

Chorley

Borough Council



Council Papers

for consideration on

7 March 2006



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Chief Executive's Office

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Date: 22 February 2006

Chief Executive:
Donna Hall

REVISED VERSION

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH 2006

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Chorley Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley on Tuesday, 7th March 2006 commencing at 6.30 pm for the following purposes.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Any Interests**

Members of the Council 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 Council Chamber and not seek to influence a decision on the matter.

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

Council meeting held on 24 January 2006 – Confirmation as a correct record and signed by the Mayor

4. **Mayoral Announcements**

Regulatory Committees

5. **Development Control Committee (Pages 7 - 8)**

General Report

6. **Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Panels (Pages 9 - 14)**

General Report

Continued....

7. **Establishment of a Chief Officer Appointments Panel**

To re - constitute the Special Committee for the Chief Executive's Appointment as the Chief Officer Appointments Panel with the membership remaining the same with Councillors J Wilson (Chair), Ball, Mrs. Case, Edgerley, Goldsworthy, Hoyle, and R Snape

8. **Executive Cabinet**

- a) Corporate Strategy 2006/07 – 2008/09 (Pages 15 - 20)
- b) Performance Agreement 2006/07 (Pages 21 - 44)
- c) Timetable of Meetings for 2006/07 (Pages 45 - 50)
- d) Amendments to Designated Polling Places (Pages 51 - 56)
- e) General Report (Pages 57 - 60)
- f) Statutory Report on the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2006/07 - 2008/09 (Pages 61 - 92)

Report of Director of Finance

The Financial Strategy incorporates the requirements of the Prudential Code on Capital Finance in Local Authorities and needs to be approved to ensure that the Council meets the requirements of Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003

- g) General Fund Revenue Budget 2006/07 (Pages 93 - 130)

Report of Executive Leader on the recommendations of the Councils Executive Cabinet

The following appendices support this report.

- 1. Summary of responses to consultation. Including the Executives response to Budget Scrutiny
- 2. Overall Budget Variations Proposals.
- 3. Savings Proposals
- 4. Growth Proposals
- 5. Special Expenses.
- 6. Council Tax Resolution

In connection with this item the Council needs to pass the necessary formal resolution on the setting of the 2006/07 Council Tax for the Borough

Conservative Group budget proposals for 2006/07 – Report attached

(Note: Members will find it helpful to bring with them the draft budget booklet issued in January 2006 for consideration of items a) and b) above)

- h) Capital Programme 2006/07 to 2008/09 (Pages 131 - 146)

9. **Questions Asked under Council Procedure Rule 7 (if any)**
10. **To consider the Notices of Motion (if any) given in accordance with Council procedure Rule 8**

'That this Borough Council agrees to undertake a comprehensive consultation exercise with Chorley residents exploring their views regarding the restoration of the town's original motto 'Beware' which was replaced by 'Be Aware' in 1988'

Councillor J E Bell

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

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

Distribution

To all Members of the Council and Chief Officers

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

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

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COUNCIL**Tuesday, 24 January 2006**

Present: Councillor Mrs M Gray (Mayor), Councillors K Ball, T Bedford, E Bell, T Brown, Brownlee, Mrs P Case, H Caunce, A Cullens, F Culshaw, M Davies, D Dickinson, Mrs D Dickinson, D Edgerley, A Gee, D Gee, P Goldsworthy, T Gray, H Heaton, C Hoyle, Miss I Iddon, M Lees, R Lees, L Lennox, M Lowe, A Lowe, P Malpas, T McGowan, Miss J Molyneaux, G Morgan, R Parr, G Russell, E Smith, Mrs I Smith, S Smith, Mrs J Snape, R Snape, C Snow, J Walker, Mrs S Walsh, A Whittaker and J Wilson

06.C.01 CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor welcomed Donna Hall, the newly appointed Chief Executive, who was attending her first Council meeting.

06.C.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor M Wilson (Deputy Mayor) and Councillor's A Birchall, P Buckley, R Livesey and M Perks.

06.C.03 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No Member disclosed an interest in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

06.C.04 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 December 2005 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

06.C.05 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor informed the Members of the following:

- (a) A reminder that the Charity Ball will be held on Friday, 3 February and thanked those who had donated gifts so far for the tombola. All gifts would be still welcomed and that if anyone required tickets reserving to contact the Mayor's Secretary.
- (b) Gradely Lancashire Neet to be held at Whittle-le-Woods Community Centre on Friday, 27 January at 7.30pm. The Mayor informed Members that tickets had sold out.
- (c) A Charity Quiz night will be held at Chorley Cricket Club on 17 February 2006 at 8.30pm. Team names/numbers available from the Mayor's Secretary.
- (d) A Murder Mystery Evening on Tuesday, 28 February 2006 at Astley Hall. Tickets available from the Mayor's Secretary.

The Executive Leader informed Members of a delegation from the Council comprising himself, Deputy Chief Executive and the MP for Chorley which met with the Prime Minister last Wednesday regarding the loss of jobs at the Royal

Ordnance factory in Euxton. This was the only facility in the United Kingdom for the preparation of a particular type of explosive and we would have to rely upon France and the United States. The Prime Minister would keep the authority informed of developments.

06.C.06 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Development Control Committee presented a report summarising the more significant proposals considered at meetings of the Committee held on 20 December 2005 and 17 January 2006.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

06.C.07 LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee presented a report summarising the principal matters considered at a meeting of the Committee held on 11 January 2006.

RESOLVED – 1. That the report be noted.

2. That approval be given to the amendment of Appendix 2, Part C of the Council's Constitution to enable the Director of Legal Services to deal with the following matters.

5.17 "To grant or renew private hire and hackney carriage drivers because where the conviction would ordinarily be "spent" under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 unless the offence is of a serious nature eg offences of a sexual nature, burglary, serious assaults or where the Director of Legal Services is of the view that the offences are relevant to the application eg a series of offences over a number of years".

06.C.08 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee presented a report, which gave a brief summary of the items discussed at the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 9 January 2006.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

06.C.09 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND PANELS

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented a report summarising the principal matters discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 December 2005 and the ongoing work of its Panels.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

06.C.10 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 - PROGRESS REPORT

The Executive Leader presented a report on the progress of the 2005/06 Capital Programme and seeking approval of a number of recommendations from the Capital Programme Board.

In order to maintain the Council's financial position in 2005/06 the Capital Programme Board had made a number of recommendations affecting schemes or projects that

were either overspending or required additional resources, in addition to a number of new Category C schemes recommended for approval.

RESOLVED – 1. That the revised Capital Programme for 2005/06 in the sum of £15,749,770 as outlined in the submitted report, be approved.

2. That the following recommendations of the Capital Programme Board be approved.

Exception Reports

- i) that the Head of Housing Services reduce expenditure on other categories of the 2005/06 Housing Revenue Account to cover the reported overspending of £375,000 and to keep within current budget;
- ii) that Phase 3 of the Chapel Street Enhancement Scheme be placed on the pipeline reserve list (Category C) for future consideration when resources become available;
- iii) that the Head of Public Space Services be requested to complete the Friday Street Car Park Scheme in 2005/06 from the existing approved capital budget;
- iv) that the Head of Public Space Services be requested to bring forward an Outline Business Case for the proposals relating to the Fleet Street Car Park, for consideration at a future meeting of the Capital Programme Board;

New Capital Schemes and Projects

- v) that the following new schemes and projects be placed on the pipeline reserve list (Category C) for future consideration when resources become available:
 - 1. Warden Patrol Vans and CCTV Digital Recorders.
 - 2. Enhanced Recycling – Phase 3.
 - 3. Kerbside Recycling – Service Capacity and Improvements.
 - 4. Recycling Bring Site expansion.
 - 5. Litter bin replacement programme and on Street litter/dog waste/recycling bins.
 - 6. Legal Case Management ICT Systems.

06.C.11 AREA FORUM PILOT SCHEMES - PROCEDURE RULES

Further to Minute 05.C.111, 13 December 2005, the Executive Member for Customers, Policy and Performance presented a report stating that the Council meeting had approved the Terms of Reference to be applied to the three Area Forum pilot schemes to be introduced in the areas of Clayton-le-Woods North Ward, Coppull Parish and Lostock Ward. In accordance with Paragraph 27.2 of Part A of Appendix 3 to the Council's Constitution it had stood adjourned to this meeting for approval and adoption of the Procedure Rules for the three pilot areas.

The Council meeting on the 13 December 2005 had also deferred to this meeting the appointment of the Vice-Chair for the Coppull Parish Area Forum.

RESOLVED – 1. That the Procedure Rules for the three pilot Area Forums for Clayton-le-Woods North, Coppull Parish and Lostock Wards in the form presented be approved and adopted for inclusion in the Council's Constitution as Part D of Appendix 3.

2. That the appointment of the Vice-Chair for the Coppull Parish Area Forum pilot from the Borough Councillors for the Coppull and Chisnall electoral wards

within the geographical area of the forum be deferred to the first meeting of the Forum on 28 February 2006 and submit the nomination to the next ordinary meeting of the Council on 7 March 2006.

06.C.12 CHORLEY TOWN CENTRE ACTION AREA AND RETAIL AND LEISURE POLICIES PREFERRED OPTIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

The Executive Member for Development and Planning and Executive Member for Chorley Town Centre and Risk Management presented a joint report seeking endorsement of the draft Chorley Town Centre Action Area and Retail and Leisure Policies Preferred Options Development Plan Document for consultation purposes.

The document set out the preferred planning policy and development options to enable the Council to undertake its responsibility to promote retail, leisure and other development requirements in relation to four identified priorities for the town centre. The document revised and updated existing policies in order to meet modern challenges to retain the vitality and competitiveness of the town centre and outlined the aspiration for future developments.

The document was required to be finalised for public consultation by March 2006, in order to meet the milestones identified for the production of the various documents that would make up the Local Development Framework for the Borough.

RESOLVED – That the Chorley Town Centre Action Area and Retail and Leisure Policies Preferred Option Development Plan Document be approved for consultation and community involvement purposes, subject to the Head of Development and Regeneration being granted delegated authority to make any necessary minor textural amendments to the document.

06.C.13 EXECUTIVE CABINET GENERAL REPORT

The Executive Leader presented a report summarising the more significant items of business dealt with at a meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 12 January 2006.

**RESOLVED – 1. That the report be noted.
2. That Councillors D Gee and S Smith be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Local Fair Trade Steering Group.**

06.C.14 FOOD HYGIENE ENFORCEMENT - OFFICER AUTHORISATION

The Mayor accepted as urgent, consideration of this item, not included on the agenda in order to approve the amendment of the delegations and authorisation to the Head of Environmental Services necessary for the enforcement of food hygiene legislation now made under the European Communities Act 1972.

The Executive Member for Environment and Community Services presented a report authorising that under the Food Safety Act 1990 provision was made under various regulations in order to enforce food safety requirements on food businesses. Whilst these provisions remain for food standards work and hence save enforcement activity undertaken by the Environmental Services Unit there had been a fundamental change to the source of food hygiene legislation.

The new Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006 had been enacted under European Directive and hence under the European Communities Act 1972. These

regulations revoke all previous food hygiene related legislation made under the Food Safety Act 1990.

The Council's constitution and the delegation available to the Head of Environmental Services required amendment to reflect these changes in food hygiene legislation.

RESOLVED – That:

Whereas the exercise of those functions of the Council under the European Communities Act 1972 here specified are an Executive function by virtue of Part A of Appendix 2 of the Council's Constitution and to enable the Head of Environmental Services to appoint and authorise the necessary staff to undertake these functions:

The following Executive Functions be allocated to the Head of Environmental Services under Executive Arrangements made pursuant to Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2000 and be discharged by them under that Section:

The functions of:

- i) deciding applications for authorisations, registration, consent, licences or certificates of approval;**
- ii) authorising the service of notices and the taking of consequential action, including carrying out work in default and the recovery of costs;**
- iii) issuing formal cautions;**
- iv) recommending to the Director of Legal Services the institution of legal proceedings; and**
- v) authorising officers to exercise statutory powers of entry (including obtaining warrants).**

Pursuant to the Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended) and;

- (a) any Orders or Regulations made thereunder or relating to the foregoing or by virtue of the European Communities Act 1972; and**
- (b) any modification or re enactment to the foregoing.**

Mayor

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REPORT OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

GENERAL REPORT

1. Since the last Council meeting the Development Control Committee met on 14 February 2006. This report refers briefly to the more significant planning proposals that were considered at this meeting. The Development Control Committee that will be held on 6 March 2006 will be reported to the next Council meeting on 11 April 2006.

14 February 2006 meetingPlanning Application 05/00392/FULMAJ/05/00393/FULMAJ

2. We considered the above planning applications for the erection of a two storey office unit and two single storey industrial units with associated car parks on Land between M61 Motorway and Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Millennium Way, Chorley.
3. After considering the information in the Officer's report we decided to grant full planning permission subject to Section 106 Agreements and a full investigation into improvements being made to the junction of Blackburn Road with the A474.

Planning Application 05/00472/FUL

4. We considered the above planning application for planning permission to alter first floor premises to provide 6 new flats, erection of ground floor rear extension with first floor balconies, formation of railings rear and creation of 3 residents parking spaces at 299 – 305, Eaves Lane, Chorley.
5. The application had been deferred from Development Control Committee on 28 June 2005 to allow the Site Inspection Sub-Committee to visit and inspect the site. The Sub-Committee visited the site on 23 August 2005. The Committee recommended that consideration of the application should be deferred to allow further discussions between the applicant, the Head of Planning Services, the Head of Public Space Services, the Director of Legal Services and Ward Representatives in respect of the parking issues.
6. Three solutions to the parking issues were identified and after consideration of the Officers report we decided to grant planning permission subject to a Section 106 Agreement.

Planning Application 05/01168/FUL

7. We considered the above planning application to permit planning permission for the erection of single storey extensions to front and rear

and single storey porch to the front of the building at Little Acorns Nursery, 34, Sheep Hill Lane, Clayton-Le-Woods.

8. The proposal would enable the nursery to accommodate an increase in the number of children from 42 to 55.
9. After considering the information in the Officers report and listening to the views of the Ward Representative we decided to refuse planning permission.

Recommendation

10. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR A LOWE
Chairman of the Development Control Committee

DS

There are no background papers to this report.

REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND PANELS

GENERAL REPORT

1. This report briefly summarises the business transacted at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 19 January 2006 and the Special meeting held on 16 February 2006, as well as a brief summary of the recent activities and matters discussed at meetings of the Customer, Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

The meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2 March 2006 and the Customer Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held 1 March 2006 will be reported to the next Council meeting on 11 April 2006.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 19 January 2006

Sustainable Resources - Preferred Option Document and Draft Supplementary Planning Document

2. At the last meeting, the Committee invited the Executive Member for Customers, Policy and Performance to the meeting to clarify the request that the Executive Cabinet had made at its meeting on 1 December 2005 for this Committee to ask the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel to examine how the Council could encourage the use of renewable energy within the Borough and how the Council could take a lead on this issue on a cost neutral basis.
3. We received a useful document entitled "Renewable Energy Information for Scrutiny Members" that had been compiled by the Energy Saving Trust providing answers to many frequently asked questions by Scrutiny Committees.
4. We agreed that a small group be established to examine the areas the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel could pursue, with recommendations for the Panel to proceed through the topic selection criteria.

Revenue Budget Monitoring - 2005/06

5. We received from the Director of Finance a report setting out the current financial position of the Council, compared against the budgets and efficiency saving targets it set itself for 2005/06 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.
6. The report revealed that officers continued to reduce the overspend, with the forecast overspend having been reduced to £126,000 from £164,000 since the previous monitoring report. The Director of Finance responded to questions from Members on the specific areas of procurement savings particularly in relation to recruitment, advertising and corporate savings in general. The authority was successful in providing savings from procurement and we agreed the action being taken to identify savings.

Scrutiny of the Draft Budget for 2006/07

7. We received from the Director of Finance the proposals for the budget for revenue spending and Council Tax for the General Fund for the 2006/07, financial year. The proposals contained the many factors and risk issues which will be assessed and considered before the final budget is determined at this Council meeting.

8. The purpose of the item was to give initial consideration of the proposals and seek the Committees views on the Executive Cabinet draft budget proposals.
9. This was part of the consultation exercise and we were informed that further consultation would be made to a special meeting of this Committee on 16 February 2006 when feedback will be received from the three Panels and review of the budget consultation documents.
10. We were reminded of the series of meetings including the Environment, Customer and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panels were the areas of Environment Services, Planning Services and Revenues and Benefits will be looked at in detail by the respective Panels. These services had been identified by the Audit Commission as they appeared as upper quartile costs in the Value for Money Self Assessment.
11. We examined issues relating to the savings strategy and greater options as well as the effect of the stock transfer on the budget and the Director of Finance responded to the questions raised.
12. We agreed to note at this stage the draft budget proposals for the 2006/07 financial year.

Capital Programme 2005/2006 - Progress Report

13. We received from the Group Director a progress report of the 2005/06 Capital Programme and outlined the achievements of the Capital Programme Board.
14. The report identified the proposed additional schemes that had been made to the Programme and the split of the programmes into categories based on the stage of approval of the schemes.
15. We focused our attention on the work of the Capital Programme Board made up of management that maintained a strategic oversight of the Capital programme.
16. Some members of the Committee expressed their concern at the problems being experienced in some areas of the borough with the Council's refuse and recycling collection service as well as the effect on local residents of the lorry park at Fleet Street Car Park and the disturbance they receive from lorries starting up around 5.00am to 6.00am.

Corporate Improvement Plan 2004 - 2007 - Update

18. We received from the Group Director a report on the current position in respect of the delivery of the Corporate Improvement Plan 2004 - 2007 with an updated plan attached.
19. The report indicated that the Plan was to be the last in this current format, as the new Corporate Strategy was an all embracing document and will include all key actions relating to the achievements of the Council's strategic objectives. Once the Council had adopted the Strategy, progress against this will be reported regularly to this Committee.

Green Energy Issues

20. I accepted an urgent item for consideration, not included on the agenda in order to consider the reference in a recent press article to a possible decision taken by an Executive Member relating to the Council adopting the use of green energy.
21. The press article implied that an Executive Member had recently taken a decision on this issue and concern was expressed by a member that the decision had not been notified to those concerned and had been subject to the call-in procedure.

22. We agreed that officers should examine whether or not an Executive Member decision had been taken on the issue raised in the press article and inform myself as soon as possible.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 16 February (Special Meeting)

Quarterly Performance Indicators 2005/06 - Monitoring Report

23. We received from the Head of Corporate and Policy Services a monitoring report on the Service Unit's performance against the respective Key Performance Indicators and Best Value Performance Indicators for the 2005/06 third quarter period ending on 31 December 2005.
24. The report identified, in respect of each service area, whether the performance was:
 - i) achieving or exceeding its target for 2005/06
 - ii) within a tolerance level or
 - iii) significantly worse than planned or worse than the previous year.
25. The data we received indicated whether performance was improving, worsening or remaining static during the quarterly reporting periods and included explanatory comments from the officers on selected areas.
26. We noted the errors in the printing process had resulted in a few incorrect "direction of travel" icons being illustrated in the data, and reasons for the areas where performance was not meeting the requisite targets.
27. A number of Members expressed their perceived dissatisfaction with the collection of litter and the removal of graffiti throughout the Borough. It was accepted that there was a need for a review of the means by which the public awareness of street cleanliness issues and the potential penalties for deposited litter could be promoted more effectively.

Overview and Scrutiny Panels

28. We received from each of the three Overview and Scrutiny Panels presenting the comments made at each of their meetings regarding the spending on Environmental Services, Resources and Benefits and Planning Services.
29. Each of the services had been identified to be looked at in more detail because they appeared as upper quartile costs in the Value for Money (VFM) Self Assessment undertaken by the Audit Commission. The purpose of the scrutiny of each of the services was to explore in more detail why the services were showing in the upper quartile in cost terms, to establish if the Council's policy objectives were being met and to determine whether value for money was being achieved from the Commission's benchmark findings.
30. Each of the reports submitted by the Environment, Customer and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panels set out the questions and the answers given by the Executive Member responsible for that service.
31. Each Panel came to a conclusion with a number of recommendations for this Committee to consider and submit to the Executive Cabinet as part of the 2006/07 budget consultation exercise.
32. The Committee approved a number of recommendations, contained later in this report under each Panel, for submission to the Executive Cabinet as part of the Council's 2006/07 budget consultation exercise.

Timetable of Meetings

33. We agreed a draft timetable of meetings for the Municipal Year 2006/07 proposing the dates for meetings of the Council, Executive Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Panels, the various Committee, Area Forum Pilots and Liaison Groups.
34. In relation to meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee we noted that it was proposed that meetings would be held two days prior to the Executive Cabinet to enable the comments of the Committee to be reported to and taken into account by the Executive Cabinet.

Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel - 6 February 2006

35. The meeting had been called to review the Environmental Services budget as the service had been identified to be looked at in more detail because it appeared as upper quartile costs in the Value for Money (VFM) Self Assessment undertaken by the Audit Commission.
36. A joint report from the Director of Finance and Head of Environmental Services set out the Council's spending on Environmental Services as well as analysing the detailed findings of the Audit Commission's review of costs undertaken as part of their use of resources value for money review.
37. The exercise allowed us the opportunity to establish if the Council's policy objectives are being met and if the benchmark findings are a measure of the reality of Member and Stakeholders experiences.
38. The Executive Member whose portfolio covers Environmental Services and Head of Environmental Services attended the meeting and a number of questions were put to them. The questions and responses would form part of the basis of a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 February 2006.
39. We agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee submit the following comments to the Executive Cabinet as part of this years budget consultation exercise.
 1. That the Executive Cabinet be requested to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commissions' 'family tree' authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of services, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Council's environmental service.
 2. What steps will the Executive Cabinet take to achieve a better understanding of the perception gap in the measurement of residents satisfaction with standards of cleanliness within the Street Cleaning Contract.
 3. The Executive Cabinet is requested to examine the quality of design of litter bins and the capability of the contractors Cleanaway to emptying the litter bins whilst on collection rounds.
 4. The Executive Cabinet is requested to ensure that high profile cases on enforcement are publicised.
 5. The Executive Cabinet is requested to ensure the enforcement of the management of the Cleanaway contract and that they clean up whilst waste collecting.
 6. The Executive Cabinet is requested to introduce policy targets for the Neighbourhood Wardens relating to their street scene duties.

7. The Executive Cabinet is requested to examine the need for improved co-ordination of services to bring efficiency. Particular attention should be paid to problem areas and neighbourhoods as well as a wider promotion of the hot line number.

Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel - 7 February 2006

40. We received the report of the Director of Finance detailing the Revenues and Benefits service budget. The purpose of the report was to enable the Panel to study the findings of the recent Audit Commission review of costs; this was part of the use of resources value for money review. The report allowed us to scrutinise whether the Council's policy objectives were being met and if the benchmark findings were a true reflection of Members and Stakeholders experience.
41. A number of questions were put to the Director of Finance. The questions and responses would form the basis of a report to the special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 16 February.
42. We noted that Chorley was providing a good service to the Revenues and Benefits customers. Developments such as home visits and the redesign of back office elements of the service were providing a more efficient and enhanced service. However, the Panel noted that there was a lack of detailed comparative information.
43. We noted the need to balance the cost/service provided to the customer. Elements of the service, such as forms being in plain English were important to the customer. We highlighted that the training scheme and training materials that have been developed within the service were positive.
44. We agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee submit the following comments to the Executive Cabinet:
 1. The Executive Cabinet be requested to take action to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commission's 'family tree' authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of services, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Revenues and Benefits service.
 2. What steps will the Executive Cabinet take to ensure that the high-quality service the public is receiving from the Benefits service is maintained when the service moved into the Contact Centre?
 3. The Executive Cabinet is requested to undertake a consistent and measured review of all services via the Procurement Strategy for the delivery of value for money services.

Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel - 8 February 2006

Draft General Fund Review Budget for 2006/07 - Review of Planning Services Budget

45. The Panel undertook a review of the Authority's spending on Planning Services as part of Members' overall scrutiny of the draft budget proposals for the next financial year. The purpose of the review was to explore the reasons for the service appearing as upper quartile costs in the results of a recent Audit Commission Value for Money Assessment. The assessment had entailed a basic benchmarking of the costs of providing the planning service by comparing the absolute costs of each Authority included in the Audit Commission's 'family group' of Councils that exhibit the same attributes in terms of demography, population, etc.

46. At the conclusion of the discussion with the Executive Member for Development and Planning and the Head of Development and Regeneration the Panel accepted that the delivery and efficiency of the development control service had improved over recent years. The national and local targets for the determination of planning applications had been met, but it was accepted that other efficiencies and improvements could be pursued.
47. The Panel agreed to request the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to recommend the Executive Cabinet to:
 - to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commission's 'family tree' authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of the service, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Council's planning service; and
 - to introduce effective performance indicators for planning enforcement work.

Business Plans, 2005/06 - Third Quarter Updates

48. The Panel received and considered the Business Plans' monitoring statements for the third quarter period ending on 31 December 2005 in respect of the Development and Regeneration Unit and the Leisure and Cultural Services Unit.
49. The Members were pleased to note that each Unit's forecast cash outturn for the financial year was likely to be contained within its allocated budget and that plans had been put in place to ensure that each Unit remained focused on its Business Plan's key tasks.

Public Participation in the Council's decision making process - Scrutiny Inquiry

50. The Panel received a note which summarised the progress to date on the scrutiny inquiry into means of encouraging greater public participation in the Council's decision making processes, including details of research undertaken, witnesses interviewed and visits made to surrounding Lancashire Districts' Planning Committees and Area Forum meetings.
51. The Panel hopes that at its next meeting on 14 March it will be in a position to conclude its findings and make a recommendation on the public speaking at Council/Committee meetings element of the inquiry.

Recommendation

The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR J WALKER
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

GKB

There are no background papers to this report.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**CORPORATE STRATEGY, 2006/07 - 2008/09**

1. We received a report of the Head of Corporate and Policy Services enclosing a copy of the draft Corporate Strategy for 2006/07 to 2008/09.
2. The draft Strategy (developed through an extensive consultation exercise) sets out the Council's vision, priorities and strategic objectives for the next three year period up to 2009 and identified a series of measures, targets and key proposals for delivery in 2006/07.
3. The key projects identified in the draft Strategy have influenced the budget consideration for 2006/07 and will provide a strategic framework for business and financial planning over the next three years.
4. A copy of the Head of Corporate and Policy Services' report is attached to this report and a copy of the draft Corporate Strategy document is enclosed separately.

