

Chief Executive's Office

Please ask for: Mr T Uren
Direct Dial: (01257) 515122
E-mail address: tony.uren@chorley.gov.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref: TU/AJS
Doc ID:
Date: 26 May 2005

Chorley
Borough Council

Town Hall
Market Street
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1DP

Chief Executive:
Jeffrey W Davies MA LLM

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel is to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley on Tuesday, 7th June, 2005 commencing at 6.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of any Interests**

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

3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 9 February 2005 (enclosed).

The meeting of the Panel convened on 13 April 2005 was adjourned as inquorate.

4. **Council's Timetable of Meetings**

The Chair to receive the views of Members' on the amount of meetings in the Council's Timetable of meetings for 2005/06.

5. **Inquiry into the Provision of Youth Activities in Chorley (Pages 7 - 44)**

To consider the draft report and recommendations of the Panel on its Scrutiny Inquiry into the provision of Youth Activities in the Borough, prior to its submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (enclosed).

6. **Business Plans 2004/05 - Fourth Quarter Updates (Pages 45 - 54)**

Continued....

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in November 2004, recommended each Overview and Scrutiny Panel to consider the Quarterly Updates of the Business Plans for the services and functions falling within their respective areas of responsibility.

Accordingly, the 2004/05 Business Plan Updates for the period ending 31 March 2005 in respect of the Economic Regeneration Unit and Leisure and Cultural Services Unit are enclosed for consideration.

7. **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 55 - 56)**

The updated Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2005/06, as agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, is enclosed for information.

8. **Any other item(s) which the Chairman decides is/are urgent.**

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive

Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel for attendance.
2. Agenda and reports to Deputy Chief Executive/Group Director, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services and Head of Economic Regeneration for attendance.
3. Agenda and reports to Councillors J Wilson, Edgerley, Hoyle, Goldsworthy, Ball and Walker for information.
4. Agenda and reports to all remaining Chief Officers and Assistant Head of Democratic Services for information.
5. Agenda and reports to all remaining Members of the Council for information.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 9 February 2005

Present: Councillor Perks (Chairman) and Councillors Bedford, Culshaw, Mrs M Gray, Mrs M Lees, Mrs IE Smith and Whittaker.

05.CoP.04 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Snow.

05.CoP.05 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 5 January 2005 were confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

05.CoP.06 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The Chief Executive presented a report seeking the Panel's views and suggestions on the best means of taking forward new approaches to community engagement in the business of the Council.

The report drew attention to the objectives in both the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan adopted in June 2004 and the draft Community Strategy Action Plan for 2005/08 to 'devise and pilot with partners new approaches to community engagement' as a means of 'getting people involved in their communities', in the light of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment findings. Consequently, the Chief Executive proposed to draw up proposals for the implementation of Area Forums in three pilot areas during September/October 2005. The purpose of the report was to allow Panel Members the opportunity to voice their opinions on the form and operating practices to be applied to the proposed Forums in advance of firm proposals being drafted and presented to the Executive Cabinet and the Annual Meeting of the Council.

In response, the Panel debated the concept of Area Forums and the following issues and suggestions were highlighted by the Chairman and Panel Members:

- The size, format, operating practices and remit of the Forums, together with the areas to be covered by the bodies, were paramount factors to be taken into consideration.
- The role and work of existing agencies and local organisations should not be duplicated or eroded by the proposed Forums.
- One view expressed opposed a formal agenda format for Forum meetings, advocating an open forum discussion with the public able to question Cabinet Members. Alternatively, the Forum meetings could be structured around an agreed agenda, with an opportunity allowed for an open discussion session.
- One Member considered that the remit of rural area Forums should be restricted to individual Parish area boundaries.
- The membership of the respective Forums should include at least one Executive Member, Ward Councillors, County Council representative(s), Parish Council representative(s) and the respective Community Beat Manager.
- The participation and involvement of all relevant partner agencies and organisations (eg Police, Primary Care Trust, etc) would be essential.
- The success of the pilot projects was dependant on adequate and effective publicity and promotion.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Chairman reminded the Panel that the revised Community Safety Strategy for Chorley had identified four priority target areas (ie Chorley East Ward, Chorley South West Ward, Clayton Brook and Coppull). The Chairman suggested that the Executive Cabinet might consider implementing pilot Area Forums structured on the basis of two distinct models (ie an Area Forum structured around a formal agenda and an Area Forum operated on an informal open debate basis). The Chairman also recommended the Executive Cabinet to consider the four identified priority areas when selecting the districts to be covered by the pilot Area Forums.

A Panel Member also favoured the establishment of an Area Forum in an appropriate rural part of the Borough.

The Panel's instructions were also sought on the instigation of a scrutiny inquiry into public participation in the Council's decision-making process to investigate means by which the Council might effectively engage with the local community and key partners through, for example, Area Forums or Committees and the introduction of public speaking at Council and/or Committee meetings. In this respect, the Panel was anxious to initiate the inquiry at this stage, as an opportunity to (i) monitor and take into account experience from both the proposed pilot Area Forums and Forums operated in neighbouring districts; and (ii) contribute to permanent arrangements that may subsequently be adopted through the inquiry's findings and recommendations.

At the conclusion of the discussions, it was **AGREED:**

(1) That the intended proposal to recommend the Executive Cabinet and the Council to establish three Area Forum pilots on an experimental basis be noted.

(2) That the Chief Executive be requested to take into account the views and suggestions of the Chairman and Panel members as expressed at the meeting and summarised above when preparing his report to the Executive Cabinet on the projected Pilot Area Forums.

(3) That, in the interim, an inquiry project into public participation in the Council's decision-making process be instigated on the basis, and within the terms, of the Inquiry Project Outline and accompanying documents attached to the submitted report.

05.CoP.07 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS AND BUSINESS PLANS FOR 2005/06

The Panel's views were sought on the draft budget proposals for 2005/06 in so far as they related to the Business Plans for the following services and functions which fell within the remit of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Housing Revenue Account;
Economic Regeneration;
Leisure and Cultural Services.

The Panel had previously been supplied with copies of the draft budget plans and Business Plans for the respective Service Units, together with the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

The Director of Finance explained the purpose of the consultation exercise, recommending Members to focus on the following aspects:

- Would the objectives within the Business Plans achieve the Council's corporate priorities?
- Would the identified tasks ensure that the Plans' objectives were met?
- Were the Members satisfied with the content of the Business Plans and that sufficient emphasis was being placed on key tasks?

The respective Service Heads were invited to highlight the key tasks and broad thrust of their Business Plans. In response, the following issues were emphasised:

(a) Housing Revenue Account Business Plan

The Head of Housing Services reminded the Panel that the Council had accepted the conclusions of the stock options appraisal and had authorised the pursuance of the large scale voluntary transfer of its housing stock as the best means of delivering a higher standard of accommodation for the Council's housing tenants, improving service standards and increasing the supply of affordable housing in the Borough. Accordingly, the stock transfer underpinned all the priorities within the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and was implicit in the delivery of the following key service objectives:

- to secure additional affordable housing for both sale and rent;
- to reduce incidences of homelessness in the Borough;
- to improve housing standards and the living environment throughout all neighbourhoods;
- to support vulnerable people and enable customers to live in an environment of their choice.

(b) Economic Regeneration Business Plan

The Head of Economic Regeneration outlined the following service objectives of her Unit to secure the economic regeneration of the Borough:

- to protect and improve the natural and built surroundings to provide an attractive, accessible and sustainable environment; and
- to promote the economic health and social well being of the Borough.

In particular, the Service Head emphasised the significance of the preparation of an economic development strategy for the Borough that would complement regional spatial strategies as a means of ensuring that the Borough played a role in the regeneration of the Central Lancashire region.

