

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 2020, 6.30 PM
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, TOWN HALL, CHORLEY

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1 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.

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

3 REPORTS FROM THE TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

(Pages 3 - 16)

Developing the Council's Green Agenda Task and Finish Group

To receive and consider the final report.

4 REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING FOLLOWING THE BOUNDARY REVIEW

(Pages 17 - 30)

Report of the Director (Early Intervention and Support) enclosed.

5 ANY URGENT BUSINESS PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH THE CHAIR

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor John Walker (Chair), Councillor Roy Lees (Vice-Chair) and Councillors John Dalton, Peter Gabbott, Yvonne Hargreaves, Alex Hilton, Steve Holgate, Marion Lowe, Matthew Lynch, June Molyneaux, Steve Murfitt, Debra Platt, Paul Sloan and Kim Snape.

Meeting contact Nina Neisser on 01257 515140 or email nina.neisser@chorley.gov.uk

If you need this information in a different format, such as larger print or translation, please get in touch on 515151 or chorley.gov.uk

To view the procedure for public questions/ speaking click here

<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s67429/Appendix%203%20Standing%20Orders%20Aug%202016.pdf> and scroll to page 48

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group

Developing the Council's Green Agenda

February 2020



Introduction

From the Chair of the Green Agenda Task Group, Councillor Steve Holgate

Climate Change has become a major issue to more and more of the residents we serve as a District Council. Many Councillors felt it was time to look at what we as a Council ought to be doing to minimise the impact of our activities on the phenomena known as Global Warming.

It was also recognised at an early stage that probably less than 1% of carbon emissions in the borough, (which is deemed to be the biggest driver of global warming) were as a consequence of Council activity. Therefore, any meaningful proposed actions by the Green Agenda task group would have to include proposed actions and involvement by partner organisations.

The recommendations proposed to cabinet by the task group must be treated as the beginning of a process of change rather than an end.

The task group recognised that the issue of the Green agenda would mean different thing to different groups of people so we spent a lot of time asking disparate groups to meet and tell us what and how much the different environmental challenge we face meant to them.

If I were to pick out anything that made the biggest impression on me, it was the representation by the young people we met, they were very well informed and really quite angry.

As chair of the Green Agenda Task Group I think it is important that we publicly thank the many people who, through their attendance, comments, and concerns have contributed to the groups work.



From the Deputy Chair, Councillor Paul Sloan

Climate change will have an impact upon future generations, the magnitude of which is dictated by our actions today. Our challenge is to limit that impact. Whilst no one person or organisation can overcome this challenge alone, it is still vital to understand what part we can play. The recommendations lay the foundations for what Chorley Borough Council and allied organisations will do to reduce Chorley Borough's carbon footprint and to make our actions greener.

It has been my privilege to serve this task and finish group as deputy chair and I thank all members of the group, the external bodies who have contributed to this report and the council staff who have worked hard to put this report together



Summary Recommendations

The scale of the challenge that climate change presents is unprecedented, and the totality of the solution needed is unclear with national policy still very much emergent.

The recommendations in this report are informed by the views and ideas of the many and diverse groups of stakeholders engaged through the inquiry. The recommendations seek to drive forward our local commitment, grounded in the notion that where there is a cost to doing something it needs to be measured against the cost of doing nothing.

The aim of the task group was to move quickly and identify real, tangible action on the ground, but also acknowledge that a strategic approach is needed to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. Therefore, alongside recommendations related to governance, community leadership and council operations, an overarching recommendation is proposed to develop a detailed roadmap to 2030 with technical input to define clear milestones, targets and measures.

Governance and resource

1. Establish a baseline
 - a) Undertake work to map and calculate the council's current carbon footprint
 - b) Commission work to develop a roadmap and action plan towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 including targets, actions and measures
2. Set up appropriate governance
 - a) Set up a council-led climate change steering group to oversee activity and provide direction
 - b) Embed green considerations in all decision making by including a space for an environmental impact comment on all committee reports. Also review the sustainability element of the existing Integrated Impact Assessment
 - c) Produce regular monitoring reports to track progress against key objectives and measures
3. Allocate appropriate resources and develop the Roadmap to 2030
 - a) Identify dedicated officer resource to coordinate development of the council's green agenda and roadmap to becoming carbon neutral
 - b) Consider the additional resources needed to deliver the action plan which could include funding for specialist knowledge, additional expertise or specific projects
 - c) As part of developing the roadmap to 2030, key priorities should include investigation of renewable energy sources for the council as well as sustainable transport options and air quality monitoring

Community leadership

4. Communications and engagement
 - a) Develop a communications and engagement campaign via social media and other outlets to educate residents about the green agenda and encourage small behaviour changes that will collectively add up to a more significant impact. Include information about sustainable living and sources of advice and support
 - b) Immediately establish a networking group to consider environmental issues, meeting regularly to act as a group of community leaders for the green agenda, engaging wider stakeholders and utilising local expertise. Incorporate a youth element by working with local schools and the Youth Zone. Deliver a networking launch event in Spring 2020.
5. Support for local businesses
 - a) Develop an accreditation scheme for 'green' traders and businesses operating in the town centre and demonstrating commitment to a set of specific green principles such as minimising

waste and cutting out single use plastics by providing reusable or recyclable containers