Recommendation

5. The Council is recommended to approve the Corporate Strategy for 2006/07 to 2008/09 as now presented.

COUNCILLOR D EDGERLEY
Executive Member for Customers, Policy and Performance

There are no background papers to this report.

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Corporate & Policy Services (Introduced by Cllr D Edgerley, Executive Member for Customers, Policy and Performance)	Executive Cabinet	23/02/06

CORPORATE STRATEGY 2006/07 – 2008/09

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek Executive Cabinet Approval of the Corporate Strategy 2006/7 – 2008/9.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The report seeks to redefine the Council’s corporate priorities for the three-year period 2006/7 – 2008/9. It does not, therefore, directly relate to the current corporate priorities.

RISK ISSUES

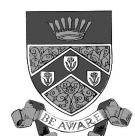
- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

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

- The Corporate Strategy 2006/7 – 2008/9 redefines the Council’s priorities and provides a strategic framework for business and financial planning during the three-year period. In putting the strategy ‘into practice’ there may well be operational implications.

BACKGROUND

- The Council first adopted its approach to strategic and service planning in 1996. This approach has evolved over the years in response to lessons learned, good practice elsewhere and feedback from external inspectors.
- Our current Corporate Plan was published in March 2003 and established our corporate priorities as the 3C’s – Customer, Capacity and greener, Cleaner and safer. This three-year strategy comes to an end in March of this year (2006).
- The Corporate Strategy will be the Council’s main medium term plan which sets out our vision, priorities and strategic objectives for the next three years, 2006/7 – 2008/9.



8. Our Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) highlighted a number of issues in respect of the current Corporate Plan and we have addressed these as the new strategy has been developed. The issues included:
- our aims are largely undefined,
 - no clear ambition in some areas,
 - the Plan does not include specific, measurable and sustainable outcomes making it difficult to judge what is being achieved,
 - communication of what we are seeking to achieve has been weak,
 - existing mechanisms do not allow councillors and managers to ensure that they are delivering corporate or community priorities; and
 - the links between Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan are not clear.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY

9. The Borough's second Community Strategy was published in October 2005, following a period of extensive consultation and the preparation of a detailed Borough profile. The Strategy contains five priorities:
- Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic developments in the Central Lancashire Sub-Region.
 - Reducing 'Pockets of Inequality'.
 - Getting people involved in their communities.
 - Improving access to and take up of public services.
 - Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live.
10. The Council is a key partner to the Community Strategy and these priorities have, therefore, had a strong influence on the new Corporate Strategy.
11. A copy of the Corporate Strategy is attached to the report. This has been developed from a series of consultation and development sessions involving Councillors and Management Team.
12. The sessions have focussed on establishing the current reality for the Council (ie what are the key issues we are facing) and in light of this what we want to achieve over the next three years. All events were well attended and the response was enthusiastic and constructive.
13. Using the output from these sessions and feedback on the draft as the Strategy as appended has been prepared.
14. The Strategy identifies our strategic objectives with related outcomes, a series of measures and targets and key projects which will need to be delivered in 2006/07 if we are to make progress towards achieving our targets and strategic objectives. Members will note the close alignment with the Community Strategy priorities.
15. The key projects identified in the Strategy have formed the basis of budget considerations for 2006/07.
16. Progress against the Strategy will be reviewed annually with the results of this review forming the identification of key projects and budget deliberations for the following year.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

17. There are no HR implications at this stage.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

18. The Corporate Strategy has formed the basis of budget discussions for 2006/07 and a number of the key projects are the subject of investment bids within the budget proposals.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

19. Executive Cabinet is requested to recommend that Council approve the Corporate Strategy 2006/07 – 08/09.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)
(If the recommendations are accepted)**

20. To secure Council approval of the Corporate Strategy.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

21. Options have been considered during the preparation of the Strategy.

TIM RIGNALL
HEAD OF CORPORATE AND POLICY SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Tim Rignall	5140	16/02/06	CPSREP/91822JM2

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REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT, 2006/07**

1. The Head of Corporate and Policy Services presented a report seeking our endorsement of the Performance Agreement for 2006/07.
2. The aim of the Performance Agreement is to ensure delivery in 2006/07 of the key projects that will contribute to the achievement of the new priorities and strategic objectives identified in the Corporate Strategy for 2006/07 - 2008/09.
3. While overall responsibility for each of the projects will be assigned annually to an Executive Member and a Group Director, Chief Officers and senior managers will be responsible for the day to day project management of the initiatives. Subsequently, all elements of the Performance Agreement will be monitored through the Council's performance management database (Performance Plus), with periodic reports being presented to the Executive Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny bodies.
4. A copy of the Head of Corporate and Policy Services' report submitted to the Executive Cabinet, together with a copy of the Performance Agreement, is attached to this report.

Recommendation

5. The Council is recommended to approve the Performance Agreement for 2006/07 as now presented.

COUNCILLOR D EDGERLEY
Executive Member for Customers, Policy and Performance

There are no background papers to this report.

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Corporate and Policy Services (Introduced by Cllr D Edgerley, Executive Member for Customers, Policy and Performance)	Executive Cabinet	23/02/06

PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT 2006/07

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- The purpose of the report is to request Executive Cabinet to recommend that the Council approves the Performance Agreement 2006/07.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The report details the key projects that the Council will deliver in 2006/07 that will contribute to the achievement of the new priorities and strategic objectives detailed in the Corporate Strategy 2006/7 – 2008/9.

RISK ISSUES

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

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

- The Performance Agreement provides a clear statement of Council priorities which will contribute to the achievement of Community and Corporate Strategy priority outcomes.
- Within the agreement a series of key projects have been identified which are aligned with out strategic objectives. These projects have formed the basis of budget considerations for 2006/07.
- Each of the key corporate projects has been assigned to a Service Head. Operationally they will need to consider how to resource these projects as part of the Business Planning process.

BACKGROUND

- Each year the Council is required to produce a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP). The BVPP provides a commentary on key achievements during the previous year and details our plans for the coming year. The full BVPP will be presented to Executive Cabinet on 30 March and full Council on 11 April 2006.



8. The Performance Agreement will form the forward-looking section of the BVPP.

PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT 2006/07

9. A copy of the Performance Agreement is appended to the report.
10. The Agreement demonstrates the alignment of our strategic objectives with our key corporate projects. It also provides an outline of our key corporate projects for the forthcoming year. The Performance Agreement includes a balance of key corporate projects – some may be of high public profile, others may be focussed on internal management issues. Similarly some may be long-term, with others relatively short-lived in terms of implementation. It is also important to remember that because a project or service area is not on this list, it is not unimportant to the organisation. Responsibility for each of these projects/initiatives is assigned annually to an executive member and a group director, answerable to the Executive Cabinet. Chief Officers and senior managers from across the Council are responsible for the day-to-day project management of these initiatives/projects.
11. All elements of the Performance Agreement will be monitored through the Council's performance management database – Performance Plus, actual performance will then be reported through Executive Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny function. Unit Business Plans are required to reflect corporate and service priorities in the Performance Agreement. These Plans influence and inform targets that are set for individual employees and provide the line for staff to the delivery of the Council's Strategic Objectives.
12. Executive Cabinet are invited to comment on the Agreement.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

13. There are no HR implications at this stage.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

14. A number of the key projects identified in the Performance Agreement are subject to investment decisions as part of the 2006/07 budget considerations.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

15. Executive Cabinet are requested to recommend that Council approves the Performance Agreement 2006/07.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) (If the recommendations are accepted)

16. To seek Council approval of the Performance Agreement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

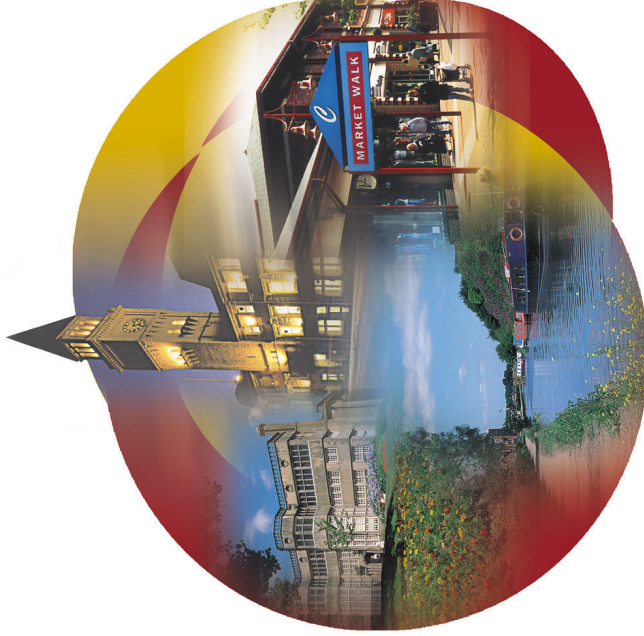
17. All alternative options have been considered during preparation of the Corporate Strategy and Performance Agreement.

TIM RIGNALL
HEAD OF CORPORATE AND POLICY SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Tim Rignall	5140	16/02/06	CPSREP/91826JM2

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THE PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT 2006/07



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THE PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT 2006/07

CONTENTS

Message from the Leader and Chief Executive:

Section 1 - Our Vision, Priorities and Strategic Objectives

Section 2 - Our Performance Agreement

Section 3 - Looking back at 2005/06

Section 4 - Delivering our Strategic Objectives

Section 5 - Efficiency Reviews

Section 6 - Balanced Scorecard

Appendix A - Performance Indicators

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

Welcome to the Council's Performance Agreement for 2006/07 – our annual Best Value Performance Plan. Our Performance Agreement provides a clear statement of Council priorities which will contribute to the achievement of Community and Corporate Strategy priority outcomes. It sets out our performance last year and targets for further improvement in years to come. In particular it focuses on key projects that will be delivered in 2006/07.



Councillor J Wilson
Leader of the Council



Donna Hall
Chief Executive

Key achievements in 2005/06 included:

- A rating of 'excellent' with 'excellent prospects for improvement' by the Audit Commission for our 'Customer Access and Focus'.
- The continued development of 'Contact Chorley'. This service consists of a 'one stop shop' providing a single point of contact for Council services.
- Delivery of our first Local Public Service Agreement. An agreement with the Government to help the Council deliver improvements in key areas. Improved performance in these areas will bring extra grant to invest in further service developments.
- Remediation of the first phase of Chorley's strategic regional employment site and a £20m business investment secured.
- Expansion of the recycling scheme.
- 500 jobs safeguarded at Marconi and Lex Auto Logistics in Chorley.
- Development of a new Community Strategy, with partners which identifies priority issues for the Borough.
- Efficiencies with a total value of £*** have been identified with much of the money being reinvested in priority services.
- Best 'New Build Village' award for Chorley's Buckshaw Village.
- £2m lottery grant attracted to improve Astley Park.
- Approving the North West's first 'affordable' new housing scheme.
- Crime in Chorley has reduced by 10.3%

If you would like a copy of this Performance Agreement in a different format or language, or if you require more information please contact *

SECTION 1 - OUR VISION, PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

This Section sets out the Council’s vision, priorities and strategic objectives

Our Vision

Over the past two years the Council, working with the Chorley Partnership, has undertaken considerable consultation. We have listened carefully to the views of local people, businesses and key partners to bring together a vision for the Borough:

‘To make Chorley the place of choice to live, work and invest in the North West.’

In pursuing this vision we will focus on four priority areas:

- Prosperity
- People
- Place
- Performance

Our Priorities and Strategic Objectives

Our strategic objectives reflect what we are trying to achieve in each of our priority areas.

Priority	Strategic Objective	Outcome – or what success will look like
Prosperity	Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire Sub-Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vibrant local economy • Thriving Chorley Town Centre • A robust transport infrastructure • Average earnings will be in line with the County average
People	Reduce pockets of inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inequality in the Borough will be reduced • Improved life chances for young people and children • Improved quality of life for the Borough’s older people • Healthier communities and reduce health inequalities
	Get people involved in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People will be involved in decision making and in improving the well being of their communities.
	Improved access to public services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible, well used and high quality public services through a range of efficient channels • Improved public transport with more people using it
Place	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people will be satisfied with Chorley as a place to live • There will be a balanced housing market • An improved local environment • Safer communities
Performance	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Aspirations are delivered through the efficient use of resources and effective performance management • An excellent community leader • A provider and procurer of high quality priority services • An excellent Council that is continually striving to improve

SECTION 2 - OUR PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

The Performance Agreement has been established to provide a clear statement of the Council's priorities and what we will be doing to achieve them in the coming year. The Performance Agreement also doubles up as our statutory Best Value Performance Plan. The agreement contains the Council's corporate priorities for the forthcoming year and informs the budget-setting process. It is necessary because there are many calls on the Council's resources which can be difficult to balance. The Performance Agreement helps us to rationally consider competing pressures, understand the links between them and to establish a shared understanding amongst members and officers of the Council's priorities going forward. It is a medium-term corporate strategy to measure our stated strategic objectives. The agreement will be refreshed on an annual basis to report progress and reflect the emergence of new priorities and requirements and to remove those that have been achieved.

What's in the Performance Agreement

The Performance Agreement has the following elements:

Section 3 - Progress against last year's priorities:

Shows how well we have performed against the things we said we would do in last years BVPP.

Appendix A - Performance Indicators:

This details how we have performed against the indicators set by ourselves and by the Government.

Section 4 - Delivering the Council's strategic objectives 2006/07:

Demonstrates the alignment of our strategic objectives with our key corporate projects. It also provides an outline of our key corporate projects for the forthcoming year. The Performance Agreement includes a balance of key corporate projects – some may be of high public profile, others may be focussed on internal management issues. Similarly some may be long-term, with others relatively short-lived in terms of implementation. It is also important to remember that because a project or service area is not on this list, it is not unimportant to the organisation. Responsibility for each of these projects/initiatives is assigned annually to an executive member and a group director, answerable to the Executive Cabinet. Chief Officers and senior managers from across the Council are responsible for the day-to-day project management of these initiatives/projects.

The Performance Agreement and the budget process:

The Council is committed to the establishment and operation of a policy-led budgeting process. The Performance Agreement has been developed hand in hand with the Council's budget setting process for the forthcoming year. The agreement provides a framework against which decisions can be taken by members on the allocation of financial resources to priority areas.

Section 5 - Efficiency reviews:

The efficiency review programme for the forthcoming year details the work that will be undertaken to achieve efficiencies in our operation, allowing re- investment in the frontline services. This programme will be reported to the Government in our Annual Efficiency Statement and will deliver our target savings established following the Gershon review.

Monitoring and Performance Agreement:

All elements of the Performance Agreement are monitored through the Council's performance management database – Performance Plus, actual performance is then reported through Executive Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny function. Unit Business Plans are required to reflect corporate and service priorities in the Performance Agreement. These Plans influence and inform targets that are set for individual employees and provide the line for staff to the delivery of the Council's Strategic Objectives.

Section 6 - Balanced scorecard:

This contains a suite of impact/success measures that have been drawn from the key corporate projects and initiatives identified by the Council in support of the Community Plan objectives. This scorecard is used as a management tool to enable the Council, the Executive Board and the senior management team to take a 'snapshot' assessment of our progress at regular intervals.

Transfer of Staff:

It is a statutory requirement that we include the following statement relating to workforce matters in this document. 'All individual contracts awarded during the last year which involved a transfer of staff complied, where applicable, with the requirements in the Code of practice on workforce matters in local authority service contracts'.

SECTION 3 - PROGRESS AGAINST LAST YEARS PRIORITIES

To be inserted by 31/3/2006

SECTION 4 – DELIVERING THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2006/07

The performance agreement enables us to show that we are working towards fulfilling our strategic objectives. The alignment of these with our key corporate projects is shown below:

<p>λ – Project delivers strategic objectives as direct project aim</p> <p>μ - Project contributes towards strategic objectives as a consequence of the project aim</p>		STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE								
PRIORITY			Develop and implement Economic Regeneration Strategy	λ	μ				μ	
			Develop the Strategic regional site	λ	μ					
			Complete and implement Town Centre Strategy	λ	μ				μ	
			Undertake Chorley Strategic Transportation Study	λ				μ		
			Identify opportunities for joint working with neighbouring authorities	λ						
			Prepare area profiles for our most deprived SOAs and prepare action plans	λ	μ	μ	μ	μ	μ	
			Develop Service Level Agreements with Lancashire County Council to deliver the LAA and Community Strategy priorities	λ	μ	μ	μ	μ	μ	
			Prepare Chorley 'Every Child Matters' and 'Youth Matters' action plans	λ	μ	μ	μ	μ	μ	
			Develop the 'Get up and Go' programme	λ	μ	μ	μ	μ	μ	
			Prepare a Chorley 'Older peoples' action plan	λ	μ	μ	μ	μ	μ	
			Prepare a Chorley 'Choosing Health' action plan	λ	μ	μ	μ	μ	μ	
			Pilot area forums and decide future approach			λ	μ	μ		
			Produce a Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy			λ				
			Prepare a neighbourhood engagement and management strategy				λ	μ		
			Develop and deliver an action plan for the Customer Focussed Access and Service Design Strategy					λ		μ
			Develop a more detailed understanding of our Customers needs to ensure the provision of high quality/relevant services						λ	μ
			Deliver 'Contact Chorley'						λ	μ
			Explore the provision of services through 'Contact Chorley'						λ	μ
			Produce a Transport Accessibility plan							λ
			Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire Sub-Region							
			Reduce pockets of inequality							
			Get people involved in their communities							
			Improved access to public services							
			Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live							
			Ensure Chorley BC is a performing organisation							

<p>λ - Project delivers strategic objectives as direct project aim</p> <p>μ - Project contributes towards strategic objectives as a consequence of the project aim</p>								
PRIORITY	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE							
PROSPERITY	Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire Sub-Region							
PEOPLE	Reduce pockets of inequality							
	Get people involved in their communities							
	Improved access to public services							
PLACE	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live							
PERFORMANCE	Ensure Chorley BC is a performing organisation							
	Improve appearance of public transport facilities through reduced vandalism							
	Reconfigure current service delivery arrangements to improve provision of Street Scene Services							
	Complete the process of Housing Stock Transfer							
	Develop a basket of balanced Housing Market Measures by 01/04/2007							
	Establish a choice based lettings scheme within the Borough in conjunction with registered Social Landlords covering 50% of Housing Stock by March 2009							
	Deliver the sustainable Resources Development Plan							
	Pilot innovative ways of reassuring our communities							
	Develop communications and marketing strategy							
	Develop and implement use of resources and VFM action plan							
	Implement HR Strategy and achieve IIP ad explore other external accreditation							
	Embed effective performance and risk management across the organisation							
	Align existing strategies with community strategy priorities							
	Complete management restructuring							
	Rationalise Council accommodation							
	Prepare a business case to support new Local Government structures							
	Property and Markets outsourcing							
	Develop and strengthen the LSP							
	Realign the Business Planning process							

Outline of key corporate projects

The table below provides an outline of each of the key corporate projects within the Performance Agreement.

SO1 - Put Chorley at the Heart of Regional Economic Development in the Central Lancashire Sub-Region. LEADS - Councillor J Wilson and Colin Campbell

Project	Summary	Lead Officer(s)	Objective Success Measures and Targets
Develop and implement Economic Regeneration Strategy	Working with GVA Grimley a 'state of the economy' report has been produced. In 2006/07 this will be used to inform an Economic Regeneration Strategy which looks to maximise economic opportunity, promote value added activity and address economic exclusion	Head of Development and Regeneration, Jane Meek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vibrant local economy – Basket of measures and targets to be developed by 01/04/07 from GVAG baselines and projections in the draft Economic Regeneration Strategy.
Facilitate development of the Strategic Regional Site at Buckshaw	In 2006/07 the focus will be on ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is in place to facilitate development of Plots 2 and 3 on the Strategic site	Head of Development and Regeneration, Jane Meek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre Visits (Target – Increase by 10% by March 2009. Baseline – 30,000, October 2005).
Complete and implement Town Centre Strategy	Building on the 2005 Retail and Leisure Study a draft Town Centre Strategy will be produced for consultation. The study will also be used to inform policies within the Local Development Framework (LDF).	Head of Development and Regeneration, Jane Meek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centre visitor satisfaction in range and choice of shops. (Target – Increase satisfaction by 10% by March 2009. Baseline – 49.3%, October 2005).
Undertake Chorley Strategic Transportation Study	Subject to approval of the Local Transport Plan by the Government. A study will be undertaken to identify issues with the Chorley transport infrastructure and other accessibility factors	Head of Development and Regeneration, Jane Meek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacant Town Centre Floor Space (Target 7% by 2 March 2009. Baseline – 9.7, October 2005).
Identify opportunities for joint working with neighbouring authorities.	Efforts will be made to make best use of shared resources in promoting the central Lancashire Sub-Region	Head of Development and Regeneration, Jane Meek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Median Workplace earnings in the Borough. (Target reduce earnings gap to 2.7% by March 2009. Baseline – 3.2% April 2005, Chorley Median £320.70 per week, Lancashire Median £331,80).

**SO2: Reduce Pockets of Inequality
LEADS: Councillor D Edgerley and Donna Hall**

Project	Summary	Lead Officer(s)	Objective Success Measure and Targets
<p>Prepare area profiles for our most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA's) and prepare action plans.</p>	<p>The Borough has eight neighbourhoods (SOA's) in the 20% most deprived nationally. By preparing area profiles for these areas we will be able to identify the reasons for "deprivation". Once this has been done appropriate multi-agency, action plans will be prepared to address the issues.</p>	<p>Head of Corporate and Policy Services, Tim Rignall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of neighbourhoods in worst 20% - target in 2006/7 is to develop targets for each area based on area profiles. Improved life chances for children and young people – the target in 2006/7 is to develop a basket of measures around the "Every Child Matters" outcomes of be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, positive contribution and economic well being. Improved quality of life for older people – the target in 2006/7 is to develop a basket of measures around the older peoples outcomes of participation and engagement, healthy lifestyles, integrated services and sustainable communities.
<p>Develop Service Level Agreements with Lancashire County Council to deliver the LAA and Community Strategy priorities.</p>	<p>Both the LAA and Community Strategy contain measures and targets which will require both Chorley BC and Lancashire CC to deliver if they are to be achieved. The SLA will clarify the responsibilities of both parties.</p>	<p>Head of Corporate and Policy Services, Tim Rignall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Choosing Health" – The target in 2006/07 is to develop a basket of measures and targets which reflect local priorities around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life expectancy and premature deaths from CHD and cancers. - Tobacco control, obesity and alcohol.
<p>Prepare a Chorley "Every Child Matters" and "Youth Matters" action plan.</p>	<p>In response to the county wide Children's Plan an action plan will be developed which identifies local actions for the Council and partners in the LSP.</p>	<p>Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, Jamie Carson.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved quality of life for older people – the target in 2006/7 is to develop a basket of measures around the older peoples outcomes of participation and engagement, healthy lifestyles, integrated services and sustainable communities.
<p>Develop the "Get Up and Go" Programme.</p>	<p>Activities for children and young people will be increased both through direct provision and by supporting other groups. 30% of participants will be from community safety "hotspot" areas.</p>	<p>Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, Jamie Carson.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved quality of life for older people – the target in 2006/7 is to develop a basket of measures and targets which reflect local priorities around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life expectancy and premature deaths from CHD and cancers. - Tobacco control, obesity and alcohol.
<p>Prepare a Chorley "Older People's" action plan.</p>	<p>Lancashire County Council are currently preparing a Lancashire Older People's Strategy. Once this strategy is in place a local action plan for Chorley BC and partners will be produced.</p>	<p>Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, Jamie Carson.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved quality of life for older people – the target in 2006/7 is to develop a basket of measures and targets which reflect local priorities around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life expectancy and premature deaths from CHD and cancers. - Tobacco control, obesity and alcohol.
<p>Prepare a Chorley "Choosing Health" Action Plan.</p>	<p>Work will be undertaken with our LSP to identify the key local actions arising from the national "Choosing Health" document.</p>	<p>Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, Jamie Carson.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved quality of life for older people – the target in 2006/7 is to develop a basket of measures and targets which reflect local priorities around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life expectancy and premature deaths from CHD and cancers. - Tobacco control, obesity and alcohol.

**SO3: People Involved in their Communities
LEADS: Councillor D Edgerley and Donna Hall**

Project	Summary	Lead Officer(s)	Objective Success Measure and Targets
<p>Pilot Area Forums and decide future approach.</p>	<p>A programme of Area Forum meetings has been agreed as a pilot exercise. Following completion of this pilot an evaluation will be undertaken and used to inform discussions about the Council's future approach.</p>	<p>Head of CuDOSS, Martin O'Loughlin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people satisfied with opportunities to participate in decision making will increase (Target 34% by March 2009. Baseline – 32.4% 2004/05). • % of people who feel that their communities are places where people get on well together will increase. (Target 90% by March 2009. Baseline 87% 2004/05).
<p>Produce a partnership Community Cohesion Strategy.</p>	<p>Work will be undertaken with the LSP to develop a Community Cohesion Strategy for the Borough. This will ensure that the aims and objectives are shared across a range of partner organisations.</p>	<p>Head of Corporate and Policy Services, Tim Rignall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people who have worked in a voluntary capacity during the last 12 months. (Target to establish a baseline position 2006/07). • Increase voter turnout at Borough Council elections. (Target 55% each year to March 2009. Baseline 63% 2004/05. Clarification; Postal Voting Pilot informed 2004/05 baseline – can not be repeated).
<p>Prepare a neighbourhood management and engagement strategy.</p>	<p>This project comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • researching, identifying and developing a good understanding of the nature of the issues and residents' concerns within the Borough's eight most deprived areas (Super Output Areas); • researching relevant current best practice in neighbourhood management and developing a good understanding of the most effective approaches and solutions; • developing proposals by 31 March 2007 to implement a neighbourhood management approach in one or more priority area clusters contingent on resource availability; and • conducting a rural exclusion risk assessment and preparing a mitigation plan by 30 September 2006 to address the risk identified. 	<p>Head of Corporate and Policy Services, Tim Rignall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people who have worked in a voluntary capacity during the last 12 months. (Target to establish a baseline position 2006/07). • Increase voter turnout at Borough Council elections. (Target 55% each year to March 2009. Baseline 63% 2004/05. Clarification; Postal Voting Pilot informed 2004/05 baseline – can not be repeated).

