

Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

Thursday, 24th January 2008

In the Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Chorley.
The meeting will commence at the conclusion of a presentation in relation to item 6 on the agenda. The presentation commencing at **6.30pm** in the Council Chamber



PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS/SPEAKING AT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEETINGS

- Questions must be submitted to the Democratic Services Section by no later than midday, two working days before the day of the meeting to allow time to prepare appropriate responses and investigate issues if necessary.
- A maximum period of 3 minutes will be allowed for a question from a member of the public on an item on the agenda. A maximum period of 30 minutes to be allocated for public questions if necessary at each meeting of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel. This will provide an opportunity for members of the public to raise and ask questions on any issue falling within the remit of the Panel.



Town Hall Market Street Chorley Lancashire PR7 1DP

15 January 2008

Dear Councillor

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL - THURSDAY, 24TH JANUARY 2008

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel to be held in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Chorley on Thursday, 24th January 2008.

In relation to item 6 on the agenda, may I remind Members of the presentation on the Chorley Town Centre Audit and Design Strategy, commencing at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber. The meeting of the Panel will commence immediately after the presentation.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

2. <u>Declarations of Any Interests</u>

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. If the interest arises **only** as result of your membership of another public body or one to which you have been appointed by the Council then you only need to declare it if you intend to speak.

If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, you must withdraw from the meeting. Normally you should leave the room before the business starts to be discussed. You do, however, have the same right to speak as a member of the public and may remain in the room to enable you to exercise that right and then leave immediately. In either case you must not seek to improperly influence a decision on the matter.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 22 November 2007 (enclosed)

4. Public Questions

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

5. Budget Scrutiny for 2008/2009

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation) (to follow)

6. Scrutiny Inquiry - Chorley Town Centre Audit and Design Strategy (Pages 5 - 10)

Report of Director of Corporate Governance (enclosed)

7. Neighbourhood Working Inquiry - Executive Response

The Executive Cabinet at its meeting on 6 December 2007 received a report of the Director of Streetscene Neighbourhoods and Environment on the findings of this Panel following the inquiry into methods of neighbourhood working in Chorley. To formally notify the Panel that the Executive Cabinet's response to the report was for it to be noted and that further consideration of the way forward on neighbourhood working be deferred to await the findings and recommendations of the Executive Sub-Group appointed to examine available options.

8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2007/08 (Pages 11 - 14)

To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for this Municipal Year with the items relating to this Panel is enclosed.

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

Yours sincerely

Donna Hall Chief Executive

Gordon Bankes Democratic Services Officer E-mail: @chorley.gov.uk Tel: (01257) 515123

Fax: (01257) 515151

onna Hall.

Distribution

- 1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair) and Councillors Nora Ball, Judith Boothman, Magda Cullens, Mike Devaney, Mrs Doreen Dickinson, Anthony Gee, Catherine Hoyle, Keith Iddon, Margaret Iddon, Kevin Joyce, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Mick Muncaster, Rosie Russell and Shaun Smith for attendance.
- 2. Agenda and reports to Gary Hall (Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation)), Carol Russell (Head of Democratic and Licensing Services), Cath Burns (Economic Development Manager) and Gordon Bankes (Democratic Services Officer) for attendance.

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

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

ان معلومات کاتر جمد آ کی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ پیخدمت استعال کرنے کیلئے پر او مہر بانی اس نمبر پرٹیلیفون کیجئے: 01257 515823

Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 22 November 2007

Present: Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair) and Councillors Judith Boothman, Mike Devaney, Mrs Doreen Dickinson, Catherine Hoyle, Keith Iddon, Kevin Joyce, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Mick Muncaster, Rosie Russell and Shaun Smith

07.ECS.29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Nora Ball, Magda Cullens, Anthony Gee, Margaret Iddon and Roy Lees.

07.ECS.30 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No Members declared an interest in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

07.ECS.31 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 18 October 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

07.ECS.32 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No members of the public requested to speak at the meeting.

07.ECS.33 BUSINESS PLAN MONITORING STATEMENTS - 1 JULY 2007 TO 31 SEPTEMBER 2007

The Panel received the second quarter Business Plan Monitoring Statement for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 September 2007 relating to the undermentioned Directorates whose services and functions all fall within the remit and area of responsibility of the Panel:

- Leisure and Culture
- Development and Regeneration
- Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment

The Corporate Director (People) informed the Panel that his Directorate had made good progress across all areas in the first six months with no significant variations to report.

As had been reported at previous meetings there was still a below performance target for the processing of invoices within 30 working days, however, performance had picked up following changes made to the process.

The Corporate Director (Business) presented the Panel with her Business Plan for her Directorate.

