



Policy Council

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

Tuesday, 6th November 2012

In the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley

At 6.30 pm



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PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS/SPEAKING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Questions should be submitted to the Democratic Services Section by midday, two working days prior to each Council meeting to allow time to prepare appropriate responses and investigate the issue if necessary (12 Noon on the Friday prior to the meeting).
- A maximum period of 3 minutes will be allowed for a question from a member of the public on an item on the agenda. A maximum period of 30 minutes to be allocated for public questions if necessary at each ordinary Council meeting, excluding the Annual Meeting.
- The question to be answered by the Executive Member with responsibility for the service area or whoever is most appropriate.
- On receiving a reply the member of the public will be allowed to ask one supplementary question.
- Members of the public will be able to stay for the rest of the meeting should they so wish but will not be able to speak on any other agenda item upon using their allocated 3 minutes.

26 October 2012

Dear Councillor

POLICY COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2012

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Chorley Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley on Tuesday, 6th November 2012 commencing at 6.30 pm for the following purposes.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Any Interests**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda.

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

3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 25 September 2012 (Pages 1 - 10)**

4. **Mayoral Announcements**

5. **Public Questions**

Members of the public who have requested the opportunity to ask question(s) on any item(s) on the agenda will be asked to put their question(s) to the Council. Members of the public will be allowed to ask one supplementary question within their allocated 3 minutes.

6. **Corporate Strategy 2012/13 to 2015/16 (Pages 11 - 22)**

To consider the attached report of the Chief Executive.

7. **Treasury Strategies and Prudential Indicators 2012/13 - 2014/15 (Pages 23 - 28)**

To consider the attached report which was agreed at Governance Committee on 27 September 2012 and requires full Council approval.

8. **Footpath No 1 Croston** (Pages 29 - 38)
To consider the attached report of the Chief Executive.
9. **Sporting Ambassadors** (Pages 39 - 42)
To consider the attached report of the Chief Executive.
10. **Any other item(s) the Mayor decides is/are urgent**

Yours sincerely



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Chief Executive

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Distribution

To all Members of the Council and Directors.

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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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کیجئے:

Council**Tuesday, 25 September 2012**

Present: Councillor June Molyneaux (Mayor), Councillor John Walker (Deputy Mayor) and Ken Ball, Eric Bell, Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, Terry Brown, Henry Caunce, Jean Cronshaw, Matthew Crow, Magda Cullens, John Dalton, David Dickinson, Graham Dunn, Dennis Edgerley, Robert Finnamore, Christopher France, Anthony Gee, Danny Gee, Peter Goldsworthy, Marie Gray, Alison Hansford, Steve Holgate, Keith Iddon, Kevin Joyce, Hasina Khan, Paul Leadbetter, Roy Lees, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Greg Morgan, Mick Muncaster, Steve Murfitt, Beverley Murray, Mark Perks, Alan Platt, Pauline Phipps, Dave Rogerson, Geoffrey Russell, Rosie Russell, Kim Snape, Paul Walmsley and Peter Wilson

12.C.323 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Doreen Dickinson, Harold Heaton, Joyce and Ralph Snape.

12.C.324 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

12.C.325 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the last meeting held on 17 July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

12.C.326 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the overwhelming success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and congratulated all of the local athletes who had taken part - Bradley Wiggins, Graeme Ballard, Rik Waddon, Natalie Waddon, Holly Bleasdale and Stuart Stokes.

The Council was keen to mark their achievements by creating the role of sporting ambassador which all would be invited to take up. The role would recognise their special contribution to the reputation of Chorley and work in encouraging others to take part in sport. There was all party support for the proposal.

The Mayor referred to a number of charity events she was organising, including a Charity Bingo Night on 30 October and the Charity Ball on 15 February and thanked Councillor Hasina Khan for her fundraising through a sponsored fast which had raised £300. She also referred to both a Town Hall Open Day on 20 October and the Christmas Lights Switch On on 24 November which she hoped all Members would support.

12.C.327 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Mohammed Shah of Wigan Road, Clayton le Woods asked Councillor Dennis Edgerley, Executive Member for LDF and Planning the following question:

"I am Mohammed Shah and I live on Wigan Road in Clayton le Woods. I own a small parcel of land next to my house and fronting the main road. I want to know why my objection to the Site Allocations document to have my land included has not been accepted?

My land is in a very sustainable location and right across the road I will have to look at hundreds of new houses which you have allowed. You have called this a "growth area", but your officers' unwillingness to treat my land the same as that across the road is really very unfair. It meets your criteria for availability, and as a small site it would be suitable for small builders and you have not planned for that anywhere else. You have only found sites for big builders and that does not create the choice you are meant to provide.

For purely historic reasons the site is still shown as green belt. But you have not reviewed it when the government is saying that you should do. That zoning does not meet the criteria for having a green belt as spelt out in the new National Planning Policy Framework. So it seems to me that it is already out of date before you print it. It is obvious that you will have to review the green belt boundaries very soon so I do not understand why you are not doing this as part of this document?

Madam Mayor. I am asking the question tonight because I simply want to be treated the same as the people across the road. I simply hope that Councillors will be able to help me. Thank you."

In response Councillor Edgerley, Executive Member for LDF and Planning thanked Mr Shah for his question and explained that his land was in green belt and serving as a divide between the two settlements of Clayton and Farington. During the LDF process the development of land within the green belt had been found to be unnecessary as there was sufficient land available for the borough's development requirements. The Council's policy was to rigorously defend its green belt and so regrettably the Council could not meet his request.

12.C.328 EXECUTIVE CABINET

The Council considered a general report of Executive Cabinet meetings held on 16 August and 13 September 2012.

Members raised questions regarding the earmarking of £300,000 to fund town centre projects and initiatives and how the success of such projects would be measured. In response, the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance agreed to keep Members updated on town centre projects and initiatives.

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader proposed, Councillor Peter Wilson, Deputy Leader seconded and it was **RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

12.C.329 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2012/13 - 2014/15

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive updating the capital programmes for financial years 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 to take account of rephrasing of expenditure and other budget changes and to report the use of contributions from developers for the same period.

Members raised questions in relation to Section 106 funding towards the expansion of Buckshaw Primary School and the latest position in the development of the Chorley East Health Centre.

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance proposed, Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader seconded and it was **RESOLVED** –

- 1. That the Council approves the rephrasing of capital budgets between 2012/13 and 2013/14 – 2014/15, as presented in columns (2), (6) and (10) of Appendix 1 of the report; and**
- 2. That the Council approves the other amendments to the Capital Programmes for 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15, as presented in columns (3), (7) and (11) of Appendix 1 of the report.**

12.C.330 LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a report on the development of a draft Council Tax support scheme from 1 April 2013.

The Government has determined that from April 2013 Council Tax benefit will be abolished and that local authorities must design their own localised scheme of support. The Government grant which councils currently receive to fund this benefit will be reduced by 10%. This will represent a shortfall of £826,000 in 2013/14 across all precepting authorities.

The report detailed three alternative approaches to developing a localised scheme and recommended a preferred option. There was a need to undertake detailed consultation before the full agreement and implementation of the scheme. The recommended approach was to achieve the necessary savings by maintaining the current Council Tax benefit scheme but reducing the level of Council Tax support or reducing the amount of Council Tax eligible for support.

Other precepting authorities – Lancashire County Council; Lancashire Police Authority; and Lancashire Fire and Rescue had been consulted on the options and had submitted their responses which had been circulated to all Members.

Members raised concern about undertaking consultation on just one proposal when other options were available. Consultation would commence on 1 October and conclude on 3 December 2012.

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance proposed, Executive Leader Councillor Alistair Bradley, seconded and it was

RESOLVED – that consultation take place on all three main options for a draft scheme summarised below, but with a preferred option of C.

- A. Maintaining the current scheme but introducing further means testing;**
- B. Basing a scheme on the status of the claimant; or**

C. Achieving a saving by maintaining the current scheme but reducing the level of Council Tax support or reducing the amount of Council Tax eligible for support.

12.C.331 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

The Council considered a general report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 September 2012, including the work of the Performance Panel and Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Steve Holgate, Chair of the Committee proposed, Councillor Roy Lees, Vice Chair seconded and it was **RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

12.C.332 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CHORLEY LOCAL PLAN - PUBLICATION STAGE

Councillor Dennis Edgerley, Executive Member for LDF and Planning presented a report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy seeking approval to the publication version of the Chorley Local Plan.

The report summarising the progress of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document which would now be known as the Chorley Local Plan. In addition Members received:

- The proposed Publication Version of the Chorley Local Plan 2012 – 2016 (Appendix 1)
- Policies Maps for the Local Plan (Appendix 2)
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan (Appendix 3)
- A summary of Preferred Option Representations received (Appendix 4); and in addition
- A schedule of minor amendments to the Local Plan was circulated at the meeting, including changes to Appendix 4.

In presenting the report, Councillor Edgerley referred to the recent decision of the Planning Inspector to grant permission for the Lucas Lane application for 135 dwellings. This would allow the phasing of development within the Local Plan to be revisited.

He referred to the need to approve the publication stage of the Local Plan to avoid any further delay in the process. It was important that the Council conducted its planning role supported by the Local Plan and could therefore better defend its decisions on planning applications.