(c) Leisure and Cultural Services Business Plan

The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services outlined the objectives of his Unit's Business Plan to achieve an increase in cultural, sporting and community activities in order to promote well-being, creativity and involvement by young people and other non-traditional users and safer, more cohesive communities.

In particular, the Service Head highlighted his Unit's efforts in encouraging both greater numbers of people to become involved in available activities and the development of partnership ventures with local organisations and groups.

At the conclusion of the discussions, the Panel noted the Business Plans and draft budget proposals.

05.CoP.08 BUSINESS PLANS, 2004/05 - THIRD QUARTER UPDATES

The Panel were reminded that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in November 2004, had recommended each Overview and Scrutiny body to consider the quarterly updates of the Business Plans for the services and functions falling within its respective area of responsibility.

Accordingly, the Panel had been supplied with the 2004/05 Business Plan updates for the period ending 31 December 2004 in respect of the Economic Regeneration Unit and the Leisure and Cultural Services Unit, measuring the Units' performance against the respective Business Plans.

The Panel noted that there had been no exceptions to the Economic Regeneration Business Plan during the monitoring period and the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services commented on the exceptions that had occurred on his Unit's Business Plan during the period up to 31 December 2004. The Members were pleased to note that the number of recorded visits to Astley Hall for the period up to 31 December 2004 were in excess of the target figures and the total number of visits in 2002/03.

The Business Plan updates were noted by the Panel.

05.CoP.09 INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN CHORLEY

(a) Presentation of findings of baseline survey

The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services gave a presentation on the findings from both the recent survey conducted to provide a baseline for the Panel's inquiry into youth activities in the Borough and the earlier Strata Survey carried out in July 2001.

The inquiry questionnaire seeking the views of young people, parents/guardians and the providers of youth activities and appropriate venues had been widely distributed through, for example, schools, public buildings, clubs/groups and leisure centres, and had been available for electronic completion on the Council's website. The Service Head reported that, to date, 285 responses had been received and gave the Panel a snapshot analysis of the replies. 237 responses had been submitted from young people, 67% of which had been returned by 13 -16 year olds.

The survey findings had identified the range of activities in which young people currently participated, the most popular being music, swimming, dancing, football, cycling, fishing, horse riding and uniform group activities. The most popular aspirational activities for young people appeared to be finding a place to 'chill' without fear of being moved on, dancing, cinema going, climbing, off road cycling and water sports (eg canoeing etc). A lack of information about available activities and events appeared to be the greatest obstacle to participation, with concerns at the lack of closely available facilities and time to pursue leisure activities also being identified as major barriers. 41% of young people had indicated an awareness of the Borough Council's 'Get Up and Go' initiative and 56% had confirmed a willingness to receive future information on activities .

52 responses had been received from organisations involved in the provision of youth activities (eg Schools, Youth Clubs, Sports/Arts/Action Groups, Parish Councils, Scouts/Uniform Groups, Community Centres, Millennium Green Committees, etc). 82% of the organisations had confirmed that their facilities were readily available for new members and 78% wished to expand the current facilities on offer. A lack of suitable volunteers and inadequate funding were identified by the organisations as the major barriers to the development of further opportunities for young people. The organisations had also pointed out the inadequate promotion and publicity for available facilities, insufficient opportunities for the local use of educational facilities and the problems caused by prohibitive room hire charges.

The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services' presentation also highlighted the key messages that had been gleaned from the Strata Survey of all Year 9 pupils throughout Lancashire conducted in July 2001. While the survey had focused on sport, it had also encompassed the arts and other topics. The findings specific to Chorley were compared to the findings relating to the Clusters area comprising the four districts of Chorley, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire. The Service Head advised the Panel that a second Strata Survey had been carried out recently, the results of which were expected within the next few weeks.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services at the conclusion of the presentation for his informative address.

(b) Next Steps

The Head of Leisure and Cultural Services advised the Panel that he would prepare for submission to a future meeting a detailed report on the findings of the baseline survey and the results of the second Strata Survey. The report would need to be considered and assessed along with other findings and evidence presented to the Panel during (i) the presentations made at the last Panel meeting; (ii) the forthcoming visits to Bolton MBC and the Bolton Lads and Girls Club; and (iii) the planned tour of the Borough to meet young people. The Panel would then be in a position to formulate conclusions and recommendations for incorporation into its draft final report.

(c) Arrangements for Site Visits

The Head of Customer, Democratic and Office Support Services informed the Members that the arrangements for the Panel and appropriate Offices to visit the Bolton MBC's Education and Cultural Department for discussions with the Sports Development Manager on 17 February 2005 had been confirmed. Following the discussions, the Members would be invited to inspect the facilities on offer for young people at the Bolton Lads and Girls Club.

The Officer also reported, however, the need to re-arrange the tour of the Borough to meet and seek the views of young people, originally planned for 23 February, in order to ensure the attendance of the Youth Involvement Officer.

Chairman

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Draft Final Report of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel into the Provision of Youth Activities in Chorley



May 2005



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1. PREFACE

1. Following a request by myself for a scrutiny inquiry into the provision of youth activities in Chorley, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel to conduct the Inquiry.
2. The Inquiry has been undertaken over the past 8 months and I would like to express my gratitude to those members of the Panel who have demonstrated an enthusiastic commitment to the project and contributed so much to the Inquiry's findings. I am also indebted to each of the individuals and organisations who volunteered evidence to the Panel; all the persons who completed the baseline survey questionnaire; and Officers from the Leisure and Cultural Services Unit and the Democratic Services Section for their administrative support and advice.
3. The conclusions and recommendations of the Panel are set out in the following pages of this report. We have been impressed with the level of commitment and effort from all current service providers (eg Chorley Council's Leisure and Cultural Services Unit, Lancashire County Council and numerous voluntary bodies and organisations) to the provision of facilities for sports, arts and cultural activities for young people throughout the community. We do not wish to detract or discourage the future work of these dedicated people in any way. The overriding aim of our inquiry recommendations is to enhance and complement present efforts by helping to facilitate more effective co-ordination and co-operation, particularly between service providers and funding bodies, and to encourage maximisation of the use of current facilities.
4. I consider that the inquiry has been worthwhile and I strongly commend these findings and recommendations for endorsement.

Councillor Mark Perks
Chair of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel have conducted an investigation into the provision of youth activities in the Borough.
2. The terms of reference and aims and objectives of the scrutiny inquiry, together with the detailed findings of the Panel, are outlined in other relevant sections of this report.
3. Following a careful assessment of all the witnesses representations, documentary and verbal evidence presented and the outcome of Members' visits, the Panel has compiled a number of recommendations for consideration, initially, by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These recommendations, categorised to relate to the four original objectives of the inquiry, are set out below for ease of reference:

Objective 1 (To identify and explore the current provision of youth activities and facilities (including the roles of statutory and voluntary bodies))

1. *All available services, activities, advice sources and training and vocational programmes through, for example, the Borough Council's 'Get Up and Go' Programme and the Lancashire Youth and Community Service should be advertised and promoted as extensively and vigorously as possible.*
2. *The Lancashire County Council be requested to provide and/or support endeavours to establish dedicated 'Youth Centres' in local areas with advice and guidance to voluntary youth groups from the Borough Council.*
3. *The Council lobbies and encourages more extensive use of school facilities out of school hours for young people's activities.*

Objective 2 (To identify future issues highlighted by the Youth Service and other key partnerships (including the current Youth and Community Service Review))

4. *The Council supports the establishment of a link between the web sites of the Lancashire County Youth and Community Services and the Borough Council to highlight information on available services and activities.*
5. *The Council aims to develop more effective links and liaison with Parish Councils on youth activities programmes and services and explores the potential for appropriate Parish Councils taking on the role of 'Cultural Champions' for the Borough.*
6. *The Panel recognises the valuable contribution a vibrant Youth Council makes to an area and recommends the Council to request the Lancashire County Council to develop a vibrant Chorley Youth Forum as a matter of urgency.*
7. *The Council to continue to encourage more local Groups to compile Development Policies to encourage young people's activities and to enable them to qualify for available financial aid from a variety of sources.*