Following the previous published Business Plan, good progress had been made filling key vacant posts.

Reference was made to a continuing problem with Housing Allocations and the use of Bed and Breakfast. The Strategic Housing Team had been working hard with Chorley

Agenda Page 2 Agenda Item 3

Community Housing to put procedures in place to reduce this with the Council considering whether it would be advisable to bring the service back in-house.

It was pointed out by Members that they had not received details of the Council joining with Preston, South Ribble and Blackpool to put together a joint Growth Point bid which would be concerned with acceleration of housing growth and increase the provision of affordable housing. A report on the joint Growth Point bid would be submitted to the Executive Cabinet.

The Panel received the Business Plan Monitoring Statement relating to the Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Directorate. The Director indicated that performance variation for the number of missed collections per 100,000 collections of household waste was still below target but had improved following additional investment.

Other areas of performance below target were percentage racist and offensive graffiti removed within two working days, percentage of graffiti removed within 28 working days and sickness absence. Action Plans had been completed to address these issues.

Members identified an item of expenditure of £10,000 for a wall and sign at the Hartwood roundabout. Members expressed concern at the lack of communication to Members that activities were taking place in their wards to which they were not aware of and there was a need to improve communication to Members.

Reference was also made to the communication to Members of the completion of alley gates schemes.

RESOLVED – 1) That the report be noted.

2) That Officers seek ways of improving the communication to Members of schemes in their Wards.

07.ECS.34 CHORLEY COUNCIL'S ACTIONS TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Further to Minute 07.ECS.13 the Panel received a report of the Corporate Director (Business) detailing the activities and measures that the Council had either instigated or were proposing to develop to reduce its carbon emissions in order to mitigate the impact of global climate change.

The indicators initiated by the Council in its community leadership role to combat climate change included:

- the formation of the Climate Change Task Group comprising all Heads of Service with a remit to examine all the Council's activities and produce a Climate Change Strategy within the next 6 months to reduce the Council's environmental footprint;
- the Council's membership of the Local Government Information Unit Carbon Trading Pilot Project set up to assist and advise local authorities and organisations on the reduction of carbon emissions;
- the provision of a baseline survey on energy consumption within the Council's operational properties by Liberata;
- the introduction of a sustainable procurement policy; and
- the introduction of a new priority to develop local solutions to global climate change in the LSP's refreshed Community Strategy.

The current activities would form part of the wider Climate Change Strategy, which would also contain further programmed actions.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

07.ECS.35 SCRUTINY INQUIRY - TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY

Further to Minute 07.ECS.28 the Panel was now in a position to commence its next inquiry into the Town Centre Strategy.

At the last meeting of the Panel, Members were conscious of the need to focus their attention on specific areas of the Strategy in view of the wide range of issues and for the potential outcome of the inquiry to be workable. They were also conscious that there should be no duplication of work that may already be carried out by other groups.

The Corporate Director (Business) informed the Panel Members that the Town Centre Strategy was too large for Members to consider in an inquiry and proposed that Members concentrate their efforts on the Town Centre Design Audit currently being carried out by consultants. The Design Audit would consider the materials for the buildings and streets as well as street furniture, signage, security, advertising and landscaping.

The Audit would give members of the Panel a good opportunity to make a difference and influence the process.

The Consultants carrying out the Audit would have their preliminary thoughts available in January 2008 and would give the Panel an opportunity to point out any omissions or make enhancements to enable the Consultants to refine the audit.

RESOLVED – That the Consultants undertaking the Town Centre Design Audit be invited to the next meeting of the Panel on 24 January 2008, to give Members an opportunity to receive their initial findings.

07.ECS.36 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08

The Panel received the current Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2007/08 Municipal Year and in particular the items relating to the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

Chair

Agenda Page 4

This page is intentionally left blank



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Corporate Governance	Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel	24 th January 2008

SCRUTINY INQUIRY: CHORLEY TOWN CENTRE AUDIT AND DESIGN STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

A town centre scrutiny inquiry is included in the work programme for the Panel for 2007/2008. At the last meeting of the Panel it was decided that one aspect of the town centre which would provide a valuable topic for scrutiny, was the forthcoming Chorley Town Centre Audit and Design Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the attached project outline for the scrutiny inquiry of the Chorley Town Centre Audit 2. and Design Strategy be approved.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

3. The review meets with the criteria for scrutiny in that it will add value to a project which the Council is undertaking and contribute to worthwhile outcomes for local people. Town centre development is a key issue for local people and is at the heart of the economy and prosperity of the Borough, linking directly with our strategic objectives.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. N/A

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Central Lancashire sub-region		
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	/
Involving people in their	, ,	
communities	a performing organization	



BACKGROUND

6. The Council's Economic Regeneration Strategy and Town Centre Strategy have both highlighted the need to maximise the contribution that the town centre environment, accessibility and ease of movement make to the vitality and viability of the centre. The Town Centre Action Plan identifies a series of actions to achieve this and one of the first steps was to commission an audit of Chorley's town centre and the production of a design strategy. Following a formal bid process, the company Landscape Projects of Manchester has been appointed to undertake the audit and produce a design strategy. It is the process and outcomes of the audit and design strategy that the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be scrutinising.