During debate, Members raised the following concerns:

- the balance of allocations
- The phasing of development
- Windfall housing
- Areas of separation

Councillor Greg Morgan proposed and Councillor Alan Platt seconded the following amendment to the Local Plan:

“This Council does not agree to the publication version of the Chorley Local Plan. Officers are requested to review this document to revisit the following points:

1. *The Balance of Allocation within the plan. Officially provided numbers make plain that in excess of one third of the planned allocation will take place within the Euxton Parish Boundary and this is unacceptable to the parish residents.*

2. *The current plan for future phasing is unnecessary and unacceptable. Currently planning permission is in place for 8.4 years worth of housing which would take us to 2020 so the phasing schedule on agenda page 91 should load the preponderance of development into the 2021 - 2026 element of the plan to protect the residents of Chorley from rogue development - such as has just been approved at Lucas Lane*

3. *The current failure to include windfall housing in the plan should be revisited. Paragraph 5.17 on page 37 of the document shows that an average of 47 windfall housing permissions are granted per year. Over the lifetime of the strategy this will provide approximately 700 houses not currently allowed for in the planning numbers.*

4. *Areas of separation are not maintained. The allocation of Strawberry Fields on Euxton Lane for industrial development provides too little separation between development areas.”*

On being put to the vote, the amendment was LOST, with votes being recorded as follows:

For the amendment

Councillors Bell, Counce, Cullens, Dalton, David Dickinson, Goldsworthy, Gray, Hansford, Iddon, Joyce, Leadbetter, Morgan, Muncaster, Perks, Platt, G Russell, R Russell, J Walker.

Against the amendment

Councillors Ball, Berry, Bradley, Brown, Cronshaw, Crow, Dunn, Edgerley, Finnamore, France, A Gee, D Gee, Holgate, Khan, Lees, A Lowe, M Lowe, Murfitt, Murray, Phipps, Rogerson, K Snape, Walmsley, Wilson and the Mayor, Councillor Molyneaux.

Councillor Dennis Edgerley, Executive Member for LDF and Planning proposed, Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader seconded and it was **RESOLVED –**

1. **The Council approves the “publication” version of the Chorley Local Plan; as appended to this report (Appendix 1), together with the Policies Maps (Appendix 2) and the Sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 3) for public consultation;**
2. **That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Member for LDF and Planning (or the Leader of the Council in his absence) in consultation with the Director for Partnerships, Planning and Policy for the following matters in relation to the Publication stage:**
 - (i) **The actual start and end dates for consultation for the Publication stage (anticipated to be for 6 weeks during October – November 2012)**
 - (ii) **to approve minor changes and amendments prior to the start of consultation including revisiting the phasing of development in the light of the decision of the Planning Inspector on the Lucas Lane site (excludes substantive changes to any policy wording, and the deletion/addition of any sites for allocation)**

(iii) the approval of other documents for consultation as listed in paragraph 86 of the report.

3. Authority be delegated to the Executive Member for LDF and Planning (or the Leader of the Council in his absence) in consultation with the Director for Partnerships, Planning and Policy for the following matters in relation to the Submission stage (anticipated in December 2012):

- (i) to prepare documentation in accordance with the regulations to detail representations made at Publication Stage;
- (ii) to submit the Chorley Local Plan, together with all relevant documents for submission to the Secretary of State for examination.

Votes were recorded as follows:

For the motion

Councillors Ball, Berry, Bradley, Brown, Cronshaw, Crow, Dunn, Edgerley, Finnamore, France, A Gee, D Gee, Holgate, Khan, Lees, A Lowe, M Lowe, Murfitt, Murray, Phipps, Rogerson, K Snape, Walmsley, Wilson and the Mayor, Councillor Molyneaux.

Against the motion

Councillors Bell, Counce, Cullens, Dalton, David Dickinson, Goldsworthy, Gray, Hansford, Iddon, Joyce, Leadbetter, Morgan, Muncaster, Perks, Platt, G Russell, R Russell, J Walker.

12.C.333 ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Councillor Dennis Edgerley, Executive Member for LDF and Planning presented a report seeking approval to five Supplementary Planning Documents which had been drawn up to guide the interpretation and implementation of specific Core Strategy policies across Central Lancashire. The Supplementary Planning Documents provide the opportunity to add guidance in specific policy areas.

The five Supplementary Planning Documents were for the following areas:

- Affordable housing
- Controlling the reuse of employment premises
- Rural development
- Access to healthy food
- Design guide

The report outlined the process which had been adopted in drawing up and consulting on the documents including taking account of the implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework and the adoption of the Core Strategy during this period.

Councillor Dennis Edgerley, Executive Member for LDF and Planning proposed, Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader seconded and it was **RESOLVED –**

1. That the following five Supplementary Planning Documents be adopted:

- **Affordable housing**
- **Controlling the reuse of employment premises**
- **Rural development**
- **Access to healthy food**

- Design guide

2. That the Executive Member for LDF and Planning and the Executive Leader be given delegated authority in consultation with the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy to make any minor drafting changes following the completion of the four week period stipulated by Part 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This regulation requires the final documents to be displayed at the main council offices and on websites along with a statement setting out who was consulted during the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Documents; the issues they raised; and how those issues have been addressed in the documents.

12.C.334 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION: PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered a report of the Head of Governance seeking approval to changes to the Council's Constitution and scheme of delegation in relation to planning applications, specifically the determination of section 73 applications.

Section 73 applications vary conditions to an existing planning permission, usually of a fairly minor nature eg. a change of materials. The Development Control Committee on 4 September 2012 agreed in principle to allow section 73 applications for relatively minor amendments to be determined by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee where they agree with the officer recommendation. In all other case the applications would be determined by the Development Control Committee.

Councillor Dennis Edgerley, Executive Member for LDF and Planning proposed, Councillor Paul Walmsley, Chair of the Development Control Committee seconded and it was **RESOLVED – That the Constitution and the scheme of delegation be revised as detailed in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report.**

12.C.335 GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON HOUSING AND GROWTH

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader presented a report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy on the key aspects of the Housing and Growth statement made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon Eric Pickles.

The statement announced a major new housing and planning package designed to promote economic growth including house building, speeding up planning permissions and a boost to the construction industry. The areas covered in the statement included:

- Measures to accelerate large housing schemes
- Getting surplus public sector land back into use
- Reducing planning delays including greater involvement of the Planning Inspectorate
- Increase permitted development rights for property extensions and change of use on empty offices
- Increasing the number of private rented sector properties
- Measures to increase the number of affordable homes and bring empty homes back into use.

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader proposed, Councillor Dennis Edgerley, Executive Member for LDF and Planning seconded and it was **RESOLVED – that the report be noted and the Council’s position be endorsed as follows:**

“Given our strong track record of housing delivery, whilst the package of measures put forward by the Government may help to kick-start a house building programme and provide support to the construction industry in parts of the country, it is felt that these measures are not pertinent or required within the Chorley area or relate to a lack of performance of the local planning authority. As a consequence, it is proposed that we write to the Secretary of State outlining our recent and current excellent performance in supporting delivery and outline that the measures put forward do not apply to this Borough or Local Planning Authority.”

12.C.336 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) REGULATIONS 2012

The Executive Leader presented a report of the Council’s Monitoring Officer advising Members of new regulations which govern public access to meetings and information relating to Executive decision making which came into force on 10 September 2012.

The new regulations revoked the Access to Information Regulations of 2000 as amended in 2002 and 2006, although many provisions remained the same. The key changes related to:

- private meetings and private business and the requirement to publish notice of the intention to hold such meetings;
- the abolition of the Forward Plan but the requirement still to publish notice of the making of key decisions;
- the recording and reporting of Executive decisions; and
- the publication of background papers to reports.

The new regulations would require the updating of Appendix 5 of the Constitution and consequential changes elsewhere in the document.

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader proposed, Councillor Peter Wilson Deputy Executive Leader seconded, and it was **RESOLVED – that the report be noted and the Constitution of the Council be revised accordingly.**

12.C.337 SHADOW EXECUTIVE CABINET APPOINTMENTS

The Council was informed of a number of changes to appointments within the Shadow Cabinet, namely:

- Councillor Paul Leadbetter to become Shadow Portfolio Holder for People and Shadow Portfolio Support Member for Resources, Policy and Performance
- Councillor Rosemary Russell to become Shadow Portfolio Support Member for People; and
- Councillor Alison Hansford to become Shadow Portfolio Support Member for Places.

In addition the Conservative Group requested a change in their nomination to Chorley and South Ribble MIND.

Councillor Peter Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor Greg Morgan seconded and it was **RESOLVED – that the changes to the Shadow Cabinet appointments be noted; and that Councillor Doreen Dickinson replace Councillor Rosemary Russell as the Council’s representative on Chorley and South Ribble MIND.**

12.C.338 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8

There were no questions received under procedure rule 8.

12.C.339 TO CONSIDER THE NOTICES OF MOTION GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10

There were no motions received under procedure rule 10.

12.C.340 EMERGENCY STATEMENT - HEALTHCARE PROVISION IN CHORLEY

The Mayor indicated that she had agreed to allow the Executive Leader to raise an emergency item following a recent report in the Daily Mail newspaper indicating that the Accident and Emergency Unit at Chorley Hospital was facing possible closure.