Objective 3 (To compare with best practice elsewhere)

8. *The Council explores the potential for the establishment of a 'Chorley Lads and Girls Club' by setting up a Working Group to assess the feasibility of the facility.*

Objective 4 (To identify relevant issues relating to funding, budget and capacity)

9. *The Council recommends and promotes better and more effective co-ordination between service delivery agents/bodies and funding sources.*

10. *The Panel recognises the need for the correct balance to be achieved between the direct provision and the sustainability of young people's activities and services and recommends the Council to support all measures to achieve this goal through, for example, the encouragement of local groups to pursue volunteer training and development courses.*
11. *The Panel supports the Council's commitment to its support of youth activities (evidenced by the growth item in the 2005/06 budget) and requests the Council to sustain its commitment to the provision of facilities for young person's activities by continuing a budget provision in future years for a continued rolling programme of improvement. This will enhance, but not replace, the activities and services provided by the Lancashire County Council and local voluntary groups throughout the community.*
12. *The Panel accepts the responsibility of parents/guardians to encourage their children to participate in activities, to participate themselves (whenever practicable) and to contribute (in whatever manner) to the resources required to stage the activities; and the Panel recommends the Council to examine means of promoting this principle.*

3. INTRODUCTION

1. Background

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, through its application of the agreed selection criteria, approved a request from Councillor M Perks for a Scrutiny Inquiry into the provision of youth services throughout the Borough. The definition was subsequently altered to the provision of youth activities throughout Chorley.

2. Terms of Reference

For the purposes of the inquiry, the Panel's terms of reference were defined as follows:

- (a) to conduct a scrutiny investigation into the provision of youth activities throughout the Chorley Borough in line with the parameters identified in the Topic Selection Assessment documents.
- (b) To report the Inquiry's findings and recommendations initially to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

3. Aim and Objectives

The Panel's aims and objectives of the inquiry were identified as follows:

- (a) To identify and explore the current provision of youth activities and facilities (including the role of statutory and voluntary bodies).
- (b) To identify relevant future issues highlighted by the Youth Service and other key partnerships (including the current Youth and Community Service Review).
- (c) To compare with best practices elsewhere.
- (d) To identify relevant issues relating to funding, budgets and capacity.

4. Inquiry Project Outline

The relevant Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry Project Outline document which describes the scope and extent of the investigation is attached as Appendix B to this report.

5. Desired Outcome

The Panel hoped to achieve the production of a Multi-Agency Improvement Plan that achieves an increase in and improved use of the facilities available within the Borough.

6. General Information

Information on Chorley Borough Council's overview and scrutiny policies and procedures can be found on the Council's website at www.chorley.gov.uk/scrutiny

4. METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

1. Documentary Evidence

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel received and considered several reports and documents during its examination into youth activities in the Borough.

These documents included:

- the Youth Manifesto produced by the National Youth Agency in September 2004;
- an overview of the role, functions and services provided by the Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Service in Chorley;
- the Young People's Activities Questionnaire produced by the Borough Council to ascertain local residents' views on the currently available services and their aspirations for the development of youth activities;
- a summary of the findings from both the Borough Council's baseline survey and the Strata Survey carried out in July 2001;
- a report on the outcome of research surveys conducted on behalf of the Northwest Regional Development Agency between March and July 2004 into Year 9 students' and adults' participation in sport, the arts, physical and creative activities within Chorley;
- report of Preston City Council's Regeneration, Community and Leisure Services Review Board's study into the provision of services for children and young people;
- report of Maidstone Borough Council's Cultural and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee's inquiry into services for young people.

The Scrutiny Inquiry Information Checklist (Appendix C) details the written documents assessed by the Panel.

2. Witnesses

The Panel, at its meeting on 5 January 2005, interviewed the following persons representing a number of authorities and organisations involved in the provision of youth activities and services for young people:

- Mr L Boyer, Sports Development Officer in the Council's Leisure and Cultural Services Unit;
- Mr G Murdoch, former District Team Manager with the LCC Youth and Community Service;
- Parish Councillor T Dickinson, a member of Chorley and District Sports Forum and Wheelton Parish Council;
- Ms M Graham, South Lancashire Arts Partnership;
- Mr I Fazakerley, Area Manager with Connexions Lancashire Limited;
- Mr H Kelly, Programme Manager with Groundwork Wigan and Chorley;
- Mr D Barry, Youth Development Manager with the Prince's Trust.

Each of the representatives gave a brief address on the extent of the services/activities provided by their respective organisations, and discussed with the Panel Members the perceived barriers to their organisations meeting the public's increasing demand for leisure facilities.

A copy of the Scrutiny Inquiry Witness Checklist is attached to this report as Appendix D.

3. Research

A questionnaire, compiled by the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, has been widely distributed and has been available on the Council's website. The survey aimed to create baseline information on currently available activities and facilities and to secure aspirations for the future.

In addition, the Panel has met Mr P Round, Head of Sport, Leisure and Inclusion Services, with Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, and a number of his colleagues, together with Mr J Glover, Chief Executive of the Bolton Lads and Girls Club, to obtain their perspective on how the services provided by their organisation impacted on the local communities.

The Panel Members have also visited selected locations around the Borough to meet young people to ascertain their opinions on the youth activities currently available and their views and aspirations for the future development of youth services.

4. Panel Meetings

The minutes of each of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel's meetings on 7 October 2004, 18 November 2004, 5 January 2005 and 9 February 2005 are contained in this report collectively as Appendix J.

5. FINDINGS

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES	EVIDENCE (Brief Commentary)	FINDINGS	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS
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1. To identify and explore the current provision of youth activities and facilities (including the roles of statutory and voluntary bodies)	A questionnaire, prepared by the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, aimed to establish baseline information on currently available activities and facilities for young people and seek suggestions and aspirations for improvements. The questionnaire (available on the Council's website) has been targeted at young people, parents and organisers of young people's activities. The questionnaire had been widely distributed through schools, public buildings, clubs/groups and leisure centres.	237 responses have been received from young people, 67% of which were returned by 13 – 16 year olds. The survey findings identified the range of activities in which young people currently participate, the most popular being music, swimming, dancing, football, cycling, fishing, horse riding and uniform group activities. The most popular aspirational activities for young people appeared to be finding a place to "chill" without fear of being moved on, dancing, cinema going, climbing, off road cycling and water sports (eg canoeing etc). A lack of information about available activities and events appear to be the greatest obstacle to participation, with concerns at the lack of closely available facilities and time to pursue leisure activities also being identified as major barriers. 41% of young people indicated an awareness of the Borough Council's "Get Up and Go" initiative and 56% confirmed a willingness to receive future information on activities.	Please refer to Recommendations 1 and 8
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Presentation by Mr L Boyer, Sports Development Officer in the Council's Leisure and Cultural Services Unit.

The following activities and projects, in particular, are promoted by the Sports Development Section as a means of engaging with young people:

- Active Schools (assistance with funding sources and organisation of activity programmes and festivals, etc);
- Club Development (Chartmark accreditation scheme to promote the effective and efficient operation of sports clubs; advice on facilities and volunteer training);

- Coach Development (schemes to ensure that coaches are adequately trained and accredited);
- Community Projects (holiday activities, community clubs, etc);
- Under represented Groups (engagement with black and Asian minority groups, disabled people's groups, etc);
- Partnership working with Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Service, local Schools, Youth and Community Groups etc;
- Marketing and promotion of sport and physical activities to raise awareness of facilities on offer;
- Assistance with organisation of Young People's schemes and activities (eg Lancashire Youth Games etc)

Interview with Ms M Graham,
South Lancashire Arts
Partnership.