REMIT OF THE TOWN CENTRE AUDIT AND DESIGN STRATEGY

7. The audit will involve information gathering, collation and analysis, public and stakeholder consultation and report preparation, looking at the distinctive character of the town centre and its sub areas. The company concerned will undertake the appraisal using the following urban design objectives:

Character:

The topography of the town centre;

The origins and development of the town centre, including street and plot patterns;

The identity of the town centre, including the architectural character and historic quality of buildings, listed and unlisted, and their contribution to the distinctive character of the place;

Urban structure and grain Scale (height and massing)

The character, hierarchy and quality of spaces:

The prevalent palette/s of materials and details;

Prevailing land uses and building types;

The relationship of the town centre to the wider landscape, including landmarks, vistas and panoramas;

Features that have been lost, detract or are intrusive.

Continuity and enclosure:

Continuity of building frontages and gap sites or other anomalies;

Active and dead frontages, on both ground and upper floors;

Boundary treatments and planting;

The relationship between the heights of buildings and the scale of the spaces they define.

The quality of the public realm:

Condition and fitness for purpose;

Contribution to local and civic identity;

Planting and street hardware (from seats to bus shelters, lighting to traffic signals);

Shop fronts and advertisements;

Use and management of public space;

Traffic impact

Ease of movement:

Public transport services, use and accessibility;

Car and cycle use and parking;

Accessibility for the disabled;

Pedestrian flows.

Legibility - (level of identity and ease of use):

Gateways and points of transition between different areas and uses;

Nodes

Landmarks and features;

Views and vistas;

Edges and barriers

Information (directional signage)

Visual and physical permeability

Agenda Page 7 Agenda Item 6

Adaptability:

Ownership, occupancy and tenure of buildings and spaces;

Building types;

Plan forms;

Condition of buildings (all elevations) and spaces

Diversity (measure of variety and choice):

Patterns of land use;

Block patterns.

Level of interest/visual value

The company will also undertake public and stakeholder consultation as part of the audit and design strategy process.

SCRUTINY INQUIRY AND TIMESCALES

8. The initial presentation by the company to the Members of the Environment and Community Overview and scrutiny Panel on 24th January 2008 will explain the process and key objectives of the audit and also present some initial findings. A further presentation will be provided at the end of the audit, likely to be in March.

This is a key project for the Council in determining future town centre redevelopment in Chorley and is likely to be of interest to all Councillors. Therefore an invitation to attend the presentation has been extended to all Members of the Council. At the conclusion of the presentation and a question and answer session, the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel will meet formally to consider the inquiry and how it should progress, including agreeing this scoping report.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance	Customer Services	
Human Resources	Equality and Diversity	
Legal	No significant implications in this	/
	area	

ANDREW DOCHERTY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Carol Russell	5196	14 December 2007	***

	Background	Papers	
Brief for an Audit of Chorley Town Centre and Production of a Design Strategy	August 2007	File	Democratic Services



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY PROJECT OUTLINE

Review Topic:

Chorley Town Centre Audit and Design Strategy

Investigation by: **Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

Type: **Consultative Scrutiny** Inquiry

Objectives:

To scrutinise the audit of Chorley town centre and the production of a design strategy and to help ensure that the outcomes take account of the views of Councillors, stakeholders and the public.

Desired Outcome:

That the scrutiny inquiry process contributes to the audit and design strategy for Chorley town centre at an early stage to maximise consultation and influence by Councillors, stakeholders and the public.

Terms of Reference:

The scrutiny inquiry on the Chorley town centre audit and design strategy will consider the following aspects:

- The process of the audit, including understanding the key urban design objectives;
- The initial findings of the Company commissioned to undertake the work;
- The final findings of the Company and the outcome of their stakeholder and public consultation undertaken by the Company; and to
- Make recommendations on the value of the audit and the quality of the design strategy put forward.

Key Issues:

Risks:

- That the views of those consulted may not be able to be accommodated in any final design strategy, raising expectations beyond what can be achieved.
- That the Panel may find the technical aspects of urban design quite complex and difficult to apply in the audit process.