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader proposed and Councillor Peter Wilson, Deputy Leader seconded and it was **RESOLVED that the following statement be approved:**

“Chorley Council has previously pledged ongoing support and commitment to both maintain and increase access to local healthcare for residents, and to fight to retain all existing services within the borough.

Further to recent press reports that the Accident & Emergency Unit at Chorley Hospital is facing possible closure and the re-location of services elsewhere, we oppose and object strongly against any attempt to re-locate healthcare resource provision from inside the borough to other areas of the country.

Therefore this Council will write to both the Secretary of State and the Chief Executive of the Hospitals Trust to re-iterate our position, and demand clear and unambiguous assurances regarding future plans for our local emergency unit, to ensure that 24 hour Accident & Emergency cover is retained at Chorley Hospital.”

Chair

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance)	Full Council	6 th November 2012

CORPORATE STRATEGY 2012/13 TO 2015/16

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek approval of the Corporate Strategy 2012/13 to 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the new Corporate Strategy be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The report provides a summary of the changes proposed as part of the Corporate Strategy refresh. The Corporate Strategy has been completely revised this year, following election of a new administration to ensure it delivers on the priority areas to which they were elected. These priorities have been tested through extensive consultation on the proposed changes, with very positive feedback in support of the new visions and priority areas.
- The proposed Corporate Strategy has fewer priorities, with focus being placed on developing the economy, addressing housing needs, improving neighbourhoods and increasing engagement with residents.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reason Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- The Corporate Strategy is the key document within the Council's corporate business planning process and is a key driver for delivering the council's long-term vision, priorities, strategic outcomes and targets. To ensure the document remains relevant, the Corporate Strategy is reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis and where appropriate changes are recommended including the introduction of new key projects to support delivery of the

strategy and deliver real improvements for the community we serve.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 6. None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			

- 8. The new Corporate Strategy identifies four new priorities, which if approved, will replace the Strategic Objectives above. These new priorities are:
 - a. Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all;
 - b. Clean, safe and healthy communities;
 - c. A strong local economy; and
 - d. An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area.

BACKGROUND

- 9. The Corporate Strategy provides a clear statement of what the council aims to achieve over the next three years. It is developed against a backdrop of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the key issues facing the borough. The Corporate Strategy sets out not only the Council’s visions, priorities, and long term outcomes for the period 2012/13 to 2015/16 but also how we will measure our achievements and those key projects which will be delivered over the year ahead.

A NEW VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNCIL

- 10. The Corporate Strategy has been completely refreshed and aligned with the priorities identified by the Labour Group as part of their election campaign earlier this year. This shows a continued commitment to the priorities under which they were elected.
- 11. In addition, the vision, priorities and long term outcomes have been subject to a comprehensive consultation exercise to ensure that they remain relevant to the needs of residents and businesses within Chorley.
- 12. The new vision for the Council is proposed as:

An ambitious council that achieves more by listening to the whole community and exceeding their needs.

- 13. It is also proposed to replace the nine existing strategic objectives with four priorities. This provides a simplified framework that highlights the key priority areas the Council aims to deliver against in the coming years, such as developing a strong local economy and delivering clean, safe and healthy communities. It also continues to align to the priorities set out in Chorley’s sustainable community strategy.

14. A copy of the refreshed Corporate Strategy is attached separately to the agenda as Appendix A.

CORPORATE STRATEGY DELIVERY

15. Following approval of the new Corporate Strategy, all Council work should be aligned to ensure that resources and investment are focused at delivering the new priorities. In particular, 19 key projects are being proposed for delivery over the next 12-18 months that will directly support delivery of the new priorities and long term outcomes.
16. It should be noted that the projects will be delivered within existing resources where possible, however the scope and scale of some may need to be reconsidered depending on the availability of additional funding. Any proposals for additional budget growth items will be presented to full council as part of the budget setting process in February 2013.
17. The key projects and an overview of what they will deliver is shown below:

No,	Key Project	Project Overview
1.	Develop a town centre master plan	This project will produce, consult and agree a long term plan for the future development of Chorley Town Centre in order for it to maintain and grow its position in the retail hierarchy; providing consideration to the demarcation of the town centre boundary, land use zoning, locations for new development, public realm and car parking.
2.	Produce an inward investment plan	This project will produce an inward investment plan and deliver key actions over the first year. Activity will include developing an inward investment web site, marketing package and a grant scheme to support the capital injection from inward investors who are creating jobs for local people.
3.	Implement a programme to support the expansion of local businesses	This project will establish a business advice and support service for existing businesses in the Borough who have been trading for more than 3 years in order to help them to survive and grow. A newly appointed Business Advisor will work closely with the start-up Business Advisor and other business support organisations/programmes to provide a fully integrated business support infrastructure. This will include establishing a 'Choose Chorley Business Network' and a quarterly business newsletter.
4.	Implement a joint employment support initiative with Runshaw College	There are currently apprenticeship opportunities within Chorley that are not being filled. This project will work with Runshaw college to identify the barriers that young people in Chorley face when accessing apprenticeships, such as transport and training costs, and develop an action plan to address them.
5.	Trial re-opening of market street	This project includes the design and delivery of a workable scheme to re-open Market Street to vehicles and provide on-street parking in order to attract more shoppers and boost trade in the area. This is a trial scheme will be monitored and evaluated by feedback from town centre stakeholders including shoppers, residents and traders.
6.	Chorley Sports Village	This project will assess whether there is demand for a

		sports village and whether it is feasible to deliver such a project. If it is, then the project will include development of a plan to move the project onto the next stage.
7.	Produce a development plan for Astley Park	The project will develop a programme of works to both increase visitor numbers to the park and town centre and also to increase the income generated from the park through better facilities and events.
8.	Deliver affordable homes through the use of Council assets	<p>This project will deliver new affordable housing for rent by working with our Registered Providers to make use of the Council's assets, and these homes will be allocated to customers in accordance with the Council's Allocation Policy. This project will meet a number of strategic priorities, including maximising the number of properties available for rent in Chorley and responding to welfare reform, by delivering property types for those likely to be affected by the under-occupancy rules. The project will enable the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The redevelopment of 4 Council owned garage sites to produce 15 new homes • The redevelopment of the Council owned Douglas House site to produce 24 new homes • The acquisition of some derelict empty properties on Thirlmere and development of 2 new homes • Exploration of any other opportunities to use Council assets, land or capital, in order to facilitate additional new homes.
9.	Introduce local solutions to address homelessness	<p>This project will implement the solutions identified in the review of homeless presentations and advice cases across Chorley as well as identifying actions to address the impact of welfare reform, particularly for young adults. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the benefits of seeking help about housing early; • Delivery of peer education in schools; • Tenant training courses; • Refresh of protocols with registered providers; and • Exploring the demand for outreach in areas outside of the town centre.
10.	Develop and deliver a scheme to improve housing standards	This project will develop and introduce a proactive service to improve standards in privately let houses. This will include the identification and risk assessment of properties, where tenants, landlords or ward councillors have identified concerns. The risk assessment will then be used to prioritise investigations and work to resolve the issues.
11.	Launch the civic pride campaign	To develop a civic pride campaign that will empower and encourage communities to develop and deliver change in their own neighbourhoods.
12.	Developing volunteering in the borough	This project will extend the current time credits project beyond the current scope of older people and people with long term conditions to also identify and target a deprived neighbourhood in the borough.

13.	Establish a process to deliver Working Together With Families	This project will establish a process to deliver Working Together with Families (WTWF) in Chorley through a local management group led by Chorley Council.
14.	Implement improvements to neighbourhood working	This project will deliver improvements to neighbourhood working as set out and agreed in the review of neighbourhood working that will be presented to Executive Cabinet in November 2012.
15.	Tackling fuel poverty	The project aims to reduce the cost of gas and electricity to Chorley residents through partnering with other local authorities and a collective switching company to purchase fuel at a reduced price.
16.	Deliver a project to improve the productivity of Council services	This project aims to increase the productivity of the Council's workforce by 2.5% in 2013/14.
17.	Migrate services into the front office	This project extends the existing Corporate Strategy key project to 'implement the customer services migration plan' to also incorporate the migration of some services into the new transactional services team.
18.	Improving access to services	Following the implementation of the Council's new website this project will develop and implement a channel migration strategy that will aim to encourage customers to move to cheaper access channels such as the website.
19.	Establish a Chorley Council Youth Council	The project will identify a group of children and young people and involve them more in the democratic process. The project will raise their awareness of the Council's areas of business, seek their views on services and support them in obtaining and feeding back the views of other children and young people, on a regular basis.

MEASURING PROGRESS

- 18. The strategy includes 29 key measures so that it is possible to identify if the priorities and long term outcomes of the strategy are being achieved. Targets have been set for most of these indicators to show what the council is aiming to achieve. Compared to last year's Corporate Strategy, 17 of the 29 indicators are new and have been chosen to reflect the change in priorities. Because some of the measures have not been monitored before, it is not yet possible to set a target. Therefore, it is proposed to use the next year to gather baseline information and improve on performance during the year.
- 19. In addition, some of the measures have been chosen to demonstrate the wish to target underperformance. For instance, instead of measuring customer satisfaction, the new measure will aim to minimise the level of dissatisfaction so that focus and attention is placed on targeting underperformance.

SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION RESULTS

- 20. The proposed vision, priorities and long term outcomes have been subject to an 18 day consultation period, from the 3rd – 21st October.
- 21. A total of 131 responses have been received from an online survey or paper survey. Additional feedback was received through a display in the One Stop Shop and at the Town Hall open day, which asked people to indicate which of the priorities they feel address

areas and issues that are important for Chorley. Elected Members were also invited to a drop in session to a drop in session.

- 22. The results show strong support for the changes to the Corporate Strategy with 77% of people agreeing with the proposed new vision. In relation to the proposed priorities 99% of respondents felt that the priorities to deliver clean, safe and healthy communities and a strong local economy were important, 96% agreed that involving residents by improving their local area and equality of access for all is important and 94% agreed that the priority to be an ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area is important. A more detailed breakdown of the consultation results can be found in appendix B.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	✓
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	✓
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

- 24. The report sets out the administration's proposals for future years. In terms of resourcing, many of the projects will be delivered using existing resources, any additional resourcing requirements will be addressed during the 2013/14 budget process and adjustments made to the projects as required.
- 25. At this point in time we have had no indication from government in respect of the level of grant settlement for 2013/14. The main reason for this is the changes proposed to the distribution mechanism, which are significant. We have been informed that settlement figures may not be available until late December 2012.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

- 26. The projects contained within the Corporate Strategy fall within the obligations, either specific or general, of the Authority.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 27. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the overall Corporate Strategy, and individual impact assessments will be completed for each key project. The strategy itself includes a number of projects and long term outcomes that focus on improving outcomes and ease of access to services, which will particularly help people with protected characteristics.

GARH HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

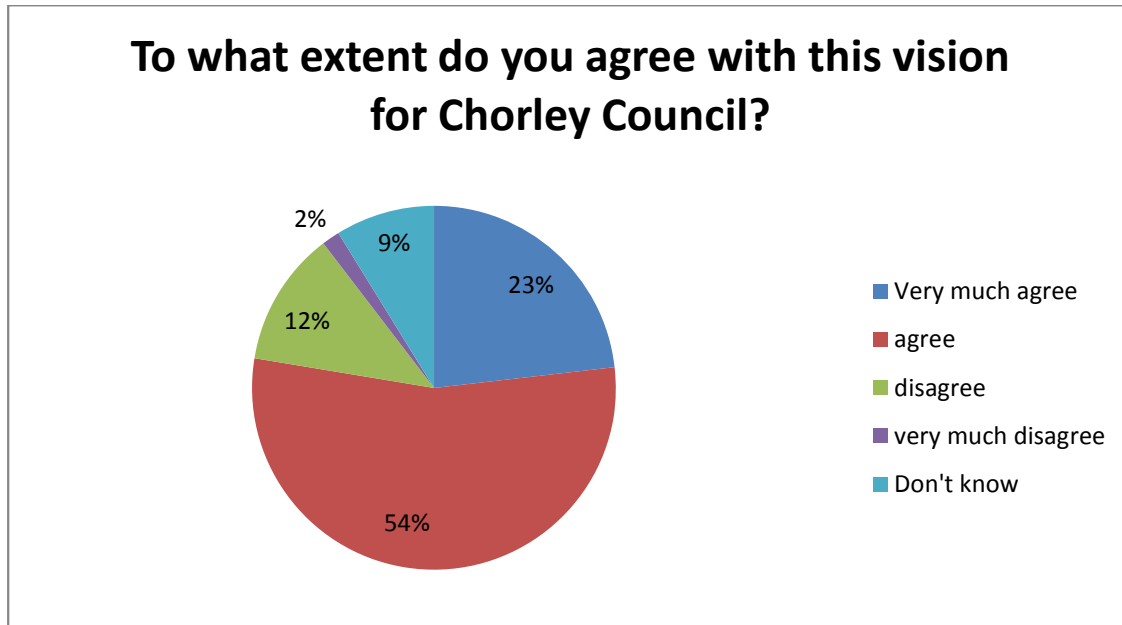
Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Rebecca Huddleston	5779	22 nd Oct 2012	Corporate Strategy Council Report

Appendix B – Corporate Strategy Consultation Results

Question 1

The Council has developed a vision of being ‘**An ambitious council that achieves more by listening to the whole community and exceeding their needs**’.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this vision for Chorley Council?

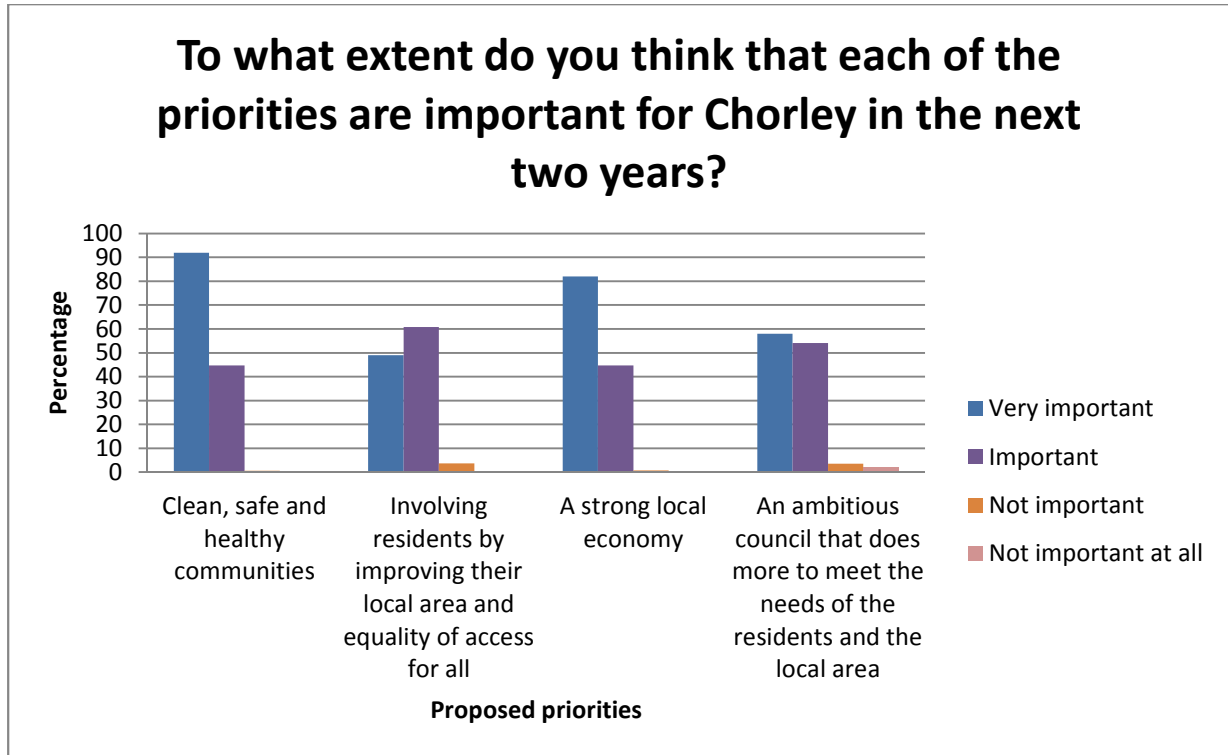


The results show that 77% of people either very much agree or agree with the proposed new vision for the Council. 14% of people disagreed with the visions and a further 9% did not know.

Question 2

The Council has developed some draft priorities for the coming years. These priorities will help the Council to decide where to invest its resources, so it is very important that they are the right ones for Chorley.

To what extent do you think that each of the priorities below are important for Chorley in the next two years?