The South Lancashire Arts Partnership was set up to instigate initiatives and advise and assist local clubs/groups to seek funding and operate their own schemes.

The Partnership's involvement in the "Get Up and Go" programme for young children allows them to participate in film and dance workshops and art and crafts activities. The project is funded by grants from the Borough Council, the Lancashire Youth and Community Service, Awards for All Fund and local community groups. The Partnership is also pursuing the establishment of a pilot After School Activities Club with the Governors and staff of Highfield School, which the Partnership hopes will be replicated in other parts of the Borough.

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES

EVIDENCE

(Brief Commentary)

Interview with Mr I Fazakerley, Area Manager with Connexions Lancashire Limited.

FINDINGS

Connexions Lancashire is one of 47 Connexions Partnerships in England founded in April 2002. The service offers all young people aged 13 to 19 years information, advice and guidance through Centre and Personal Advisors on education, training and employment matters.

The organisation offers advice from both the office centres and within local schools on job vacancies, career and training opportunities, in addition to information on benefits and links to organisations that may be able to assist with personal problems (eg drug abuse, learning difficulties etc).

Connexions Lancashire is currently assisting 150 16 to 18 year old young people in Chorley, in addition to their contacts with 13 to 16 year old school children.

Connexions places great importance on its partnership relationships, with a PAYP three year funding programme targeted at assisting young people at risk of committing crimes. Connexions also provides funding support to organisations supporting summer activities programmes for young persons.

The following Groundwork programmes are specifically targeted at young people:

- Core Youth programmes implemented through the Prince's Trust regime (12 weeks personal development programmes for 16 to 25 year olds, with three programmes in each area normally reserved for young people with learning difficulties

Presentation by Mr H Kelly, Programme Manager at Groundwork Wigan and Chorley.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES

EVIDENCE
(Brief Commentary)

FINDINGS

DRAFT
RECOMMENDATIONS

or low skills);

- Breakthrough programmes (6 week development programmes for 14 to 16 year olds who have been, or are on the verge of being, excluded from the education system.
- 12 week programmes with young people from hard-to-reach groups;
- Up to three-year programmes with young people up to the age of 25 years on the development of restoration schemes aimed at benefiting the whole community

Presentation by Mr D Barry,
Youth Development Manager
with the Prince's Trust.

A Youth Development Programme for 16 to 25 year olds is administered by the Prince's Trust on behalf of Groundwork. The projects are specifically targeted to help the volunteers gain confidence in themselves and prepare them for employment through their participation in team building exercises, practical project work and training on CV preparation and job interview techniques, etc.

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES	EVIDENCE (Brief Commentary)	FINDINGS	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>Evening tour of a number of locations throughout the Borough (ie Jubilee Playing Fields, Adlington, Adlington Railway Station, Tatton Community Centre, Astley and Euxton) on 10 March 2005.</p>	<p>The purpose of the tour was to allow the Panel Members to meet young people and encourage them to tell their opinion of the youth facilities currently available in their areas and to indicate what they would like to see provided in the future. The responses from the young people met that evening can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee Playing Field and skateboard park is not floodlit, consequently causing health and safety problems and preventing the park from being used for any organised sports after daylight hours. • A youth shelter or formal club premises would be welcomed. • The skateboard park surface is not in good condition and is not conducive to any organised events, eg skateboard competitions etc. • The playing fields are sufficiently distant from neighbouring houses and do not give rise to complaints from residents. • The young people interviewed do not currently visit the Adlington Community Centre, but said they are willing to visit the new Centre at Fairview Farm. • The young people frequent the Railway Station through the lack of anything else better to do. • The recreation grounds are not floodlit and it is, therefore, unsafe to visit them after daylight hours. • The young people would prefer to visit warm, well lit premises where they could either play sports, engage in arts and crafts or cultural activities, or simply “chill out” listening to music during weekdays and at weekends. 	<p>R1. All available services, activities, advice sources and training and vocational programmes through, for example, the Borough Council's 'Get Up and Go' Programme and the Lancashire Youth and Community Service should be advertised and promoted as extensively and vigorously as possible.</p> <p>R2. The Lancashire County Council be requested to provide and/or support endeavours to establish dedicated 'Youth Centres' in local areas with advice and guidance to voluntary youth groups from the Borough Council.</p> <p>R3. The Council lobbies and encourages more extensive use of school facilities out of school hours for young people's activities.</p>

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES

EVIDENCE (Brief Commentary)

FINDINGS

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Please also refer to recommendations 4 and 8.

- The young people preferred a membership system for any club to regulate entry.
- Youth activities and facilities should be available from around 5.30pm until 8.30pm.
- The youths interviewed are not currently members of any club, but do occasionally visit the cinemas at Middlebrook.
- Some of the young people were aware that the Council's "Get Up and Go" leaflets were distributed at their school.
- A number of young people were unaware of the Council's "Get Up and Go" literature, but indicated that they would inspect brochures posted on their school notice board.
- A number of the pupils attended Albany High School which did not provide any after-school activities.
- Some youths occasionally attended the Lord Street Community Centre.

Outcome of research surveys conducted on behalf of the Northwest Regional Development Agency between March and July 2004 into Year 9 students' and adults' participation in sport, the arts, physical and creative activities within Chorley.

The survey reveals that the numbers of young people participating in sport, the arts, physical and creative activities are increasing. More people are becoming members of Sports Clubs, etc. The number of young people in Chorley involved in such activities compares favourably with all other neighbouring Districts.

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES

FINDINGS

EVIDENCE
(Brief Commentary)

DRAFT
RECOMMENDATIONS

2. To identify future issues highlighted by the Youth Service and other key partnerships (including the current Youth and Community Service Review).

The Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Service (LCCYCS) provides a wide variety of informal, social and educational opportunities for young people and adults from 11 to 25 years to participate in sport, the arts and community projects in a wide range of settings and residential courses. The service aims to assist young people, through participation and involvement in activities, to develop personal and social skills and to promote cultural awareness and equality of opportunity. While the service aims to be available to all young persons, limited resources have resulted in priority being afforded to services for 13 – 19 year olds and to groups experiencing social exclusion.

R4. The Council supports the establishment of a link between the web sites of the Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Service and the Borough Council to highlight information on available services and activities. Please also refer to Recommendations 1, 6, 9 and 10.

The Youth and Community Service operates centres in Lord Street, Chorley and at Clayton-le-Woods, Eccleston, Coppull, in addition to the Information Centre and District Office at Union Street, Chorley and several other voluntary run centres throughout the Borough, with District Plans' objectives being delivered by local Teams of Officers.

The service will need, in particular, to address the following areas:

- the need for the service to demonstrate that it is capable of meeting young people's aspirations for particular services and activities;
- the current deficiencies in the level of provision in the north eastern and western parts of the Borough, in addition to the Chorley town centre area (especially within Chorley South East Ward);

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES

EVIDENCE (Brief Commentary)

FINDINGS

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

- the need to invest resources in targeted areas of activity (eg to stimulate the engagement of all ethnic minority and disadvantaged groups of young people);
- the need to address capacity and training issues to encourage the recruitment of the right calibre of staff and volunteers.

Interview with Parish Councillor T Dickenson, a member of the Chorley and District Sports Forum and Wheelton Parish Council.

The Chorley and District Sports Forum is a voluntary autonomous body that operates with funding from the Borough Council. The Forum provides support and advice to groups, organisations, clubs and individuals involved in sports and health related activities.

Parish Councillor Dickenson perceives the greatest barriers to closer collaboration with young people as:

- problems in communication;
- facilities and resources (prohibitive cost of room hire etc);
- insufficient links and dual use between schools and local clubs/organisations;
- inadequate funding, particularly to support people at a performance level;
- insufficient Youth Development Policies (only 40% of local Sports Clubs have compiled the requisite development policy that allows them to be eligible for National Lottery Funding).