Agenda Page 9 Agenda Item 6

Venue(s): Chorley Town Hall plus any site visits

Timescale: Approx. 3 months

Start: January 2008

Finish: April 2008

Information Requirements and Sources:

Documents/evidence:

Landscape Projects – fee proposal document Brief for an audit of Chorley town centre and production of a design strategy Presentation and findings of Landscape Projects

Witnesses:

Landscape Projects company representatives

Council representatives:

Corporate Director of Business Economic Development Manager Landscape Architect

Consultation/Research:

Comparisons with other town centre audits may be useful Consultation through the Town Centre Partnership Consultation with the Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration

Site Visits:

Chorley town centre walkabout

Visits to other comparable town centres where redevelopment work has taken place

Officer Support:	Likely Budget Requirements:	l
Lead Officer: Cath Burns, Economic Development Manager	<u>Purpose</u> <u>£</u>	
Committee Administrator: Gordon Bankes	Minimal costs for any site visits	
Corporate Policy Officer:	Total	

Target Body ¹ for Findings/Recommendation	nne
ranger body for i maings/necommendatio	/ii3
(Eg Executive Cabinet, Council, PCT)	Executive Cabinet

This page is intentionally left blank



OVERVI	EW AND	SCRUTIN	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME – 2007/08	RAMME – 200	80/2	
Function/topic	Assigned to	Scoping completed by	Evidence Sessions (detail)	Recommendations by	Executive Response	Feedback to Executive Response
1. Scrutiny Inquiries						
Neighbourhood Working	ECOSP	Version 1 Sept 06 Version 2 Nov 06	December 2006 to August 2007	November 2007	November 2007	January 2008
The Council's current performance against the key lines of inquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during the CPA and Direction of Travel	O&S	October 2006	October 2006 to present (Capacity & Achievement element) October 2006 to March 2007(Equality & Diversity element)	March 2007	24 May 2007	2 August 2007
Gershon Efficiencies) Combined Attendance Management)	CCOSP	July 2007 July 2007	Sept 07 to Dec 07 Sept 07 to Dec 07	February 2008 February 2008	March 2008 March 2008	
Town Centre Audit and Design Strategy	ECOSP	November 2007	January 2008			
2. Scrutiny Overview Subjects						
To investigate the Council's environmental footprint and what the Council is currently doing to reduce its carbon emissions.	ECOSP	Reported to Committee 22/11/07				
To examine the poor public attendance at the Chorley Community Forums providing an analysis of the attendance across each meeting.	ECOSP					
Town Centre issues and management.	ECOSP					

													, v	ye	'''
May															
April															
March							13	11							
Feb		12	12						12		12				
Jan				22	24										
Dec													3		
Nov							22	20	12		12				
Oct														1	
Sept							13	25							
Aug									2		0				
July															
June							7	12					25		
Мау						21			21		21				
Assigned to		OSC	OSC	CCOSP	ECOSP	OSC	ECOSP	CCOSP	OSC		OSC		OSC	OSC	
Function/topic	1. Holding the Executive to Account	Annual Budget Consultation		Budget Scrutiny		Provisional full year Performance Indicator	Quarterly Business Plan Monitoring	Statements		Quarterly Performance Report (Corporate	Strategy and Best Value Performance Indicators)	2. Policy Development and Review	Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan	Corporate Strategy	OSC - Overview and Scrutiny Committee

COOSP – Corporate and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel CCOSP – Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel

MONITORING OF PREVIOUS SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS - 2007/08

^				Ī
May				
April				
March	11	11		
Feb				
Jan				
Dec				
Nov			20	
Oct	23			
Sept		25		
Aug				
July				
June				
Assigned to	CCOSP	CCOSP	CCOSP	
Scrutiny Inquiry	Chorley Markets	Decriminalised Parking Enforcement	Contact Centre	

Monitoring of Budget Scrutiny							
Recommendations							
Environmental Services	ECOSP				24		
Planning Services	ECOSP				24		
Revenues and Benefits	CCOSP				22		

Rolling Programme of Scrutiny Inquiries to be Implemented

Priority Order	Topic/Issue Title	Date Included	Priority Score	Source
	Full Scrutiny Inquiries			
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	June 2006	All within the Corporate Strategy	Corporate Strategy
1.	Job Evaluation		Circlegy	
2.	Review of the past achievements and effectiveness of the current Community Safety Strategy (to be undertaken in April 2008).	3 Dec 2007		
3.	Further review of the new arrangements to be introduced in Chorley for community engagement in Crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour).	3 Dec 2007		
	Environment and Community Panel			
	Inequalities in the Borough			