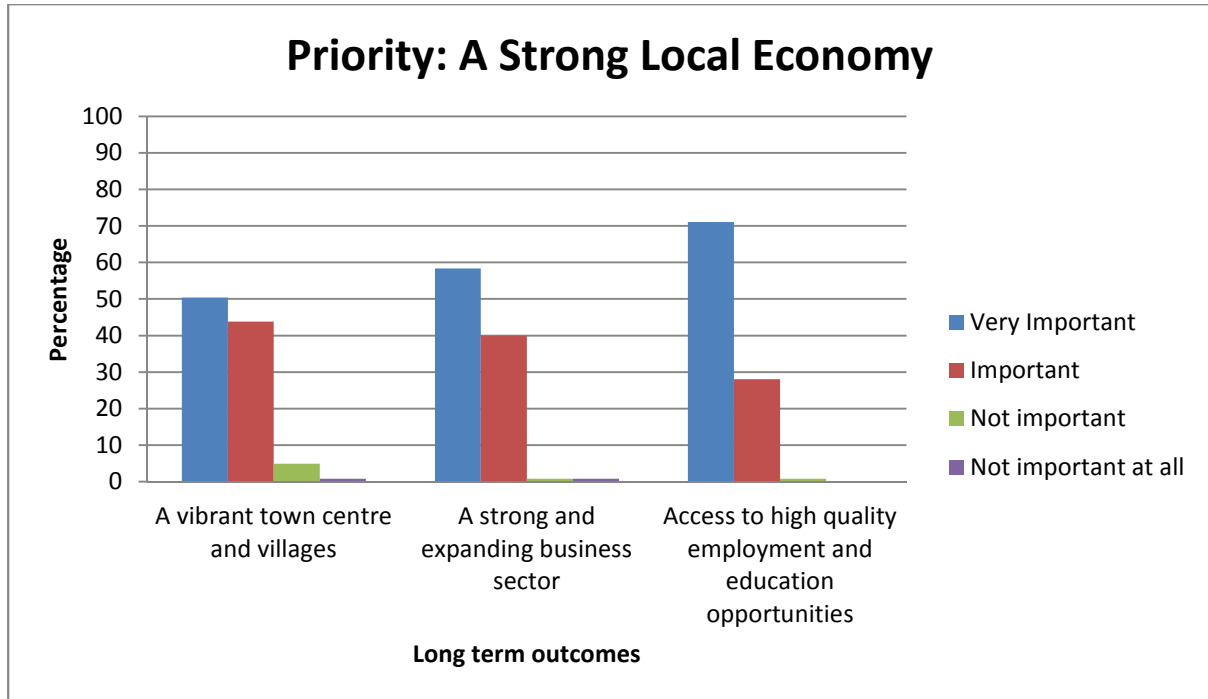


The results show strong support for each of the priority areas. 99% of respondents felt that the priorities to deliver clean, safe and healthy communities and a strong local economy were either very important or important, 96% agreed that involving residents by improving their local area and equality of access for all is important and 94% agreed that the priority to be an ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area is important.

Only 1% thought that the clean, safe and healthy communities and a strong local economy was not important, 4% thought that involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all was not important and 6% thought that an ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area was not important.

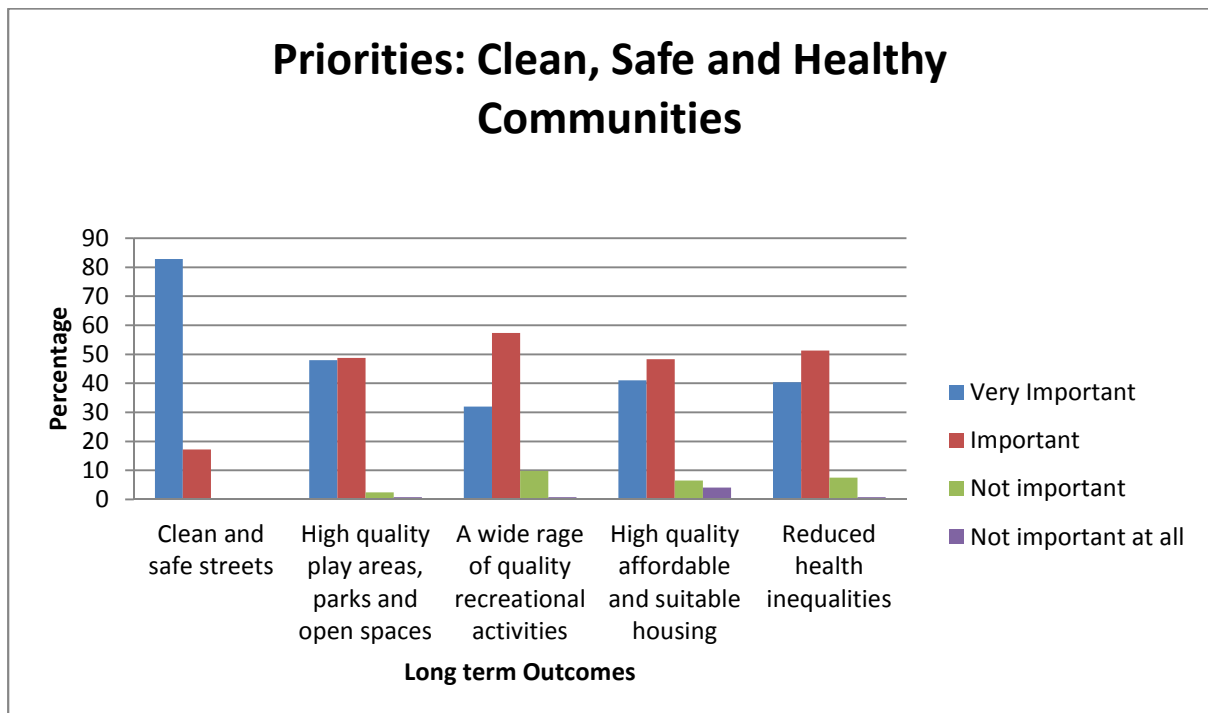
Question 3

To what extent do you think that each of the following goals (long term outcomes) are important for Chorley?



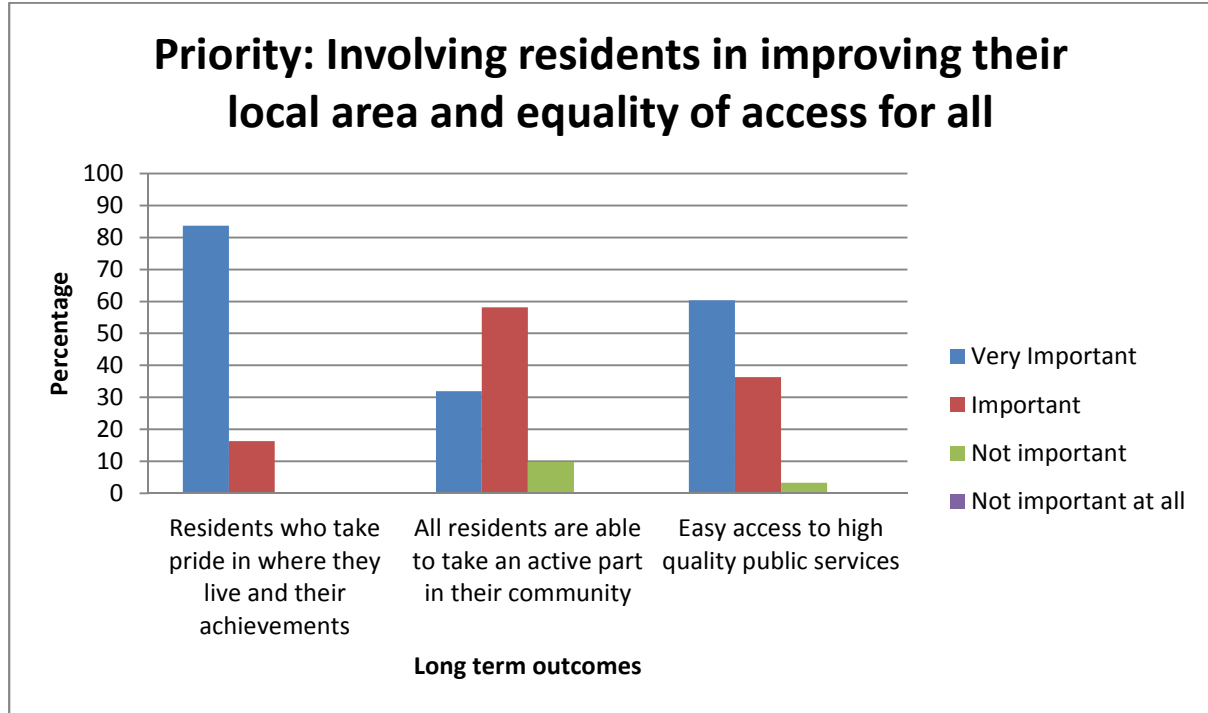
The results show strong support for each of the long term outcomes under the 'strong local economy' priority.

94% think that a vibrant town centre and villages is either very important or important, 98% think that a strong and expanding business sector is important and 99% think that access to high quality and education opportunities.