**SO4: Improved Access to Public Services
LEADS: Councillor D Edgerley and Paul Morris**

Project	Summary	Lead Officer(s)	Objective Success Measure and Targets
Develop and deliver an action plan for the Customer Focussed Access and Service Design Strategy.	The strategy has previously been approved by Council and a prioritised and fully resourced action plan needs to be developed to secure delivery.	Head of CuDOSS, Martin O'Loughlin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services. Baseline to be collected 2006/07. To maintain customer satisfaction with the service received in the Chorley Contact Centre (Target 95%).
Develop a more detailed understanding of the needs of our customers to ensure provision of high quality relevant services.	A Customer Access Officer will be appointed to identify customer needs and expectations in respect of Council services. They will also identify any barriers to service and work with Service Units to resolve these.	Head of CuDOSS, Martin O'Loughlin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline 95% - recognising impact of new channels coming on line). Increase the number of appropriate Council Services accessible through "Contact Chorley" (Target 100% 2006/07).
Deliver "Contact Chorley".	During 2006/7 all Council services will be migrated to the "One Stop Shop" so that it is the first point of contact for all customers.	Head of CuDOSS, Martin O'Loughlin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of self service interactions through the Council's website. (Target 10% increase in each year of the strategy).
Explore the provision of shared services through "Contact Chorley".	Partners will be encouraged to provide a point of contact within the "One Stop Shop" so that customers are able to access a broad range of services from a single point.	Head of CuDOSS, Martin O'Loughlin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of appropriate Council Services available via "self service". (Target 100% by March 2009. Interim target, 50% March 2007, 75% March 2008).
Produce a Transport Accessibility Plan.	Work with the County Council to identify local priority transport issues to improve accessibility in urban and rural areas.	Head of Development and Regeneration, Jane Meek.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase hours of telephone accessibility through Contact Chorley (Target 5 per hour week increase by March 2007). % of Council buildings accessible to disabled people. (Target 96% by March 2007. 100% by March 2008.
Improve appearance of public transport facilities through reduced vandalism.	Working with partners to identify initiatives to reassure the public when using public transport. This will include initiatives such as quality bus routes.	Head of Public Space Services, Keith Allen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note – subject to the transfer of Brinscall Baths to Community Management by March 2008. Baseline 88% January 2006). % of residents who think that, over the past three years, public transport has got better or stayed the same. (Target 10% increase by March 2009. 2005 baseline – 74%.)

**SO5: Develop the Character and Feel of Chorley as a place to live
LEADS: Councillor J Wilson and Colin Campbell**

Project	Summary	Lead Officer(s)	Objective Success Measure and Targets
<p>Reconfigure current service delivery arrangements to improve provision of street scene services.</p>	<p>The objectives of this project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align the Council's structure to provide for strategic, co-ordinated and modern management of street scene. Develop a structured and co-ordinated approach to enforcement. Develop and implement a corporate and planned education programme. Realise Gershon efficiencies from each of the above objectives. 	<p>Head of Environmental Services, John Lechmere. Head of Public Space Services, Keith Allen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase in people satisfied with the Borough as a place to live (Target 10% increase by March 2009. Baseline 74% 2004/05). Balanced Housing Market - basket of measures and targets to be developed by 01/04/07 in collaboration with other authorities. Affordable dwellings completed (Target 250 Units by March 2009). % increase in people reporting that the urban and rural environment has improved (Target increase by 10% by March 2009. Baseline 14% 2005) % of land assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus (Target 12% by March 2008, LAA Stretch Target. Baseline 14% 2004/05). Improve feelings of safety during the day (Target increase by 10% by March 2008. Baseline 75.4%, 2004). Improve feelings of safety during the night (Target increase by 15% by March 2008. Baseline 31%, 2004). Reduce crime in the Borough (Target 15% reduction by March 2008 in line with PSA1 targets).
<p>Complete the process of Housing Stock Transfer.</p>	<p>The process has been ongoing for sometime now and will be completed in 2006/07. In addition to the process arrangements will need to be made to disengage the housing function from the Council in the event of a 'yes' vote in the ballot.</p>	<p>Head of Housing Services, Steve Lomas.</p>	
<p>Develop a basket of 'balanced housing market' measures and targets.</p>	<p>A basket of measures and targets is required to demonstrate whether or not we are achieving our priority outcome of a balanced housing market in the Borough.</p>	<p>Head of Development and Regeneration, Jane Meek.</p>	
<p>Establish a choice based letting system in conjunction with Registered Social Landlords.</p>	<p>This project will provide tenants with greater choice across a range of providers.</p>	<p>Head of Development and Regeneration, Jane Meek.</p>	
<p>Deliver the Sustainable Resources Development Plan.</p>	<p>The Plan will enable the Council to undertake its responsibility to promote sustainable development in relation to reducing carbon emissions and to manage water supplies.</p>	<p>Head of Development and Regeneration, Jane Meek.</p>	
<p>Pilot innovative ways of reassuring our communities.</p>	<p>To appoint six Community Support Officers, on a pilot basis, to assist in the achievement of PSA1 and LAA targets in the Community Safety Strategy 'hotspot' areas. They will also provide a response to other emerging crime and disorder trends. The pilot will be reviewed after 12 months.</p>	<p>Head of Corporate and Policy Services, Tim Rignall.</p>	

**SO6: Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a Performing Organisation
LEADS: Councillor J Wilson and Donna Hall**

Project	Summary	Lead Officer(s)	Objective Success Measure and Targets
<p>Develop a Communications and Marketing Strategy.</p>	<p>The project aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More closely align public perception with the quality of services through the development and implementation of a Communication and Marketing Strategy. • Improve information and communication to local neighbourhood areas. • Improve the take-up and efficiency of access to services through pro-active marketing. 	<p>Head of CuDOSS, Martin O'Loughlin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Corporate Strategy projects achieved (Target 90%). • Achieve, as a minimum, the Gershon efficiency target of 2.5% per annum (Target 3%). • Status in LSP accreditation (Target to achieve 'Green' status in an LSP self-accreditation by March 2009). • % of priority BVPI's in Upper Quartile (Target 35% March 2009. Baseline 30% 2004/05). • % of priority BVPI's improving (Target 60% March 2009. Baseline 57% 2004/05). • Satisfaction with the way the Council runs things (Target 55% March 2009. Baseline 53% 2004/05). • CPA score and positive direction of travel (Target by 31 March 2007 develop a basket of Corporate health indicators linked to CPA assessment criteria). • Overall satisfaction with Council services will increase (Target improve by 10%. Baseline 54.5%, September 2005).
<p>Develop and implement Use of Resources and VFM action plan.</p>	<p>The action plan will identify a programme of functional services to be reviewed with a view to establishing that services are providing value for money and using resources efficiently.</p>	<p>Director of Finance, Gary Hall.</p>	
<p>Implement HR strategy and achieve 11P and explore other external accreditation.</p>	<p>There are a number of key actions to be implemented from the HR strategy. An action plan has been prepared to work towards 11P accreditation in September.</p>	<p>Head of Human Resources, Angela Wolstencroft.</p>	
<p>Embed effective performance and risk management across the organisation.</p>	<p>The project will involve aligning existing performance, project and risk management processes to ensure appropriate and timely information is available. Work will also be undertaken to create a performance culture throughout the organisation.</p>	<p>Head of Corporate and Policy Services, Tim Rignall.</p>	
<p>Align existing strategies with Community Strategy priorities.</p>	<p>Following publication of the new Community Strategy in October 2005 key Council strategies will be reviewed to ensure that they support achievement of the priority outcomes.</p>	<p>Head of Corporate and Policy Services, Tim Rignall.</p>	

Project	Summary	Lead Officer(s)	Objective Success Measure and Targets
Complete management restructuring.	Restructuring proposals will be considered as part of the budget process for 2006/07. These will be implemented during the year.	Chief Executive, Donna Hall.	
Rationalise Council accommodation.	Proposals to be developed to facilitate the disposal of the Council's Gillibrand Street offices.	Chief Executive, Donna Hall.	
Prepare a business case to support new local government structures.	A business case will be developed detailing proposals for unitary local government for Chorley.	Chief Executive, Donna Hall.	
Property and Markets outsourcing.	Completion of the procurement exercise for both the property and markets services.	Deputy Chief Executive, Colin Campbell	
Develop and strengthen the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).	<p>The objectives of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To secure a partnership structure which allows the Council to exercise its community leadership role and achieve the outcomes and targets in the Community Strategy; and • Effective performance management of the community strategy and LAA. 	Head of Corporate and Policy Services, Tim Rignall.	
Realign the Business Planning Process.	The project will ensure that arrangements are in place to facilitate a policy led budget setting process for 2007/08.	Head of Corporate and Policy Services, Tim Rignall.	

SECTION 5: LOOKING FORWARD - EFFICIENCY REVIEWS 2006/07

An efficiency target of £6.45bn in efficiency gains has been set for the local government sector including schools and the police, to be achieved over the three years to 2007/08. For Chorley Borough Council this equates to £1.4m over the three years of which we have been able to identify £1.3 million of savings for year one. These savings allow investment in areas of corporate priority and help achieve strategic objectives which underpins the Council's approach to efficiency. Forward efficiency savings are built into the 2006/07 to 2008/09 planning cycle.

This target came out of the 'Gershon Review' (Releasing resources for the frontline) published in July 2004, as the title suggests the aim is to identify resources that can be reinvested into the frontline or used to hold down Council Tax. At least half the target annual efficiency gains must be cashable. Otherwise, councils are free to decide how to meet the target. Savings resulting from 'cuts' (withdrawal of service, lowering of quality standards) will not count.

Efficiency	Expected efficiency gain £	Amount which is cashable £
<i>Information to be supplied once forward looking efficiency statement prepared by 30/3/06</i>		

SECTION 6 - BALANCED SCORECARD

To be inserted by 30/3/06

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS, 2006/07**

1. We were presented with a report from the Chief Executive seeking our endorsement of a draft timetable of meetings for the 2006/07 Municipal Year from the Annual Meeting on 16 May 2006.
2. With the exception of the summer holiday period, the timetable proposes a six weekly cycle of Council and Licensing and Safety Committee meetings, and an average four weekly frequency of meetings of the Executive Cabinet, Development Control Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Associate Panels. The draft schedule also takes account of local school holiday weeks and the need to arrange appropriate meetings in line with the budget scrutiny exercise. In addition, dates have been allocated for two further meetings of the three Area Forum pilots, three Borough/Parish Council Liaison meetings, monthly Member Development Steering Group meetings and Member Learning Hours and quarterly meetings of a number of other liaison bodies.
3. A copy of the Chief Executive's report considered by the Executive Cabinet, which explains the rationale behind the formulation of the 2006/07 timetable of meetings, is attached to this report. A copy of the draft meetings schedule is also attached separately.
4. We appreciated the early opportunity to diary the likely meeting dates for the next Municipal Year and commend the timetable for Council approval.

Recommendation

5. The Council is recommended to approve the timetable of meetings to be held during the 2006/07 Municipal Year, as now presented.

COUNCILLOR J WILSON
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report.

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Executive Leader, Councillor J Wilson)	Informal Executive Cabinet	23 February 2006

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2006/07

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report sets out the proposed dates for meetings of the Council, Executive Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committee / Panels, the various Committees, Area Forum Pilots and Liaison Groups for the Municipal Year 2006/07.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2. The proposals if approved will be published on the Council’s website, displayed in Council buildings and widely publicised to increase the opportunities for local people to participate in local government decision-making. This is consistent with the strategic objective in the Council’s draft new Corporate Strategy to get people involved in their communities.

RISK ISSUES

3. The proposals do not give rise to any significant risk issues for this Council.

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

4. A copy of the proposed dates of meetings to be held during the 2006/07 Municipal Year is set out in the attached Schedule. The Council elections will be held on Thursday 4 May 2006 and the Annual Council meeting will be held two weeks later on Tuesday 16 May 2006.

5. With the exception of the summer holiday period, the average frequency of the meetings set out in the timetable schedule is as follows: -

Council (Tuesday) - every six weeks

Executive Cabinet (Thursday) Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Tuesday) Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Tuesday) Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Wednesday) Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Thursday) Development Control Committee (Tuesday)	} every four weeks
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6. It is proposed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Tuesday) should meet two days prior to the Executive Cabinet (Thursday) to enable the Committee to scrutinise the reports to be considered by the Executive Cabinet and to enable the comments of the Committee to be reported to and taken into account by the Executive Cabinet.
7. Meetings of the Conservative Group and Labour Group have been included in the schedule to avoid any conflict with other meetings.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

8. Members have previously expressed a view that wherever possible meetings should not be held during the school holiday weeks.



9. Lancashire County Council has advised that the following school holidays will be held during the period of this report for community and voluntary controlled schools: -
- Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2006 (inclusive)
 - Wednesday 21 July to start of term on Thursday 4 September 2006
 - Monday 23 October to Wednesday 1 November 2006 (inclusive)
 - Tuesday 20 December 2006 to start of term on Wednesday 3 January 2007 (inclusive)
 - Monday 12 February 2007 to Friday 16 February 2007 (inclusive)
 - Monday 2 April 2007 to start of term on Friday 13 April 2007
10. The proposed schedule has avoided committee meetings being held during the school holidays with the exception of four Development Control Committee meetings, which need to be held every 4/5 weeks to ensure that Best Value Performance Targets for the determination of planning applications are met.

COUNCIL BUDGET 2007/08

11. Following consultations with the Director of Finance, it is proposed that the Executive Cabinet consider the draft budget proposals for 2007/08 on 11 January 2007 for the purpose of public consultation. Following a budget scrutiny exercise by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee / Panels during January / February 2007, the Executive Cabinet at its meeting on 22 February 2007 will be requested to determine the final budget proposals for consideration by the Council on 6 March 2007.

AREA FORUM PILOT MEETINGS

12. The Area Forum Pilot meetings in Clayton-le-Woods North Ward, Coppull Parish and Lostock Ward will be held during June/July and September/October 2006 as indicated in the schedule.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

13. Meetings of the Standards Committee will continue to be held on an ad-hoc basis.

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEES

14. The Licensing and Safety Committee will meet during every committee cycle and the two Statutory Licensing Sub-Committees will meet on an ad-hoc basis as and when required to deal with licensing issues.

LIAISON MEETINGS

15. The Borough Council/Parish Council Liaison meetings have been scheduled to be held on 3 occasions during the 2006/07 Municipal Year during July and October 2006 and January 2007 and, meetings of the Disability Liaison Group, Ethnic Minorities Consultative Committee, Markets Liaison Group and the Town Centre Forum will be held on a quarterly basis.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

16. Meetings of the Member Development Steering Group meeting have been scheduled for every month.
17. As requested by the Steering Group, a programme of Member Learning Hour sessions for Members of the Council has been scheduled to be held on a Monday evening every month, commencing at 6.00 pm, except for August 2006 during the summer holiday period, and April and May 2007 prior to and following the local elections.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

18. I support the proposals as described, and I am pleased that Member Development, both in terms of Steering Group meetings and regular learning sessions, is now a regular item in the municipal calendar.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

19. There are no financial implications arising from the proposals set out in this report.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

20. That the Council be recommended to approve the schedule of dates for meetings to be held in during the Municipal Year 2006/07.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)
(If the recommendations are accepted)**

21. To determine the arrangements for the various meetings to be held during the forthcoming municipal year.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

22. None

DONNA HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Steve Pearce	5196	7 February 2006	ADMINREP/TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

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REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**AMENDMENTS TO DESIGNATED POLLING PLACES**

1. We considered at our meeting on 9 February 2006, a report of the Head of Customer, Democratic and Office Support Services which proposed a number of amendments to the location and designation of Polling Places within the following three electoral polling districts:
 - Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods (Register 10B);
 - Clayton-le-Woods North (Register 11A);
 - Chorley North East (Registers 6A and 6B).
2. The alterations are recommended after taking account of operational experiences during the 2005 elections, requests for the Borough Council to consider newly available alternative facilities and the recent closure of a current polling place.
3. A copy of the Head of Customer, Democratic and Office Support Services' report, which explains the circumstances and reasons for the proposals is attached to this report.

Recommendations

The Council is recommended:

- (1) to approve the following amendments to Polling Places:
 - Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods (Register 10B)

The substitution of Whittle Village Hall, Union Street for the current designated station at Whittle-le-Woods Primary School, Preston Road.
 - Clayton-le-Woods North (Register 11A)

The substitution of the current designated station at Clayton Youth and Community Centre, Manor Road by two stations at St Bede's School (Old School), Preston Road and Clayton-le-Woods Primary School (Old School), Back Lane, Clayton-le-Woods.
 - Chorley North East (Registers 6A and 6B)

The substitution of the current designated station at St Joseph's RC Primary School, Railway Road, Chorley by a mobile station to be located on the car park between All Seasons Leisure Centre and the former Bentwoods factory.
- (2) to designate the above new polling stations as Polling Places for Chorley.

COUNCILLOR J WILSON
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report.

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Customer, Democratic and Office Support Services (Introduced by the Executive Leader and Executive Member for Capacity and Resources, Councillor J Wilson)	Executive Cabinet	09/02/06

AMENDMENTS TO DESIGNATED POLLING PLACES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform members of proposed amendments to the locations of Polling Places within the Borough.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The location and siting of Polling Places can be directly linked with the corporate priority of servicing our customers better.

RISK ISSUES

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

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

- The current list of Polling Places was compiled as a result of boundary changes in 2001/2 with some changes being reported to Cabinet in January/February 2005. Since the boundary changes were introduced the Council participated in election pilot schemes in 2002, 2003 and 2004 in which the use of Polling Places was dispensed with and as such the Parliamentary and combined County Council Elections held in May 2005 was the first time that many of the identified stations were used

BACKGROUND

- The May 2005 elections were the first time since boundary changes that many polling stations were used.
- Below are a number of changes being proposed for some polling places. These have

arisen due to a number of reasons including, knowledge and experience gained at the 2005 elections, requests to consider alternatives not available to us in 2005 and the necessity to re-locate due to the closure of a school currently being used as a polling station.

7. Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods (Register 10B)
8. The proposal here is to use Whittle Village Hall on Union Street instead of the current designated station of Whittle-le-Woods Primary School, Preston Road. The Village Hall has just been refurbished and its use would allow the school to remain open
9. Clayton-le-Woods North (Register 11A)
10. For the 2005 elections the designated polling station for this register was originally St Bedes' School, Preston Road, Clayton-le-Woods. This was changed on request to Clayton Youth and Community Centre, Manor Road.
11. The Manor Road location is also the designated station for Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods Ward, Register 10A.
12. Both registers 10A and 11A are of a size to be allocated a "double station" needing 2 Presiding Officers and 2 Poll Clerks each and unfortunately on polling day at the 2005 elections problems were experienced due to the large volumes of electors and confusion caused by having two double stations (for different Wards) at the same location.
13. Because of this it is proposed that Register 11A of the Clayton-le-Woods North Ward is split for polling station purposes only between the originally identified location of St Bede's School (where the station would actually be in the Old School) and Clayton-le-Woods primary school (old school at the bottom of the hill) situated on Back Lane, Clayton-le-Woods. Geographically this would seem to offer the best solution. Both stations would require ramps for disabled access and we will of course ensure that ramps are in place on the day.
14. Chorley North East (Registers 6A and 6B)
15. In this instance the designated polling station of St Joseph's RC Primary School (infants), Railway Road, Chorley is closing and a new station had to be identified.
16. After exploring the options the suggestion is that a mobile station be positioned on the car park between All Seasons Leisure Centre and the former Bentwoods factory. This is geographically reasonably central to the two registers in question and would seem to be the best solution.
17. By adopting the above proposals there will be an estimated additional cost to the Council of £3000 (after a grant claim of 50% for the disabled ramps). This is the total of the purchase of two disabled ramps and the hire of a mobile station and accessories.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 18./ There are no direct HR implications attached to this report.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

19. The resiting of the Polling Station will mean that additional expenditure will need to be incurred. Some of the expenditure will be recurrent for hire costs, whilst some is for one-off items for which grant funding is available from the ODPM. The costs are summarised in the table below.

	2006/07 £
Recurrent expenditure	984
Non-recurrent expenditure	3,924
Provision of Government grant fund at 50%	(1,962)
Cost to Council	1,962

20. The total shows that the one off cost to be funded from the Council is £1,962 with recurrent costs of £984. The costs should be contained within current cash limits and virements found from existing budgets, if required.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

20. That Members approve the amendments to Polling Places as outlined in this report.
21. That the Polling Places detailed in this report are designated as Polling Places for the Authority.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)
(If the recommendations are accepted)

22. The above recommendations are offered as the best solution for voting arrangements in these particular areas and result from necessary changes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

23. For Register 10B the other option considered was to remain with the school.
24. For Register 11A the other option considered was to have one polling station only at St. Bedes or at Clayton-le-Woods Primary. Each of these is at opposite ends of the area covered by the register and would not therefore be convenient for some electors. In addition the room to be used at Clayton-le-Woods Primary School is of a size that space would be tight for use as a double station.
25. For Registers 6A and 6B the St. Josephs RC Primary School on Cedar Road was considered (where the closed infants school has now relocated to). Whilst this would be a good facility its location is such that it is not geographically central to voters in registers 6A and 6B and is actually located in the area covered by register 6C (who currently vote at another polling station). As such it is felt that it's use for 6A and 6B would cause confusion among the electors of 6C and indeed would result in residents living next to the school having to travel to another place to cast their vote.

MARTIN O'LOUGHLIN
HEAD CUSTOMER, DEMOCRATIC AND OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
P. Davies	5131	25/01/06	ADMINREP/REPORT

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

GENERAL REPORT

1. The Executive Cabinet have met twice since the last ordinary Council meeting. Firstly, on 9 February and, secondly, at a non-scheduled meeting on 23 February. This report summarises briefly the principal matters considered at the meetings. Separate reports have been prepared in respect of those items which require Council decisions.

9 February 2006 Meeting

Draft Whistleblowing Policy

2. We approved, for the purpose of consultation with Trade Unions and the Staff Forum, a draft Whistleblowing Policy.
3. The draft policy aims to encourage, assist and protect employees who may wish and have cause to raise concerns about perceived acts of misconduct and malpractice within the organisation. The policy complies with the provisions of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1995 by defining the circumstances under which concerns should be raised and clarifies the appropriate steps and persons to whom concerns should be reported.
4. The Executive Cabinet has granted me delegated authority to approve the final version of the policy at the expiry of the consultation period.

Revenue Budget 2005/06 - Monitoring Report

5. The Executive Cabinet considered a further monitoring report of the Director of Finance on the present position in respect of the current year's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets.
6. The report revealed that the situation with regard to the General Fund continues to improve, with the forecast overspend having been reduced from £126,000 to £101,000 since the previous monitoring report. In addition, we authorised additional General Fund savings of £27,000 that had been identified by the officers and agreed the transfer of planned expenditure on ICT costs to the Capital programme in order to generate further savings of £52,000.
7. While the anticipated deficit on the Housing Revenue Account's trading account has increased slightly by £3,000 the overall forecast for HRA balances at the year end has increased to £538,000.
8. We requested the Group Directors to continue their monitoring of potential savings and, where appropriate, impose spending restrictions to generate savings in areas that will least impact on services. The Executive Cabinet also authorised retention of the current restriction on the filling of vacancies only whenever there is a statutory or business critical need for the post to be filled with the specific approval of both Group Directors.

Determination of level of Council House Rents and Associated Service and Support Charges for 2006/07

9. We considered a joint report of the Director of Finance and the Head of Housing Services on the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2006/07, which outlined the factors that needed to be taken into account in determining the level of Council House rents and associated fees and charges for the next financial year.

10. The report recommended an average Council house rent increase of 48p in line with Government guidelines, the planned introduction of a number of service charges over a five year period and the two year phased removal of the protection in respect of revised service charges. We also agreed to introduce an additional environmental service charge of appropriate Council dwellings in respect of grounds maintenance costs. These charges will apply only to land associated with a particular dwelling, and will ensure that costs are borne only by the tenants who receive the service.
11. Following consideration of the report, the Executive Cabinet approved the Housing Revenue Account budget proposals for 2006/07 as set out in the submitted report. The principal elements of the agreed budget can be summarised as follows:
 - an average Council house rent increase of 4.8% in line with the rent restructuring formula;
 - the introduction of a service charge for sheltered accommodation incrementally over a five year period, commencing at £1.60 in 2006/07;
 - a 50p increase in garage rents from 1 April 2006;
 - the implementation of a revised support charge over the two year period 2006/07 and 2007/08, as shown in an appendix to the report;
 - the reduction of charges for communication links and lifeline/patron alarms to £3.62 and £2.32 per week over 48 weeks respectively;
 - no increases be made in heating or other charges;
 - the introduction of an environmental service element for general housing needs for all properties affected and agreed at £1.60 in 2006/07, with an incremental increase in future years for Bands 3 and 4 properties, as set out in an appendix circulated at the meeting.
12. In addition, we agreed to reduce the projected 2006/07 Housing Revenue Account reserves by £150,000 and to re-invest that sum in the improvement of the Council's housing stock by allocating £50,000 for additional disabled adaptations to HRA properties and allocating £100,000 for the replacement of soffits in HRA properties on the Longfield Estate, Coppull.

Smoking in Council owned Public Buildings

13. The Executive Cabinet agreed to adopt a no smoking policy in respect of all public buildings for which the Council retains operational control. This policy will apply to all subsequent new reservations for the use of the buildings after 1 April 2006.
14. The adoption of the policy will ensure a smoke free environment for users and visitors to the Council's public buildings, including licensed areas within the newly refurbished Lancastrian Room, the Clayton Green Sports Centre and the café at Duxbury Park in advance of impending legislative requirements.
15. We are aware of the impact this policy will have on current smokers. We have, therefore, requested the Head of Customer, Democratic and Office Support Services and the Head of Property Services to examine the feasibility of locating a suitable receptacle or facility for the use of smokers adjacent to the Town Hall and report their recommendations back to a future Cabinet meeting.

Quarterly Performance Indicators, 2005/06 - Monitoring Report

16. We received a statistical report compiled by the Head of Corporate and Policy Services monitoring the Service Units' performance against the respective Key Performance Indicators and Best Value Indicators for the 2005/06 third quarter period ending on 31 December 2005.

17. The report identified, in respect of each service area, whether the performance was (i) achieving or exceeding its target for 2005/06; (ii) within a tolerance level; or (iii) significantly worse than planned or worse than the previous year. The data also indicated whether performance was improving, worsening or remaining static during the quarterly reporting periods and included explanatory comments from the Officers on appropriate selected areas.
18. A number of Members commented on the perceived dissatisfaction with the collections of litter and the removal of graffiti throughout the Borough. We accept that there is a need for a review of the means by which the public's awareness of street cleanliness issues and the potential penalties for deposited litter can be promoted more effectively. In this context, we have requested the Head of Customer, Democratic and Office Support Services to contact each councillor to seek their views on litter collection by asking Members to identify specific locations where they consider that litter bins ought to be emptied more frequently.