R5. The Council aims to develop more effective links and liaison with Parish Councils on youth activities programmes and services and explores the potential for appropriate Parish Councils taking on the role of “Cultural Champions” for the Borough.

R6. The Panel recognises the valuable contribution a vibrant Youth Council makes to an area and recommends the Council to request the Lancashire County Council to develop a vibrant Chorley Youth Forum as a matter of urgency.

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES

EVIDENCE

(Brief Commentary)

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DRAFT

RECOMMENDATIONS

Parish Councillor Dickenson also drew attention to the role Parish Councils could fulfil on youth activities by commenting on Wheelton Parish Council's encouragement for young people to participate in sports and arts activities and projects (eg fell walking, swimming, triathlon events, etc).

R7. The Council to continue to encourage more local Groups to compile Development Policies to encourage young people's activities and to enable them to qualify for available financial aid from a variety of sources.

Please also refer to Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12.

3. To compare with best practice elsewhere.

Reports of other Authorities scrutiny inquiries into or reviews of services for young people.

The Panel received, for information and comparison purposes, the report of Preston Borough Council's Regeneration, Community and Leisure Services Review Board's study into the provision of services for children and young people, and the report of Maidstone Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's inquiry into services for young people.

Discussions with Mr P Round, Head of Sport, Leisure and Inclusion Services with Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, and a number of his colleagues on 17 February 2005.

"Positive Futures" (a national sports based social inclusion programme managed within the Home Office Drugs Directorate) is managed by "Moving Up Through Leisure" (MUTL), a mainstream activities programme based within Bolton Council's Education and Culture Department. The MUTL Teams provide a broad range of sport and leisure activities for young people aged 10 - 19 years who are referred by key partners after being identified as experiencing problems or are at risk.

The project engages and helps young people by:

- increasing regular participation in sport, physical activity and constructive leisure opportunities;
- assisting in the prevention of juvenile nuisance, substance abuse and youth offending;
- re-integrating young people into mainstream education and training.

The MUTL project provides:

- a wide range of evening and holiday programmes comprising up to 8 activity fields;
- a variety of innovative, constructive and challenging leisure activities;
- access to learning partnerships with schools; and
- mentoring/volunteers' programmes.

The role and work of the Outreach Task Group was specifically highlighted, 50% of the costs of which are externally funded. The Group works extensively with the education, social services and voluntary agencies to avoid duplication of effort and, principally, to support children experiencing problems or severely at risk. The Group, through teams of area based workers and mentoring schemes, supports and advises the "hard to reach" groups of children, with the aim of guiding the young people back into education and mainstream, generic sports and leisure activities. The Juvenile Response Team is currently externally funded, but the external funding source is shortly to expire.

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES

EVIDENCE (Brief Commentary)

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DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Bolton MBC is satisfied that the implementation of the MUTL programme is achieving the following positive results:

- an increase in regular participation in sport, physical activity and leisure opportunities by young people;
- social inclusion for young people;
- a reduction in youth offending, juvenile nuisance and substance misuse.

Visit to Bolton Lads and Girls Club and discussions with its Chief Executive, Mr T Glover.

The Club, close to Bolton town centre, is proud of the distinction of being the largest youth club in the country, being capable of accommodating up to 250 children at any one time, with a current membership of around 2,500. A minimal 40p entrance fee is charged for each admittance, which entitles the young person to access all the Club's facilities, with the exception of the exceptionally well-equipped gymnasium, for which an annual fee is charged. The Club opens each day, with extended opening hours during school holidays.

The new Bolton Lads and Girls Club relocated to its current location in 2002 with the aid of Sports England and National Lottery funding. The original Bolton Boys Club had been founded in 1989.

The Club provides facilities for a wide range of sports and leisure activities, including a large multi-functional sports hall; a café and "chilling out" area (with TV, pool tables, etc); a dance/climbing wall studio; a boxing hall; fully equipped gymnasium; Board room and office accommodation; and an adjacent astro-turf football pitch.

R8. The Council explores the potential for the establishment of a "Chorley Lads and Girls Club" by setting up a Working Group to assess the feasibility of the facility.

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES**EVIDENCE**
(Brief Commentary)**FINDINGS****DRAFT**
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Club is operated as a registered charity and is managed by a voluntary Board of Directors. The Club employs a Chief Executive and approximately 30 full-time and 60 part-time staff; including a number of Outreach Officers. In addition, over 200 active volunteers assist in training and supervising the Club's members and a further 100 mentors provide a dedicated one-to-one counselling and support service to identified young people with social problems.

One member of staff is responsible for the recruitment of volunteers through various methods, such as widespread leafleting and personal approaches. Each volunteer is offered an 8 session training course on effective means of working with children, identifying occurrences of substance abuse and handling difficult situations.

The costs of operating the Bolton Lads and Girls Club exceeds £1.3m, which is currently funded principally by Home Office and National Lottery grants, corporate and individual donations, Bolton MBC funding, members contributions and fund raising events.

4. To identify relevant issues relating to funding, budgets and capacity

Baseline information survey based on responses to the previously distributed questionnaire compiled by the Head of Leisure and Cultural Services.

52 responses were received from organisations involved in the provision of youth activities. (eg Schools, Youth Clubs, Sports/Arts/Action Groups, Parish Councils, Scouts/Uniform Groups, Community Centres, Millennium Green Committees etc). 82% of the organisations confirmed that their facilities are readily available for new members and 78% wished to expand the current facilities on offer. A lack of suitable volunteers and inadequate funding was identified by the organisations as the major barriers to the development of further opportunities for young people. The organisations had also highlighted the inadequate promotion and publicity for available facilities, insufficient opportunities for the local use of educational facilities and the problems caused by prohibitive room hire charges.

Interview with Mr L Boyer, Chorley Borough Council's Sports Development Officer.

The Council's Leisure and Cultural Services Unit hopes to expand its support services by:

- closer collaboration with existing and new partners;
- development of further projects such as the Cyclo Cross Project with the South Lancashire Arts Partnership;
- Coach Development (schemes to ensure that coaches are adequately trained and accredited);

R.9 The Council recommends and promotes better and more effective coordination between service delivery agents/bodies and funding sources.

The principal barriers to the expansion of services are:

- difficulties in the provision of facilities for community based activities;
- recruitment of skilled and experienced staff and volunteers;
- finite funding

R.10 The Panel recognises the need for the correct balance to be achieved between the direct provision and the sustainability of young people's activities and services and recommends the

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES

EVIDENCE (Brief Commentary)

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and recommends the Council to support all measures to achieve this goal through, for example, the encouragement of local groups to pursue volunteer training and development courses.

Please also refer to Recommendations 3, 5, 6 and 12.

Interview with Ms M Graham, South Lancashire Arts Partnership

The Partnership identified the problems to further developments as:

- inadequate funding for activities/programmes;
- lack of inexpensive venues for activities;
- lack of venues conducive to physical activity programmes (eg ball games etc).

Please refer to Recommendations 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10.

Group discussion session on 5 January 2005 with Council Officers and representatives of a number of organisations involved in the provision of activities and services for young people.

The following key issues and deficiencies in the current level of services and facilities have been identified:

- Insufficient funding levels and prohibitive hire charges for halls and facilities appear to represent the greatest obstacles to each body's expansion plans.

Whilst it is not a statutory requirement for the Borough Council to provide facilities for youth activities, the Borough Council places great emphasis on its investment of resources into its discretionary power to provide facilities.

R11. The Panel supports the Council's commitment to its support of youth activities (evidenced by the growth item in the 2005/06 budget) and requests the Council to sustain its commitment to the provision of facilities for young person's activities by continuing a budget provision in future years for

provision in future years for

The Council hopes to establish a Sport and Activity Consultation Group, with the membership including two pupils from each local school (including Special Schools), as a means of ascertaining the opinions of young people on the type of activities they would wish to see provided.