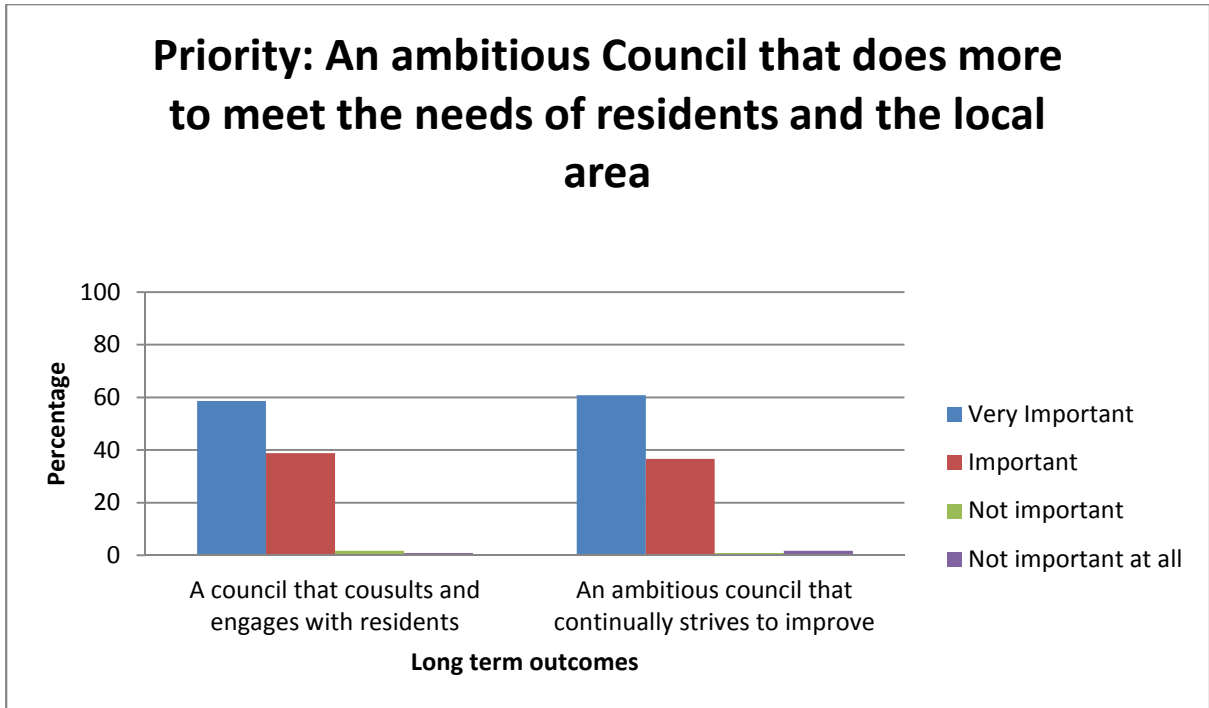


The results show strong support for each of the long term outcomes under the 'clean, safe and healthy communities' priority.

100% of responses agreed that clean and safe streets was either very important or important. 97% thought that high quality play areas, parks and open spaces was important, 89% thought that a wide range of recreational activities was important, 89% thought that high quality, affordable and suitable housing was important and 91% thought that reduced health inequalities was important.



The results show strong support for each of the long term outcomes under the ‘involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all’ priority. 100% of the response thought that the long term outcome to have residents who take pride in where they live and their achievements was either very important or important. 90% felt that all residents being able to take an active part in their community was important and 96% felt that easy access to high quality public services was important.



Finally, strong support was also shown for the long term outcomes under the priority to be 'an ambitious Council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area. 97% agreed that it was either very important or important for the council to consult and engage with residents and to have an ambitious council that continually strives to improve.

Question 4

To help us with our plans, we would also like to better understand what different things you feel make somewhere a good place to live.

Thinking generally, which of the following would you say are the MOST IMPORTANT in making somewhere a good place to live? (Top 5 most important responses)

Rank	Category	Percentage
1	Level of crime	59%
2	Job prospects	49%
3	Education provision	48%
4	Health services	48%
5	Wage levels and the cost of living	46%

Question 5

We would also like to know about the things you think are the most in need in 'your local area'. When answering, please consider your local area to be the area within 15-20 minutes walking distance from your home.

Thinking generally, which of the following would you say are most in need of improvement in your area? (Top 5 most in need of improvement)

Rank	Category	Percentage
1	Road and pavement repairs	45%
2	Job prospects	43%
3	Shopping facilities	33%
4	Health services	29%
5	Activities for teenagers	26%



Report of	Meeting	Date
Statutory Finance Officer	Governance Committee	28 September 2012

TREASURY STRATEGIES AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2012/13 to 2014/15

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To review the Treasury and Investment Strategies approved by the Council on February 28 2012, and to report on performance in the first half of the year and compliance with prudential indicators. This report will go to Council in November 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the limit on investments with the part nationalised UK banks be increased from £3m to £5m.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The only change proposed to the existing Treasury Strategy is that the limit on investments with the two part nationalised banking groups should be increased to £5m from the current £3m. This could generate an additional return of up to £80k at current rates (paragraph 14) with minimum risk.
- This report includes investment activity to 22 August 2012. It advises that the average daily amount invested totalled £17.58m on which it received a return of 1.48%. This exceeds the benchmark. It also reports that, because this level of investment exceeds that budgeted for, investment income is predicted to be £0.1m greater than estimated.
- It confirms compliance with the prudential indicators specified in the Treasury Strategy

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- The Code of Practice for Treasury Management specifies that Councils should review their treasury strategy and activity half yearly. This report meets that requirement.
- The reasons for the recommendation are summarised in paragraph 3 above.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	

Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			X

INTEREST RATE FORECAST

10 The following table shows the interest rate forecast of the Council’s treasury advisors, Sector.

	Sep 2012 %	Dec 2012 %	Mar 2013 %	June 2013 %	Sep 2012 %	Dec 2013 %	Mar 2014 %	June 2014 %	Sep 2014 %
Base Rate	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
5 yr PWLB	1.70	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00
10 yr PWLB	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
25 yr PWLB	3.90	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.80	3.80	3.90	4.00	4.10
50 yr PWLB	4.10	3.90	3.90	3.90	4.00	4.00	4.10	4.20	4.30

Comparison with the forecast of six months ago, when the Treasury Strategy was drafted, shows that the timing of future rate increases has slipped in all periods. This reflects the Continuing economic uncertainty and lack of confidence.

REVIEW OF THE TREASURY STRATEGY

11 The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy defines the Council’s investment priorities as being:

- Security of Capital
- Liquidity

The Council also aims to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

12 To achieve these priorities the strategy fixed limits on the amounts that can be invested with individual institutions. These limits reflect the ratings and alerts issued by the rating agencies, and market sentiment shown by credit default spreads. These limits are detailed in appendix B.

13 It will be noted that the maximum permitted investment is either £2m or £3m, the higher limit only applying to deposits which have immediate access (call accounts and Money market Funds) or deposits with Government backed institutions (the part nationalised banks and the Debt management Office).

14 **It is proposed** that the limit on deposits with the two part nationalised banks (Lloyds Group and the RBS group) be increased from £3m to £5m thus enabling up to an additional £4m to be placed with the two groups. It is felt that the increased risk is minimal, but the additional return would be significant. The following table shows the rates on offer from the various counterparties and the additional potential return.

Counterparty	Rate paid %	Earnings
Earnings on £4m with existing counterparties		
Lending to the government via the Debt Management Office (DMO)	0.25	£10,000
Call accounts	0.75	£30,000

Money Market Funds	0.80	£32,000
Earnings if invested with part nationalised banks		
RBS group additional £2m	1.75	£35,000
Lloyds group additional £2m	2.70	£54,000

- 15 The Council regularly has to use the DMO. The table below shows that on average, in the first five months of this year, deposits at the DMO totalled £3.7m, earning less than £4k in interest. Had the same sum been deposited with the Lloyds group it would have generated an extra £34k

TREASURY ACTIVITY

- 16 Investment activity up to 22 August 2012 is summarised in the following table:

	Average Daily investment. £'000	Earnings to 22/8/2012 £	Average Rate %
DMO	3,710	(3,660)	0.25
Other fixed term deposits	11,007	(90,532)	2.08
Call accounts	11	(25)	0.51
Money Market Fund	2,852	(8,438)	0.75
Sub total	17,580	(102,655)	1.48
Iceland deposit		(20,713)	5.81
		(123,368)	

A full list of investments currently held is shown at Appendix A.

- 17 The interest earned of 1.48% exceeds the benchmark of 0.43% (being the LIBID 7 day rate).
- 18 The following table compares the budgets for interest receivable and payable against the latest projection.

	Budget for year £'000	Actual to 22/8/2012 £'000	Forecast for year £'000
Interest paid	173	69	173
Interest earned	(180)	(123)	(281)
Net cost/(surplus)	(7)	(54)	(113)

- 19 It will be seen that earnings are predicted to exceed the budget by £101k. The reason for this is that the cash available for investment in the year to date (£17.58m per para. 16 above) has been significantly higher than the amount originally estimated of £9.02m, and it is expected that investments will remain above estimate over the remainder of the year

ICELANDIC DEPOSIT

- 20 Members have been advised that following the successful court action, a first repayment of the Icelandic investment was made in February 2012. A further repayment of 12% was made in May meaning that the total recovered is now approximately 43%. There are two on-going issues potentially affecting repayments to all creditors. The first is the strengthening of the Icelandic currency controls. The impact of this is still unknown. The second is the possible challenge to the decision by the Winding Up Board to use the exchange rates on 22/4/09 as a single basis for measuring the amounts owed to, and settled with, the various claimants. These factors do not alter the expectation that 100% recovery will be ultimately achieved.

BORROWING

- 21 The Treasury Strategy anticipated that further borrowing would be made only to finance the proposed new health centre. That is unlikely to happen in the immediate future and no further borrowing is therefore anticipated in 2012/13.

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

- 22 It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the "Affordable Borrowing Limits" which were reported in the approved Treasury Management Statement.