Proposed Closure of Eaves Green Library

19. As a matter of urgency, I raised at the meeting the Lancashire County Council's plans to close the Eaves Green Library in Chorley between April and June 2006.
20. The Cabinet Members supported unanimously my intention to send a letter of objection to the County Council's Executive Director of Adult and Community Services. Usage of this facility has, in fact, increased by 53% over the last 10 years and is expected to rise further in future years as the surrounding area is residentially developed. The Executive Members also endorsed any suggestions for the potential alternative sources of funding to sustain the Eaves Green Library, particularly the possibility of the use of other public sector assets and buildings in the locality.

23 February non-scheduled meeting

Corporate Management Structure

21. We received and considered a confidential report of the Chief Executive reviewing the Council's current management structure and putting forward proposals for a revised corporate management structure.
22. The primary aims of the proposals was to create a structure that was capable of ensuring that the organisation was fit for purpose in meeting the new challenges facing local authorities; capable of delivering the Council's priority objectives; and economically viable.
23. We accepted the report and its recommendations and approved the proposals for the revision of the Council's management structure as the basis for consultation with Trade Unions and staff.

Recommendation

24. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR J WILSON
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report.

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REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2006/07 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY FOR 2006/07 - 2008/09**

1. The Executive Cabinet received and considered, firstly, a report from the Director of Finance which set out the statutory advice which the Director was required to provide to the Council under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003; and, secondly, a report of the Executive Leader on proposals for the General Fund revenue budget and Council Tax levels for 2006/07.
2. The details of the budget proposals were set out in the following appendices to the Executive Leader's report:
 - Appendix 1 (Summary of consultation responses);
 - Appendix 2 (Summary of variations);
 - Appendix 3 (Savings items);
 - Appendix 4 (Growth items);
 - Appendix 5 (Special Expenses and Parish Precepts); and
 - Appendix 6 (Formal Council Tax resolutions and explanatory notes).
3. A copy of each of the reports considered by the Executive Cabinet is attached so that the Council is aware of all the relevant factors when determining the Council's budget for the next financial year.

Recommendations

4. The Executive Cabinet accepted the budget proposals for 2006/07 as contained in my report and, accordingly, recommend the Council:
 - (1) to note the advice of the Chief Finance Officer under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, as set out in the submitted report, and have regard to it when considering the budget for 2006/07; and
 - (2) to approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2006/07 - 2008/09, including the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators, as shown in the Appendix to the submitted report.
 - (3) to approve the budget spending proposals for 2006/07, anticipating an expenditure requirement of £13,751,100, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report; and
 - (4) to approve the formal Council Tax resolutions in relation to the budget proposals as set out in Appendices 5 and 6 to the submitted report.

COUNCILLOR J WILSON
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report.

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Finance	Executive Cabinet	23 rd February 2006

STATUTORY REPORT ON THE BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY FOR 2006/07 – 2008/09

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide the advice required under S.25 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to secure approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2006/07 – 2008/09, which incorporates the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators, which require approval by the Council.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report is specifically concerned with a range of technical matters. However, the budget impacts on the Council's ability to deliver its corporate priorities as show below:

Priority	Budget Impact
Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub-region	The 2006/07 budget and the financial strategy highlights this as a new priority area for the Council following its previous decision to disinvest from Economic Development activity. Clearly given the sub regional agenda it will be necessary to work closely with neighbouring Councils to deliver this agenda.
Reduce pockets of inequality	Again another new priority from the community strategy. The local area agreement delivery plans will be the driver for action on this objective, but Chorley has its own part to play.
Get people involved in their communities	The cornerstone of achieving this objective is the development of the pilot Area Forums and the wish to increase public participation in all aspects of engagement about local services.
Improved access to public services	The Council has set out its store in this particular area by developing the customer focussed access and design strategy. Making the aims and objective of the strategy happen is now the focus.
Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	Delivering the services that people want and addressing the issues that matter to Chorley residents will ultimately enable residents to judge whether Chorley is a good place to live. The Council's priority is to contribute to that through improving the environment and localities.
Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organisation	The Council has a duty to deliver community aspirations, only through performing effectively will it achieve this. The focus will now be on improving the Council's approach to the management of its business to enable effective and efficient delivery of services for residents that offer value for those receiving the services.

RISK ISSUES

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

Strategy		Information	
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial	√	Operational	
People		Other	

- 4. This report is almost entirely concerned with means of addressing the various financial risks facing the Council, and in particular ensuring that the scale of potential savings programmes are known early enough for properly planned approaches to be adopted.

BACKGROUND

- 5. Under the requirements of S. 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Council’s Chief Finance Officer is required to advise members when setting the Council’s budget as to the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of reserves. Good practice is for such advice to be set within the context of the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy, which should cover both revenue and capital spending issues as well as Treasury Management issues. Treasury Management issues also now includes specific requirements arising from the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. This report aims to fulfil all these various functions.

THE ROBUSTNESS OF THE ESTIMATES

- 6. I have reported to members on the robustness of the estimates during the budget process. In essence robustness is concerned with the degree of risk of over or underspending associated with the budget. While overspending might generally be understood to be a “bad thing” as it depletes the Council’s reserves, underspending might equally be regarded as a “bad thing” as it might imply that the intended level of service is not being delivered. Thus any analysis of the robustness of the estimates within the budget must consider the risks of both over and underspending.
- 7. As outlined in the Financial Strategy, which is appended to this report, the Council historically has a propensity to underspend at a corporate level. In recent years this has been contained to an acceptable level, and appears not to have been detrimental to the Council achieving its objectives, as the direction of travel appears positive. However I believe 2005/06 to be a watershed in that for the first time for many years, remedial action has been required to ensure the budget is balanced. This is a consequence of budgets having to be realigned for things outside the Council’s control and the continuing need to deliver improvements in service delivery.
- 8. For 2006/07 a base budget review has been undertaken as over £200k of cash has been taken from continuation budgets. Whilst it has been right and proper to do this as it has enabled resources to be directed into front line and priority services, it reduces the Council’s ability to absorb any cost pressures that happen in the year and for which no budget exists. Consequently it is a matter of fact that good and tight budget management will be required to ensure cash targets are met. The paragraphs which follow outline the key risk areas within the budget and how they have been dealt with.
- 9. The Council’s largest expense is its staff and any risk around the level of pay awards might pose a significant risk in terms of the Council’s budget. The national pay agreement is ending in 2006 and negotiations are to begin on agreeing the pay award from April 2007 onwards, thus to some extent the future years costs are uncertain but I believe the assumptions made represent a prudent approach. Pension contribution rates going forward are also known for three years, although the likelihood is that these costs will need to continue to increase beyond the three-year forecast period. The major unknown

will be the effect of the job evaluation, even though assumptions have been made regarding the impact this may or may not prove to be adequate.

10. A significant proportion of the Council's budget is made up of payments to contractors under arrangements such as the Waste Management and Leisure contracts. These budgets have been set at a level consistent with known prices and current, or forecast activity. While there is a risk that, for example recycling performance might suddenly increase the contractual bonus payable and the budgets have been adjusted to reflect this risk.
11. While benefit payments remain a potentially volatile part of the budget, the work that has been done to construct the budget indicates that the estimates made last year of the effects of the new subsidy rules have not been borne out by reality, accordingly budgets have been again adjusted to reflect the risk. The overall size of this budget means a risk still remains, as the government can and do amend the rules annually and the budget is dependent upon income from the recovery of benefit overpayments, this is a key risk.
12. Budget monitoring information indicates that a number of income streams, particularly land charges and Golf fee income have been under pressure due to market conditions. These factors have been taken into account in setting these budgets and the risk has been removed for the Golf income income stream through the outsourcing of the service.
13. The budget for interest and financing costs is based around current cash flow profiles reflecting the Council's current (long-term) debt free status, adjusted for anticipated capital expenditure. This due to the nature of the activity is a potentially volatile budget. With rates forecast to ease throughout 2006/07 and cash flow tight, it is likely that this area remains a risk in terms of being able to deliver the budget.
14. In terms of the savings included within the budget a proportion have either already been achieved or reflect a realistic assumption as to timing. Where savings have not already been achieved the processes to deliver them have already started and given previous performance by the organisation in delivering such savings there can be confidence that there is a relatively low risk of non-achievement.
15. The work of the Concessionary Travel Working Group (CTWG) has continued to fine-tune the estimates around the type and additional costs of service to be provided from 1st April 2006. The current assumption is that costs will increase by £279,000 in 2006/07, but the main impact is likely to come in 2007/08, rather than 2006/07 as information on usage and take up become more apparent.
16. The conclusion, which can be drawn from this analysis, is that the budget is soundly based and that the key risks within the budget are known and can be managed. Overall the financial risk profile of the Council has changed as there are some significant areas where the impact will only be known towards the later end of 2006. Accordingly the level of reserves available to smooth the impact of any cost increase is more critical than ever.

THE ADEQUACY OF RESERVES

17. As indicated in previous reports the appropriate level of reserves is essentially a matter of judgement, rather than the result of a mathematical formula. At this time last year the Council agreed to a target range for reserves of £0.75m to £1.25m with the budget setting balances at the bottom end of this range. Given the Council's in year spending performance and the availability of earmarked reserves to allow the Council to deal with issues as they arise this level of reserves has posed no problem, but with the risks increasing and the planning cycle I have proposed a way of ensuring working balances are at least £1million by the end of this financial year. At this level I believe them to be adequate to manage the known risks currently contained in the budget.

18. The overall conclusion would be that the level of reserves forecast within the Financial Strategy will be adequate to allow the Council to manage the major risks facing it, as currently known.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

19. The Financial Strategy, which is appended to this report, sets out the likely spending pressures and savings requirements over the three-year planning period. This period will see the introduction by the Government of Three Year Settlements for Local Government. This should allow the Council greater certainty over future budgets, but it will also require more emphasis to be placed upon longer term budgeting. The work already done in Chorley to produce detailed three-year budgets will stand the Council in good stead in relation to these changes.
20. As indicated above the Financial Strategy includes specific proposals to deal with key risks facing the Council and protect the General Fund from these risks. The strategy also continues to emphasise the definition of priorities and non-priorities and the redirection of resources into priorities. The Strategy does highlight the need to continue to make savings in both the coming years in order to achieve Council Tax rates that will be acceptable. However, the size of these figures is somewhat smaller than in previous years and as indicated within the Strategy a programme of work is already in hand which should go a long way toward achieving these targets.
21. More problematic is the potential impact of Housing Stock Transfer, although, again work is already in hand to manage the impact on the General Fund of a transfer. Again beginning work on addressing these issues early will enable the Council to maximise achievement of these targets.
22. In terms of the Capital Programme the Strategy aims to continue the strategy of reducing the level of long term borrowing to minimise the impact of capital spending on the revenue account should circumstances allow it. A key element of this is the achievement of capital receipts, as set out within the Strategy.
23. The Strategy also includes the Prudential Indicators, which the Council is required to approve under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. These help the Council understand the prudence and affordability of its capital spending plans. Given the overall strategy for financing the programme set out in the Financial Strategy the conclusion would be that the Programme is both immediately affordable and prudent in the longer term.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

24. There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

CONCLUSION

25. The Financial Strategy appended to this report sets out means of continuing the financial stability enjoyed by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

26. The Council are recommended to

- a) Note the advice of the Chief Finance Officer under S 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 set out in this report and have regard to it when considering the budget for 2006/07, which appears elsewhere on the agenda.
- b) Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2006/07 – 2008/09, including the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators included at Appendix 3.

GARY HALL
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Gary Hall	5480	13 February 2006	Stat Report on Budget & Med Term Fin Strat

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Leader of the Council	Executive Cabinet	23 rd February 2006

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2006/07

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek approval of the Executive Cabinet's budget and council tax proposals for 2006/07 following the budget consultation period, for consideration by the Council on the 7th March 2006.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The proposals set out in the Executive Cabinet's budget feed directly into the Council's key objectives, targets and actions for 2006/07 and beyond.

Priority	Budget Impact
Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub-region	The 2006/07 budget and the financial strategy highlights this as a new priority area for the Council following its previous decision to disinvest from Economic Development activity. Clearly given the sub regional agenda it will be necessary to work closely with neighbouring Councils to deliver this agenda.
Reduce pockets of inequality	Again another new priority from the community strategy. The local area agreement delivery plans will be the driver for action on this objective, but Chorley has its own part to play.
Get people involved in their communities	The cornerstone of achieving this objective is the development of the pilot Area Forums and the wish to increase public participation in all aspects of engagement about local services.
Improved access to public services	The Council has set out its store in this particular area by developing the customer focussed access and design strategy. Making the aims and objective of the strategy happen is now the focus.
Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	Delivering the services that people want and addressing the issues that matter to Chorley residents will ultimately enable residents to judge whether Chorley is a good place to live. The Council's priority is to contribute to that through improving the environment and localities.
Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organisation	The Council has a duty to deliver community aspirations, only through performing effectively will it achieve this. The focus will now be on improving the Council's approach to the management of its business to enable effective and efficient delivery of services for residents that offer value for those receiving the services.

- The Council's priorities address the key issues identified and codified in the updated Community Strategy. The Corporate Strategy represents the Council's commitments to achieving the objectives and outcomes specified.

RISK ISSUES

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

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

- The budget is concerned with managing the financial risks facing the Council and ensuring that the relevant regulations are complied with. Reference to risk is made throughout this report and a specific analysis is set out in the report of the Director of Finance, which appears elsewhere on the Council agenda.

BACKGROUND

- The Executive Cabinet published a draft budget at the beginning of January setting out its broad intentions for spending and investment in the Borough for the coming year. Some revisions to these proposals have now been made taking account of developments and feedback in the intervening period. Throughout this period we have been keen to receive the comments and input of as many people as possible. The response to our invitation to comment is set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- The overall picture in relation to the Revenue Support Grant settlement has been set out by the Director of Finance in reports to the Executive Cabinet, which will already have been circulated to all Councillors. Whilst the fact that Chorley received more grant than expected for 2006/07 is welcome, but the fact is that we continue to lose through the ceiling mechanism to the tune of £100k in 2006/07.

THE BUDGET PROPOSALS

- Since the budget consultation document was published a number of adjustments have been made to the continuation budget based upon updated information and the views expressed by Cabinet, particularly in relation to the risks contained in the budget, also included are the growth proposals. Set out in the table below is a summary of the movements together with an explanation of the changes.

	£'000
Draft net budget requirement as per Consultation	13,634
Less	
Savings agreed (See Appendix 3)	(295)
Budget adjustments	167
Growth Proposals (See Appendix 4)	245
Updated net budget requirement	13,751

9. The adjustment can be explained as follows:

Agreed Savings

10. In the Consultation £321k of potential savings were identified. Since then a number of assumptions have changed in relation to the property outsourcing, with the expected live date slipping from June to October 2006. Consequently the expected saving is less than originally expected as a smaller proportion of the expected amount of saving will now be made during 2006/07. It is proposed that all the savings identified in the draft budget are taken. Detailed information was provided in the draft budget but a summary is attached for reference at Appendix 3.

Budget Adjustments

11. During discussions on the base budget, Executive Cabinet have been concerned about the budget provision for the introduction of free concessionary travel. Previous figures had been based upon experiences elsewhere where a scheme of this nature had been introduced and allowed for a £233k increase in total. Sensitivity analysis has shown that a greater increase could have a significant effect on the Council's budget and the assumption has been changed to expect a £279k increase at an additional cost of £80,000.
12. Recent budget monitoring has indicated that the assumption made in the 2005/06 budget regarding Housing Benefit subsidiary to be over optimistic. The original estimate anticipated the Council would receive transitional relief for the transfer of rent rebates to the General Fund from the Housing Revenue account. This assumption has not proven correct as following the audit of the 2004/05 claim Chorley has been notified by the Department of Works and Pensions that it is unlikely to receive any transitional relief in 2005/06. Accordingly the base budget has been adjusted by £85k to reflect this fact, although it is possible that transitional relief could be received in 2006/07 a prudent approach is necessary.
13. These two items together with some other adjustments to the continuation budget account for the £167k now included in the base budget. The growth proposal figure of £245k is detailed in Appendix 4. Detailed outline business cases are available on request but for the purpose of this report a summary is provided.
14. The detail of the Executive Cabinet's proposals, including the adjustments to the consultation budget, to the Council is set out in the following appendices to this report:
- Appendix 1 – Summary of consultation responses (green pages)
 - Appendix 2 – Summary of variations (yellow pages)
 - Appendix 3 – Savings items (blue pages)
 - Appendix 4 – Growth items (pink pages)
 - Appendix 5 – Special Expenses and Parish Precepts (white pages)
 - Appendix 6 – Formal Council Tax resolutions and explanatory notes (buff pages)

THE CORPORATE STRATEGY

15. The Corporate Strategy forms a key part of the Council's Performance Management Framework and sets out at a relatively detailed level what we as councillors and the public can expect over the coming year. Approving the Corporate Strategy alongside the budget forms clear and explicit links between our financial plans and the delivery of services.

CONSULTATION

16. The response to the budget consultation is summarised in Appendix 1, included in the analysis are the results of the Budget Scrutiny undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels into specific areas of the budget. Executive Cabinet need to consider these together with other responses and decide if any changes to the Budget proposal as currently drafted are required. A formal response to Scrutiny will also be required.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

17. The detailed summary of variations set out on the yellow pages shows that while inflation continues to have a significant effect on the Council, a continuing review of the budget has to some extent offset the ongoing increases. There are though continuing pressures in terms of pay inflation, increasing pension costs and contract prices, which will continue to put pressure on the Council Tax into the future, along with job evaluation and the impact on the General Fund of the stock transfer, should this occur.
18. While once again we have had to deliver savings we have been able to do this through continuing our drive to increase efficiency and without there being any effect on front line services. As set out in the Financial Strategy attached to the Director of Finance's report we have already identified a list of key areas where we will be looking for further savings over the coming years of the planning cycle.
19. In terms of growth we have maintained our record of directing resources into our key priorities. In the last budget we have been able to direct resources into the things our citizens think are important. In particular our proposals exhibit a joined up approach to the problems we face. While our Wardens provide a visible deterrent to juvenile nuisance we are also providing an increasing presence through the introducing of Police Community Support Officers in partnership with Lancashire Constabulary. We are also seeking to promote pride in our neighbourhoods by improving street cleanliness and communicating more forcefully the fact that our community will not tolerate littering and other low-level forms of anti social behaviour, which can so easily begin a spiral of decline in a locality.
20. We have also been able to direct resources into the newer priority areas identified in the Community Strategy, in particular addressing the neighbourhood agenda and engaging with Council Tax payers more openly and effectively. In addition we have recognised the need to offer more to ensure the economic vitality of Chorley and work with our Partners in a more constructive way for the benefit of the residents of Chorley.
21. In terms of the total Council Tax bill, when the precepts of the County Council, Police and Fire authorities are taken into account the average bill across the Borough including Parish precepts will increase by 5.1%, or 127p per week at Band D. Excluding Parish precepts the increase will be 4.9% or 120p. The Borough increase equates to 4.8% or 15p per week on the average Band D property.

THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

22. Elsewhere on this agenda is a draft Capital Programme for consideration by the Executive Cabinet. Contained in the report is a programme based upon the Council's current commitments, together with some schemes for consideration, should Members choose to adopt some of these schemes, then the programme will be amended accordingly.

THE FUTURE

23. As set out in the Financial Strategy which accompanies the Director of Finance's Statutory report the Council will need to continue to identify savings in the next two years in order to achieve an acceptable balance between spending and taxation. The Council has a good record of achieving savings and has developed a strategy for identifying further savings. These will need to be delivered if the Council is to continue to invest in priority services.

CONCLUSION

24. This budget continues the path set by this administration of directing resources into the Council's priorities to address the issues identified by the Borough's citizens.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

25. The Executive/Council are recommended to
- a) Consider the consultation response received and whether any adjustments are required to the budget as it currently stands
 - b) Approve the budget spending proposals set out in Appendix 2
 - c) Approve the formal Council Tax resolutions consequent upon the budget set out in Appendix 5 and 6 to this report.

**COUNCILLOR J G WILSON
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Gary Hall	5480	13 February 2006	ADMINREP/REPORT

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

1. Details of the Cabinet’s initial draft budget proposals were sent to key stakeholders and published on the Council’s website on 12 January. The Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee and panels also considered the draft business plans of the Council’s service units and the budget. A summary of the comments is given below.

Stakeholder Response

2. In terms of the generality of the budget proposals the following responses were received:

	No
Parish Council	3
Other Stakeholders	5
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	8
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

3. In the main, the issues were with regard to specific items included in the budget. No comments were received on the possible levels of increase in Council Tax for the Chorley element of the bill. A summary of responses is attached for your information (Appendix 1a).

Overview and Scrutiny

4. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received reports from the three Panels who had looked in more detail at the budgets of the following services:

- Environmental Services
- Revenues & Benefits
- Planning Services

5. The intention of the reviews was to establish reasons for the apparent high cost of the service as compared to the Council’s family group. This issue was raised during the Audit Commission’s recent Use of Resources review as something the Council should look at. In addition, members of the Panels were also asked to consider if the Council was achieving its policy objectives by looking at performance on Best Value Performance Indicator and other local indicators where they were available.

6. Details of the questions and the answers the Panel received are available in the reports that have been produced for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. From the process a further number of issues have emerged that the Scrutiny Committee would like the Executive to consider. The recommendations of the Committee are set out below.

Recommendations Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel

1. That the Executive Cabinet be requested to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commissions’ ‘family tree’ authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of services, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Council’s environmental service.
2. What steps will the Executive Cabinet take to achieve a better understanding of the perception gap in the measurement of residents satisfaction with standards of cleanliness within the Street Cleaning Contract.

3. The Executive Cabinet is requested to examine the quality of design of litter bins and the capability of the contractors Cleanaway to emptying the litter bins whilst on collection rounds.
4. The Executive Cabinet is requested to ensure that high profile cases on enforcement are publicised.
5. The Executive Cabinet is requested to ensure the enforcement of the management of the Cleanaway contract and that they clean up whilst waste collecting.
6. The Executive Cabinet is requested to introduce policy targets for the Neighbourhood Wardens relating to their street scene duties.
7. The Executive Cabinet is requested to examine the need for improved co-ordination of services to bring efficiency. Particular attention should be paid to problem areas and neighbourhoods as well as a wider promotion of the hot line number.

Recommendations Customer Overview & Scrutiny Panel

1. The Executive Cabinet is requested to take action to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commissions' 'family tree' authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of services, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Revenues and Benefits Service.
2. What steps will the Executive Cabinet take to ensure that the high-quality service the public is receiving from the Benefits service is maintained when the service moves into the Contact Centre.
3. The Executive Cabinet is requested to undertake a consistent and measured review of all services via the Procurement strategy for the delivery of value for money services.

Recommendations Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel

1. The Executive Cabinet be recommended to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commissions' 'family tree' authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of services, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Council's planning services.
2. That action be taken to introduce effective performance indicators for planning enforcement work.

Individual Councillors

7. A number of individual Councillors have raised detailed queries with Officers which have been answered.

Summary of Responses

Heath Charnock Parish Council (Edna Woodrow – Clerk by email 10 February 2006)

Has the 4% for the Fire Service been deducted from the amount payable to the County Council (now 74%)?

North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce (Hugh Evans, Director of Policy & Commercial Services – by email 2 February 2006)

Thank you for the consultation document on the Council's spending plans for 2006 – 2007.

As you would expect our main focus of attention concerns the spending plans for economic development. We were pleased, therefore, to note that the focus of any additional investment will include economic regeneration and creating a thriving and sustainable town centre.

One opportunity to provide some additional investment for the town centre is by creating a Business Improvement District. Is this something that you have considered? If not we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the concept in more detail. We have developed considerable expertise in engaging city centre businesses in Preston as part of a potential BID campaign and would welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the Council on a similar initiative for Chorley.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Maher, 42 Avondale Road, Chorley (by letter undated)

I have read Chorley Borough Council's Public Consultation on your spending 2006.

I would like included under the Chorley Community Safety Partnership that the Alley Gate Scheme, which brings safety to many of the residents in the area, and neighbourhood, that the maintenance of the gates will rest up to Chorley Borough Council. Whether the land be adopted or unadopted. Thanking you for giving me the chance to comment on the budget above.

Ken Bowden (By email 19 January 2006)

First, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals and for an easy to read document.

My concerns centre around the level of increase and a growing feeling that Council Tax is becoming an inappropriate mechanism for funding local spending.

As regards the level of increase, I want my council (and especially Lancashire County Council) to plan for increases in line with inflation rather than at the capping level. If I am lucky, my pension will increase at that sort of level and I have to manage within it - I would like the council to operate on the same principle especially after the extortionate increases of recent years. I believe this approach would have two impacts on the budget proposals.

- New activities should be severely curtailed unless funding can be found from reducing or stopping current spend.
- All existing spend should be reviewed on a zero budget basis and justified from scratch.

As a senior manager in business, I had to operate within targets of keeping current spending flat even with the effects of inflation and wage increases and of justifying new investment within budget

constraints. I would like to see more evidence of the council operating this way with my money. I do have the feeling that Government and Council mentalities do not understand the concept of reduced spending and prudence.

The Council Tax itself, I believe, has become a bloated and unaccountable tax with all parties pointing at each other to take the blame for the increases. The latest Government proposals for establishing and monitoring property values are appallingly intrusive and can only lead to further unacceptable increases. The infamous 'poll tax' now looks a far more equitable means of taxation with the benefit of including more people on the taxation process. I will certainly support any moves to change the method of local taxation.

Dawn Waddington (by email 8 February 2006)

With reference to the proposed Council tax increase I would like to see more dog bins within the Chorley area. I have a dog and live on the Parkers Wood Estate, Gillibrand North and I know of only 1 dog bin in a field within Yarrow Valley. I feel this area of Chorley (which is highly populated with dog owners) would benefit greatly from more dog bins by the roadside.

Dr Shelagh Garnett, Chorley & South Ribble NHS (by letter 9th February 2006)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Council's spending plans for 2006/07. We have read the consultation document with interest and have only two specific comments to make:

1. It would be useful to include a breakdown of spend on cultural services. Although the document refers to expenditure for Astley Hall, running Community Centres and sports facilities, and the costs of maintaining parks and open spaces, it gives us no idea of how much is spent in each area of service.
2. Although the Local Strategic Partnership Community Strategy priorities are identified within the document, the links between this and the Council's proposed spending plans are unclear.

