

# Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Thursday, 23 August 2007**

**Present:** Councillor Greg Morgan (Chair) and Councillors Nora Ball, Mike Devaney, Mrs Doreen Dickinson, Anthony Gee, Margaret Iddon, Kevin Joyce, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe and Rosie Russell

**Also in attendance:** Paul Lusk (Partners in Change)

## **07.ECS.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Judith Boothman, Magda Cullens, Cath Hoyle, Keith Iddon, Michael Muncaster and Shaun Smith.

## **07.ECS.15 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS**

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

## **07.ECS.16 NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING - INQUIRY**

The Panel received a presentation from Paul Lusk, the consultant appointed to guide and advise on the Neighbourhood Working Inquiry.

The presentation pulled together the evidence collected throughout the Inquiry. Members noted the key points, including the factors identified for making Neighbourhood Working a success and those to be avoided.

The Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment highlighted the key points within his report and outlined the three identified options. Option One (the Pathfinder model), Option Two (Neighbourhood teams) and Option Three (Neighbourhood teams plus). The Council was already working in a way that supports neighbourhoods, including Community Forums and work in the customer facing Directorates.

Members discussed the options with the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and it was **AGREED** that Option One was not achievable for Chorley. The Panel agreed to build on Neighbourhood Working arrangements already in place, such as those with Parish Councils, Community groups, the Local Strategic Partnership, Lancashire County Council, the Police.

Members considered the impact of the new Local Government White Paper and noted there were references to Parish Councils and Community Call for Action that linked in to Neighbourhood Working.

Members agreed flexibility would be important as each neighbourhood would have different needs and the take up would vary in each area. There was a need to focus on intelligence led allocation of resources.

It was **AGREED** that a report be produced outlining the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Working Inquiry based on:

- A reconsideration of the eight neighbourhoods proposed, to take into account the seven County Council organisational divisions,
- Building on existing work and relationships with statutory and community organisations,
- An additional two Neighbourhood Officers, one Community Development officer and a Neighbourhood analyst
- Additional funding for local spending for neighbourhood working should be explored further.

It was **AGREED** that the report would be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October and the Executive Cabinet in November.

Chair