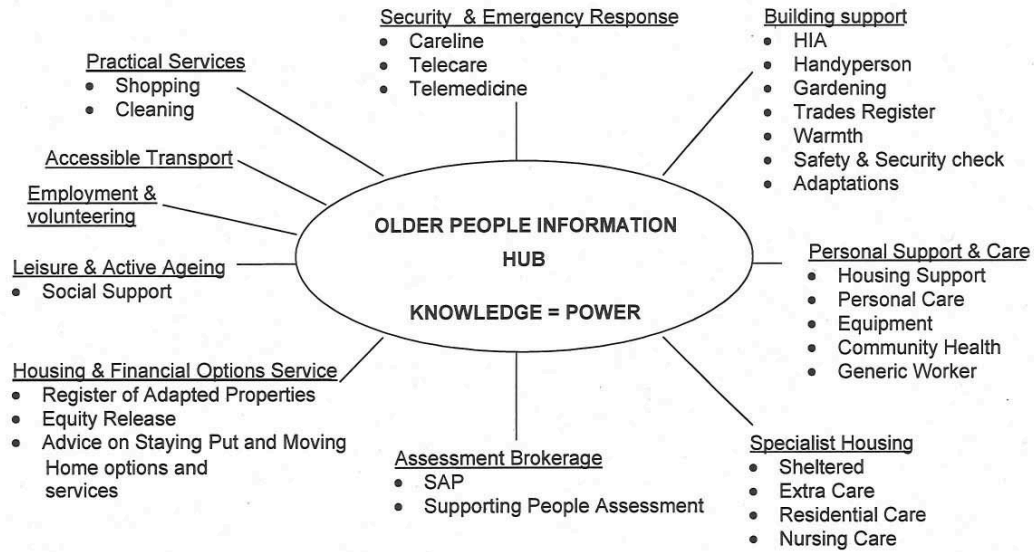


Fig. 8 (from Chapter 4) Information and commissioning to give older people power and control

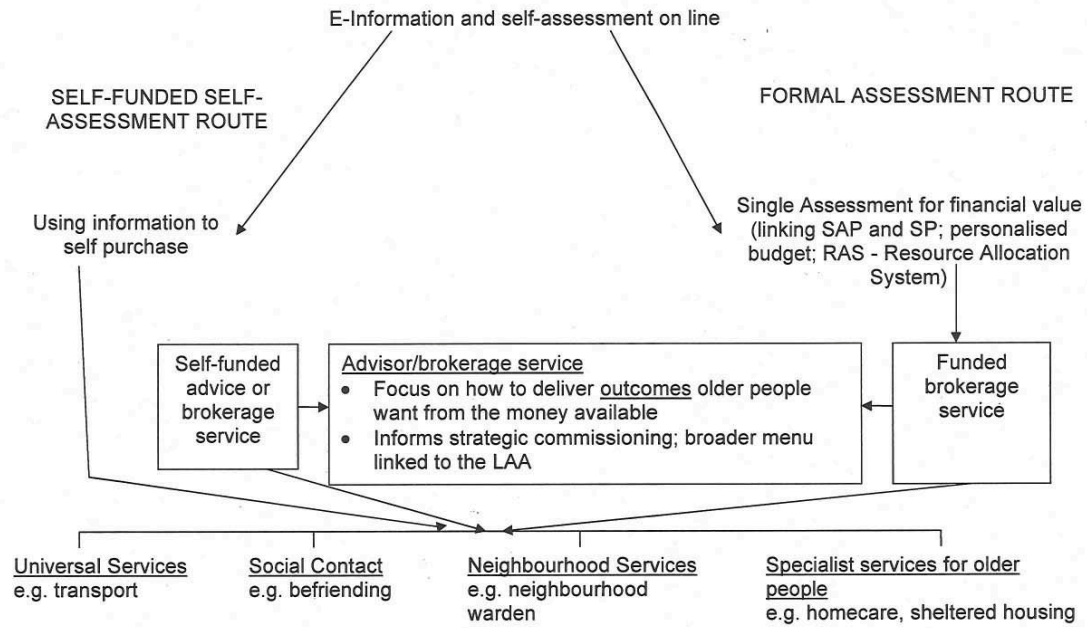
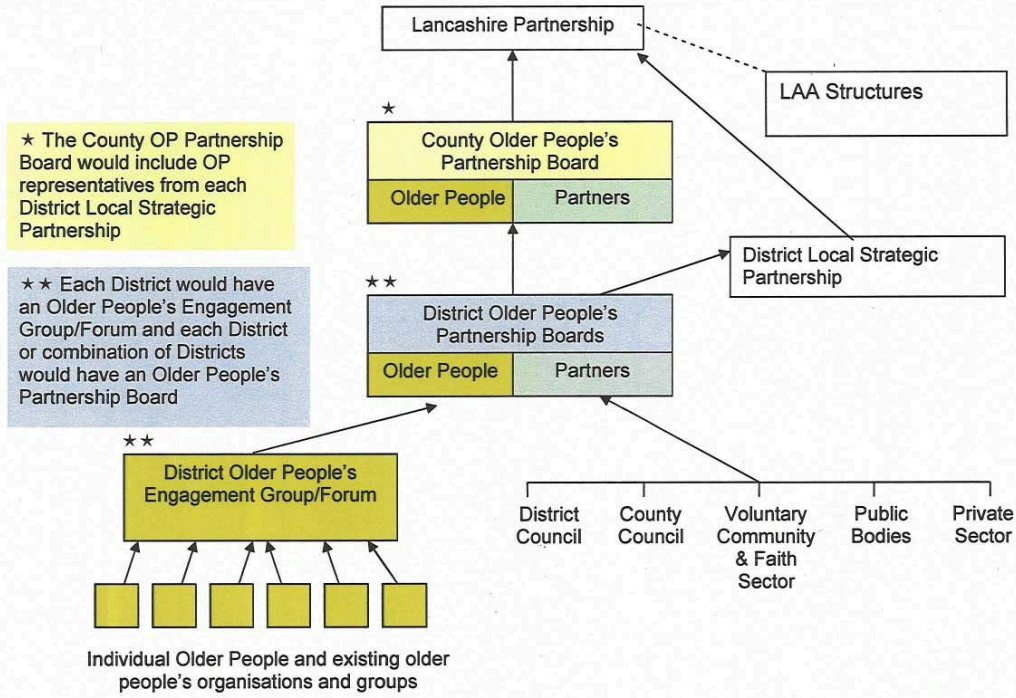