Lynne Rowett (Clerk to Ulnes Walton Parish Council) (by email 15th February 2006)

At the recent meeting of the Parish Council, Members gave consideration to the consultation document on the Borough's proposed spending for 2006/07 and wish to comment as follows:

It was agreed that whilst the proposals for the town centre were supported it should not be at the detriment of development in rural areas.

Tony Harkness (Clerk to Brindle & Houghton Parish Council) (by email 16th February 2006)

Thank you for consulting Brindle Parish Council on the draft budget and spending plans for next year. The Parish Council would like to make the following comments on your proposals:

Level of Council Tax

Next year's council tax should rise no more than the current rate of inflation (2%). The proposal to increase council tax by 5% would have a detrimental impact on vulnerable residents and those on fixed incomes.

Savings

The savings suggested seem reasonable and if implemented effectively should deliver more saving in expenditure than that estimated. Additional savings to those already proposed can be made when you look at the total underspend of budgets last year of £199,000 which demonstrates that not all the budgets were needed and is a good starting point to looking for future savings.

Investment/Re-direction of resources

Existing resources should be re-directed to streetscene services, such as more cleansing and better maintenance of green areas, which has a major impact on the quality of life of local people. The Parish Council has to wait for almost twelve months to have graffiti cleared from Denham Quarry because the budget was used early in the financial year.

The Borough Council should also look at the needs of rural communities when planning and developing services, with many residents classed as deprived because of the social isolation and lack of facilities. The grants that the Borough Council once provided to establish and develop community groups was successful in contributing positively to this issue and should be re-introduced. At least one group was established in Brindle using one of these small grants and has contributed a great deal to parish like, with almost sixty members and built into a thriving network, which wasn't previously there. The next stage in developing the customer contact centre should be to provide more outreach services and deliver customer service locally.

The proposed contribution to the funding of Lancashire Constabulary's police community support officers should not be funded from Borough council tax. The amount spent on environmental wardens should also be limited. Even though residents identify community safety in the consultation carried out for the community strategy and local strategic partnership – it does not state who should fund these activities. The community strategy and partnership is made up of many partner organisations. Most people would say Lancashire Police and the Government should fund community safety activities like this through their own tax levying powers. Last year the Borough Council was keen to reduce 'double taxation' with parish/town councils, this is an example of the Borough council tax subsidising the Police Authority's council tax levy or even the Government.

I hope that these comments are helpful. We should also like to suggest that next year's consultation is carried out in a more robust manner as written consultation exercises such as this are always difficult. Perhaps the Lancashire Association of Parish Councils Chorley Area Committee might be used or other workshops where discussions could take place in a more detailed and effective way.

Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils – Chorley Area Committee (letter from Debra Platt, Secretary dated 15 June 2005)

Parish Council By-Elections

At a meeting of the Chorley Area Committee of the LAPTC, members expressed concerns over the costs of a Parish Council by-election.

Members felt that costs were high and to precept each year for this 'possible' event was quite restrictive for them bearing in mind some parishes have very low income.

A suggestion was made that the LAPTC CAC ask Chorley Borough Council if it would in future, investigate the possibility of accruing a fund which could pay for any Parish by-elections for casual vacancies. This would equate to a very small amount for each Parish to put into the fund when taken at source from the Borough Council, but could free up hundreds of pounds in the Parish Council's budgets.

I was asked to survey other local Council's to see if they fund Parish Council elections for casual vacancies and from the six I contacted three did fund them and the other three charged them back, as Chorley Borough Council does.

In the new Quality Status scheme, being promoted by Councils and their Associations, to achieve and retain the Quality status a Council must have a fully elected membership, achieved through raising the Parish Council's profile, encouraging membership and participation. It was a concern at the meeting that if this was to take place effectively, it would result in a rise in parish by-elections for casual vacancies.

To this end, the Chorley Area Committee would like to request Chorley Borough Council investigate the possibility of creating a fund.

**General Fund Revenue Budget 2006/07
Summary of Variations**

	£	£
2005/06 Base Budget		12,343,020
Additional Spending		
Inflationary Changes		
Pay	461,850	
Non-Pay	89,720	
Contractual	52,290	
Income	91,450	695,310
Increments		118,370
Revenue Effects of the Capital Programme		(1,160)
Agreed Savings		
Lancs. Highways Partnership	(116,880)	
Duxbury Golf Course	(86,080)	
Property Services Outsourcing	(52,230)	
CuDOSS Efficiency Savings	(48,450)	
Recruitment Advertising	(40,000)	
Community Management Plan	(27,890)	
Cleaning Attendants Services	(18,500)	
Base Budget Review	(56,880)	
Further Savings	(111,310)	
Senior Management Review	(50,000)	(608,220)
Growth		
Improving Neighbourhoods - Co-ordinating Services	35,000	
Cleaner More Attractive Streets & Neighbourhoods	50,000	
Safer Neighbourhoods	22,000	
Communicating More Effectively with Local People	59,000	
Attracting & Retaining Jobs in Chorley	55,000	
The Council as Community Leader - Strengthening the Local Strategic Partnership	24,000	
Further Growth	141,250	386,250
Technical & Volume Changes		
Full Year Effect of Growth / Savings	(22,050)	
Technical / Volume Changes	520,745	498,695
Changes in Capital Financing Costs		202,360
Changes in Contingency		
Procurement Savings	40,000	40,000
Change in Use of Reserves & Collection Fund Surpluses		
Use of Reserves	(173,500)	
Use of General Balances	250,000	76,500
Cost of Maintaining Current Service Levels & Meeting New Statutory Requirements		13,751,100

General Fund Revenue Budget 2006/07
Further Savings

Ref		2006/07 Saving £'000	Full Year Saving £'000	Comment
	Efficiency Savings			
	Senior Management Review	(50,000)	(50,000)	Reduction in number of senior managers
	Efficiencies in CuDOSS	(48,450)	(48,450)	Disestablishment of 4.5 post currently held vacant
	Community Management Plan	(27,890)	(37,830)	Savings achieved by transferring responsibility for management of community centres to voluntary groups supported by CBC
	Property Services Outsourcing	(52,230)	(104,460)	Savings based on current plans to transfer to third party management by 1st October 2006.
	Service Reductions			
	Making Highways transfer Cost Neutral	(116,880)	(131,800)	Savings to be achieved following scheduled transfer of Highways activity to Lancashire CC from 1st July 2006.
	Total Savings Identified	(295,450)	(372,540)	

**INVESTING IN OUR PRIORITIES
GROWTH PROPOSALS
2006/07**

1. IMPROVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - CO-ORDINATING SERVICES

- Appointment of a neighbourhood co-ordinator to operate across the 3 area forum pilot areas.
- They will:
 - Ensure agreed actions from fora are implemented
 - develop innovative solutions to local problems
 - work pro-actively across Council services, County Council services and partner agencies - e.g. PCT, Police, Parish Councils to address local issues
- Bespoke consultation and research in local areas to assess local views:

	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>
<u>Costs</u>	£35,000	£65,000	-

2. CLEANER MORE ATTRACTIVE STREETS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Preventative enforcement and education campaign to discourage fly-tipping, dog fouling, graffiti etc
- Targeted area clean-ups integrating all aspects of streetscene
- Community skips

	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>
<u>Costs</u>	£50,000	-	-

3. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Appointment of six Police Community Support Officers on a pilot basis to reassure local residents and reduce crime and disorder in local areas
- Ensure a 'one team' approach with existing neighbourhood wardens to increase capacity and street presence in target areas
- Appointment of additional neighbourhood warden

<u>Costs</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £22,000	<u>2007/08</u> £66,000	<u>2008/09</u> £66,000
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4. COMMUNICATING MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

- Centralisation of corporate communication budgets to achieve more of an impact
- Appointment of graphic designer to reduce costs of procurement and re-inforce corporate branding
- Improvement of the Council's website to encourage more take-up and make it easier to use
- Increase the editions of Borough News to 6 copies per year
- Pilot neighbourhood newsletters in 3 Area Forum areas
- Produce a Living in Chorley guide for all local residents (including other local partners information, e.g. PCT, Police)

<u>Total Cost:</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £59,000	<u>2007/08</u> -	<u>2008/09</u> -
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5. ATTRACTING AND RETAINING JOBS IN CHORLEY

- Marketing campaign for Chorley as a location for potential investment
- Improvement to the public realm and environment in the town centre
- Appointment of Economic Regeneration Officer to deliver the new Regeneration Strategy

<u>Total Cost:</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £55,000	<u>2007/08</u> £45,000	<u>2008/09</u> £50,000
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6. THE COUNCIL AS COMMUNITY LEADER - STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

- Appointment of a LSP development officer to drive up the achievements of the Partnership
- Encouraging joint service planning and delivery across the public, voluntary and private sectors in the Borough

<u>Costs:</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £24,000	<u>2007/08</u> -	<u>2008/09</u> -
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<u>Total Costs:</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £245,000	<u>2007/08</u> £176,000	<u>2008/09</u> £116,000
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- The 2007/08 and 2008/09 figures are indicative only at this stage. The intention is to make Members aware that to deliver the outcomes in the Corporate Plan further resources are likely to be required over the planning cycle. It will be a policy choice for Members whether to and at what level the Council continues to invest in these particular priority areas.

Special Expenses

Parish	Taxbase	Grounds Maintenance Costs	Borough Special Expenses at Band D	Borough General Expenses	Borough Services Council Tax	Parish Precept	Parish Band D	Combined Borough and Parish	2005/06 Combined Borough and Parish	Percentage Increase
	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Adlington	1,964.10	35,252	17.95	151.69	169.63	17,270	8.79	178.43	169.92	5.0%
Anderton	475.20	952	2.00	151.69	153.69	3,800	8.00	161.69	152.58	6.0%
Anglezarke	15.30	-	-	151.69	151.69	-	-	151.69	144.60	4.9%
Astley Village	1,117.50	27,548	24.65	151.69	176.34	22,000	19.69	196.02	189.06	3.7%
Bretherton	282.70	-	-	151.69	151.69	7,951	28.13	179.81	175.88	2.2%
Brindle	455.80	2,032	4.46	151.69	156.14	5,250	11.52	167.66	162.11	3.4%
Charnock Richard	666.90	2,470	3.70	151.69	155.39	20,600	30.89	186.28	177.92	4.7%
Clayton le Woods	4,747.60	167,336	35.25	151.69	186.93	118,690	25.00	211.93	188.20	12.6%
Coppull	2,350.70	32,920	14.00	151.69	165.69	72,920	31.02	196.71	188.64	4.3%
Croston	1,029.60	8,889	8.63	151.69	160.32	20,664	20.07	180.39	165.93	8.7%
Cuerden	41.40	426	10.29	151.69	161.98	950	22.95	184.92	175.04	5.6%
Eccleston	1,533.30	6,981	4.55	151.69	156.24	40,355	26.32	182.56	175.26	4.2%
Euxton	3,215.80	57,314	17.82	151.69	169.51	93,200	28.98	198.49	181.58	9.3%
Heapey	379.20	6,138	16.19	151.69	167.87	8,706	22.96	190.83	182.99	4.3%
Heath Charnock	801.40	15,678	19.56	151.69	171.25	6,000	7.49	178.74	170.72	4.7%
Heskin	348.80	1,354	3.88	151.69	155.57	6,104	17.50	173.07	165.80	4.4%
Houghton	361.50	2,260	6.25	151.69	157.94	3,500	9.68	167.62	160.20	4.6%
Mawdesley	755.80	957	1.27	151.69	152.95	23,040	30.48	183.44	174.89	4.9%
Rivington	53.90	-	-	151.69	151.69	1,100	20.41	172.09	165.59	3.9%
Ulnes Walton	258.60	-	-	151.69	151.69	4,000	15.47	167.15	156.37	6.9%
Wheilton	392.30	-	-	151.69	151.69	10,035	25.58	177.27	169.12	4.8%
Whittle Woods	1,750.30	39,622	22.64	151.69	174.32	23,724	13.55	187.88	179.12	4.9%
Withnell	1,252.20	9,983	7.97	151.69	159.66	25,540	20.40	180.05	169.18	6.4%
All other parts of the Council's area	10,494.50	271,475	25.87	151.69	177.55	-	-	177.55	169.26	4.9%
Total	34,744.40	689,586	19.85	151.69	171.53	535,399	15.41	186.94	175.59	6.5%

Draft resolution on setting of 2006/07 Council Tax for the Borough to be passed in approving the Executive Cabinet's recommendations for the Council's Budget.

1. That it be noted that acting under delegated powers the Director of Finance calculated the amount of 34,744.40 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2006/07 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (a) 34,744.40 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year.

(b) **Part of the Council's Area**

Parish of:	Adlington	1,964.10
	Anderton	475.20
	Anglezarke	15.30
	Astley Village	1,117.50
	Bretherton	282.70
	Brindle	455.80
	Charnock Richard	666.90
	Clayton le Woods	4,747.60
	Coppull	2,350.70
	Croston	1,029.60
	Cuerden	41.40
	Eccleston	1,533.30
	Euxton	3,215.80
	Heapey	379.20
	Heath Charnock	801.40
	Heskin	348.80
	Hoghton	361.50
	Mawdesley	755.80
	Rivington	53.90
	Ulnes Walton	258.60
	Wheelton	392.30
	Whittle Woods	1,750.30
	Withnell	1,252.20
	All other parts of the Council's area	10,494.50
	Total	34,744.40

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

2. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2006/07 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
- (a) £41,090,589 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act;
- (b) £26,804,065 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;

- (c) £14,286,524 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
- (d) £7,791,688 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, Revenue Support Grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988;
- (e) £186.94 being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
- (f) £1,224,985 being the aggregated amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
- (g) £151.69 being the amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates;
- (h) **Part of the Council's Area**

	£
Parish of: Adlington	178.43
Anderton	161.69
Anglezarke	151.69
Astley Village	196.02
Bretherton	179.81
Brindle	167.66
Charnock Richard	186.28
Clayton le Woods	211.93
Coppull	196.71
Croston	180.39
Cuerden	184.92
Eccleston	182.56
Euxton	198.49
Heapey	190.83
Heath Charnock	178.74
Heskin	173.07
Hoghton	167.62
Mawdesley	183.44
Rivington	172.09
Ulnes Walton	167.15
Wheelton	177.27
Whittle le Woods	187.88
Withnell	180.05
All other parts of the Council's area	177.55

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above to the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area

mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

(i) **Part of the Council's Area**

	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Parish of:								
Adlington	118.95	138.78	158.60	178.43	218.08	257.73	297.38	356.85
Anderton	107.79	125.76	143.72	161.69	197.62	233.55	269.48	323.37
Anglezarke	101.12	117.98	134.83	151.69	185.39	219.10	252.81	303.37
Astley Village	130.68	152.46	174.24	196.02	239.58	283.15	326.71	392.05
Bretherton	119.87	139.85	159.83	179.81	219.77	259.73	299.68	359.62
Brindle	111.77	130.40	149.03	167.66	204.92	242.18	279.44	335.32
Charnock Richard	124.19	144.88	165.58	186.28	227.67	269.07	310.46	372.56
Clayton le Woods	141.29	164.84	188.38	211.93	259.03	306.12	353.22	423.86
Coppull	131.14	153.00	174.85	196.71	240.42	284.14	327.85	393.42
Croston	120.26	140.30	160.35	180.39	220.47	260.56	300.65	360.78
Cuerden	123.28	143.83	164.38	184.92	226.02	267.11	308.20	369.85
Eccleston	121.70	141.99	162.27	182.56	223.13	263.69	304.26	365.11
Euxton	132.33	154.38	176.44	198.49	242.60	286.71	330.82	396.98
Heapey	127.22	148.42	169.63	190.83	233.24	275.64	318.05	381.66
Heath Charnock	119.16	139.02	158.88	178.74	218.46	258.17	297.89	357.47
Heskin	115.38	134.61	153.84	173.07	211.53	249.99	288.44	346.13
Hoghton	111.75	130.37	148.99	167.62	204.87	242.12	279.37	335.24
Mawdesley	122.29	142.67	163.05	183.44	224.20	264.96	305.73	366.87
Rivington	114.73	133.85	152.97	172.09	210.34	248.58	286.82	344.19
Ulnes Walton	111.44	130.01	148.58	167.15	204.30	241.44	278.59	334.31
Wheelton	118.18	137.87	157.57	177.27	216.66	256.05	295.44	354.53
Whittle le Woods	125.25	146.13	167.00	187.88	229.63	271.38	313.13	375.75
Withnell	120.04	140.04	160.05	180.05	220.07	260.08	300.09	360.11
All other parts of the Council's area	118.37	138.10	157.83	177.55	217.01	256.47	295.92	355.11

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(g) and 2(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- That it be noted that for the year 2006/07 the Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police Authority, and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precepting authority								
Lancashire County Council *	664.57	775.33	886.09	996.85	1,218.37	1,439.89	1,661.42	1,993.70
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority *	36.47	42.55	48.63	54.71	66.87	79.03	91.18	109.42
Lancashire Police Authority*	75.39	87.96	100.52	113.09	138.22	163.35	188.48	226.18

* These values are assessments and have to be confirmed by the precepting authority.

4. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2005/2006 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

(i) **Part of the Council's Area**

Parish of:	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Adlington	895.38	1,044.62	1,193.84	1,343.08	1,641.54	1,940.00	2,238.46	2,686.15
Anderton	884.22	1,031.60	1,178.96	1,326.34	1,621.08	1,915.82	2,210.56	2,652.67
Anglezarke	877.55	1,023.82	1,170.07	1,316.34	1,608.85	1,901.37	2,193.89	2,632.67
Astley Village	907.11	1,058.30	1,209.48	1,360.67	1,663.04	1,965.42	2,267.79	2,721.35
Bretherton	896.30	1,045.69	1,195.07	1,344.46	1,643.23	1,942.00	2,240.76	2,688.92
Brindle	888.20	1,036.24	1,184.27	1,332.31	1,628.38	1,924.45	2,220.52	2,664.62
Charnock Richard	900.62	1,050.72	1,200.82	1,350.93	1,651.13	1,951.34	2,251.54	2,701.86
Clayton le Woods	917.72	1,070.68	1,223.62	1,376.58	1,682.49	1,988.39	2,294.30	2,753.16
Coppull	907.57	1,058.84	1,210.09	1,361.36	1,663.88	1,966.41	2,268.93	2,722.72
Croston	896.69	1,046.14	1,195.59	1,345.04	1,643.93	1,942.83	2,241.73	2,690.08
Cuerden	899.71	1,049.67	1,199.62	1,349.57	1,649.48	1,949.38	2,249.28	2,699.15
Eccleston	898.13	1,047.83	1,197.51	1,347.21	1,646.59	1,945.96	2,245.34	2,694.41
Euxton	908.76	1,060.22	1,211.68	1,363.14	1,666.06	1,968.98	2,271.90	2,726.28
Heapey	903.65	1,054.26	1,204.87	1,355.48	1,656.70	1,957.91	2,259.13	2,710.96
Heath Charnock	895.59	1,044.86	1,194.12	1,343.39	1,641.92	1,940.44	2,238.97	2,686.77
Heskin	891.81	1,040.45	1,189.08	1,337.72	1,634.99	1,932.26	2,229.52	2,675.43
Hoghton	888.18	1,036.21	1,184.23	1,332.27	1,628.33	1,924.39	2,220.45	2,664.54
Mawdesley	898.72	1,048.51	1,198.29	1,348.09	1,647.66	1,947.23	2,246.81	2,696.17
Rivington	891.16	1,039.69	1,188.21	1,336.74	1,633.80	1,930.85	2,227.90	2,673.49
Ulnes Walton	887.87	1,035.85	1,183.82	1,331.80	1,627.76	1,923.71	2,219.67	2,663.61
Wheelton	894.61	1,043.71	1,192.81	1,341.92	1,640.12	1,938.32	2,236.52	2,683.83
Whittle le Woods	901.68	1,051.97	1,202.24	1,352.53	1,653.09	1,953.65	2,254.21	2,705.05
Withnell	896.47	1,045.88	1,195.29	1,344.70	1,643.53	1,942.35	2,241.17	2,689.41
All other parts of the Council's area	894.80	1,043.94	1,193.07	1,342.20	1,640.47	1,938.74	2,237.00	2,684.41

5. That the Director of Finance and his officers be authorised to take any action necessary to ensure collection and recovery of the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates.

EXPLANATION OF COUNCIL TAX SETTING RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 1

(a) Before we can calculate the Council Tax to be charged, we first have to calculate the Council Tax base. The Council Tax base is the amount which a Band D Council Tax of £1.00 would raise. For 2006/07 we estimate that a £1.00 Council Tax at Band D would raise £34,744.40 in the Chorley area.

(b) This shows the “base” figure for each Parish in the area. For example, a £1.00 Band D Council Tax in Adlington would raise £1,964.10.

RESOLUTION 2

(a) This is the grand total of money which the Council estimates it will spend on all services in 2006/07. It also includes £535,399 which Parish Councils need to run their services.

(b) This is the grand total of money which the Council estimates it will receive from various sources in the year. This includes, for example, car park charges, housing rents, government grants in respect of benefits, etc.

(c) This is the difference between 2(a) and 2(b) and is in effect the Council’s and Parishes net spending on services.

(d) This is the amount that the Government will contribute towards the cost of our services. Also included is extra Council Tax resulting from new properties and expected collection rates in previous years.

(e) The difference between 2(c) and 2(d) is £6,494,836 and this is the amount we need to charge Council Taxpayers. This is divided by the base (see 1(a) above) and the resulting figure of £186.94 is the average Band D Council Tax for all Borough and Parish services.

(f) The total of all the amounts needed from Council Taxpayers by the Parish Councils in the area and for Chorley Borough Special Expenses.

(g) This is the Band D Council Tax for Chorley Borough Council’s own services, ie excluding Parish Council spending and Special Expenses

(h) This table shows the Band D Council Tax for all parishes including the cost of the Parish Councils and Chorley Borough Council. For example, Adlington’s Band D Council Tax is £151.69 for Chorley Borough services and £8.79 for Adlington Town Council services and £17.95 for Chorley Borough Special Expenses.

(i) The rate for each property Band is calculated by reference to the Band D charge. The following ratios apply:

Band A	$\frac{6}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band B	$\frac{7}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band C	$\frac{8}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band D	$\frac{9}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band E	$\frac{11}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band F	$\frac{13}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band G	$\frac{15}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band H	$\frac{18}{9}$ ths of Band D

For Adlington Band A, for example, the charge is £178.43 x $\frac{6}{9}$ = £118.95; for Band B it is £178.43 x $\frac{7}{9}$ = £138.78.

RESOLUTION 3

Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Fire Authority and Lancashire Police Authority are separate bodies who have worked out their own estimates of spending and income for 2006/07 and have set taxes in a similar way to Chorley Borough Council. This resolution notes their final decision.

RESOLUTION 4

This pulls together the Council Taxes for Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Fire Authority, Lancashire Police Authority, Chorley Borough Council and the Parish Councils. For example, the Band D for Adlington is £1,343.08 made up as follows:

	£
Lancashire County Council (as in 4 above)	996.85*
Lancashire Fire Authority (as in 4 above)	54.71*
Lancashire Police Authority (as in 4 above)	113.09*
Chorley Borough Council (as in 3(g) above)	151.69
Adlington Town Council	8.79
Special Expenses	17.95

* These values have to be confirmed by the precepting authority

RESOLUTION 5

Formally authorise the necessary staff to take legal action to collect arrears as and when this is necessary. **For the vast majority of taxpayers, this is not needed**

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Report of	Meeting	Date
The Leader of the Council on behalf of the Executive	Council	7 th March 2006

EXECUTIVES RESPONSE TO BUDGET SCRUTINY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform Councillors of the Executive Cabinet's response to the issues raised by the Scrutiny Committee in relation to its review of the budget.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The budget is the representation in financial terms of the Council's aspirations for its residents. The delivery of its corporate priorities is dependent upon resources being allocated to meet those priorities.

RISK ISSUES

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

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

- The key risk to the Council is that it does not deliver its priorities resulting in it not delivering on its strategies and jeopardising its reputation as an organisation that delivers on its promises.

BACKGROUND

- For 2006/07 a new approach was adopted in terms of budget scrutiny. Detailed reviews were undertaken of particular elements of the budget that constituted a significant element of Council expenditure and that were also highlighted by the Audit Commission as part of its Use of Resources review as spending more than other corporate Councils.
- The aim of the exercise was to try to establish the reasons for the additional spending but as importantly for Members to form a view as to whether the Council was meeting its objectives for these particular services, and what resource implications this may have.
- The individual Scrutiny Panels had the opportunity to question the Executive Member and Officer on relevant issues. The outcome of that work has been directly fed into the Executive through the budget consultation process.

8. I have therefore taken the opportunity to respond to the issues raised by Scrutiny and set out in this report are the actions and responses to be taken by Executive as part of the 2006/07 budget consideration.

RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9. **Recommendation 1** from **each** panel - That the Executive Cabinet be requested to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commissions' 'family tree' authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of services, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Council's environmental service.

Answer

This is a problem for all Councils. The Executive have recognised that delivering value for the residents of Chorley is paramount, therefore the Councils Corporate Strategy key projects for 2005/06 includes "Develop and implement Use of Resources and VFM action Plan". This is not an issue that can be resolved in one financial year. It requires a measured and planned approach and the action plan is the start of that process.

Environment Panel

10. **Recommendation 2** - What steps will the Executive Cabinet take to achieve a better understanding of the perception gap in the measurement of residents satisfaction with standards of cleanliness within the Street Cleaning Contract.

Answer

The key to answering this question is having intelligence/knowledge. The area forum pilots will enable the Executive/ Council to gather this information. In addition the 2006/07 Investment plans include communication with local people in a more constructive way that will hopefully allow the Executive/Council to understand local issues better and address them where appropriate.

11. **Recommendation 3** - The Executive Cabinet is requested to examine the quality of design of litter bins and the capability of the contractors Cleanaway to emptying the litter bins whilst on collection rounds, and **Recommendation 7** - The Executive Cabinet is requested to examine the need for improved co-ordination of services to bring efficiency. Particular attention should be paid to problem areas and neighbourhoods as well as a wider promotion of the hot line number.

Answer

The Executive have recognised that the coordination of streetscene services is something that could be improved. The start of this process is the proposal contained in the Chief Executives senior management restructure that brings together the streetscene services under one Director. The second phase is delivering better coordination. This process is linked to the Council efficiency agenda and an action plan will be produced in 2006/07 with proposals to improve coordination and efficiency in areas such as litter bin emptying, litter picking, etc. A key element of this review will be looking particularly at the types of litter bin in the borough and the frequency and timing of the emptying of those bins.