The advantages of guiding young people into sport, physical exercise, academic, craft or cultural activities are multitudes. Incidents of juvenile nuisance are likely to be reduced and young people are likely to be encouraged to make a more positive contribution to the life of the community.

- The need for efforts to make suitable School and Community Halls more accessible to the community for youth activities (eg extension of dual use facilities and After School Clubs etc) at reasonable cost is accepted.
- The potential dual use of privately owned premises could also be explored.
- Regular contact between the Borough Council, the Lancashire County Youth and Community Service and Parish Councils is essential to ensure that resources are targeted to meet local needs. The possibility of a local Service Level Agreement might also be examined.

A new Officer has been appointed by the Lancashire County Youth and Community Service to lead the Chorley Town Detached Work Team, which is likely to concentrate activity in the Chorley East and South West Wards.

a continued rolling programme of improvement. This will enhance, but not replace, the activities and services provided by the Lancashire County Council and local voluntary groups throughout the community

R12. The Panel accepts the responsibility of parents/guardians to encourage their children to participate in activities, to participate themselves (whenever practicable) and to contribute (in whatever manner) to the resources required to stage the activities; and the Panel recommends the Council to examine means of promoting this principle.

Please also refer to Recommendations 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10.

OBJECTIVE/KEY ISSUES

EVIDENCE
(Brief Commentary)

FINDINGS

DRAFT
RECOMMENDATIONS

6. CONCLUSION AND DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

After taking account of all the documentary and verbal evidence presented and the outcome of the visit to Bolton and tour of selected locations within the Borough to speak to young people, the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel has identified a number of proposals, measures and initiatives which, if implemented, the Members consider will enhance the current opportunities for sport, leisure and cultural activities for young residents of the Borough and help to build the foundation for a sustained improvement of service.

The considered recommendations of the Panel are set out below, with an indication of the financial implications, where appropriate.

Objective 1 (To identify and explore the current provision of youth activities and facilities (including the roles of statutory and voluntary bodies))

1. *All available services, activities, advice sources and training and vocational programmes through, for example, the Borough Council's 'Get Up and Go' Programme and the Lancashire Youth and Community Service should be advertised and promoted as extensively and vigorously as possible.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

2. *The Lancashire County Council be requested to provide and/or support endeavours to establish dedicated 'Youth Centres' in local areas with advice and guidance to voluntary youth groups from the Borough Council.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

3. *The Council lobbies and encourages more extensive use of school facilities out of school hours for young people's activities.*

NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

Objective 2 (To identify future issues highlighted by the Youth Service and other key partnerships (including the current Youth and Community Service Review))

4. *The Council supports the establishment of a link between the web sites of the Lancashire County Youth and Community Services and the Borough Council to highlight information on available services and activities.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

5. *The Council aims to develop more effective links and liaison with Parish Councils on youth activities programmes and services and explores the potential for appropriate Parish Councils taking on the role of 'Cultural Champions' for the Borough.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

6. *The Panel recognises the valuable contribution a vibrant Youth Council makes to an area and recommends the Council to request the Lancashire County Council to develop a vibrant Chorley Youth Forum as a matter of urgency.*

NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

7. *The Council to continue to encourage more local Groups to compile Development Policies to encourage young people's activities and to enable them to qualify for available financial aid from a variety of sources.*

NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

Objective 3 (To compare with best practice elsewhere)

8. *The Council explores the potential for the establishment of a 'Chorley Lads and Girls Club' by setting up a Working Group to assess the feasibility of the facility.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

Objective 4 (To identify relevant issues relating to funding, budget and capacity)

9. *The Council recommends and promotes better and more effective co-ordination between service delivery agents/bodies and funding sources.*

NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

10. *The Panel recognises the need for the correct balance to be achieved between the direct provision and the sustainability of young people's activities and services and recommends the Council to support all measures to achieve this goal through, for example, the encouragement of local groups to pursue volunteer training and development courses.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

11. *The Panel supports the Council's commitment to its support of youth activities (evidenced by the growth item in the 2005/06 budget) and requests the Council to sustain its commitment to the provision of facilities for young person's activities by continuing a budget provision in future years for a continued rolling programme of improvement. This will enhance, but not replace, the activities and services provided by the Lancashire County Council and local voluntary groups throughout the community.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

12. *The Panel accepts the responsibility of parents/guardians to encourage their children to participate in activities, to participate themselves (whenever practicable) and to contribute (in whatever manner) to the resources required to stage the activities; and the Panel recommends the Council to examine means of promoting this principle.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated financial implications of each of the Panel's recommendations are shown below:

Objective 1 (To identify and explore the current provision of youth activities and facilities (including the roles of statutory and voluntary bodies))

1. *All available services, activities, advice sources and training and vocational programmes through, for example, the Borough Council's 'Get Up and Go' Programme and the Lancashire Youth and Community Service should be advertised and promoted as extensively and vigorously as possible.*

2. *The Lancashire County Council be requested to provide and/or support endeavours to establish dedicated 'Youth Centres' in local areas with advice and guidance to voluntary youth groups from the Borough Council.*

3. *The Council lobbies and encourages more extensive use of school facilities out of school hours for young people's activities.*

Objective 2 (To identify future issues highlighted by the Youth Service and other key partnerships (including the current Youth and Community Service Review))

4. *The Council supports the establishment of a link between the web sites of the Lancashire County Youth and Community Services and the Borough Council to highlight information on available services and activities.*

5. *The Council aims to develop more effective links and liaison with Parish Councils on youth activities programmes and services and explores the potential for appropriate Parish Councils taking on the role of 'Cultural Champions' for the Borough.*

6. *The Panel recognises the valuable contribution a vibrant Youth Council makes to an area and recommends the Council to request the Lancashire County Council to develop a vibrant Chorley Youth Forum as a matter of urgency.*

7. *The Council to continue to encourage more local Groups to compile Development Policies to encourage young people's activities and to enable them to qualify for available financial aid from a variety of sources.*

Objective 3 (To compare with best practice elsewhere)

8. *The Council explores the potential for the establishment of a 'Chorley Lads and Girls Club' by setting up a Working Group to assess the feasibility of the facility.*

Objective 4 (To identify relevant issues relating to funding, budget and capacity)

9. *The Council recommends and promotes better and more effective co-ordination between service delivery agents/bodies and funding sources.*

10. *The Panel recognises the need for the correct balance to be achieved between the direct provision and the sustainability of young people's activities and services and recommends the Council to support all measures to achieve this goal through, for example, the encouragement of local groups to pursue volunteer training and development courses.*

11. *The Panel supports the Council's commitment to its support of youth activities (evidenced by the growth item in the 2005/06 budget) and requests the Council to sustain its commitment to the provision of facilities for young person's activities by continuing a budget provision in future years for a continued rolling programme of improvement. This will enhance, but not replace, the activities and services provided by the Lancashire County Council and local voluntary groups throughout the community.*

12. *The Panel accepts the responsibility of parents/guardians to encourage their children to participate in activities, to participate themselves (whenever practicable) and to contribute (in whatever manner) to the resources required to stage the activities; and the Panel recommends the Council to examine means of promoting this principle.*

8. APPENDICES

Appendix A	Acknowledgements
Appendix B	Inquiry Project Outline
Appendix C	Scrutiny Inquiry Witness Checklist
Appendix D	Scrutiny Inquiry Information Checklist
Appendix E	The Youth Manifesto produced by the National Youth Agency in September 2004.
Appendix F	An overview of the role, functions and services provided by the Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Service in Chorley.
Appendix G	A copy of the Borough Council's Young People's Activities Questionnaire.
Appendix H	A summary of the findings from both the baseline survey and the Strata Survey carried out in July 2001.
Appendix I	Report on outcome of research surveys conducted on behalf of the Northwest Regional Development Agency between March and July 2004 into Year 9 students' and adults' participation in sports, the arts, physical and creative activities within Chorley.
Appendix J	Minutes of Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel meetings held on 7 October and 18 November 2004 and 5 January and 9 February 2005.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Councillor M Perks) wishes to acknowledge the work, research and/or evidence of the following persons and organisations, all of which have contributed in some way to the inquiry.

Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor M Perks (Chairman)
Councillor N Baxter
Councillor T Bedford
Councillor P Buckley
Councillor F Culshaw

Councillor Mrs M Gray
Councillor Mrs M Lees
Councillor Mrs I E Smith
Councillor C Snow
Councillor A Whittaker

Office Support

Mr J Carson - Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
PC W Sharp - Youth Involvement Officer with the Community Safety Team.
Mr A Uren - Democratic Services Officer.

Witnesses

Mr L Boyer - Chorley Borough Council's Sports Development Officer
Mr G Murdoch - Former District Team Manager with the Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Service.
Parish Councillor T Dickinson - Chorley and District Sports Forum and Wheelton Parish Council.
Ms M Graham - South Lancashire Arts Partnership.
Mr I Fazakerley - Area Manager, Connexions Lancashire Limited.
Mr H Kelly - Programme Manager, Groundwork Wigan and Chorley.
Mr D Barry - Youth Development Manager, Prince's Trust.

Contributors to Research

All respondents to the Borough Council's questionnaire to establish baseline data on currently available activities and facilities for young people and to ascertain views and aspirations for the future development of the service.

Mr P Round, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council's Head of Sport, Leisure and Inclusion Services and colleagues.

Mr J Glover, Chief Executive of Bolton Lads and Girls Club.

Each of the young persons who spoke to the Panel Members on the Panel's tour of selected locations on 10 March 2005.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY PROJECT OUTLINE

Review Topic: Provision of Youth Activities in Chorley

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

Type: Scrutiny Inquiry

Objectives:

1. To identify and explore the current provision of youth services and facilities (including statutory and voluntary bodies).
2. To identify relevant future issues highlighted by the Youth Service and other key partnerships (including the current Youth and Community Service Review).
3. To compare with best practice elsewhere.
4. To identify relevant issues relating to funding, budgets and capacity.

Desired Outcomes:

The production of a Multi-Agency Improvement Plan that achieves an increase in and improved use of the facilities available within the Borough.

Terms of Reference:

- 1) To conduct a scrutiny investigation into the provision of youth services throughout the Chorley Borough in line with the parameters identified in the Topic Selection Assessment document.
- 2) To report the inquiry's findings and recommendations initially to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Key Issues:

- Nature and scale of current provision of services and facilities.
- Current deficiencies in services and facilities.
- Effectiveness, or otherwise, of partnership working.
- Good Practice elsewhere.
- Identification of differing methods of working with young people.
- Identification of duplication of provision of services and facilities.

Risks:

- Resource implications.
- Difficulties in securing information and co-operation.
- Raising expectations beyond capacity to deliver.

Venue(s):

Town Hall, Chorley; agreed site visits to service providers

Timescale: 8 months.

Start: October 2004

Finish: End of 2004/05 Municipal Year

Information Requirements and Sources:

Documents/evidence: *(what/why?)*

- Audit of current services and facilities provided by Lancashire County Youth and Community Service; Chorley Council's Leisure and Cultural Services Unit; and other providers.

Witnesses: *(who, why?)*

- Officers from Lancashire County Youth and Community Services and Chorley Council's Leisure and Cultural Services Unit
- South Lancashire Arts Partnership
- Youth Leaders
- Organisations to be determined at conclusion of initial audit

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

To conduct a baseline survey and audit of current services and facilities and to ascertain aspirations for improvement and/or expansion of services, entailing consultation with:

- Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Service;
- Connexions
- South Lancashire Arts Partnership;
- Chorley Council's Leisure and Cultural Services Unit;
- Chorley Borough Councillors;
- Parish Councils;
- Local Schools;
- Sports and Youth Clubs operating in Chorley;
- Air Training Corps and Army Cadet Corps;
- Muslim Welfare Society and other ethnic minority groups;
- Other appropriate Community organisations

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

- Appropriate Local Authorities (to examine best practice)
- Appropriate Parish Councils
- Other visits to be determined at later stage

Officer Support:	Likely	Budget	Requirements:
Lead Officer: Mr J Carson, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services	Purpose		£
	Operation of site visits etc		500
Committee Administrator: Mr A Uren, Democratic Services Officer	Total		500

Corporate Policy Officer: To be determined

Target Body¹ for Findings/Recommendations (Eg Executive Cabinet, Council, PCT)

Executive Cabinet, following endorsement by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.



SCRUTINY INQUIRY WITNESS CHECKLIST

Name of Inquiry: Provision of Youth Activities in Chorley

Scrutiny Body: Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Ref.	Witness	Information Required	Date	Venue
1	Mr L Boyer, Sports Development Officer, Chorley Council, Leisure & Cultural Services Unit	Outline of activities and facilities provided by organisation; Proposals for expansion of services; Perception of barriers to meeting any demand for expansion of activities and facilities.	5/1/2005	Town Hall, Chorley
2	Mr G Murdoch, Chorley Team Leader, Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Services	Outline of activities and facilities provided by organisation; Proposals for expansion of services; Perception of barriers to meeting any demand for expansion of activities and facilities.	5/1/2005	Town Hall, Chorley
3	Mr T Dickenson (Wheelton Parish Council/Chorley Sports Forum)	Outline of activities and facilities provided by organisation; Proposals for expansion of services; Perception of barriers to meeting any demand for expansion of activities and facilities.	5/1/2005	Town Hall, Chorley
4	Ms M Graham (South Lancashire Arts Partnership)	Outline of activities and facilities provided by organisation; Proposals for expansion of services; Perception of barriers to meeting any demand for expansion of activities and facilities.	5/1/2005	Town Hall, Chorley
5	Mr I Fazakerley, Area Manager, Connexions Lancashire Ltd	Outline of activities and facilities provided by organisation; Proposals for expansion of services; Perception of barriers to meeting any demand for expansion of activities and facilities.	5/1/2005	Town Hall, Chorley

Ref.	Witness	Information Required	Date	Venue
6	<p>Mr H Kelly, Programme Manager, Groundwork Wigan and Chorley</p> <p>Mr D Barry, Youth Development Manager with the Prince's Trust</p>	<p>Outline of activities and facilities provided by organisation; Proposals for expansion of services; Perception of barriers to meeting any demand for expansion of activities and facilities.</p>	5/1/2005	Town Hall, Chorley
7.	Mr P Round, Head of Sport, Leisure and Inclusion Services, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	Evidence of activities provided in neighbouring district for purposes of comparison.	17/02/2005	Education and Cultural Department, Bolton MBC
8.	Mr J Glover, Chief Executive of Bolton Lads and Girls Club	Details of the types of activity provided at the privately operated facility and an insight into the funding and management of the facility.	17/02/2005	Bolton Lads and Girls Club, Spa Road, Bolton
9.	A number of young persons interviewed by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel during its tour of selected locations within the Borough.	Views on the adequacy of current facilities and amenities and aspirations for other activities and services.	10/03/2005	Visits to sites in Chorley, Adlington, Astley Village and Euxton.