The following table shows the approved limits and the current position:

Prudential Indicator	March 2012 Indicator £'000	Actual £'000
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) March 2012	8,626	8,072
Gross borrowing (actual as at 31/3/12)	7,822	7,822
Investments (note 1) (actual as at 22/8/12)	(6,900)	(18,389)
Net borrowing/(investments) actual at 22/8/12	922	(10,567)
Authorised limit for external debt (note 2)	9,013	9,013
Operational boundary for external debt (note 2)	9,513	8,885
Limit of fixed interest rates (based on net debt)	8,000	8,000
Limit of variable interest rates (based on net debt)	100% on inv cash	100%
Principal sums invested for periods exceeding 364 days	0	0
Maturity structure of borrowing limits		
Under 12 months	Max 50%	7%
12 months to 2 years	Max 50%	5%
2 years to 5 years	Max 100%	77%
5 years to 10 years	Max 50%	11%
10 years and above	Max 50%	0

Note 1 - The prudential indicators assumed investments, excluding outstanding Icelandic loans, of £6.9m at March 2012 falling to £3.5m at March 2013. The actual value at March 2012 was £13m and is currently £18.4m. This is expected to fall significantly by year end.

Note 2 – The figures shown for both the operational boundary and the authorised limit are at 31/3/12. There is no need to change these. Actuals are within these limits.

Note 3 – The limits on fixed rate debt is unchanged at £8m. Actual debt is below this figure

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

24 This report meets statutory requirements. Its statistical content is consistent with the assumptions made in the revenue and capital budgets. The criteria it recommends will direct the Council's treasury operations for the remainder of the year.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

25 There are no legal issues with the report, the recommendation is in line with the approved treasury strategy with justified alterations to investment limits as detailed.

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
G Whitehead	5485	6/9/2012	***

Appendix A

List of investments as at August 22 2012

Counterparty	Type	Amount £'000	Rate %	Date	Maturity
Bank of Scotland	Term deposit	2,000	3.10	13/2/12	13/2/13
Bank of Scotland	Term deposit	1,000	3.10	02/3/12	13/2/13
Lancashire County Council	Term deposit	3,000	1.83	22/12/11	20/12/12
National Westminster	Term deposit	3,000	2.25	05/4/12	04/4/13
Nationwide	Term deposit	2,000	0.58	09/08/12	09/11/12
Barclays	Term deposit	2,000	0.55	09/08/12	09/11/12
DMO	Term deposit	2,500	0.25	22/08/12	28/08/12
Deutsche Bank	M.M.F.	2,889	variable	On call	

Appendix B**Current list of Financial Institutions and Investment Criteria
(Council 28 February 2012)**

Category	Institutions	Sector colour code	Sovereign rating	Max period	Limit per Institution
Sovereign or Sovereign "type"	DMADF			6 months	No limit
	Local Authority			1 year	£3m
UK Nationalised Institutions	None (N Rock deposits no longer guaranteed)				
Institutions guaranteed by other governments	None (Irish Banks are guaranteed but have been removed from the list)				
UK Partly nationalised institutions	RBS group (inc Nat West)	Blue	AAA negative outlook from 2 agencies	1 year	£3m per group
	Lloyds Group (inc HBoS & Lloyds)	Blue	AAA negative outlook from 2 agencies	1 year	£3m per group
Independent UK Institutions	HSBC	Orange	AAA negative outlook from 2 agencies	All investments currently restricted to 3 months maximum	£2m
	Barclays, Nationwide	Red/green	AAA negative outlook from 2 agencies		£2m
	Any other with required rating				
Money Market Funds	Deutsche Bank (formerly Standard Life) Global liquidity Fund	Aaa/MR1+		instant access	£3m
Deposit/Call Accounts	Bank of Scotland, Nat West Lancs CC			Call accounts with instant access	£3m less value of term deposits

Note – Deposits with any one institution shall not exceed £3m



Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Council	6 November 2012

**FOOTPATH NO.1 CROSTON
PROPOSED PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT UNDER
S.25 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AND PUBLIC PATH
EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER UNDER S.118 HIGHWAYS ACT
1980**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To bring to members' attention a longstanding issue of a public footpath which remains to be legally diverted.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That members support a proposed public footpath creation agreement under s.25 Highways Act 1980 between the landowner and Lancashire County Council adjacent to a ditch under the railway line at Croston as shown approximately on the map in Appendix 1.
3. Members approve the certification of the footpath diversion order made under s.257 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in 1996 and confirmed in 2011 once the works required to bring that footpath into the specified condition, except where it crosses the ditch, and those works requested by Lancashire County Council and notified to the landowner in respect of the public path creation agreement under s.25 Highways Act 1980 have been completed to the satisfaction of Lancashire County Council.
4. Members approve a subsequent public path extinguishment order by Chorley Borough Council under s.118 Highways Act 1980 in respect of a short length of newly diverted Footpath No.1 Croston subject of the 1996 Order once it has been certified.
5. Members approve the placing of any notices required under legislation to effect the above including advertisement in the local press.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	X
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	

A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money	
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BACKGROUND

7. Planning permission was granted in 1988 by the Council for the Twin Lakes Industrial Estate at Croston. The site is affected by Public Footpath No. 1. A diversion was desirable away from the existing route within the Industrial Estate for reasons of public safety and site security. Whilst a public footpath is maintainable at public expense by Lancashire County Council (LCC) power to make footpath diversion orders under s.257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 following the grant of planning permission rests with the Borough Council as local planning authority. Following an application in 1992 the Council's former Technical and General Services Committee authorised the making and advertising of a diversion order under s.257 of the 1990 Act. The order was made on 11 April 1996. The statutory process requires the making of the order followed by a consultation period during which statutory consultees may make representations about the order. If no objections are made the Order may be confirmed i.e. made permanent by Chorley Council. As long as the footpath meets the requirements of the diversion order e.g. it follows the route on the order map and is of the width specified in the order and is of satisfactory condition it is then certified. At this point the former footpath ceases to be a public right of way and the newly diverted route becomes the public footpath. Until this certification occurs the route through the Industrial Estate remains the legal footpath. No objections were received to the order as made. This was reported back to the Council's former Technical and General Services Committee on 5 June 1996 which authorised the confirmation of the order as unopposed.
8. The land within the Industrial Estate affected by the existing legal footpath and the proposed diverted route alongside the railway line is believed to be owned by Mr Keith Ruttie or companies controlled by him.
9. A copy of the order and order map made on 11 April 1996 is attached as Appendix 1. The existing route through the Industrial Estate is shown by an unbroken black line running from Point "A" via Points "B", "C", "D" to Point "E". The proposed diverted route is shown by a broken black line running from point "A" via point "F" to Point "E" and adjacent to the railway line. In practice for many years the diverted route is the route as walked by local users, except that the route as walked does not veer westwards and cross a ditch at a point approximately halfway between the end of the buildings on the Industrial Estate and Point "F" as shown in the plan.
10. In October 2010 officers from LCC's Public Rights of Way Team met with a legal officer at the Council to advise that the 1996 diversion order had never been confirmed i.e. made permanent. Extensive searches in the Borough Council's archives failed to reveal any evidence of confirmation of the order.
11. No objections within the statutory timetable were reported to members in 1996 (including from Railtrack as predecessor to Network Rail Infrastructure Limited). However by 2010 it was known that Network Rail as the owner of land adjacent to the proposed diverted route objected to the order. This was because their own risk management calls for expensive trespass proof fencing to be erected alongside any land to which the public have legal access. It is understood from conversations with Network Rail's engineer that this is Network's Rail's own policy in response to risk of trespass rather than a regulatory requirement. In contrast Network Rail advise that only ordinary fences are required alongside a ploughed field to which the public would not have lawful access. Network Rail indicated to the Council that they would object to the confirmation of the order. However the opportunity to object has passed (28 days from the publication of the Notice of the making of the Order) and once the Order was confirmed objections could no longer be made but

instead only the validity of the Order could be challenged and that must be within six weeks of the date of the Notice of confirmation. A challenge to the validity of the Order may only be made on narrow legal grounds to the High Court that there has been procedural irregularity in the making of the Order or that the Order is outside the Council's powers under the Act. Since no objections had been received within the notice period following the making of the Order, following consultation with the Chair of Development Control Committee the Council confirmed the Order in June 2011. We are not aware of any challenge to the validity of the Order and the statutory period for such a challenge expired in August 2011.

12. A site visit took place on 5 September 2011 to inspect the diverted footpath and check if its condition was such that the 1996 diversion order could be certified as being complied with. In attendance were the effective landowner Mr Keith Ruttle, LCC's Public Rights of Way Officer, an officer from the Environment Agency, a Croston Parish Councillor and a solicitor from Chorley Council's legal department. Remedial works identified during the site visit which are not controversial as far as the landowner is concerned are the widening at certain points of the footpath, cutting back and removal of trees, removal of Japanese Knotweed and removal of hardcore. However it became apparent that the route as walked does not reflect the proposed diverted route on the order map. Members will note that whilst the route as currently used does not go to a corner at point F but cuts across to point E in a westerly direction, keeping to the north side of a deep ditch whereas from the Order map in Appendix 1 it can be seen that the diverted route continues over the ditch south-west to point F then north-west recrossing the ditch to point E. It should be mentioned in passing that the order map reflects the plans submitted by the landowner's agents in 1992. In order to bring the physical route into line with the route on the order map a 15 metre extension to the existing culvert would be required. The Environment Agency would require a substitute waterside habitat to mitigate for the loss of the length of bankside habitat. Manhole covers for future inspections and a headwall detail at the outfall might be required as well. These works would require planning permission. The landowner objected to these proposed works involving a culvert extension as excessive and unnecessary considering that the route as walked is acceptable. The Parish Council share this view.