12. **Recommendation 4** - The Executive Cabinet is requested to ensure that high profile cases on enforcement are publicised.

Answer

The Executive agrees with the point that the Council should both enforce and publicise its approach and action in relation to offenders. The investment proposals for 2006/07 include more resources to ensure that:

- preventative enforcement and an education campaign are undertaken to discourage fly tipping, dog fouling, graffiti etc

13. **Recommendation 5** - The Executive Cabinet is requested to ensure the enforcement of the management of the Cleanaway contract and that they clean up whilst waste collecting.

Answer

The Executive have requested that the Chief Executive deal with this issue as a matter of urgency and steps are already underway to improve the situation with regard to the performance of the contractor.

14. **Recommendation 6** - The Executive Cabinet is requested to introduce policy targets for the Neighbourhood Wardens relating to their street scene duties.

Answer

Identifying policy targets for the wardens streetscene activities is difficult given the reactive nature of most of their work however consideration will be given to introducing some local targets that reflect their contribution to priorities perhaps in terms of enforcement, fly-tipping etc and enables some measure of performance to be established.

Customer Panel

15. **Recommendation 2** - What steps will the Executive Cabinet take to ensure that the high-quality service the public is receiving from the Benefits service is maintained when the service moves into the Contact Centre.

Answer

The intention is to actually improve the service to customers. To ensure service quality is maintained a number of things have already been agreed or are underway, including:

- The range of services transferred to the contact centre to ensure only those questions that can be dealt with in the contact centre are in fact transferred in
- Transfer of staffing resources to the contact centre both on a permanent basis and as a temporary measure during the implementation
- A performance agreement between the contact centre and the Benefits service will be agreed

16. **Recommendation 3** - The Executive Cabinet is requested to undertake a consistent and measured review of all services via the Procurement strategy for the delivery of value for money services.

Answer

The Executive has not been afraid to make decisions regarding the best way of delivering Council service. In fact the 2006/07 budget includes two good examples of this with the Duxbury Golf Course market testing and the property services outsourcing

The Use of resources and VFM action plan referenced earlier will require that the Councils procurement strategy is delivered. Part of that strategy includes looking at all the council's services on a consistent and structured basis to establish how best to continue delivering those services so the local community receives good value from those services.

Community Panel

17. **Recommendation 2** - That action be taken to introduce effective performance indicators for planning enforcement work.

Answer

Identifying policy targets and indicators for planning enforcement is difficult given the reactive nature of most of the work however consideration will be given to introducing some local targets that reflect the contribution to priorities and enables some measure of performance to be established

CONCLUSIONS

18. I hope that through the responses given, the Council is able to see that the Executive have taken on board the views and issues raised during Scrutiny and that appropriate action is being taken to address these issues.
19. Finding solutions to the issues raised within the constraints contained in the budget is not always easy as difficult choices have to be made. The Executive has hopefully been able to deliver a budget that continues to address the issues that Members have raised and that reflect the aspirations of our residents articulated in the Community Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

20. That the Council note the responses made to the issues raised by Scrutiny Committee during the budget consultation process.

GARY HALL
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Gary Hall	5480	28 February 2006	ADMINREP/REPORT

Appendix 1

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION INCLUDING THE EXECUTIVES RESPONSE TO BUDGET SCRUTINY

1. Details of the Cabinet’s initial draft budget proposals were sent to key stakeholders and published on the Council’s website on 12 January. The Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee and panels also considered the draft business plans of the Council’s service units and the budget. A summary of the comments is given below.

Stakeholder Response

2. In terms of the generality of the budget proposals the following responses were received:

	No
Parish Council	3
Other Stakeholders	5
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	8
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3. In the main, the issues were with regard to specific items included in the budget. No comments were received on the possible levels of increase in Council Tax for the Chorley element of the bill. A summary of responses is attached for your information (Appendix 1a).

Overview and Scrutiny

4. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received reports from the three Panels who had looked in more detail at the budgets of the following services:

- Environmental Services
- Revenues & Benefits
- Planning Services

5. The intention of the reviews was to establish reasons for the apparent high cost of the service as compared to the Council’s family group. This issue was raised during the Audit Commission’s recent Use of Resources review as something the Council should look at. In addition, members of the Panels were also asked to consider if the Council was achieving its policy objectives by looking at performance on Best Value Performance Indicator and other local indicators where they were available.

6. Details of the questions and the answers the Panel received are available in the reports that have been produced for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. From the process a further number of issues have emerged that the Scrutiny Committee would like the Executive to consider. The recommendations of the Committee are set out below.

Recommendations Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel

1. That the Executive Cabinet be requested to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commissions’ ‘family tree’ authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of services, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Council’s environmental service.
2. What steps will the Executive Cabinet take to achieve a better understanding of the perception gap in the measurement of residents satisfaction with standards of cleanliness within the Street Cleaning Contract.

3. The Executive Cabinet is requested to examine the quality of design of litter bins and the capability of the contractors Cleanaway to emptying the litter bins whilst on collection rounds.
4. The Executive Cabinet is requested to ensure that high profile cases on enforcement are publicised.
5. The Executive Cabinet is requested to ensure the enforcement of the management of the Cleanaway contract and that they clean up whilst waste collecting.
6. The Executive Cabinet is requested to introduce policy targets for the Neighbourhood Wardens relating to their street scene duties.
7. The Executive Cabinet is requested to examine the need for improved co-ordination of services to bring efficiency. Particular attention should be paid to problem areas and neighbourhoods as well as a wider promotion of the hot line number.

Recommendations Customer Overview & Scrutiny Panel

1. The Executive Cabinet is requested to take action to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commissions' 'family tree' authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of services, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Revenues and Benefits Service.
2. What steps will the Executive Cabinet take to ensure that the high-quality service the public is receiving from the Benefits service is maintained when the service moves into the Contact Centre.
3. The Executive Cabinet is requested to undertake a consistent and measured review of all services via the Procurement strategy for the delivery of value for money services.

Recommendations Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel

1. The Executive Cabinet be recommended to pursue the provision of more detailed comparative data from the Audit Commissions' 'family tree' authorities, particularly in relation to the output, cost and quality of services, in order to enable a more reasonable value for money assessment of the whole of the Council's planning services.
2. That action be taken to introduce effective performance indicators for planning enforcement work.

Individual Councillors

7. A number of individual Councillors have raised detailed queries with Officers which have been answered.

Summary of Responses**Heath Charnock Parish Council (Edna Woodrow – Clerk by email 10 February 2006)**

Has the 4% for the Fire Service been deducted from the amount payable to the County Council (now 74%)?

North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce (Hugh Evans, Director of Policy & Commercial Services – by email 2 February 2006)

Thank you for the consultation document on the Council's spending plans for 2006 – 2007.

As you would expect our main focus of attention concerns the spending plans for economic development. We were pleased, therefore, to note that the focus of any additional investment will include economic regeneration and creating a thriving and sustainable town centre.

One opportunity to provide some additional investment for the town centre is by creating a Business Improvement District. Is this something that you have considered? If not we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the concept in more detail. We have developed considerable expertise in engaging city centre businesses in Preston as part of a potential BID campaign and would welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the Council on a similar initiative for Chorley.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Maher, 42 Avondale Road, Chorley (by letter undated)

I have read Chorley Borough Council's Public Consultation on your spending 2006.

I would like included under the Chorley Community Safety Partnership that the Alley Gate Scheme, which brings safety to many of the residents in the area, and neighbourhood, that the maintenance of the gates will rest up to Chorley Borough Council. Whether the land be adopted or unadopted. Thanking you for giving me the chance to comment on the budget above.

Ken Bowden (By email 19 January 2006)

First, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals and for an easy to read document.

My concerns centre around the level of increase and a growing feeling that Council Tax is becoming an inappropriate mechanism for funding local spending.

As regards the level of increase, I want my council (and especially Lancashire County Council) to plan for increases in line with inflation rather than at the capping level. If I am lucky, my pension will increase at that sort of level and I have to manage within it - I would like the council to operate on the same principle especially after the extortionate increases of recent years. I believe this approach would have two impacts on the budget proposals.

- New activities should be severely curtailed unless funding can be found from reducing or stopping current spend.
- All existing spend should be reviewed on a zero budget basis and justified from scratch.

As a senior manager in business, I had to operate within targets of keeping current spending flat even with the effects of inflation and wage increases and of justifying new investment within budget

constraints. I would like to see more evidence of the council operating this way with my money. I do have the feeling that Government and Council mentalities do not understand the concept of reduced spending and prudence.

The Council Tax itself, I believe, has become a bloated and unaccountable tax with all parties pointing at each other to take the blame for the increases. The latest Government proposals for establishing and monitoring property values are appallingly intrusive and can only lead to further unacceptable increases. The infamous 'poll tax' now looks a far more equitable means of taxation with the benefit of including more people on the taxation process. I will certainly support any moves to change the method of local taxation.

Dawn Waddington (by email 8 February 2006)

With reference to the proposed Council tax increase I would like to see more dog bins within the Chorley area. I have a dog and live on the Parkers Wood Estate, Gillibrand North and I know of only 1 dog bin in a field within Yarrow Valley. I feel this area of Chorley (which is highly populated with dog owners) would benefit greatly from more dog bins by the roadside.

Dr Shelagh Garnett, Chorley & South Ribble NHS (by letter 9th February 2006)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Council's spending plans for 2006/07. We have read the consultation document with interest and have only two specific comments to make:

1. It would be useful to include a breakdown of spend on cultural services. Although the document refers to expenditure for Astley Hall, running Community Centres and sports facilities, and the costs of maintaining parks and open spaces, it gives us no idea of how much is spent in each area of service.
2. Although the Local Strategic Partnership Community Strategy priorities are identified within the document, the links between this and the Council's proposed spending plans are unclear.

Lynne Rowett (Clerk to Ulnes Walton Parish Council) (by email 15th February 2006)

At the recent meeting of the Parish Council, Members gave consideration to the consultation document on the Borough's proposed spending for 2006/07 and wish to comment as follows:

It was agreed that whilst the proposals for the town centre were supported it should not be at the detriment of development in rural areas.

Tony Harkness (Clerk to Brindle & Houghton Parish Council) (by email 16th February 2006)

Thank you for consulting Brindle Parish Council on the draft budget and spending plans for next year. The Parish Council would like to make the following comments on your proposals:

Level of Council Tax

Next year's council tax should rise no more than the current rate of inflation (2%). The proposal to increase council tax by 5% would have a detrimental impact on vulnerable residents and those on fixed incomes.

Savings

The savings suggested seem reasonable and if implemented effectively should deliver more saving in expenditure than that estimated. Additional savings to those already proposed can be made when you look at the total underspend of budgets last year of £199,000 which demonstrates that not all the budgets were needed and is a good starting point to looking for future savings.

Investment/Re-direction of resources

Existing resources should be re-directed to streetscene services, such as more cleansing and better maintenance of green areas, which has a major impact on the quality of life of local people. The Parish Council has to wait for almost twelve months to have graffiti cleared from Denham Quarry because the budget was used early in the financial year.

The Borough Council should also look at the needs of rural communities when planning and developing services, with many residents classed as deprived because of the social isolation and lack of facilities. The grants that the Borough Council once provided to establish and develop community groups was successful in contributing positively to this issue and should be re-introduced. At least one group was established in Brindle using one of these small grants and has contributed a great deal to parish like, with almost sixty members and built into a thriving network, which wasn't previously there. The next stage in developing the customer contact centre should be to provide more outreach services and deliver customer service locally.

The proposed contribution to the funding of Lancashire Constabulary's police community support officers should not be funded from Borough council tax. The amount spent on environmental wardens should also be limited. Even though residents identify community safety in the consultation carried out for the community strategy and local strategic partnership – it does not state who should fund these activities. The community strategy and partnership is made up of many partner organisations. Most people would say Lancashire Police and the Government should fund community safety activities like this through their own tax levying powers. Last year the Borough Council was keen to reduce 'double taxation' with parish/town councils, this is an example of the Borough council tax subsidising the Police Authority's council tax levy or even the Government.

I hope that these comments are helpful. We should also like to suggest that next year's consultation is carried out in a more robust manner as written consultation exercises such as this are always difficult. Perhaps the Lancashire Association of Parish Councils Chorley Area Committee might be used or other workshops where discussions could take place in a more detailed and effective way.

Lancashire Association of Parish and Town Councils – Chorley Area Committee (letter from Debra Platt, Secretary dated 15 June 2005)

Parish Council By-Elections

At a meeting of the Chorley Area Committee of the LAPTC, members expressed concerns over the costs of a Parish Council by-election.

Members felt that costs were high and to precept each year for this 'possible' event was quite restrictive for them bearing in mind some parishes have very low income.

A suggestion was made that the LAPTC CAC ask Chorley Borough Council if it would in future, investigate the possibility of accruing a fund which could pay for any Parish by-elections for casual vacancies. This would equate to a very small amount for each Parish to put into the fund when taken at source from the Borough Council, but could free up hundreds of pounds in the Parish Council's budgets.

I was asked to survey other local Council's to see if they fund Parish Council elections for casual vacancies and from the six I contacted three did fund them and the other three charged them back, as Chorley Borough Council does.

In the new Quality Status scheme, being promoted by Councils and their Associations, to achieve and retain the Quality status a Council must have a fully elected membership, achieved through raising the Parish Council's profile, encouraging membership and participation. It was a concern at the meeting that if this was to take place effectively, it would result in a rise in parish by-elections for casual vacancies.

To this end, the Chorley Area Committee would like to request Chorley Borough Council investigate the possibility of creating a fund.

**General Fund Revenue Budget 2006/07
Summary of Variations**

	£	£
2005/06 Base Budget		12,343,020
Additional Spending		
Inflationary Changes		
Pay	461,850	
Non-Pay	89,720	
Contractual	52,290	
Income	91,450	695,310
Increments		118,370
Revenue Effects of the Capital Programme		(1,160)
Agreed Savings		
Lancs. Highways Partnership	(116,880)	
Duxbury Golf Course	(86,080)	
Property Services Outsourcing	(52,230)	
CuDOSS Efficiency Savings	(48,450)	
Recruitment Advertising	(40,000)	
Community Management Plan	(27,890)	
Cleaning Attendants Services	(18,500)	
Base Budget Review	(56,880)	
Further Savings	(111,310)	
Senior Management Review	(50,000)	(608,220)
Growth		
Improving Neighbourhoods - Co-ordinating Services	35,000	
Cleaner More Attractive Streets & Neighbourhoods	50,000	
Safer Neighbourhoods	22,000	
Communicating More Effectively with Local People	59,000	
Attracting & Retaining Jobs in Chorley	55,000	
The Council as Community Leader - Strengthening the Local Strategic Partnership	24,000	
Further Growth	141,250	386,250
Technical & Volume Changes		
Full Year Effect of Growth / Savings	(22,050)	
Technical / Volume Changes	520,745	498,695
Changes in Capital Financing Costs		202,360
Changes in Contingency		
Procurement Savings	40,000	40,000
Change in Use of Reserves & Collection Fund Surpluses		
Use of Reserves	(173,500)	
Use of General Balances	250,000	76,500
Cost of Maintaining Current Service Levels & Meeting New Statutory Requirements		13,751,100

Appendix 3

General Fund Revenue Budget 2006/07
Further Savings

Ref		2006/07 Saving £'000	Full Year Saving £'000	Comment
	Efficiency Savings			
	Senior Management Review	(50,000)	(50,000)	Reduction in number of senior managers
	Efficiencies in CuDOSS	(48,450)	(48,450)	Disestablishment of 4.5 post currently held vacant
	Community Management Plan	(27,890)	(37,830)	Savings achieved by transferring responsibility for management of community centres to voluntary groups supported by CBC
	Property Services Outsourcing	(52,230)	(104,460)	Savings based on current plans to transfer to third party management by 1st October 2006.
	Service Reductions			
	Making Highways transfer Cost Neutral	(116,880)	(131,800)	Savings to be achieved following scheduled transfer of Highways activity to Lancashire CC from 1st July 2006.
	Total Savings Identified	(295,450)	(372,540)	

**INVESTING IN OUR PRIORITIES
GROWTH PROPOSALS
2006/07**

1. IMPROVING NEIGHBOURHOODS - CO-ORDINATING SERVICES

- Appointment of a neighbourhood co-ordinator to operate across the 3 area forum pilot areas.
- They will:
 - Ensure agreed actions from fora are implemented
 - develop innovative solutions to local problems
 - work pro-actively across Council services, County Council services and partner agencies - e.g. PCT, Police, Parish Councils to address local issues
- Bespoke consultation and research in local areas to assess local views:

	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>
<u>Costs</u>	£35,000	£65,000	-

2. CLEANER MORE ATTRACTIVE STREETS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Preventative enforcement and education campaign to discourage fly-tipping, dog fouling, graffiti etc
- Targeted area clean-ups integrating all aspects of streetscene
- Community skips

	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>
<u>Costs</u>	£50,000	-	-

3. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Appointment of six Police Community Support Officers on a pilot basis to reassure local residents and reduce crime and disorder in local areas
- Ensure a 'one team' approach with existing neighbourhood wardens to increase capacity and street presence in target areas
- Appointment of additional neighbourhood warden

<u>Costs</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £22,000	<u>2007/08</u> £66,000	<u>2008/09</u> £66,000
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4. COMMUNICATING MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH LOCAL PEOPLE

- Centralisation of corporate communication budgets to achieve more of an impact
- Appointment of graphic designer to reduce costs of procurement and re-inforce corporate branding
- Improvement of the Council's website to encourage more take-up and make it easier to use
- Increase the editions of Borough News to 6 copies per year
- Pilot neighbourhood newsletters in 3 Area Forum areas
- Produce a Living in Chorley guide for all local residents (including other local partners information, e.g. PCT, Police)

<u>Total Cost:</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £59,000	<u>2007/08</u> -	<u>2008/09</u> -
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5. ATTRACTING AND RETAINING JOBS IN CHORLEY

- Marketing campaign for Chorley as a location for potential investment
- Improvement to the public realm and environment in the town centre
- Appointment of Economic Regeneration Officer to deliver the new Regeneration Strategy

<u>Total Cost:</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £55,000	<u>2007/08</u> £45,000	<u>2008/09</u> £50,000
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6. THE COUNCIL AS COMMUNITY LEADER - STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

- Appointment of a LSP development officer to drive up the achievements of the Partnership
- Encouraging joint service planning and delivery across the public, voluntary and private sectors in the Borough

<u>Costs:</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £24,000	<u>2007/08</u> -	<u>2008/09</u> -
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<u>Total Costs:</u>	<u>2006/07</u> £245,000	<u>2007/08</u> £176,000	<u>2008/09</u> £116,000
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- The 2007/08 and 2008/09 figures are indicative only at this stage. The intention is to make Members aware that to deliver the outcomes in the Corporate Plan further resources are likely to be required over the planning cycle. It will be a policy choice for Members whether to and at what level the Council continues to invest in these particular priority areas.

Special Expenses

Parish	Taxbase	Grounds Maintenance Costs	Borough Special Expenses at Band D	Borough General Expenses	Borough Services Council Tax	Parish Precept	Parish Band D	Combined Borough and Parish	2005/06 Combined Borough and Parish	Percentage Increase
	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Adlington	1,964.10	35,252	17.95	151.69	169.63	17,270	8.79	178.43	169.92	5.0%
Anderton	475.20	952	2.00	151.69	153.69	3,800	8.00	161.69	152.58	6.0%
Anglezarke	15.30	-	-	151.69	151.69	-	-	151.69	144.60	4.9%
Astley Village	1,117.50	27,548	24.65	151.69	176.34	22,000	19.69	196.02	189.06	3.7%
Bretherton	282.70	-	-	151.69	151.69	7,951	28.13	179.81	175.88	2.2%
Brindle	455.80	2,032	4.46	151.69	156.14	5,250	11.52	167.66	162.11	3.4%
Charnock Richard	666.90	2,470	3.70	151.69	155.39	20,600	30.89	186.28	177.92	4.7%
Clayton le Woods	4,747.60	167,336	35.25	151.69	186.93	118,690	25.00	211.93	188.20	12.6%
Coppull	2,350.70	32,920	14.00	151.69	165.69	72,920	31.02	196.71	188.64	4.3%
Croston	1,029.60	8,889	8.63	151.69	160.32	20,664	20.07	180.39	165.93	8.7%
Cuerden	41.40	426	10.29	151.69	161.98	950	22.95	184.92	175.04	5.6%
Eccleston	1,533.30	6,981	4.55	151.69	156.24	40,355	26.32	182.56	175.26	4.2%
Euxton	3,215.80	57,314	17.82	151.69	169.51	93,200	28.98	198.49	181.58	9.3%
Heapey	379.20	6,138	16.19	151.69	167.87	8,706	22.96	190.83	182.99	4.3%
Heath Charnock	801.40	15,678	19.56	151.69	171.25	6,000	7.49	178.74	170.72	4.7%
Heskin	348.80	1,354	3.88	151.69	155.57	6,104	17.50	173.07	165.80	4.4%
Houghton	361.50	2,260	6.25	151.69	157.94	3,500	9.68	167.62	160.20	4.6%
Mawdesley	755.80	957	1.27	151.69	152.95	23,040	30.48	183.44	174.89	4.9%
Rivington	53.90	-	-	151.69	151.69	1,100	20.41	172.09	165.59	3.9%
Ulnes Walton	258.60	-	-	151.69	151.69	4,000	15.47	167.15	156.37	6.9%
Wheilton	392.30	-	-	151.69	151.69	10,035	25.58	177.27	169.12	4.8%
Whittle Woods	1,750.30	39,622	22.64	151.69	174.32	23,724	13.55	187.88	179.12	4.9%
Withnell	1,252.20	9,983	7.97	151.69	159.66	25,540	20.40	180.05	169.18	6.4%
All other parts of the Council's area	10,494.50	271,475	25.87	151.69	177.55	-	-	177.55	169.26	4.9%
Total	34,744.40	689,586	19.85	151.69	171.53	535,399	15.41	186.94	175.59	6.5%

Draft resolution on setting of 2006/07 Council Tax for the Borough to be passed in approving the Executive Cabinet's recommendations for the Council's Budget.

1. That it be noted that acting under delegated powers the Director of Finance calculated the amount of 34,744.40 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2006/07 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (a) 34,744.40 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year.

(b) **Part of the Council's Area**

Parish of:	Adlington	1,964.10
	Anderton	475.20
	Anglezarke	15.30
	Astley Village	1,117.50
	Bretherton	282.70
	Brindle	455.80
	Charnock Richard	666.90
	Clayton le Woods	4,747.60
	Coppull	2,350.70
	Croston	1,029.60
	Cuerden	41.40
	Eccleston	1,533.30
	Euxton	3,215.80
	Heapey	379.20
	Heath Charnock	801.40
	Heskin	348.80
	Hoghton	361.50
	Mawdesley	755.80
	Rivington	53.90
	Ulnes Walton	258.60
	Wheelton	392.30
	Whittle Woods	1,750.30
	Withnell	1,252.20
	All other parts of the Council's area	10,494.50
	Total	34,744.40

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

2. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2006/07 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
- (a) £41,090,589 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act;
- (b) £26,804,065 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;

- (c) £14,286,524 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
- (d) £7,791,688 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, Revenue Support Grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988;
- (e) £186.94 being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
- (f) £1,224,985 being the aggregated amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
- (g) £151.69 being the amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates;
- (h) **Part of the Council's Area**

	£
Parish of: Adlington	178.43
Anderton	161.69
Anglezarke	151.69
Astley Village	196.02
Bretherton	179.81
Brindle	167.66
Charnock Richard	186.28
Clayton le Woods	211.93
Coppull	196.71
Croston	180.39
Cuerden	184.92
Eccleston	182.56
Euxton	198.49
Heapey	190.83
Heath Charnock	178.74
Heskin	173.07
Hoghton	167.62
Mawdesley	183.44
Rivington	172.09
Ulnes Walton	167.15
Wheelton	177.27
Whittle le Woods	187.88
Withnell	180.05
All other parts of the Council's area	177.55

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above to the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area

mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

(i) **Part of the Council's Area**

	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Parish of:								
Adlington	118.95	138.78	158.60	178.43	218.08	257.73	297.38	356.85
Anderton	107.79	125.76	143.72	161.69	197.62	233.55	269.48	323.37
Anglezarke	101.12	117.98	134.83	151.69	185.39	219.10	252.81	303.37
Astley Village	130.68	152.46	174.24	196.02	239.58	283.15	326.71	392.05
Bretherton	119.87	139.85	159.83	179.81	219.77	259.73	299.68	359.62
Brindle	111.77	130.40	149.03	167.66	204.92	242.18	279.44	335.32
Charnock Richard	124.19	144.88	165.58	186.28	227.67	269.07	310.46	372.56
Clayton le Woods	141.29	164.84	188.38	211.93	259.03	306.12	353.22	423.86
Coppull	131.14	153.00	174.85	196.71	240.42	284.14	327.85	393.42
Croston	120.26	140.30	160.35	180.39	220.47	260.56	300.65	360.78
Cuerden	123.28	143.83	164.38	184.92	226.02	267.11	308.20	369.85
Eccleston	121.70	141.99	162.27	182.56	223.13	263.69	304.26	365.11
Euxton	132.33	154.38	176.44	198.49	242.60	286.71	330.82	396.98
Heapey	127.22	148.42	169.63	190.83	233.24	275.64	318.05	381.66
Heath Charnock	119.16	139.02	158.88	178.74	218.46	258.17	297.89	357.47
Heskin	115.38	134.61	153.84	173.07	211.53	249.99	288.44	346.13
Hoghton	111.75	130.37	148.99	167.62	204.87	242.12	279.37	335.24
Mawdesley	122.29	142.67	163.05	183.44	224.20	264.96	305.73	366.87
Rivington	114.73	133.85	152.97	172.09	210.34	248.58	286.82	344.19
Ulnes Walton	111.44	130.01	148.58	167.15	204.30	241.44	278.59	334.31
Wheelton	118.18	137.87	157.57	177.27	216.66	256.05	295.44	354.53
Whittle le Woods	125.25	146.13	167.00	187.88	229.63	271.38	313.13	375.75
Withnell	120.04	140.04	160.05	180.05	220.07	260.08	300.09	360.11
All other parts of the Council's area	118.37	138.10	157.83	177.55	217.01	256.47	295.92	355.11

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(g) and 2(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- That it be noted that for the year 2006/07 the Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police Authority, and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precepting authority								
Lancashire County Council *	664.57	775.33	886.09	996.85	1,218.37	1,439.89	1,661.42	1,993.70
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority *	36.47	42.55	48.63	54.71	66.87	79.03	91.18	109.42
Lancashire Police Authority*	75.39	87.96	100.52	113.09	138.22	163.35	188.48	226.18

* These values are assessments and have to be confirmed by the precepting authority.

4. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2005/2006 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

(i) **Part of the Council's Area**

Parish of:	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Adlington	895.38	1,044.62	1,193.84	1,343.08	1,641.54	1,940.00	2,238.46	2,686.15
Anderton	884.22	1,031.60	1,178.96	1,326.34	1,621.08	1,915.82	2,210.56	2,652.67
Anglezarke	877.55	1,023.82	1,170.07	1,316.34	1,608.85	1,901.37	2,193.89	2,632.67
Astley Village	907.11	1,058.30	1,209.48	1,360.67	1,663.04	1,965.42	2,267.79	2,721.35
Bretherton	896.30	1,045.69	1,195.07	1,344.46	1,643.23	1,942.00	2,240.76	2,688.92
Brindle	888.20	1,036.24	1,184.27	1,332.31	1,628.38	1,924.45	2,220.52	2,664.62
Charnock Richard	900.62	1,050.72	1,200.82	1,350.93	1,651.13	1,951.34	2,251.54	2,701.86
Clayton le Woods	917.72	1,070.68	1,223.62	1,376.58	1,682.49	1,988.39	2,294.30	2,753.16
Coppull	907.57	1,058.84	1,210.09	1,361.36	1,663.88	1,966.41	2,268.93	2,722.72
Croston	896.69	1,046.14	1,195.59	1,345.04	1,643.93	1,942.83	2,241.73	2,690.08
Cuerden	899.71	1,049.67	1,199.62	1,349.57	1,649.48	1,949.38	2,249.28	2,699.15
Eccleston	898.13	1,047.83	1,197.51	1,347.21	1,646.59	1,945.96	2,245.34	2,694.41
Euxton	908.76	1,060.22	1,211.68	1,363.14	1,666.06	1,968.98	2,271.90	2,726.28
Heapey	903.65	1,054.26	1,204.87	1,355.48	1,656.70	1,957.91	2,259.13	2,710.96
Heath Charnock	895.59	1,044.86	1,194.12	1,343.39	1,641.92	1,940.44	2,238.97	2,686.77
Heskin	891.81	1,040.45	1,189.08	1,337.72	1,634.99	1,932.26	2,229.52	2,675.43
Hoghton	888.18	1,036.21	1,184.23	1,332.27	1,628.33	1,924.39	2,220.45	2,664.54
Mawdesley	898.72	1,048.51	1,198.29	1,348.09	1,647.66	1,947.23	2,246.81	2,696.17
Rivington	891.16	1,039.69	1,188.21	1,336.74	1,633.80	1,930.85	2,227.90	2,673.49
Ulnes Walton	887.87	1,035.85	1,183.82	1,331.80	1,627.76	1,923.71	2,219.67	2,663.61
Wheelton	894.61	1,043.71	1,192.81	1,341.92	1,640.12	1,938.32	2,236.52	2,683.83
Whittle le Woods	901.68	1,051.97	1,202.24	1,352.53	1,653.09	1,953.65	2,254.21	2,705.05
Withnell	896.47	1,045.88	1,195.29	1,344.70	1,643.53	1,942.35	2,241.17	2,689.41
All other parts of the Council's area	894.80	1,043.94	1,193.07	1,342.20	1,640.47	1,938.74	2,237.00	2,684.41

5. That the Director of Finance and his officers be authorised to take any action necessary to ensure collection and recovery of the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates.

EXPLANATION OF COUNCIL TAX SETTING RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 1

(a) Before we can calculate the Council Tax to be charged, we first have to calculate the Council Tax base. The Council Tax base is the amount which a Band D Council Tax of £1.00 would raise. For 2006/07 we estimate that a £1.00 Council Tax at Band D would raise £34,744.40 in the Chorley area.

(b) This shows the “base” figure for each Parish in the area. For example, a £1.00 Band D Council Tax in Adlington would raise £1,964.10.

RESOLUTION 2

(a) This is the grand total of money which the Council estimates it will spend on all services in 2006/07. It also includes £535,399 which Parish Councils need to run their services.

(b) This is the grand total of money which the Council estimates it will receive from various sources in the year. This includes, for example, car park charges, housing rents, government grants in respect of benefits, etc.

(c) This is the difference between 2(a) and 2(b) and is in effect the Council’s and Parishes net spending on services.

(d) This is the amount that the Government will contribute towards the cost of our services. Also included is extra Council Tax resulting from new properties and expected collection rates in previous years.

(e) The difference between 2(c) and 2(d) is £6,494,836 and this is the amount we need to charge Council Taxpayers. This is divided by the base (see 1(a) above) and the resulting figure of £186.94 is the average Band D Council Tax for all Borough and Parish services.

(f) The total of all the amounts needed from Council Taxpayers by the Parish Councils in the area and for Chorley Borough Special Expenses.

(g) This is the Band D Council Tax for Chorley Borough Council’s own services, ie excluding Parish Council spending and Special Expenses

(h) This table shows the Band D Council Tax for all parishes including the cost of the Parish Councils and Chorley Borough Council. For example, Adlington’s Band D Council Tax is £151.69 for Chorley Borough services and £8.79 for Adlington Town Council services and £17.95 for Chorley Borough Special Expenses.

(i) The rate for each property Band is calculated by reference to the Band D charge. The following ratios apply:

Band A	$\frac{6}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band B	$\frac{7}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band C	$\frac{8}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band D	$\frac{9}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band E	$\frac{11}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band F	$\frac{13}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band G	$\frac{15}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band H	$\frac{18}{9}$ ths of Band D

For Adlington Band A, for example, the charge is £178.43 x $\frac{6}{9}$ = £118.95; for Band B it is £178.43 x $\frac{7}{9}$ = £138.78.

RESOLUTION 3

Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Fire Authority and Lancashire Police Authority are separate bodies who have worked out their own estimates of spending and income for 2006/07 and have set taxes in a similar way to Chorley Borough Council. This resolution notes their final decision.

RESOLUTION 4

This pulls together the Council Taxes for Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Fire Authority, Lancashire Police Authority, Chorley Borough Council and the Parish Councils. For example, the Band D for Adlington is £1,343.08 made up as follows:

	£
Lancashire County Council (as in 4 above)	996.85*
Lancashire Fire Authority (as in 4 above)	54.71*
Lancashire Police Authority (as in 4 above)	113.09*
Chorley Borough Council (as in 3(g) above)	151.69
Adlington Town Council	8.79
Special Expenses	17.95

* These values have to be confirmed by the precepting authority

RESOLUTION 5

Formally authorise the necessary staff to take legal action to collect arrears as and when this is necessary. **For the vast majority of taxpayers, this is not needed**

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Finance	Council	7 th March 2006

STATUTORY REPORT ON THE ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP FOR 2006/07

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. In accordance with the requirement of Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, to provide the Council with the Chief Finance Officer's views on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves in the budget proposals put forward by the Conservative Group.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2. The report is specifically concerned with a range of technical matters. However, the budget impacts on the Council's ability to deliver its Corporate Priorities as set out in the Corporate Strategy.

RISK ISSUES

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

Strategy		Information	
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial	√	Operational	
People		Other	

4. This report is entirely concerned with an assessment of the deliverability of the proposals as set out in the Alternative Budget Report.

BACKGROUND

5. Under the requirements of S25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council's Chief Finance Officer is required to advise members when setting the Council's budget as to the robustness of the estimate and the adequacy of reserves. This report aims to give Members that assessment.

ROBUSTNESS OF THE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

6. I have reported to members on the robustness of the estimates contained in the Continuation Budget and the Executive Cabinets budget recommendations. As the Alternative proposal is presented, it is essentially a variation to the Executive Cabinet recommendations, therefore all that has been said previously on the robustness of the budget applies. However set out below are my comments on the specific proposals made by the Conservative Group. The comments relate to my assessment of the deliverability of the proposals and not the policy elements or consequences.

REMOVAL OF CAR PARKING YIELD INCOME

7. This amendment is relatively straightforward and would be readily achievable as no firm proposals have yet been made in relation to delivering this increase, pending a review of charges.

REMOVAL OF GROWTH ITEMS

8. No action has yet been taken to implement these proposals, as this would require Council approval. Consequently not implementing the proposals, again would be easily achievable in pure budgetary terms.

REDUCTION IN STAFFING LEVELS

9. The proposal is that a further reduction in staffing levels is implemented, by reducing the number of full time equivalent at the Council by five. Of these five posts, the Equalities and Diversity Officer post is currently vacant but with a proposal to remove two further vacant posts as and when the opportunity arises. At our current turnover rates this would be achievable during 2006/07.
10. With regard to other posts, which currently have staff in them, disestablishment of these posts would result in some one-off redundancy costs being incurred. The timing of any cessation of the service would also impact on the budget savings in 2006/07, but not materially if completed early on in the new financial year.

OTHER REDUCTIONS

11. The other reductions figure is made up of payments to third parties. Accordingly these could be stopped without much notice and the savings taken during 2006/07.

ADEQUACY OF RESERVES

12. The Alternative Budget Proposal has no impact on the level of working balances, and as such balances would remain within the range agreed by Council in the financial strategy.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

13. The proposals may result in redundancies, as such the Council should ensure that full and proper consultation with those affected occurs.

CONCLUSION

14. The Alternative Budget Proposals are soundly based and could be delivered during 2006/07, as the robustness of the budget is not fundamentally undermined by any of the proposals. In addition the level of balances proposed is within the range of acceptability.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

15. The Council are recommended to note the advice of the Chief Finance Officer under S25 of the Local Government Act 2003, set out in this report, and have regard to it when considering the Budget for 2006/07.

**GARY HALL
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Gary hall	5480	2 nd March 2006	ADMINREP/REPORT

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Leader of Conservatives	Council	7 th March 2006

CONSERVATIVE GROUP BUDGET PROPOSAL 2006/07

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To propose an alternative budget for consideration by Council as an amendment to the proposal recommended to the Council by the Executive Cabinet.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The proposals set out in this alternative budget feed directly into the Council's key objectives, targets and actions for 2006/07 beyond.

RISK ISSUES

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

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

- The budget is concerned with managing the financial risks now facing the Council and ensuring that the relevant regulations are complied with, the conclusions on the risks and robustness of the alternative budget proposals is set out in the attached S25 report of the Director of Finance.

BACKGROUND

- This budget proposal is concerned with setting an alternative level of spending, contingent on keeping Council Tax levels for the Borough Council services in line with that agreed by the Council at last years budget setting meeting.

PROPOSAL

- The basis of the Conservative Party's proposal is that there is no Council Tax increase for 2006/07. This will be achieved by amending the Executives proposed budget as follows. However there is a small distributional effect as a result of a minor amendment to the special expense total, but overall the Borough Council element of the bill will remain unchanged from 2005/06.

Table 1 – Proposed amendments

	£	£
2006/2007 Budgeted Net expenditure as per the Executive's Recommendation		13,751,100
Add back		
Removal of car parking yield increase		23,000
Less		
Removal of proposed growth items:		
Appointment of Neighbourhood Coordinator and local research	(35,000)	
Additional expenditure on communication	(59,000)	
Staffing support to the Local Strategic Partnership	(24,000)	
		(118,000)
Reduction in staffing levels		
Equalities & Diversity Officer	(37,000)	
Communications Team	(63,000)	
Further reduction of 2 vacant posts consequent upon the Senior Management restructure	(43,200)	
		(143,200)
Other Reductions		
Delete the Communications budget	(31,000)	
Remove subscription to North West Regional Assembly	(5,000)	
		(36,000)
Revised Net Expenditure		13,476,900

7. At this level of expenditure the average Band D Council Tax for the Borough Council's services would remain at the level set in 2005/06 of £163.63.

CONCLUSION

8. The Conservative Proposal would therefore allow for continued investment in areas we see as priority for the Council by addressing issues around the Streetscene, but we would divest in the non priority areas as shown in Table 1. At the same time our aim is to reduce in real terms the burden of taxation upon the residents of Chorley.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.
- a) Approve the budget spending proposals set out in Appendix 1
 - b) Approve the formal Council Tax resolutions consequent upon the budget set out in Appendix 2 and 3 to this report.

**COUNCILLOR GOLDSWORTHY
LEADER OF CONSERVATIVES**

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Gary Hall	5480	2 nd March 2006	ADMINREP/REPORT

**General Fund Revenue Budget 2006/07
Summary of Variations**

	£	£
2005/06 Base Budget		12,343,020
Additional Spending		
Inflationary Changes		
Pay	461,850	
Non-Pay	89,720	
Contractual	52,290	
Income	91,450	
Reduction in car parking income	23,000	718,310
Increments		118,370
Revenue Effects of the Capital Programme		(1,160)
Agreed Savings		
Lancs. Highways Partnership	(116,880)	
Duxbury Golf Course	(86,080)	
Property Services Outsourcing	(52,230)	
CuDOSS Efficiency Savings	(48,450)	
Recruitment Advertising	(40,000)	
Community Management Plan	(27,890)	
Cleaning Attendants Services	(18,500)	
Base Budget Review	(56,880)	
Further Savings	(111,310)	
Senior Management Review	(50,000)	
Conservative Group Savings		
Staffing reductions	(143,200)	
Communication and subscription budget reductions	(36,000)	(787,420)
Growth		
Cleaner More Attractive Streets & Neighbourhoods	50,000	
Safer Neighbourhoods	22,000	
Attracting & Retaining Jobs in Chorley	55,000	
Further Growth	141,250	268,250
Technical & Volume Changes		
Full Year Effect of Growth / Savings	(22,050)	
Technical / Volume Changes	520,720	498,670
Changes in Capital Financing Costs		202,360
Changes in Contingency		
Procurement Savings	40,000	40,000
Change in Use of Reserves & Collection Fund Surpluses		
Use of Reserves	(173,500)	
Use of General Balances	250,000	76,500
Cost of Maintaining Current Service Levels & Meeting New Statutory Requirements		13,476,900

Special Expenses

Parish	Taxbase		Grounds Maintenance Costs	Borough Special Expenses at Band D	Borough General Expenses	Borough Services Council Tax	Parish Precept		Parish Band D	Combined Borough and Parish		2005/06 Combined Borough and Parish		Percentage Increase
	No.	£					£	£		£	£	£	£	
Adlington	1,964.10	33,629	17.12	144.70	161.82	17,270	8.79	170.62	169.92	0.4%				
Anderton	475.20	908	1.91	144.70	146.61	3,800	8.00	154.61	152.58	1.3%				
Anglezarke	15.30	-	-	144.70	144.70	-	-	144.70	144.60	0.1%				
Astley Village	1,117.50	26,280	23.52	144.70	168.22	22,000	19.69	187.90	189.06	-0.6%				
Bretherton	282.70	-	-	144.70	144.70	7,951	28.13	172.83	175.88	-1.7%				
Brindle	455.80	1,939	4.25	144.70	148.95	5,250	11.52	160.47	162.11	-1.0%				
Charnock Richard	666.90	2,356	3.53	144.70	148.23	20,600	30.89	179.12	177.92	0.7%				
Clayton le Woods	4,747.60	159,631	33.62	144.70	178.32	118,690	25.00	203.32	188.20	8.0%				
Coppull	2,350.70	31,404	13.36	144.70	158.06	72,920	31.02	189.08	188.64	0.2%				
Croston	1,029.60	8,480	8.24	144.70	152.94	20,664	20.07	173.01	165.93	4.3%				
Cuerden	41.40	406	9.82	144.70	154.52	950	22.95	177.46	175.04	1.4%				
Eccleston	1,533.30	6,659	4.34	144.70	149.04	40,355	26.32	175.36	175.26	0.1%				
Euxton	3,215.80	54,675	17.00	144.70	161.70	93,200	28.98	190.69	181.58	5.0%				
Heapey	379.20	5,855	15.44	144.70	160.14	8,706	22.96	183.10	182.99	0.1%				
Heath Charnock	801.40	14,957	18.66	144.70	163.36	6,000	7.49	170.85	170.72	0.1%				
Heskin	348.80	1,291	3.70	144.70	148.40	6,104	17.50	165.90	165.80	0.1%				
Houghton	361.50	2,156	5.96	144.70	150.67	3,500	9.68	160.35	160.20	0.1%				
Mawdesley	755.80	728	0.96	144.70	145.66	23,040	30.48	176.15	174.89	0.7%				
Rivington	53.90	-	-	144.70	144.70	1,100	20.41	165.11	165.59	-0.3%				
Ulnes Walton	258.60	-	-	144.70	144.70	4,000	15.47	160.17	156.37	2.4%				
Wheilton	392.30	-	-	144.70	144.70	10,035	25.58	170.28	169.12	0.7%				
Whittle Woods	1,750.30	37,798	21.60	144.70	166.30	23,724	13.55	179.85	179.12	0.4%				
Withnell	1,252.20	9,523	7.61	144.70	152.31	25,540	20.40	172.70	169.18	2.1%				
All other parts of the Council's area	10,494.50	258,976	24.68	144.70	169.38	-	-	169.38	169.26	0.1%				
Total	34,744.40	657,650	18.93	144.70	163.63	535,399	15.41	179.04	175.59	2.0%				

Draft resolution on setting of 2006/07 Council Tax for the Borough to be passed in approving the Executive Cabinet’s recommendations for the Council’s Budget.

1. That it be noted that acting under delegated powers the Director of Finance calculated the amount of 34,744.40 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2006/07 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(a) 34,744.40 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year.

(b) **Part of the Council’s Area**

Parish of:	Adlington	1,964.10
	Anderton	475.20
	Anglezarke	15.30
	Astley Village	1,117.50
	Bretherton	282.70
	Brindle	455.80
	Charnock Richard	666.90
	Clayton le Woods	4,747.60
	Coppull	2,350.70
	Croston	1,029.60
	Cuerden	41.40
	Eccleston	1,533.30
	Euxton	3,215.80
	Heapey	379.20
	Heath Charnock	801.40
	Heskin	348.80
	Hoghton	361.50
	Mawdesley	755.80
	Rivington	53.90
	Ulnes Walton	258.60
	Wheelton	392.30
	Whittle Woods	1,750.30
	Withnell	1,252.20
	All other parts of the Council's area	10,494.50
	Total	34,744.40

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

2. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2006/07 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a) £40,793,389 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act;

(b) £26,781,065 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;

- (c) £14,012,324 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
- (d) £7,791,688 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, Revenue Support Grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988;
- (e) £179.04 being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
- (f) £1,193,049 being the aggregated amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
- (g) £144.70 being the amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relates;
- (h) **Part of the Council's Area**

		£
Parish of:	Adlington	170.62
	Anderton	154.61
	Anglezarke	144.70
	Astley Village	187.90
	Bretherton	172.83
	Brindle	160.47
	Charnock Richard	179.12
	Clayton le Woods	203.32
	Coppull	189.08
	Croston	173.01
	Cuerden	177.46
	Eccleston	175.36
	Euxton	190.69
	Heapey	183.10
	Heath Charnock	170.85
	Heskin	165.90
	Hoghton	160.35
	Mawdesley	176.15
	Rivington	165.11
	Ulnes Walton	160.17
	Wheelton	170.28
	Whittle le Woods	179.85
	Withnell	172.70
	All other parts of the Council's area	169.38

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above to the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

(i) **Part of the Council's Area**

	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Parish of:								
Adlington	113.74	132.70	151.66	170.62	208.53	246.45	284.36	341.23
Anderton	103.07	120.25	137.43	154.61	188.97	223.32	257.68	309.22
Anglezarke	96.47	112.55	128.62	144.70	176.86	209.01	241.17	289.40
Astley Village	125.27	146.15	167.03	187.90	229.66	271.42	313.17	375.81
Bretherton	115.22	134.42	153.62	172.83	211.23	249.64	288.04	345.65
Brindle	106.98	124.81	142.64	160.47	196.13	231.79	267.45	320.94
Charnock Richard	119.42	139.32	159.22	179.12	218.93	258.73	298.54	358.25
Clayton le Woods	135.55	158.14	180.73	203.32	248.51	293.69	338.87	406.65
Coppull	126.05	147.06	168.07	189.08	231.10	273.12	315.14	378.16
Croston	115.34	134.56	153.78	173.01	211.45	249.90	288.34	346.01
Cuerden	118.31	138.03	157.75	177.46	216.90	256.34	295.77	354.93
Eccleston	116.91	136.39	155.88	175.36	214.33	253.30	292.27	350.73
Euxton	127.12	148.31	169.50	190.69	233.06	275.43	317.81	381.37
Heapey	122.07	142.41	162.76	183.10	223.79	264.48	305.17	366.20
Heath Charnock	113.90	132.88	151.87	170.85	208.82	246.79	284.75	341.70
Heskin	110.60	129.04	147.47	165.90	202.77	239.64	276.51	331.81
Hoghton	106.90	124.71	142.53	160.35	195.98	231.61	267.25	320.69
Mawdesley	117.43	137.00	156.58	176.15	215.29	254.44	293.58	352.30
Rivington	110.07	128.42	146.76	165.11	201.80	238.49	275.18	330.22
Ulnes Walton	106.78	124.58	142.37	160.17	195.76	231.36	266.95	320.34
Wheulton	113.52	132.44	151.36	170.28	208.12	245.96	283.80	340.56
Whittle le Woods	119.90	139.88	159.87	179.85	219.82	259.78	299.75	359.70
Withnell	115.14	134.32	153.51	172.70	211.08	249.46	287.84	345.41
All other parts of the Council's area	112.92	131.74	150.56	169.38	207.02	244.66	282.30	338.76

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(g) and 2(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- That it be noted that for the year 2006/07 the Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police Authority, and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precepting authority								
Lancashire County Council *	664.57	775.33	886.09	996.85	1,218.37	1,439.89	1,661.42	1,993.70
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority *	36.47	42.55	48.63	54.71	66.87	79.03	91.18	109.42
Lancashire Police Authority*	75.39	87.96	100.52	113.09	138.22	163.35	188.48	226.18

* These values are assessments and have to be confirmed by the precepting authority.

4. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2005/2006 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

(i) **Part of the Council's Area**

Parish of:	<u>Valuation Bands</u>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Adlington	890.17	1,038.54	1,186.90	1,335.27	1,631.99	1,928.72	2,225.44	2,670.53
Anderton	879.50	1,026.09	1,172.67	1,319.26	1,612.43	1,905.59	2,198.76	2,638.52
Anglezarke	872.90	1,018.39	1,163.86	1,309.35	1,600.32	1,891.28	2,182.25	2,618.70
Astley Village	901.70	1,051.99	1,202.27	1,352.55	1,653.12	1,953.69	2,254.25	2,705.11
Bretherton	891.65	1,040.26	1,188.86	1,337.48	1,634.69	1,931.91	2,229.12	2,674.95
Brindle	883.41	1,030.65	1,177.88	1,325.12	1,619.59	1,914.06	2,208.53	2,650.24
Charnock Richard	895.85	1,045.16	1,194.46	1,343.77	1,642.39	1,941.00	2,239.62	2,687.55
Clayton le Woods	911.98	1,063.98	1,215.97	1,367.97	1,671.97	1,975.96	2,279.95	2,735.95
Coppull	902.48	1,052.90	1,203.31	1,353.73	1,654.56	1,955.39	2,256.22	2,707.46
Croston	891.77	1,040.40	1,189.02	1,337.66	1,634.91	1,932.17	2,229.42	2,675.31
Cuerden	894.74	1,043.87	1,192.99	1,342.11	1,640.36	1,938.61	2,236.85	2,684.23
Eccleston	893.34	1,042.23	1,191.12	1,340.01	1,637.79	1,935.57	2,233.35	2,680.03
Euxton	903.55	1,054.15	1,204.74	1,355.34	1,656.52	1,957.70	2,258.89	2,710.67
Heapey	898.50	1,048.25	1,198.00	1,347.75	1,647.25	1,946.75	2,246.25	2,695.50
Heath Charnock	890.33	1,038.72	1,187.11	1,335.50	1,632.28	1,929.06	2,225.83	2,671.00
Heskin	887.03	1,034.88	1,182.71	1,330.55	1,626.23	1,921.91	2,217.59	2,661.11
Hoghton	883.33	1,030.55	1,177.77	1,325.00	1,619.44	1,913.88	2,208.33	2,649.99
Mawdesley	893.86	1,042.84	1,191.82	1,340.80	1,638.75	1,936.71	2,234.66	2,681.60
Rivington	886.50	1,034.26	1,182.00	1,329.76	1,625.26	1,920.76	2,216.26	2,659.52
Ulnes Walton	883.21	1,030.42	1,177.61	1,324.82	1,619.22	1,913.63	2,208.03	2,649.64
Wheelton	889.95	1,038.28	1,186.60	1,334.93	1,631.58	1,928.23	2,224.88	2,669.86
Whittle le Woods	896.33	1,045.72	1,195.11	1,344.50	1,643.28	1,942.05	2,240.83	2,689.00
Withnell	891.57	1,040.16	1,188.75	1,337.35	1,634.54	1,931.73	2,228.92	2,674.71
All other parts of the Council's area	889.35	1,037.58	1,185.80	1,334.03	1,630.48	1,926.93	2,223.38	2,668.06

5. That the Director of Finance and his officers be authorised to take any action necessary to ensure collection and recovery of the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates.

EXPLANATION OF COUNCIL TAX SETTING RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 1

(a) Before we can calculate the Council Tax to be charged, we first have to calculate the Council Tax base. The Council Tax base is the amount which a Band D Council Tax of £1.00 would raise. For 2006/07 we estimate that a £1.00 Council Tax at Band D would raise £34,744.40 in the Chorley area.

(b) This shows the “base” figure for each Parish in the area. For example, a £1.00 Band D Council Tax in Adlington would raise £1,964.10.

RESOLUTION 2

(a) This is the grand total of money which the Council estimates it will spend on all services in 2006/07. It also includes £535,399 which Parish Councils need to run their services.

(b) This is the grand total of money which the Council estimates it will receive from various sources in the year. This includes, for example, car park charges, housing rents, government grants in respect of benefits, etc.

(c) This is the difference between 2(a) and 2(b) and is in effect the Council’s and Parishes net spending on services.

(d) This is the amount that the Government will contribute towards the cost of our services. Also included is extra Council Tax resulting from new properties and expected collection rates in previous years.

(e) The difference between 2(c) and 2(d) is £6,220,636 and this is the amount we need to charge Council Taxpayers. This is divided by the base (see 1(a) above) and the resulting figure of £179.04 is the average Band D Council Tax for all Borough and Parish services.

(f) The total of all the amounts needed from Council Taxpayers by the Parish Councils in the area and for Chorley Borough Special Expenses.