SCRUTINY INQUIRY INFORMATION CHECKLIST

Name of Inquiry: Provision of Youth Activities in Chorley

Overview and Scrutiny Body: Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Ref.	Information Required	Source Details	To be sourced by
1	Audit of current services, facilities and activities throughout the Borough	Baseline survey of Borough Council's Leisure and Cultural Services Unit, Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Services; Connexions; South Lancashire Arts Partnership; Parish Councils; Local Schools; Other Sports, Youth and Community organisations active in the Borough. Witness interviews.	Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
2	Aspirations for improvement or expansion of activities and facilities	Baseline survey outlined above, Questionnaire available on Council's website aimed to target young people, parents and organisers of young people's activities. Survey of Borough Councillors. Witness interviews. Site visits.	Head of Leisure and Cultural Services/ Democratic Services Officer
3	Perception of barriers to meeting increasing demand for additional activities and facilities	Baseline surveys and on-line questionnaires outlined above. Witness interviews. Site visits.	Head of Leisure and Cultural Services/ Democratic Services Officer
4	Comparisons with 'best practice' authorities	Site visits.	Head of Leisure and Cultural Services/ Democratic Services Officer

APPENDICES E - J ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES SECTION

(Copies will be available at the meeting)

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BUSINESS PLANNING UPDATES END OF YEAR 04/05



BUSINESS PLANNING UPDATES END OF YEAR 04/05

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**BUSINESS PLANNING UPDATES
END OF YEAR 04/05**

Economic Regeneration

ECONOMIC REGENERATION UNIT

BUSINESS PLAN 2004/05

END OF YEAR UPDATE – AS AT 31 MARCH 2005

EXECUTIVE MEMBER:

COUNCILLOR WILSON- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCILLOR A LOWE- DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT)
COUNCILLOR M WILSON- ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY (DERELICT LAND RECLAMATION)
COUNCILLOR C HOYLE- LIFE AND LEISURE (ASTELY PARK, WEST PENNINE MOORS)
COUNCILLOR T BROWN- TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION (TRANSPORT STRATEGY/ CYCLING STRATEGY)

SERVICE HEAD: JANE MEEK- HEAD OF REGENERATION

A. SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

PROGRESS

REVISED DATE

There are no exceptions to report.

B. BUDGET VARIATIONS

There are no variations to report

UNIT: Economic Regeneration

B. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- i) Best Value Performance Indicators

There are no indicators to report.

- ii) Local Performance Indicators

There are no indicators to report.

**BUSINESS PLANNING UPDATES
END OF YEAR 04/05**

Leisure and Culture

LEISURE AND CULTURAL SERVICES UNIT

BUSINESS PLAN 2004/05

END OF YEAR UPDATE – AS AT 31 MARCH 2005

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR CATH HOYLE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LIFE & LEISURE

SERVICE HEAD: JAMIE CARSON

A. SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT	PROGRESS	REVISED DATE
Finalise negotiations for the Indoor Leisure Contract.	Negotiations have progressed during the year, but the timescale for completion has slipped into 2005/06.	Mid-June 2005.

B. BUDGET VARIATIONS

Variations that occurred in year have been reported to Executive Cabinet. Final outturn is within 0.4% of budget.

B. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

i) Best Value Performance Indicators

BVPI REF NO	DESCRIPTION	PERFORMANCE 2003/04	TARGET 2004/05	ACTUAL 2004/05	COMMENTS
170 (a)	Number of visits to/usages of Astley Hall, per 1,000 population	230	146	268	Attendances of Astley Hall exceeded targets due to the high profile events programme, for example, Horrocks events.
170 (b)	Number of visits to Astley Hall, per 1,000 population	123	64	247	
170 (c)	Number of pupils visiting Astley Hall in organised school groups (excluding outreach)	1,223 pupils in 42 groups	1,800 pupils in 60 groups	2311 pupils in 55 groups	
177	% of authority expenditure on legal and advise services which is spent on services that have been awarded the Quality Mark and meet a priority legal need identified in the Community Legal Service Partnership strategic plan.	100%	100%	100%	-
119 (Corporate Indicator)	% of residents satisfied with the local authority's cultural and recreation services: (a) Sport & Leisure (b) Libraries (c) Museums & Galleries (d) Theatres/concert halls (e) Parks and open spaces	(NB 2001/02) (a) 52% (b) N/A (c) 52% (d) 52% (e) 68%	-	(a) 65% (b) N/A (c) 63% (d) 58% (e) 76%	An increase in satisfaction levels

ii) Local Performance Indicators

PI REF NO	DESCRIPTION	PERFORMANCE 2003/04	TARGET 2004/05	ACTUAL 2004/05	COMMENTS
LCS 1	Organisations assisted with their management and/or development (excluding funding bids)	112	112	117	-
LCS 2	Organisations assisted with external funding bids	57	57	61	-
LCS 3	% of organisations assisted satisfied with assistance given	86.4%	90%	87.6%	Short of target, but an improvement against 2003/04.
LCS 4	Number of visits to/usages of Astley Hall	23,342	14,750	26,965	An increase in special events, despite reduced hours, has resulted in increased attendances.
LCS 5	Number of weddings at Astley Hall	18	18	18	-
LCS 6	Number of hours the Community Centres are in use: (a) Tatton (b) Astley Village (c) Clayton Brook (d) Eaves Green	6,884 (a) 2,464 (b) 1,727 (c) 704 (e) 1,989	7,114 (a) 2,561 (b) 1,771 (c) 750 (d) 2,032	7,968 (a) 2,486 (b) 1,912 (c) 1,445 (d) 2,125	All Centres performed well against target, despite closures for essential work to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.
LCS 7	Number of visits to Leisure Centres: (a) All Seasons (b) Clayton Green (c) Brinshall (d) Coppull	813,335 (a) 575,201 (b) 166,778 (c) 53,109 (d) 18,247	813,500 - - -	827,966 (a) 593,605 (b) 161,898 (c) 53,879 (d) 18,584	Increased usage in all centres, apart from Clayton Green.
LCS 8	Number of rounds of golf played at Duxbury	42,282	41,500	33,475	Extremely wet weather and the European Championships have resulted in low attendances.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME – 2005/06

Function/topic	Assigned to	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
1. Holding the Executive to Account	OSC												
Annual Budget/Council House Rents								3					
Annual Budget Consultation						3		3					
Provisional full year Performance Indicator										3			
	ESP												✓
Business Plan Updates	Com SP												✓
	Cust SP												✓
Business Plan Updates	OSC												✓
BVPP (Corporate Plan overall performance)		✓											
Monitoring of Sickness Absence (6 monthly update)				3									✓
Housing Maintenance Budget							3						
Corporate Building Maintenance & Repair Service (6 monthly update)					3						3		
2. Policy Development and Review													
Other to be identified													
3. External Scrutiny/Community Concern Full Scrutiny Inquiry													
Provision of Youth Activities in Chorley	ComSP												
Public Participation/Communication	ComSP												
One-Stop Shop	CustSP												
LCC's arrangement for the Scrutiny of health function - Periodic Review	CustSP												
Accessibility of Cycling as a Leisure Pursuit	ESP												
4. Monitoring of Inquiries													
Housing Maintenance Appointments System	CustSP									✓			
Flooding, Flood Prevention and Contingency Plan/Proposals	ESP												✓
Chorley Markets - Occupancy of Stalls & Associated Matters	CustSP									✓			
Friday Street for the Chorley Town Centre Fair	ComSP									✓			
Juvenile Nuisance	ComSP												
Grass Cutting	ESP												✓
5. Other													
O & S Training Programme	OSC			3						✓			

OSC - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Panel
ComSP - Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

ESP - Environment Overview and Scrutiny
CustSP - Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Topics/Issues to be Programmed

Ref	Topic/Issue Title	Date Included	Priority Score	Source	Brief Description
	Full Scrutiny Inquiries				
	Priority List				
	IEG Measurement of Council's progress (Cust SP)	26/06/03	4 and 4	Overview and Scrutiny Committee A	Referred to Customer O & S Panel
	Parkwise Scheme	20/01/05	4 and 4	Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 20 January 2005	Referred to Customer O & S Panel

Policy Development/Review

Priority List

Reserve List