OPTIONS

13. The easiest solution would appear to be for Chorley Borough Council to make the order afresh under the Highways Act 1980 S119 with a slightly amended order map which shows the route as walked. The most extensive of the works described above would not then be necessary. However Network Rail would then be able to object to the merits of making of the fresh order which would lead to an inquiry. The costs of an inquiry are potentially considerable and the result uncertain. Network Rail would probably seek the erection of a security fence for the full length of the footpath alongside the railway which would represent a significant cost.
14. The landowner, LCC and the Borough Council have agreed on an alternative proposal which is satisfactory to all three parties. The landowner will agree to a voluntary dedication of a footpath over his land under s.25 of the Highways Act 1980. This agreement will be between the landowner and Lancashire County Council and Chorley Council will not be a party. The route would follow that as currently walked without crossing the ditch before point "F". The legislation requires LCC as order making authority to consult Chorley Borough Council but does not require wider consultation. The creation agreement would then be advertised but there is no opportunity for objection.
15. Once the more limited works identified above are completed (removal of trees, hardcore and Japanese Knotweed and widening to 2 metres) the diversion order made under s.257 of the 1990 Act and confirmed in 2011 would be certified by the Borough Council. This will

leave a small part of the newly diverted legal footpath crossing the ditch. Chorley Council would also promote an order under s.118 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish this small and unused length of footpath.

16. Chorley Council has the power under s.118 Highways Act 1980 to extinguish a footpath in its area on the grounds that it is not needed for public use. As the length which it is proposed to extinguish is not currently walked by the public because it would have been bypassed by a more convenient alternative the grounds are met. A notice procedure contained in Schedule 6 to the Highways Act 1980 must be followed. Objections may be made within 28 days from publication. If no objection is made or is withdrawn the extinguishment order may then be confirmed by the Council. Before the order is confirmed as unopposed the council must have regard to whether the path would be used in the absence of the order and also the effect of the extinguishment on land served by the footpath. Temporary circumstances preventing or diminishing the use of the footpath by the public should be disregarded. The length of path to be extinguished is not used at present because the public have no means of safely and easily crossing the ditch. There is in practice no land served by this length of footpath which it is proposed to extinguish.
17. The Public Rights of Way officer at LCC is in agreement with the above approach. However authority will need to be sought from members of the County Council's Regulatory Committee.
18. If the recommendation is approved a longstanding legal process regarding a diverted footpath can be finally resolved. The County Council will then maintain the diverted route as a public footpath and ensure that it remains free and unobstructed. At present the route is not eligible for improvement grants because it does not have the status of a public footpath. Once it becomes part of the public footpath network then bids can be made for such funding.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

20. There is a statutory requirement to give notice of the public proposed public footpath creation agreement in the local press. This applies to the Lancashire County Council which will enter into the agreement under s.25 Highways Act 1980. The Borough Council is responsible for advertising the proposed extinguishment order under s.118 Highways Act 1980. However this is a one off financial cost. Maintenance responsibility of public footpaths rests with Lancashire County Council.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

21. The legal issues are identified in the body of the report.

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
1. Report to Planning Committee 1/09/92 2. Report to Technical and General Services Committee 05/06/96 3. Planning File Twin Lakes	1. 1/09/92 2. 05/06/96 2. 1988-98	446	1. Town Hall 2. Town Hall 3. Planning Services Union Street

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Alex Jackson	5166		

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CHORLEY BOROUGH COUNCILTOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - SECTION 257Chorley Borough Council (Footpath No. 1, Croston)
Public Path Diversion Order 1996

This Order is made by the Chorley Borough Council under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 because it is satisfied that it is necessary to divert the footpath to which this Order relates in order to enable development to be carried out in accordance with planning permission granted under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, namely: the construction of 10 industrial units at the Twin Lakes Industrial Estate, off Brick Lane, Croston.

BY THIS ORDER:-

1. The footpath over the land shown by a bold black line on the attached map and described in Part 1 of the Schedule to this Order ("the Schedule") shall be diverted as provided below.
2. There shall be created to the reasonable satisfaction of Chorley Borough Council an alternative highway for use as a replacement for the said footpath as provided in Part 2 of the Schedule and shown by bold black dashes on the attached map.
3. The diversion of the footpath shall have effect on the date on which Chorley Borough Council certify that the terms of Article 2 above have been complied with.
4. Where immediately before the date on which the footpath is diverted there is apparatus under, in, on, over, along or across that footpath belonging to statutory undertakers for the purpose of carrying on their undertaking, the undertakers shall continue to have the same rights in respect of the apparatus as they then had.

SCHEDULEPart 1Description of Site of Existing Footpath

That length of Footpath No 1 Croston running south-westwards from point A on Brick Croft Lane, Croston and thence southwards in an irregular line over land situate at the Twin Lakes Industrial Estate, by way of points B-C-D to point E for a total distance of approximately 433 metres, as shown by the solid black line running between the aforesaid points marked on the Order map.

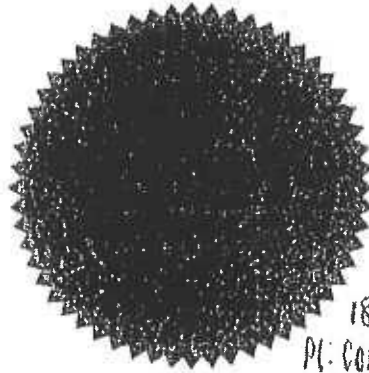
Part 2

Description of Site of New Footpath

Running from a point on Brick Croft Lane, Croston for a total distance of approximately 420 metres, firstly in a south westerly direction from point A to point E, and thence in a north westerly direction to point F, as shown by the bold black dashes between the aforesaid points marked on the Order map.

The width of the new footpath is to be 2 metres.

The Common Seal of the
Chorley Borough Council
was hereunto affixed
this 11th day of April 1996
in the presence of:-



18,654
Pl. Comm: MIN 232 (a)
1-8-92.

G. H. H. H......

Mayor

A. S. S......

Borough Solicitor



Footpath to be stopped up
Proposed Diversion

Title	Map Referred to in the Chorley Borough Council Public Footpath No1 Croston Public Path Diversion Order 1996	
Scale	1:2500	
Grid Ref.	J.R. Taylor, M.A. (Hons), Dip.T.P., M.R.T.P.I. Director of Technical Services Chorley Borough Council	
Date	November '94	



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Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Council	6 November 2012

SPORTING AMBASSADORS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To create the role of sporting ambassador to recognise athletes who live in the borough and have demonstrated excellence in their chosen sport and represented the country. In addition, to appoint those Olympians and Paralympians from the borough who have agreed to be sporting ambassadors.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the role of sporting ambassador is created and that the residents from the borough who represented Team GB and Paralympics GB at London 2012, who are willing, are appointed to the role.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The report proposes the creation of a role of sporting ambassador, and the appointment of Rik Waddon, Natalie Jones (Waddon), Graeme Ballard and Holly Bleasdale.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy	✓	Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			✓

BACKGROUND

- The borough of Chorley has been extremely well represented in international competitions during 2012, with members of Team GB and Paralympics GB who live in the borough achieving great success in the Olympics and Paralympics.
- Following the success over the summer, the Mayor announced at the Council meeting in September that she intended to invite the Council to create the role of sporting ambassador

and offer it to residents of the borough who had represented the country in the Olympics and Paralympics.

SPORTING AMBASSADOR ROLE

7. The role of sporting ambassador would recognise the huge effort and achievement that the athletes have made in representing the country at the Olympic and Paralympic games, and the pride the borough has in residents achieving this success.
8. In addition, it will recognise the role that they play in inspiring the next generation of athletes who will hopefully have similar achievements in the future. Although there would be no obligation on them to take part, the sporting ambassadors would be invited to take part in sporting and leisure events and activities which the council organises, such as the schools' relay which took place over the summer.
9. As the role would be created to recognise and congratulate the athletes, it is proposed that the council would recognise those appointed to the role in the following ways:
 - A formal presentation by the Mayor on behalf of the council.
 - Including their images on the banners on Market Street
 - Dedicating the 2012 Christmas lights switch on to them, and inviting them to switch on the lights.

APPOINTING ATHLETES TO THE ROLE

10. Following the September Council meeting, contact was made with the five residents who took part in the Olympics or Paralympics to ask them if they would like to accept the role of sporting ambassador:
 - Rik Waddon
 - Natalie Jones (Waddon)
 - Graeme Ballard
 - Holly Bleasdale
 - Bradley Wiggins
11. Rik Waddon, Natalie Jones (Waddon), Graeme Ballard and Holly Bleasdale have responded to accept the offer. Bradley Wiggins has previously indicated that he is flattered by the recognition, but he would prefer not to accept any further recognition.
12. If the Council agrees to create the role and appoint the athletes to the role, they would be invited to a presentation from the Mayor and the Christmas lights switch on event on 24 November. If they could not attend on that day, arrangements will be made for a suitable date. The replacement banners for Market Street will also be ordered.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area	✓	Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

14. There may be small amounts of expenses if needed by the ambassadors, but this would be contained within existing budgets.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

15. No comments.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Chris Sinnott	5337	24 October 2012	Sporting Ambassador

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