(g) This is the Band D Council Tax for Chorley Borough Council’s own services, ie excluding Parish Council spending and Special Expenses

(h) This table shows the Band D Council Tax for all parishes including the cost of the Parish Councils and Chorley Borough Council. For example, Adlington’s Band D Council Tax is £144.70 for Chorley Borough services and £8.79 for Adlington Town Council services and £17.12 for Chorley Borough Special Expenses.

(i) The rate for each property Band is calculated by reference to the Band D charge. The following ratios apply:

Band A	$\frac{6}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band B	$\frac{7}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band C	$\frac{8}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band D	$\frac{9}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band E	$\frac{11}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band F	$\frac{13}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band G	$\frac{15}{9}$ ths of Band D
Band H	$\frac{18}{9}$ ths of Band D

For Adlington Band A, for example, the charge is $\pounds 170.62 \times 6 \div 9 = \pounds 113.74$; for Band B it is $\pounds 170.62 \times 7 \div 9 = \pounds 132.70$.

RESOLUTION 3

Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Fire Authority and Lancashire Police Authority are separate bodies who have worked out their own estimates of spending and income for 2006/07 and have set taxes in a similar way to Chorley Borough Council. This resolution notes their final decision.

RESOLUTION 4

This pulls together the Council Taxes for Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Fire Authority, Lancashire Police Authority, Chorley Borough Council and the Parish Councils. For example, the Band D for Adlington is $\pounds 1,335.27$ made up as follows:

	£
Lancashire County Council (as in 4 above)	996.85*
Lancashire Fire Authority (as in 4 above)	54.71*
Lancashire Police Authority (as in 4 above)	113.09*
Chorley Borough Council (as in 3(g) above)	144.70
Adlington Town Council	8.79
Special Expenses	17.12

* These values have to be confirmed by the precepting authority

RESOLUTION 5

Formally authorise the necessary staff to take legal action to collect arrears as and when this is necessary. **For the vast majority of taxpayers, this is not needed**

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REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

CAPITAL PROGRAMME, 2006/07 - 2008/09

1. We were presented with a report of the Director of Finance on proposals for the review of the 2005/06 Capital Programme and the formulation of the Capital Programme for 2006/07 to 2008/09.
2. The revised Capital Programme agreed in January 2006 had totalled £15,749,770, but the latest forecast, after taking account of slippages to 2006/07 and additional expenditure on the Strategic Regional Site at Euxton, reveals a reduction in total expenditure to £15,202,760.
3. The report identified, in Appendix 1, the Category A and B schemes included in the three year Capital Programme from 2006/07 to 2008/09, classified into the respective corporate priorities, the expenditure for which totals £14,659,970, after taking account of changes to the phasing of programmes and slippage of expenditure in other schemes.
4. The report also included, at Appendix 2, a list of reserve schemes in respect of which outline business cases have been presented to the Capital Programme Board. We were asked to determine which, if any, of the reserve Category C schemes, should be added to the three year Capital programme. We consider, however, that, until feasible business cases have been produced and the revenue consequences identified, it will be unwise to make firm commitments on the reserve schemes.
5. A copy of the Director of Finance's report is attached to this report so that the Council is able to take account of all the relevant factors before taking decisions on the capital programme.

Recommendations

6. The Council is recommended:
 - (a) to approve the reduction of the 2005/06 Capital Programme from £15,749,770 to £15,202,760;
 - (b) to approve the Capital Programme for 2006/07 - 2008/09 comprising the Category A and B schemes identified in Appendix 1 to the attached report, at a total expenditure of £14,659,770; and
 - (c) to defer approval of any schemes from the reserve list pending further detailed consideration of the relative merits and costs of each individual scheme.

COUNCILLOR J WILSON
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report.

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Finance (Introduced by the Executive Leader, Councillor J Wilson)	Executive Cabinet	23 February 2006

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/07 TO 2008/09

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To present updated figures for the 2005/06 capital programme; and to present the proposed programme for 2006/07 to 2008/09, including a reserve list of schemes.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- Implementation of capital projects can help to achieve several corporate priorities. The projects for 2006/07 onwards are categorised according to the corporate priority they relate to.

RISK ISSUES

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

Strategy		Information	
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial	√	Operational	
People		Other	

- Detailed estimates have not yet been prepared for all of the schemes in the proposed programme. Revisions to the capital programme may be required when tenders are received or, in respect of land assembly, compensation terms are agreed.

The estimated financing of the capital programme for 2006/07 to 2008/09 takes into account estimated capital receipts from the sale of assets at a prudent level. Should there be a shortfall of usable capital receipts, it may be necessary to increase the level of external borrowing to bridge the gap. Increasing borrowing would involve increased revenue costs for the General Fund but the long-term revenue effect would be reduced if it were repaid as soon as additional capital receipts became available.

BACKGROUND

- Council approved the Capital Programme for 2005/06 on 1 March 2005 at a total estimated cost of £7,641,600. An additional revenue contribution of £150,000 from the Housing Revenue Account to the Housing Investment Programme had been approved at Council of 25 January 2005. The total capital programme for 2005/06 was therefore £7,791,600. During 2005/06 regular monitoring reports have been presented, which have taken account of slippage of expenditure from 2004/05 or to 2006/07, cost increases and virements, and the addition of new projects, in particular those receiving external funding or being financed from earmarked revenue resources. The revised Capital Programme reported to Council on 24 January 2006 totalled £15,749,770.

6. The Financial Strategy approved by Council on 1 March 2005 included a projection of the Capital Programme for the years 2006/07 to 2008/09. This future years programme has also been amended during 2005/06, to take account of changes such as the estimated phasing of the Astley Park lottery-funded project and slippage of expenditure from 2005/06 in respect of approved schemes.
7. The financing of the Capital Programme for the four years 2005/06 to 2008/09 included an estimated borrowing requirement, in compliance with the Prudential Code, of £1,550,700.

CAPITAL MONITORING 2005/06

8. The latest Capital Programme forecast for 2005/06 shows a reduction in total expenditure to £15,202,760. The changes can be summarised as follows:

	£	£
Capital programme as at 24/1/06		15,749,770
Slippage to 2006/07		
- Document Image Processing	(8,000)	
- Astley Park lottery project	(322,280)	
- Telephony	(42,100)	
- PSS Planting Schemes System	(3,500)	
- Traffic Calming	(128,000)	
- Euxton Play Facilities (S106)	(50,780)	
		<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> (554,660)
Other Changes		
- Strategic Regional Site	7,650	
		<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 7,650
Capital programme as at 23/2/06		<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 15,202,760

Expenditure on the Astley Park project has been re-phased on the advice of the scheme consultants. Most of the work will be completed during 2006/07, so there is no adverse effect on the implementation timetable. Starts to other schemes have been delayed for various reasons included consultation with stakeholders; therefore the relevant project managers have requested slippage of budgets to next year. The expenditure on the Strategic Regional Site at Euxton will be met from the earmarked capital receipt from the sale of the land.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/07 TO 2008/09

9. The Capital Programme for the next three years, which is classified into corporate priorities, is presented as Appendix 1. The category A and B schemes total £14,659,970. This total includes slippage of expenditure from 2005/06, including the £554,660 identified in this report, the continuation of rolling programmes and schemes that have already been approved, such as the Duxbury Park Golf Course capital investment. The programme provides for HRA capital expenditure in 2007/08 and 2008/09, which would not be required should the housing stock be transferred. Deletion of the HRA capital expenditure after stock transfer would be broadly neutral, as the Major Repairs Allowance would no longer be received. Any restricted HRA capital receipts unapplied at the point of stock transfer would be available for General Fund housing capital expenditure.

10. The financing of this three-year programme is estimated to require prudential borrowing of £2,776,360. This estimated borrowing is £1,225,660 more than the £1,550,700 estimate in the 2005/06 Financial Strategy. The reasons for the increase include the addition to the programme of new schemes to be financed by borrowing, in particular the £604,000 golf course investment, and a reduction in estimated capital receipts. However, of the total £14.660 million capital expenditure, £7.816 million will be financed from external resources such as Government and lottery grants.

11. Due to changes in the procedures for commencing capital projects, some schemes that were previously shown as part of the 2005/06 to 2008/09 Capital Programme have been placed on the separate reserve list. This list, which includes new proposals in addition to those previously included in the future years programme, totals £2,776,720 over three years and is classified according to corporate priorities. The reserve list is presented as Appendix 2 and shows the split by scheme of financing between external resources (£1.110 million) and the amount required from the Council (£1.667 million). Where available, additional information in summary form about these schemes is presented in Appendix 3, if needed there is a link where the detailed outline business cases can be accessed. These are schemes that have followed the agreed practice of submitting an outline business case to the Capital Programme Board. No scheme should receive approval to move from the reserve list until the business case is produced.

12. Several of the reserve list schemes can be approved to proceed without requiring any additional borrowing, but detailed proposals as to what the budgets would be spent on are required. Such schemes include those to be funded from developers' S106 contributions for transport improvements, affordable housing and play/recreational facilities. In addition, grant funding is available from the Regional Housing Pot and for planning-related capital expenditure (Planning Delivery Grant). The potential restrictions on the use of the Housing Capital Grant are not clear, therefore it is suggested that this resource remain on the reserve list until definite guidance is available. The list provides for HRA capital expenditure in 2007/08 and 2008/09, which would not be required should the housing stock be transferred. Deletion of the HRA capital expenditure after stock transfer would be broadly neutral, as the Major Repairs Allowance would no longer be received. Any restricted HRA capital receipts unapplied at the point of stock transfer would be available for General Fund housing capital expenditure.

13. Most of the remaining reserve list schemes would require some additional external borrowing if they were approved to proceed. Prudential borrowing is a legitimate source of capital financing, but the revenue consequences (i.e. interest payment and increased Minimum Revenue Provision) need to be taken account of. The estimated revenue cost in the next three years of financing an extra £100,000 capital expenditure in 2006/07 by borrowing is as follows:

2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
£	£	£
2,250	8,500	8,160

In 2006/07, the only cost is part-year interest on £100,000 borrowing. In 2007/08, there is a requirement to make a Minimum Revenue Provision, as well as the full-year cost of borrowing. In subsequent years, the cost reduced by 4% each year, assuming interest rates are fixed.

PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE

14. Following consultation by the Government and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), the Local Government Act 2003 enacted the Prudential Code for capital finance. The Prudential Code is designed to help authorities manage the new freedoms offered by the removal of restrictions on their borrowing. An authority should be able to borrow as much as it wants provided it can demonstrate that its plans are affordable. This comes down to demonstrating that it can afford the costs associated with the planned borrowing.
15. The system provides an integrated approach to capital investment decision-making, with an authority having to take into account, when setting its Prudential Indicators, the following factors: affordability, its asset management plans, the implications for external borrowing, value for money through options appraisal and its strategic plans. The aim is to bring together revenue and capital resources to meet service delivery objectives.
16. A fundamental principle of affordability is that an authority should make decisions about capital and revenue plans in the context of the levels of Council Tax and HRA Rent. When an authority is considering the affordability of its capital investment decisions, it must take into account all the available resources, both in terms of its capital payments and receipts, and revenue income and expenditure for the forthcoming year and the following two years. The incremental impact of capital investment on Council Tax and HRA rents is determined by taking the difference between the total net budget requirement of the authority or Housing Revenue Account 'with' and 'without' the revenue impact of any new proposed capital payments for the forthcoming and subsequent years, including financing costs and other revenue costs.
17. Long-term borrowing should be incurred only to fund the capital investment decisions of the authority: day-to-day operating costs should not be funded from long-term debt. Net external borrowing must not exceed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) otherwise the implication would be that external borrowing is funding the day-to-day operational costs of the authority. It is estimated that this Council will have no long-term external borrowing at 31 March 2006, but that this will rise to £2.731m if only the category A and B schemes are implemented in the following three years. This compares to the estimated CFR of £13.9m as at 31 March 2006.
18. To date, the Council has not used the Prudential Code for some of the reasons it was made available. The Code is designed to encourage innovation, in particular the financing of 'invest to save' schemes, when incurring of capital expenditure results in a revenue saving and a payback. Other Councils have taken advantage of the Code to achieve improvements to assets such as increasing energy efficiency. For this reason a sum of £200,000 has been included in the reserve list to encourage bids for investment in such 'invest to save' schemes.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

19. There are no direct human resource implications of the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

20. That Executive Cabinet recommend to Council that the 2005/06 Capital Programme be reduced to £15,202,760.
21. That the Category A and B schemes for 2006/07 to 2008/09, as presented in Appendix 1 at a total of £14,659,970, be recommended for approval by Council.
22. That the schemes on the reserve list in Appendix 2, where an outline business case has been received, be considered by Executive Cabinet and be recommended for approval by Council as appropriate.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)
(If the recommendations are accepted)**

23. The phasing of expenditure on schemes approved to be implemented during 2005/06 needs to be updated on the advice of external consultants and the Council's project managers.
24. The Capital Programme for 2006/07 to 2008/09 needs to be updated to take account of slippage and other changes to the phasing of schemes, plus schemes added to the programme since the 2005/06 – 2007/08 Financial Strategy was approved on 1 March 2005. Further outline business cases have been received (Appendix 3).
25. Approval of schemes on the reserve list may be necessary to achieve the Council's corporate priorities, but the Council needs to take account of the revenue consequences of those projects requiring financing by borrowing.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

26. None.

GARY HALL
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Financial Strategy 2005/06 – 2007/08	1/3/05	N/A	Gillibrand Street Council Offices

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Michael L. Jackson	5490	13/2/06	CapProg0607-0809

Capital Programme - 2006/07 to 2008/09

Description	2006/07 Revised Estimate £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	2008/09 Revised Estimate £	Total 2006/07 to 2008/09 £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
<u>CATEGORY A SCHEMES</u>						
<u>People - Reduce Pockets of Inequality</u>						
Town Hall Disabled Access and Refurbishment	26,000	0	0	26,000		26,000
Leisure Centres DDA Works	139,650	0	0	139,650		139,650
	165,650	0	0	165,650	0	165,650
<u>People - Improved Access to Public Services</u>						
Leisure Centres Capital Investment	1,335,250	200,000	200,000	1,735,250		1,735,250
Extension to Chorley Cemetery (new burial area)	10,000	0	0	10,000		10,000
	1,345,250	200,000	200,000	1,745,250	0	1,745,250
<u>Place - Develop Character & Feel Of Chorley</u>						
Achieving Decent Homes Standard (Council Dwellings)	2,054,000	1,854,000	1,804,000	5,712,000	5,318,670	393,330
Disabled Facilities Grants	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000	540,000	360,000
Housing Renewal	353,660	200,000	200,000	753,660		753,660
Astley Park Improvements - Construction	1,663,970	643,620	35,340	2,342,930	1,868,810	474,120
	4,371,630	2,997,620	2,339,340	9,708,590	7,727,480	1,981,110
TOTAL CATEGORY A SCHEMES	5,882,530	3,197,620	2,539,340	11,619,490	7,727,480	3,892,010

Schemes		2006/07 Revised Estimate £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	2008/09 Revised Estimate £	Total 2006/07 to 2008/09 £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
		43,470	0	0	43,470		43,470
		30,000	0	0	30,000	30,000	0
		50,780	0	0	50,780	50,780	0
		124,250	0	0	124,250	80,780	43,470
		50,000	0	0	50,000		50,000
		7,500	0	0	7,500	7,500	0
		57,500	0	0	57,500	7,500	50,000
		757,300	0	0	757,300		757,300
		92,920	476,230	34,850	604,000		604,000
		2,500	0	0	2,500		2,500
		103,220	103,220	103,220	309,660		309,660
		15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000		45,000
		101,670	0	0	101,670		101,670
		128,000	0	0	128,000		128,000
		1,200,610	594,450	153,070	1,948,130	0	1,948,130

CATEGORY B SCHEMES**People - Getting People Involved in Their Communities**

Parks and Play Areas Refurbishment
 Chorley Play Facilities (S106 funded)
 Euxton Play Facilities (S106 funded)

People - Improved Access to Public Services

External Funding Pot
 Adlington Rail Station Improvements (S106 funded)

Place - Develop Character & Feel Of Chorley

Invest in Success - Gillibrand Scheme
 Duxbury Park Golf Course capital investment
 YVP Extension Flood Alleviation
 Regeneration Projects - Design Fees
 Groundwork Projects
 Elwood Initiative (grants for tree planting & management)
 Traffic Calming

Scheme	2006/07 Revised Estimate £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	2008/09 Revised Estimate £	Total 2006/07 to 2008/09 £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
IT Support (incl. salary capitalisation)	30,000	30,000	30,000	90,000		90,000
e-Enabling HR systems - Training	30,000	0	0	30,000		30,000
PSS Planting Schemes	3,500	0	0	3,500		3,500
Telephony	42,100	0	0	42,100		42,100
Union Street Offices Heating and Ventilation	25,000	0	0	25,000		25,000
Project Management Support Capitalisation	40,000	40,000	40,000	120,000		120,000
Planned Maintenance of Fixed Assets	200,000	200,000	200,000	600,000		600,000
	370,600	270,000	270,000	910,600	0	910,600
TOTAL CATEGORY B SCHEMES	1,752,960	864,450	423,070	3,040,480	88,280	2,952,200
TOTAL CATEGORY A AND CATEGORY B SCHEMES	7,635,490	4,062,070	2,962,410	14,659,970	7,815,760	6,844,210

Performance - Ensure CBC is a Performing Organisation

IT Support (incl. salary capitalisation)
e-Enabling HR systems - Training
PSS Planting Schemes
Telephony
Union Street Offices Heating and Ventilation
Project Management Support Capitalisation
Planned Maintenance of Fixed Assets

TOTAL CATEGORY B SCHEMES

TOTAL CATEGORY A AND CATEGORY B SCHEMES

Scheme	2006/07 Revised Estimate £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	2008/09 Revised Estimate £	Total 2006/07 to 2008/09 £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
Prudential Borrowing	1,611,010	902,670	262,680	2,776,360		2,776,360
Unrestricted Capital Receipts	1,797,760	300,000	600,030	2,697,790		2,697,790
Housing Investment Programme Restricted Capital Receipts	587,990	402,000	146,570	1,136,560		1,136,560
Revenue Budget - Specific Revenue Reserves or Budgets	83,500	0	0	83,500		83,500
Revenue Budget - Housing Revenue Account	150,000	0	0	150,000		150,000
Total CBC Resources	4,230,260	1,604,670	1,009,280	6,844,210	0	6,844,210
Ext. Contributions - Developers	88,280	0	0	88,280	88,280	0
Ext. Contributions - Lottery Bodies	1,347,280	505,400	16,130	1,868,810	1,868,810	0
Government Grants - Disabled Facilities Grants	180,000	180,000	180,000	540,000	540,000	0
Government Grants - Major Repairs Allowance	1,789,670	1,772,000	1,757,000	5,318,670	5,318,670	0
Total External Resources	3,405,230	2,457,400	1,953,130	7,815,760	7,815,760	0
TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES - A & B SCHEMES	7,635,490	4,062,070	2,962,410	14,659,970	7,815,760	6,844,210

Financing the Programme - Category A & B Schemes

Prudential Borrowing

Unrestricted Capital Receipts

Housing Investment Programme Restricted Capital Receipts

Revenue Budget - Specific Revenue Reserves or Budgets

Revenue Budget - Housing Revenue Account

Total CBC Resources

Ext. Contributions - Developers

Ext. Contributions - Lottery Bodies

Government Grants - Disabled Facilities Grants

Government Grants - Major Repairs Allowance

Total External Resources

TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES - A & B SCHEMES

Capital Programme - 2006/07 to 2008/09

Scheme	2006/07 Revised Estimate £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	2008/09 Revised Estimate £	Total 2006/07 to 2008/09 £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
	20,500	100,000	0	120,500	120,500	0
	20,500	100,000	0	120,500	120,500	0
	0	79,720	132,900	212,620	212,620	0
	0	79,720	132,900	212,620	212,620	0
	42,870	67,110	19,630	129,610	129,610	0
	150,000	0	0	150,000		150,000
	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000		150,000
	242,870	117,110	69,630	429,610	129,610	300,000

RESERVE LIST**Prosperity - Put Chorley at Heart of Regional Economic development**

Transport-related Improvements (S106 funded)

People - Reduce Pockets of Inequality

Provision of Affordable Housing (S106 funded)

People - Getting People Involved in Their Communities

Play/Recreation Facilities (S106 funded)

Community Centre Ecclestone - Capital Grant

Parks and Play Areas Refurbishment

Scheme	2006/07 Revised Estimate £	2007/08 Revised Estimate £	2008/09 Revised Estimate £	Total 2006/07 to 2008/09 £	External Funding £	CBC Funding £
Traffic Calming	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000		150,000
Changing Rooms Jubilee Playing Field Adlington	30,000	0	0	30,000		30,000
Litter/Dog Waste/On-street Recycling Bins	42,940	0	0	42,940	42,940	0
DEFRA Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant scheme	0	44,970	0	44,970	44,970	0
Warden Patrol Vans/Digital CCTV Recorders	13,100	0	0	13,100		13,100
Enhanced Recycling Scheme	33,000	0	0	33,000		33,000
Kerbside Recycling Schemes	183,000	0	0	183,000		183,000
Recycling Bring Site Expansion	20,000	20,000	10,000	50,000		50,000
Chapel Street Environmental Enhancement Phase 3	95,000	0	0	95,000		95,000
Regional Housing Pot Capital Grant funded schemes	493,000	0	0	493,000	493,000	0
	960,040	114,970	60,000	1,135,010	580,910	554,100
Legal Case Management System	31,750	0	0	31,750		31,750
Electronic Document & Records Management System	50,920	0	0	50,920		50,920
Corporate DIP implementation	30,000	0	0	30,000		30,000
Capitalised Restructuring Costs	500,000	0	0	500,000		500,000
Planning Delivery Grant funded schemes	66,310	0	0	66,310	66,310	0
Invest to Save schemes	200,000	0	0	200,000		200,000
	878,980	0	0	878,980	66,310	812,670
TOTAL RESERVE LIST	2,102,390	411,800	262,530	2,776,720	1,109,950	1,666,770

Place - Develop Character & Feel Of Chorley

- Traffic Calming
- Changing Rooms Jubilee Playing Field Adlington
- Litter/Dog Waste/On-street Recycling Bins
- DEFRA Waste Performance & Efficiency Grant scheme
- Warden Patrol Vans/Digital CCTV Recorders
- Enhanced Recycling Scheme
- Kerbside Recycling Schemes
- Recycling Bring Site Expansion
- Chapel Street Environmental Enhancement Phase 3
- Regional Housing Pot Capital Grant funded schemes

Performance - Ensure CBC is a Performing Organisation

- Legal Case Management System
- Electronic Document & Records Management System
- Corporate DIP implementation
- Capitalised Restructuring Costs
- Planning Delivery Grant funded schemes
- Invest to Save schemes

Corporate Priority	Project Name	Description	Cost
Place - Develop Character & Feel of Chorley	Warden Patrol Vans and CCTV Recorders	<p>The upgrade of both neighbourhood warden vehicles and the large mobile CCTV van, replacing the video recording technology with digital recording equipment. This will improve the picture quality vital to produce evidence of identity, reduce the amount of storage required for video, up date all the equipment to modern day standards making the systems compatible with the Councils CCTV control room, and generally enable a more responsive and visible service.</p> <p>http://cbc-us-app3:8070/Published/C00000115/M00000237/AI00002386/\$CapProgReptApp3.docA.ps.pdf</p>	£13,100
	Enhanced Recycling Scheme	<p>To procure a full suite of recycling containers for each of the remaining 1,500 households not currently receiving an enhanced recycling scheme, and maximise our income stream through the Lancashire Waste Partnership cost share agreement. Delivering our service promise of extending the enhanced recycling service to all eligible properties.</p> <p>http://cbc-us-app3:8070/Published/C00000115/M00000237/AI00002386/\$CapProgReptApp4.docA.ps.pdf</p>	£33,000
	Kerbside Recycling Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To procure a stock of kerbside recycling containers to meet anticipated household requirements in 2006/7. • To replace the lightweight woven sack with a weighted sack for households where the attrition rate for the lightweight sack is high. • To procure an additional twin compartment recycling collection vehicle in order to increase our current recycling collection capacity. An addition vehicle will provide the capacity to collect a further 6 tonnes per collection day which is sufficient to accommodate a participation increase in line with the required growth rates. <p>http://cbc-us-app3:8070/Published/C00000115/M00000237/AI00002386/\$CapProgReptApp5.docA.ps.pdf</p>	£183,000
	Recycling Bring Site Expansion	<p>This project seeks funding to secure land, and undertake groundworks to establish bring sites in a number of key areas in the Borough not currently provided with any bring site facilities. The project also seeks funding to purchase specialist banks with a small footprint to be more easily incorporated into the existing townscape.</p> <p>http://cbc-us-app3:8070/Published/C00000115/M00000237/AI00002386/\$CapProgReptApp6.docA.ps.pdf</p>	£50,000

Appendix 3

<p>Performance - Ensuring CBC is a performing Organisation</p>	<p>Litter/Dog Recycling Bins Waste/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To secure sufficient funding for the purchase and installation of Litter & Dog Waste Bins to ensure provision is maintained at current levels. This amounts to 10 town centre style bins, 50 LBv6 litter bins and 20 dog waste bins. To obtain funding to establish up to 10 pilot combined Litter bins/recycling bins http://cbc-us-app3:8070/Published/C000000115/M000000237/AI00002386/\$CapProgReptApp7.docA.ps.pdf 	<p>£42,940</p>
<p>Performance - Ensuring CBC is a performing Organisation</p>	<p>Legal Case Mgmt System (LCMS)</p>	<p>To procure and implement a LCMS to a level to ensure retention of the Lexcel accreditation, before the next full inspection which is due in September 2006. Other benefits of the project include improved legal services risk management, improved customer service, improved external cost recovery and improved efficiency of the legal services unit.</p> <p>http://cbc-us-app3:8070/Published/C000000115/M000000237/AI00002386/\$CapProgReptApp8.docA.ps.pdf</p>	<p>£31,750</p>
<p>Performance - Ensuring CBC is a performing Organisation</p>	<p>Electronic Document & Records Management System</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build an understanding of the need for EDRM systems. To build internal skills in its acquisition, implementation and exploitation. To build an understanding of what constitutes good records management practice. To develop a unit level EDRMS and good records management practice model implementation plan To provide a strong evidence base to support a decision whether to proceed with a wider implementation. <p>http://the-loop/upload/public/Files/25/outline_business_case.pdf</p>	<p>£50,920</p>

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