Fig. 9 (from Chapter 4)

BUILDING A COUNTY AND DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE WITH OLDER PEOPLE



Lancashire strategy for older people: outcomes framework																
Ambition on Lancs	Maximise life opportunities for older people						Promote older people's health, safety and independence									
Outcomes	Outcome		1. Financially and materially secure		2. Accessing mainstream services		3. Making a positive contribution				4. Healthy and well		5. Safe and supported			
	Aims		1a Older people have an adequate income	1b Older people have the opportunity to work	2a Older people have access to information, advice, brokerage	2b Older people have access to services	3a Older people are engaged in decision making	3b Older people are contributing to community life	3c Older people are building links with younger people	3d Older people are free from discrimination	4a Older People will be physically mentally and emotionally healthy	4b Older people will have good social networks	4c Older people will have access to community based activities	5a Older people and their carers will receive appropriate support	5b Older people will feel safe in their homes and communities	5c Older people will have decent, appropriate accommodation
	Delivery		Mainstream services meet the needs and aspirations of older people Effective leadership to deliver the strategy Communicating and promoting the strategy Reviewing and updating the strategy													
Targets and Indicators	Sample of National and Local Indicators ²															
	No older people awarded new benefits (measured by county welfare rights service)	No of older people in employment	No of older people using information and advice services	No of older people journeys via Now card	% older people involved in decision-making who feel they have influence	No new older volunteers	% older people who say they are active in their community	Number of inter-generational projects	% of older people and from under represented BME communities employed by commissioners and service providers	No older people who say they have good health	No Older People who say they enjoy good quality of life	No leisure and learning sessions taken by older people	No of older people being looked after at home	% older people who feel safe at home or out at night	% private sector homes in decent condition	

² These are taken from existing documents, such as the Local Area Agreement. There may be better indicators available e.g. the DWP may be able to provide information on the total number of people over 50 in Lancashire awarded new benefits

How older people will know if things are getting better					
actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making available better financial advice and information to older people • Action to lobby central government to raise basic state pensions • Information and advice to ensure older people claim benefits • Link Age plus services providing a comprehensive approach to giving information and accessing services • More opportunities for older people to remain in employment • Retraining schemes aimed at older workers • Incentives for people to remain in work • Campaigns to tackle ageism in the workplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sector organisations providing information through a single service • Investment in new technology to ensure it is available to all • Training to enable older people to use new technology • A directory of all services for older people • An extended concessionary fares scheme • Integrated procurement of all transport including specialist transport • A single source of information about all specialist transport • Funding for transport included in individualised budgets • Taxi vouchers • Good transport links to all major services • Community cars are widely available • Information about transport is readily accessible • Campaigns to encourage older people to sue public transport more • Plans to tackle older people's concerns about public transport • Walking and cycling are promoted to older people • Car sharing schemes to enable people to use private cars for longer • An Older People's Transport Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of independent engagement groups (forums) in each district and county wide, promoting the views and aspirations of older people • A network of older peoples partnerships (boards) at district level and county wide made up of older people and other partner organisations to engage older people in decision making and linked to the local strategic partnerships • The skills and experience of older people building community capacity by flexible part time working and volunteering • A skills database in community resource centres to match people to volunteering opportunities • Intergenerational work jointly promoted by older peoples forums and young peoples councils • A media watch group set up by the network of older peoples forums to improve the image of older people in the media • Commissioners and providers of services achieving targets for employment of more older people and people from BME communities • Older Peoples from BME communities engaged with decision making and using more services provided for older people • BME community organisations involved in providing services for older people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create benchmarks to audit service provision and identify areas for change • Redeploy NHS staff to deliver services in the community • Promote and offer annual health checks • Encourage learning and leisure activities as alternative to drugs • Audit leisure and learning providers • Plan to achieve better access to learning, leisure and cultural activities • A county wide passport to services • Work with private sector providers to open up leisure and learning opportunities • Create a one-stop shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link age + type scheme to provide a single route to increase income and benefit take-up • On line financial advice and information service • Integrated concessionary fares scheme across all districts • Extended range of transport and integrated booking system for people with special needs • Age positive employment scheme in place to achieve more older people in the workforce, with employers signed up to flexible retirement age • Concessions service in place for older people aged 50+ • 'Rosebud' scheme and entrepreneur support for business start ups for people aged 50+

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

Chapter 5: Delivering the strategy

This chapter looks at what is needed to ensure that the strategy is taken forward and implemented in full. It sets out seven areas for action to drive the strategy forward.

Three of these have already been addressed in the previous chapter:

- Challenging and rooting out ageism and discrimination
- Fully engaging older people as true partners to contribute their ideas and talents and promote change
- Providing effective information, advice, brokerage and access to ensure older people have choice and control.

The other four are:

- Ensuring that mainstream universal services meet the needs and aspirations of older people through developing an age proofing approach
- Leadership - Developing a more joined up approach to funding, commissioning and delivering services.
- Having a proactive approach to communicating and promoting the strategy.
- Reviewing and updating the strategy

Chapter 5 sets out specific objectives and actions in these four areas. Chapter 5 then goes on to set out some ways by which we will be able to judge if the strategy has been a success in 2025

How to measure the success of the strategy

- Older people are at the centre of planning and action for change. There are clear structures that engage older people as partners, and resources to support engagement
- Older people are recognized as a driver for the economy of Lancashire, both in the workforce and more widely

The Lancashire Partnership strategy for an ageing population

- Older people have greater choice and control of both service and resource options
- The strategy is addressing the wider population of older people who live in ordinary housing and are not major users of health and care services (the 85%), as well as the minority who do make a lot of use of such services (the 15%) and who currently consume significant amounts of health and social care resources?
- There is a greater focus on quality of life, active ageing and prevention
- Older people are in control through providing greater choice by rethinking the way information, advice, assessment, resources and services are provided and paid for
- Application of the 'Age Proofing Toolkit' has ensured that mainstream services address the needs and aspirations of older people
- The divide between the welfare and private sectors has been broken down
- The diversity of the older population is recognized and the needs of socially isolated and hard to reach groups addressed
- There is a more integrated approach to planning, commissioning and implementation, with local arrangements that join up services and resources, and respond to all older people and to their individual circumstances
- The gap between well off and poorer older people is being reduced and overall levels of morbidity amongst people aged 50+? are falling across all groups

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy and Performance	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8th November 2006

THE UPDATED CORPORATE STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF REPORT`

- To highlight the amendments to the Corporate Strategy 2006-2009 and to seek approval to the changes.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The Corporate Strategy sets out the Council’s Vision and Corporate Priorities, and outlines the work programme for the Council for the next year. This report, in addressing the content of, and thinking behind, the Corporate Strategy directly impacts on all of our priorities as a Council.

RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy	✓	Information	
Reputation	✓	Regulatory/Legal	
Financial		Operational	
People		Other	

- The Corporate Strategy is the key Strategic document for the Council, it is closely tied in with the Community Strategy which acts as the key driver for the activity of the LSP. The Corporate Strategy is the highest-level document for the authority and all other strategies will be aligned with the aims and objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy. As such a critical document for the authority it is key that we ensure that the Corporate Strategy is fit for purpose and deliverable.

BACKGROUND

- The Corporate Strategy 2006- 2009 is the Key Document for the Council in taking forward its agenda for improvement. In August and September 2006 the Executive Cabinet, along with members of Strategy Group, undertook a process of reviewing the commitments made in the Corporate Strategy to ensure that these could be delivered and that they reflected the key objectives of the new administration. The report below details the changes made to the Strategy as a platform for taking forward our ambitions as a Council.

CHANGES TO THE CORPORATE STRATEGY 2006/07



6.1 VISION

The vision has been amended and expanded upon to set out a full picture of what the Council is aiming to achieve, and of our overarching vision of the future for the Borough. The vision sits at the heart of all that we are aiming to do.

The old vision read: **‘To make Chorley the place of choice to live work and invest in the North West’.**

The new vision reads:

‘The Council’s ambition is for Chorley to become one of the most attractive, caring and vibrant places in the North West to live, to work, to invest and to visit.

People can expect safe, clean, sustainable neighbourhoods with equal access to first class, co-ordinated public services which meet their diverse needs. They can expect high quality local job and training opportunities, a decent home and to be valued and respected by all. They will be able to have their say and influence local services in their areas and to insist on good value for public money.

The character of our friendly, contemporary market town and its surrounding villages will be enhanced whilst ensuring Chorley plays a pivotal role in regional economic development’.

The revised vision sets out what tangible deliverables we are aiming to realise through the delivery of the Corporate Strategy. It will act as a focus for our drive to improve Chorley and as a succinct summary of what we are about as a Council.

6.2 PRIORITIES

All priorities have stayed consistent with previous iterations of the Corporate Strategy. The priorities act as the pegs on which the strategic objectives are hung and as a reflection of the vision.

6.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic Objective Two: which formally read: Reduce pockets of inequality has been changed to become: Improving equality of opportunity and life chances.

This change was made to reflect our perceived role as an authority of enabling people within the Borough to improve their own quality of life by facilitating equality of opportunity and improving life chances, ensuring that all are given equal opportunities to prosper, rather than focusing exclusively on certain pockets of the Borough.

6.4 MEASURES AND TARGETS

There have been a limited number of changes to the measures and targets which are outlined below:

- With regards to outcome 2.5 – *‘Improved quality of life in rural communities’*, we have introduced an additional target to increase satisfaction with the Borough as a place to live for rural communities by 5% by March 2009. Current baseline is 69.7% (2005).
- With regards to 3.1 – *‘People will be involved in decision making and in improving the well being of their communities’*, we have removed the target to increase voter turnout and registration at Borough Council elections because it is not a direct measure of the outcome of the Strategic Objective which centres on direct involvement in decision making. Once the new neighbourhood forums have been established we can look at developing further measures.

- With regards to outcome 4.1 – ‘*Accessible well used and high quality public services through a range of efficient channels*’, we have deleted the target to increase the hours of telephone accessibility through Contact Chorley to 50 hours per week by March 2007 as the target has been achieved. We have also revised the target date from March 2007 to March 2008 for achieving 96% of council buildings being accessible to disabled people, as achievement of this target is dependent on the refurbishment being completed at All Seasons and Clayton Green Leisure Centres which will go beyond March 2007.
- With regards to outcome 5.1 – ‘*More people will be satisfied with Chorley as a place to live*’, we have reduced the % increase in satisfaction from 10% to 5% by 2009 as the baseline satisfaction levels are already high and in the upper quartile when compared to other local authorities.
- With regards to outcome 6.2 – ‘*An excellent community leader*’, we have revised the LSP accreditation target from “Green” to “Amber Green” by 2009, to reflect the status of the partnership and the time that will be required to deliver to the very high and rigorous standards at the highest “Green” level.
- With regards to outcome 6.4 – ‘*An excellent council that is continually striving to improve*’, we have simplified the CPA target to include securing excellent status in late 2007 or 2008 depending on when our application for re-categorisation is programmed. We have also removed the target to increase overall satisfaction with council services by 10% as it is very similar to a target being used for measuring outcome 6.3 which is increasing by 10% by March 2009 satisfaction with the way the Council runs things.

6.5 KEY PROJECTS

Key projects are the key mechanism for delivering the Corporate Strategy and the vision for the Borough. It is important, therefore, that we have the capacity to deliver all that we are committing to and that all that we are aiming to achieve is focussed on realising our priorities. To this end a number of projects have been added to or removed from the Basket of Key projects for 2006/07.

Attached is an annotated copy of the Corporate Strategy (appendix one) which highlights in blue those key projects which have been removed from the Corporate Strategy and highlights in Green those key projects which have been added.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7 There are no direct HR implications attached to this report, however, consideration should be given to the communication of the new vision and priorities to staff and elected members.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- 8 None

RECOMMENDATION

- 9 That the changes to the Corporate Strategy and the Vision for the Borough be approved in line with the rationale outlined above and that the updated Corporate Strategy be agreed as the key strategic document for the authority.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Strategy is the key driver for the authority, the changes detailed above have been made to ensure that all which we are committing to deliver over the next three years is achievable and will deliver real improvements for the Community we serve.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

None

LESLEY-ANN FENTON
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

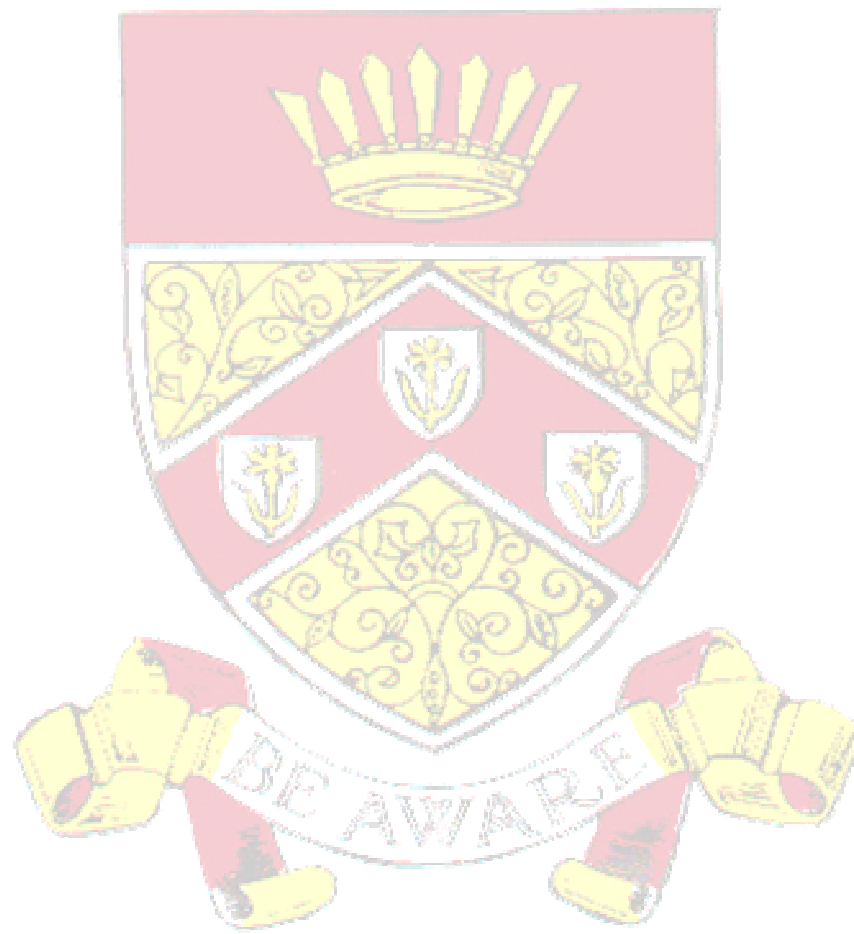
There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Sarah Dobson	5325	14 September 2006	ADMINREP/REPORT

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CORPORATE STRATEGY OVERVIEW 2006/07 – 2008/09

VISION	<p>The Council's ambition is for Chorley to become one of the most attractive, caring and vibrant places in the North West to live, to work, to invest and to visit.</p> <p>People can expect safe, clean, sustainable neighbourhoods with equal access to first class, co-ordinated public services which meet their diverse needs. They can expect high quality local job and training opportunities, a decent home and to be valued and respected by all. They will be able to have their say and influence local services in their areas and to insist on good value for public money.</p> <p>The character of four friendly, contemporary market town and its surrounding villages will be enhanced whilst ensuring Chorley plays a pivotal role in regional economic development.</p>					
PRIORITY	PROSPERITY	PEOPLE	PEOPLE	PLACE	PLACE	PERFORMANCE
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	<p>1. PUT CHORLEY AT THE HEART OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE CENTRAL LANCASHIRE SUB-REGION.</p> <p>Leads: Cllr P Malpas; Colin Campbell</p>	<p>2. IMPROVING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND LIFE CHANCES</p> <p>2. REDUCE POCKETS OF INEQUALITY</p> <p>Leads: Cllr P Case; Donna Hall</p>	<p>3. INVOLVING PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.</p> <p>Leads: Cllr J Walker; Donna Hall</p>	<p>4. IMPROVED ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES.</p> <p>Leads: Cllr J Walker; Paul Morris</p>	<p>5. DEVELOP THE CHARACTER AND FEEL OF CHORLEY AS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE.</p> <p>Leads: Cllr P Goldsworthy; Colin Campbell</p>	<p>6. ENSURE CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL IS A PERFORMING ORGANISATION.</p> <p>Leads: Cllr P Goldsworthy; Donna Hall</p>
LONG TERM OUTCOME	<p>1.1 A vibrant local economy.</p> <p>1.2 Thriving Chorley Town Centre.</p> <p>1.3 Robust transport infrastructure.</p> <p>1.4 Average earnings in line with County average.</p>	<p>2.1 Number of SOA's in worst 20% will reduce.</p> <p>2.2 Improved life chances for young people and children.</p> <p>2.3 Improved quality of life for the borough's older people.</p> <p>2.4 Healthier communities and reduced health inequalities.</p> <p>2.5 Improved quality of life in rural communities.</p>	<p>3.1 People will be involved in decision making and in improving the well being of their communities.</p>	<p>4.1 Accessible, well used and high quality public services through a range of efficient channels.</p> <p>4.2 Improved public transport with more people using it.</p>	<p>5.1 More people will be satisfied with Chorley as a place to live.</p> <p>5.2 There will be a balanced housing market.</p> <p>5.3 An improved local environment.</p> <p>5.4 Safer communities.</p>	<p>6.1 Community aspirations are delivered through the efficient use of resources and effective performance management.</p> <p>6.2 An excellent community leader.</p> <p>6.3 A provider and procurer of high quality priority services.</p> <p>6.4 An excellent Council that is continually striving to improve.</p>
MEASURES AND TARGETS	<p>Outcome 1.1 and 1.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basket of measures and targets to be developed by 1.04.07 from GVAG baselines and projections in the draft Economic Regeneration Strategy. <p>Outcome 1.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre Visits (Target- Increase by 10% by March 2009. Baseline- 32,073 October 2005) Town Centre visitor satisfaction in range and choice of shops. (Target-Increase satisfaction by 10% by March 2009. Baseline- 49.3%, Oct 2005) Vacant Town Centre Floor Space (Target 7% by 2 March 2009. Baseline- 9.7, Oct 2005) <p>Outcome 1.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Median workplace earnings in the Borough (Target reduce earnings gap to 2.7% by March 2009. Baseline-3.2% April 2005, Chorley Median £320.70 per week, Lancashire Median £331.8) 	<p>Outcome 2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of neighbourhoods in worst 20% - target in 2006/7 is to develop targets for each area based on area profiles. <p>Outcome 2.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved life chances for children and young people – the target in 2006/7 is to develop a basket of measures around the 'Every Child Matters' and 'Youth Matters' outcomes of be healthy, stay safe, enjoy & achieve, positive contribution and economic well being. <p>Outcome 2.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved quality of life for older people – the target in 2006/7 is to develop a basket of measures around the older peoples outcomes of participation and engagement, healthy lifestyles, integrated services and sustainable communities. <p>Outcome 2.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target for 2006/07 is to develop a basket of measures and targets which reflect local priorities around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy and premature death from CHD and cancers Tobacco control, obesity and alcohol. <p>Outcome 2.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase in people satisfied with the Borough as a place to live from rural wards. (Target 5% increase by March 2009. Baseline 69.7% 2005) 	<p>Outcome 3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people satisfied with opportunities to participate in decision making will increase (Target- 34% by March 2009. Baseline- 32.4% 2004/05) % of people who feel that their communities are places where people get on well together will increase. (Target 90% by March 2009. Baseline 87% 2004/05) % of people who have worked in a voluntary capacity during the last 12 months. (Target To establish a baseline position 2006/07) 	<p>Outcome 4.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services (Target in 06.07 is to establish a baseline) To maintain customer satisfaction with the service received in the Chorley Contact Centre (Target 95%. Baseline 95%- recognising impact of new channels coming on line) Increase the number of appropriate Council Services accessible through 'Contact Chorley' (Target 100% 2006/07) Increase the number of self service interactions through the Council's website (Target 10% Increase in baseline each year of the strategy) Increase the number of appropriate Council Service available via 'self service' (Target 100% by March 2009. - Interim target, 50% March 2007, 75% March 2008) % of Council buildings accessible to disabled people. (Target 96% by March 2008) <p>Outcome 4.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of residents who think that, over the past three years, public transport has got better or stayed the same (Target 78% by March 2009. 2005 baseline – 74%) 	<p>Outcome 5.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase in people satisfied with the Borough as a place to live. (Target 5% increase by March 2009. Baseline 74% 2005) <p>Outcome 5.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basket of balanced housing market measures and targets to be developed by 01/04/07 in collaboration with other authorities. Affordable dwellings completed (Target 250 Units by March 2009) <p>Outcome 5.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basket of measures and targets for carbon emission reductions in the Borough to be developed. % increase in people reporting that the urban and rural environment has improved (Target Increase by 10% by March 2009. Baseline 14% 2005) % of land assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus. (Target 12% by March 2008, LAA Stretch Target. Baseline 14% 2004/05) <p>Outcome 5.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve feelings of safety during the day (Target increase by 10% by March 2009 Baseline 75.4% 2004) Improve Feelings of Safety during the night (Target increase by 15% by March 2008. Baseline 31% 2004) Reduce Crime in the Borough (Target 15% by March 2008 in line with PSA1 targets) 	<p>Outcome 6.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of Corporate Strategy projects achieved (Target 90%) Achieve, as a minimum, the Gershon efficiency target of 2.5% per annum. (Target 3% per annum) <p>Outcome 6.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status in LSP accreditation (Target To achieve 'Amber Green' status in an LSP self-accreditation by March 2009) <p>Outcome 6.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of priority BVPI's in Upper Quartile (Target 35% March 2009. Baseline 30% 2004/05) % of priority BVPI's improving (Target 60% March 2009 Baseline – 57% 2004/05). Satisfaction with the way the Council runs things (Target 55% March 2009. Baseline 53% 2005) <p>Outcome 6.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPA score and positive direction of travel (Target achieve a positive Direction of Travel judgement By 31 March 2007 and a CPA score of "Excellent" in 2007/08).
KEY PROJECTS 2006 - 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement Economic Regeneration Strategy and priority actions (1.1 & 1.4). Enable the development of the Strategic Regional site (1.1). Complete and implement Town Centre Strategy and priority actions (1.2). Address the key issue of town centre car parking. (1.2) Explore Markets outsourcing following Scrutiny recommendations (1.2) Pursue opportunities for joint working with neighbouring authorities. (All) Undertake Chorley Strategic Transportation Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare area profiles for our most deprived SOA's, and prepare actions plans. (2.1 & 2.4). Develop Service Level Agreements with Lancashire County Council to deliver the LAA and Community Strategy priorities. (All). Prepare Chorley 'Every Child Matters' and 'Youth Matters' action plans. (2.2) Develop the 'Get Up and Go' programme. (2.2) Prepare a Chorley 'Older Peoples' action plan. (2.3) Prepare a Chorley 'Choosing Health' action plan (2.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot area Forums and decide future approach. (3.1) Produce a LSP community cohesion strategy. (3.1) Prepare a neighbourhood management and engagement strategy(3.1). Open up Council meetings to the public. (3.1) Strengthen links with parish councils, faith and community and voluntary agencies. (3.1) Establish a voluntary sector compact. (3.1) Develop and deliver a strategy and action plan to increase voter turnout at Borough Council elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, and deliver, an action plan for the Customer Focussed Access and Service Design Strategy (4.1). Deliver Contact Chorley and the shared services partnership (4.1) Produce a Transport Accessibility Plan (4.2). Improve appearance of public transport facilities through reduced vandalism (4.2). Develop a more detailed understanding of the needs of our customers to ensure the provision of high quality/relevant services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconfigure current service delivery arrangements to improve provision of street scene services (5.1 and 5.3). Complete the process of Housing Stock Transfer (5.2). Develop a basket of balanced Housing market Measures by 01/04/2007 (5.2) Establish a choice based lettings scheme within the Borough in conjunction with Registered Social Landlords, covering 50% of Housing stock by March 2009 (5.2) Develop an initial basket of measures and targets for carbon emission reductions for consultation through the LDF process (5.3) (Submission stage – Autumn 2007) Develop a Sustainable Resources Development Plan for the Borough to include actions to reduce carbon emissions in line with agreed targets (5.3)(By Dec 2008 through LDF process) Pilot innovative ways of reassuring our communities (5.4). Deliver Key Actions in Community Safety Strategy. (5.4) Deliver the Sustainable Resources Development Plan (5.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Communications and Marketing Strategy (5.1, 6.4). Develop and implement Use of Resources and VFM action plan (6.3 & 6.4). Develop a strategy to deliver 0% Council Tax increase in 2007/08 (6.1) To secure the N.W. Charter for Elected Member Development (6.2) Implement HR strategy and achieve IIP and explore other external accreditation (6.3, 6.4). To embed effective performance and risk management across the organisation (6.1 & 6.4). Align existing strategies with Community Strategy priorities (6.1 & 6.2). Complete management restructuring (6.1 & 6.4). Rationalise Council accommodation (6.1). Property outsourcing (6.1 & 6.4) Develop and strengthen the LSP (6.2). Realign the Business Planning process (6.1) Seek CPA re-assessment (6.4) Prepare a Business Case to support new Local Government Structures



www.chorley.gov.uk

CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2006 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2007

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key decisions, which the Executive Cabinet, individual Executive Members or Officers expect to take during the next four-month period. The Plan is rolled forward every month and is available to the public 14 days before the beginning of each month.

A Key Decision is defined as:

1. Any executive decision (as opposed to a regulatory 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.
2. 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.

The current members of the Executive Cabinet are:

Councillor Peter Goldsworthy	Leader of the Council
Councillor Patricia Case	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate, Policy and Performance
Councillor Greg Morgan	Executive Member for Resources
Councillor John Walker	Executive Member for Customer, Democratic and Legal Services
Councillor Mark Perks	Executive Member for Heath, Leisure and Well-Being
Councillor Eric Bell	Executive Member for Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment
Councillor Peter Malpas	Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each key decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision may not be taken, unless:

- It is published in the Forward Plan;
- 5 clear days have lapsed since the publication of the Forward Plan; and
- If the decision is to be taken at a meeting of the Executive Cabinet, 5 clear days notice of the meeting has been given.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan in accordance with Rule 18 (General Exception) and Rule 19 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the Town Hall, Chorley, PR7 1DP or accessed from the Council's website: www.chorley.gov.uk

- Council Constitution
- Forward Plan
- Reports on the key decisions to be taken
- The minutes or decision notice for each key decision, which will normally be published within 5 working days after having been made

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Executive Cabinet, which are held at the Town Hall, Chorley. The dates and times of the meetings are published on www.chorley.gov.uk or you may contact the Democratic Services Section on telephone number 01257 -515118 for further details.

Donna Hall
Chief Executive

Publication Date: 18 October 2006

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Earliest Date Decision can be taken	Proposed Consultees	Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
Approval of terms for acquisition of property required to construct the Gillibrand Link Road	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Resources	9 Nov 2006	None	None	Report of the Arbitrator appointed to determine compensation due	Director of Property Services Tel: 01257 515311 roger.handscombe@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006
Selection of Service Provider for the Property Services and Market Function	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Resources	9 Nov 2006	Internal Service Stakeholders, Market Traders, Staff and Unison	Issue of Service Specification	Tender Documentation submitted by prospective partners and evaluation reports	Director of Property Services Tel: 01257 515311 roger.handscombe@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006
Review of Advice and Support Funding to External Groups	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well Being	9 Nov 2006	Chorley and South Ribble CAB and Lancashire County Council Welfare Rights Service	Direct Contact	Various - including Annual Reports on Activity	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Tel: 01257 515815 jamie.carson@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006

Approval of Play Strategy for the Borough	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well Being	9 Nov 2006	Chorley Play Forum, Stakeholders and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Draft Strategy circulated at meetings	Draft Strategy	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Tel: 01257 515815 jamie.carson@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006
Approval of Telephony Strategy	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Resources	9 Nov 2006	Officers and Members	Publication of documents on Council's Intranet	ICT Business Plan Telephony Strategy Customer Focus Strategy	Director of Information and Communication Technology Tel: 01257 515455 tim.murphy@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006
Approval of ICT Strategy	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Resources	9 Nov 2006	Officers and Members	Publication of documents on the Council's Intranet	IEG6 Statement Customer Focus Strategy	Director of Information and Communication Technology Tel: 01257 515455 tim.murphy@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006

Approval of re-organisation of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	9 Nov 2006	Human Resources, Staff and Trade Unions	Formal Staffing Process	Report of the Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Tel: 01257 515720 john.lechmere@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006
Approval of plans for Brinscall Baths	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well Being	9 Nov 2006	Stakeholders	Community Meetings	Report of the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Tel: 01257 515815 jamie.carson@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006
Approval of "Every Child Matters action Plan" outlining the Council's contribution to the wider agenda	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Life and Leisure	9 Nov 2006	Stakeholders	Draft Plan circulated and available for comments on website	Draft Action Plan	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Tel: 01257 515815 jamie.carson@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006

Approval of Information Security Policy	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Resources	9 Nov 2006	Officers, Members and Trade Unions	Publication of documents on the Council's Intranet	Information Security Policy	Director of Information and Communication Technology Tel: 01257 515455 tim.murphy@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006
Approval of Telephony proposals and procurement	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Resources	9 Nov 2006	Officers and Members	Publication of documents on the Council's Intranet	Telephony Strategy ICT Strategy	Director of Information and Communication Technology Tel: 01257 515455 tim.murphy@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006
Approval of Abandoned Vehicle Removal Contract	Executive Member Decisions - Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Executive Member for Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	9 Nov 2006	Internal and External Stakeholders	Draft documentation	Tender Documentation Report of the Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Tel: 01257 515720 john.lechmere@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 19 October 2006

Approval of Pay and Workforce Strategy	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Resources	7 Dec 2006	Trade Union's, Staff Members, Staff Forum and Strategy Group	Draft Plan to be circulated and available for comments on the website	Draft Plan	Interim Director of Human Resources julie.lowe@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 9 November 2006
Approval of PCSO Pilot Scheme	Executive Member Decisions - Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Executive Member for Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	29 Dec 2006	Internal Stakeholders and Lancashire Constabulary	Meetings and Circulation of Documentation	Report of the Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Tel: 01257 515720 john.lechmere@chorley.gov.uk by Friday 8 December 2006
Approval of Housing Rents and other charges	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Development and Regeneration and Executive Member for Resources	11 Jan 2007	Tenants and Shadow Housing Management Board	Tenant Meetings	Report of the Executive Director - Environment and Community	Executive Director - Environment and Community Tel: 01257 515500 colin.campbell@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 21 December 2006

Approval of the "Older People's Action Plan" outlining the Council's contribution to the wider agenda	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well Being	11 Jan 2007	Stakeholders	Draft Plan circulated and available for comment on the website	Draft Plan	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Tel: 01257 515815 jamie.carson@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 21 December 2006
Selection of Public Toilet Cleaning Contract - Renewal	Executive Member Decisions - Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Executive Member for Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	11 Jan 2007	Legal and Procurement Teams	Procurement procedures	Report of the Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Tel: 01257 515720 john.lechmere@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 21 December 2006
Approval of Local Development Framework Householder Supplementary Planning Document	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Development and Regeneration	11 Jan 2007	All Spatial Development Stakeholders	Letters, Statutory Notice and publication on the Council's website	Householder Supplementary Planning Document	Conservation Officer Tel: 01257 515286 mary.clemence@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 14 December 2006

Approval of Neighbourhood Management and Engagement Strategy	Executive Member Decisions - Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Executive Member for Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	31 Jan 2007	Internal and External Stakeholders	Draft Strategy	Report of the Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment	Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Tel: 01257 515720 john.lechmere@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 21 December 2006
Approval of Leisure and Cultural Services Fees and Charges 2007/08	Executive Member Decisions - Health, Leisure and Well-Being	Executive Member for Life, Leisure and Well Being	2 Feb 2007	Service Users	Publicity in the various centres and publication on the Council's website	Schedule of proposed charges	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Tel: 01257 515815 jamie.carson@chorley.gov.uk by Friday 5 January 2007
Approval of Final Transfer Contract recommendation to Full Council	Housing Transfer Committee	Executive Leader	21 Feb 2007	Internal and External Stakeholders	Established channels of communication for staff transfer process	Plain English version of Transfer Contract	Executive Director - Environment and Community Tel: 01257 515500 colin.campbell@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 24 January 2006

Approval of Core Funding Awards 2007/2008 - more than £5000	Executive Cabinet	Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well Being	22 Feb 2007	Previous applicants and other groups who express an interest	Media Coverage, website publication and Application Packs to be distributed	Completed Application Forms	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Tel: 01257 515815 jamie.carson@chorley.gov.uk by Thursday 25 January 2007
Approval of Core Funding Awards for 2007/2008 - £5000 or less	Executive Member Decisions - Health, Leisure and Well-Being	Executive Member for Health, Leisure and Well Being	23 Feb 2007	Previous Applicants and other groups who express an interest	Media Coverage, website and distribution of application packs	Completed Application Forms	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services Tel: 01257 515815 jamie.carson@chorley.gov.uk by Friday 26 January 2007



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY PROJECT OUTLINE

Review Topic: Council's Performance against the key lines of enquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during CPA and Direction of Travel.	Investigation by: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
	Type: Inquiry

Objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the new CPA framework and how the KLOE's will be used to determine the Council's overall category. To identify the progress made since the last assessment in 2003. To identify where to focus our efforts in preparation for a future inspection in order to maximise achieving excellent status. To learn from the experience of other District Councils who received an excellent judgement following CPA. 	Desired Outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To be well prepared and have in place robust evidence of improvement to inform a future CPA inspection. To achieve excellent status.
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Terms of Reference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct an investigation into how the Council is performing against the new CPA framework. To look at other District Councils rated excellent (ideally) under the new framework to explore best practice across the key lines of enquiry and their preparation for the inspection. To report on the investigation's findings and make recommendations to the Executive Cabinet.

Key Issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to learn from other excellent Councils assessed under the new framework will not be possible until the early part of 2007. 	Risks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Having desired outcomes beyond the capacity to deliver.
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Venue: Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley	Timescale: Start: October 2006 Finish: March 2007
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Information Requirements and Sources:

Documents/evidence:

1. CPA Inspection report from 2003.
2. Direction of Travel report 2005 and 2006 (available Dec 2006).
3. CPA – District Council framework from 2006.
4. Key lines of enquiry for Corporate Assessment.
5. Key lines of enquiry for Direction of Travel.
6. District CPA – analysis of service performance information.

Witnesses:

1. Chorley Borough Council’s Relationships Manager (Audit Commission).
2. Officers of Chorley Borough Council.
- 3 Partners.

Consultation/Research:

Excellent District Council’s inspection reports.

Site Visits:

1. Other Excellent District Councils.

Officer Support:

Lead Officer:
Lesley-Ann Fenton (Director of Policy and Performance)

Democratic Services Officer:
Gordon Banks

Corporate Policy Officer:
Sarah Dobson

Likely Budget Requirements:

<u>Purpose:</u> Site visit cash	<u>£200</u>
Total	<u>£200</u>

Target Body¹ for Findings/Recommendations

Executive Cabinet

Name of Inquiry: Council's Performance against the key lines of inquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during CPA and Direction of Travel.

Scrutiny Body: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION – PROJECT PLAN	TOPIC:
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TASK	2006						2007			
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1. TOPIC SELECTED	✓									
2. SCOPE INQUIRY				✓	✓					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete project outline • complete project plan 										
3. COLLECT EVIDENCE					✓	✓	✓	✓		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • source information 										
4. CONSIDER EVIDENCE									✓	
5. REPORT										✓
6. FEEDBACK & ACTION										
7. MONITOR										

SCRUTINY INQUIRY INFORMATION CHECKLIST

Name of Inquiry: Council’s Performance against the key lines of inquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during CPA and Direction of Travel.

Scrutiny Body: Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Ref.	Information Required	Date	Venue
1.	CPA Inspection report from 2003 and Action Plan		
2.	Direction of Travel report 2005 & 2006 (available Dec 2006)		
3.	CPA – District Council framework from 2006		
4.	Key lines of Inquiry for Corporate Assessment		
5.	Key lines of inquiry for Direction of Travel		
6.	District CPA – analysis of service performance information		
7.	Mori Survey		
8.	Presentation of the new harder test		
9.			
10.			



SCRUTINY INQUIRY WITNESS CHECKLIST

Name of Inquiry: Council’s Performance against the key lines of inquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during CPA and Direction of Travel

Scrutiny Body: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Ref.	Witness	Information Required	Date	Venue
1	Chorley Borough Council’s Relationship’s Manager (Audit Commission)			
2	Officer’s of Chorley Borough Council			
3	Partners			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME – 2006/07

Function/topic	Assigned to	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
1. Holding the Executive to Account													
Annual Budget Consultation	OSC						*	*	*				
Provisional full year Performance Indicator	OSC										*		
Business Plan and Performance Indicator Updates	ECOSP					*	*				*		
	CCOSP					*	*				*		
	OSC					*		*			*		
BVPP (Corporate Plan overall performance)	OSC					*					*		
Monitoring of Sickness Absence (6 monthly update)	OSC						*					*	
2. Policy Development and Review	OSC				*								
Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan 2006/07	OSC				*			*			*		
Corporate Improvement Plan 2004-2007 Update (Corporate Strategy)	OSC								*				
3. Scrutiny Inquiries													
Scrutiny topics to be undertaken in accordance with the programme list set out overleaf	OSC	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
	CCOSP	*	*		*	*	*		*	*	*		
	ECOSP	*	*		*	*	*		*	*	*		
Budget Scrutiny	OSC										*		
	CCOSP										*		
	ECOSP										*		
LCC's arrangement for the Scrutiny of health function – Periodic Review (to be determined)	CCOSP												
Contact Centre: Efficiencies and Partnership with LCC	CCOSP		*		*	*	*		*		*		
Neighbourhood Working	ECOSP		*		*	*	*		*		*		
Council's performance against the key line of enquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during CPA and Direction of Travel.	OSC					*	*	*	*	*	*		
4. Monitoring of Inquiries													
Housing Maintenance Appointments System	CCOSP				*								
Flooding, Flood Prevention and Contingency Plan/Proposals	ECOSP							*					
Chorley Markets - Occupancy of Stalls & Associated Matters	CCOSP					*					*		
Juvenile Nuisance	ECOSP				*								
Grass Cutting	ECOSP							*					
Provision of Youth Activities in Chorley	ECOSP										*		
One-Stop Shop/Contact Centre	CCOSP					*					*		
Accessibility of Cycling as a Leisure Pursuit	ECOSP							*					
Parkwise Scheme	CCOSP								*				
5. Monitoring of Budget Scrutiny Recommendations													
Environmental Services	ECOSP						*		*				
Revenues and Benefits	CCOSP						*		*				
Planning Services	ECOSP						*		*				
6. Other													
O & S Training Programme	OSC					*					*		

OSC - Overview and Scrutiny Committee

ECOSP - Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

CCOSP - Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Topics/Issues to be Programmed

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

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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