- a) Support local businesses to be more environmentally friendly by promoting best practice and demonstrating the business benefits. For example, GA Pet Foods offered to act as an ambassador for the green agenda, advising other businesses and sharing their knowledge/experience

Council operations

6. Green operations

- a) Establish a staff working group as a sub-group of Staff Matters to consider how the council can support and encourage a more environmentally friendly workplace
- b) Develop a 10-year tree planting strategy for Chorley to coordinate the planting of trees and hedgerows across the borough, taking a partnership approach including workshops, species management and maintenance
- c) Develop a council Waste and Recycling Strategy to outline how the council will support residents to recycle more and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Action in the strategy should range from providing better quality information about what can be recycled through to working with partners to improve waste processing
- d) Investigate green burial sites in Chorley, including council-owned cemeteries
- e) Through the council's role as a Licensing Authority, investigate and develop an action plan for electric or hybrid Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles

7. Housing, planning and development

- a) Adopt a clear set of principles for our approach to planning policy in relation to the green agenda and apply this throughout the development of the local plan including public transport, green spaces and sustainable development
- b) Promote sustainable developments and the council's contribution by developing a 'green plaque' scheme as a visible way to identify buildings that have strong green credentials
- c) Work with local housing providers to ensure that Chorley's housing stock is as efficient as possible and to ensure that opportunities aren't being missed to save energy e.g. boiler replacements, insulation and recycling facilities
- d) Establish a dialogue with Lancashire County Council to consider the opportunity for sustainable transport schemes including commercial models

Legislation and policy

8. National action. The council should call on central government to:

- a) Ensure the electricity grid is equipped to cope with a higher percentage of renewable and electric cars
- b) Increase minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector (to at least a minimum EPC band C rating in 2030) and empower local authorities to ensure compliance;
- c) Deliver a major investment in public transport, walking and cycling including bus services

Task Group Achievements to date

Members of the task group were keen that action be taken as soon as possible rather than waiting until the recommendations had been published in the final report.

During the process of the inquiry, the task group:

- Declared a climate emergency
- Made interim recommendations to request resources in the council's budget for 2020-21
- Inclusion of the green agenda in the Council's Corporate Strategy
- Helped the Chorley Green Living Group towards opening a pop-up 'green' shop in Chorley Town Centre

Further information on some of these achievements is provided later in the report.

Membership of the Task Group

Councillor Steve Holgate (Chair)
Councillor Paul Sloan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Julia Berry
Councillor Val Counce
Councillor Mark Clifford
Councillor Gordon France
Councillor Alex Hilton
Councillor Laura Lennox
Councillor June Molyneaux
Councillor Yvonne Hargreaves (Observer)

Officer Support

Victoria Willett, Shared Service Lead for Transformation and Partnerships
Nina Neisser, Democratic and Member Services Officer

Approach of the task group

The task group acknowledged the scale of the challenge and the urgency of the response needed to combat climate change; the aim was to move quickly but recognise that a strategic approach is needed if any substantial impact is to be achieved. Therefore, the scope focused on establishing a baseline position as a starting point to develop a longer-term response. The task group also agreed to make interim recommendations to allow sufficient time to feed into the 2020/21 budget setting process.

Scoping of the review

The objectives were:

1. To use the period of the task group to investigate how Chorley Council can lead and influence Chorley's Green agenda.
2. To engage with different stakeholder groups/residents to understand what steps they are taking to address climate change and understand how the council can help them.

The desired outcomes were:

1. An understanding of our current position – what we're already doing and opportunities to be greener.
2. Understanding of what others are doing and recognised areas of best practice.
3. Identification of what the council can influence, how the council can set an example, and the resources we might need to achieve that.
4. Recommendations to Executive Cabinet on how the council can develop its green agenda.

Terms of Reference

1. To review existing green activity at the council and recognise the work that is already being done e.g. electric vehicles/single-use plastics/solar panels etc.
2. To investigate areas of best practice and examples from other councils and/if how these could be implemented at Chorley.
3. To identify what the council can influence and understand the resources that will be needed to address this.
4. To develop recommendations and priorities to Executive Cabinet on how the council can develop its green agenda to make a real and tangible difference.

Witnesses

The following witnesses met with the task group and shared information:

External Partners

Representatives from Chorley and District Natural History Society
Rachelle Bell and Emma Kilburn, Green Living Chorley Community Group
Mark Davies, Director for Communities and Climate Change, Lancaster City Council
Roger Bracewell, Chairman, GA Pet Food Partners
David Colgan, Environmental and Energy Manager, GA Pet Food Partners
Students from Parklands High School
Gary Heaton, Operations Director of Asset Management, Jigsaw Homes Group
RT Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP Speaker of the House of Commons

Chorley Council Officers

Victoria Willett, Shared Service Lead for Transformation and Partnerships
James Hoskinson, Central Lancashire Local Plan Technical Officer
Mark Lester, Director for Commercial Services
Conrad Heald, Interim Service Lead for Commercial & Assets
Andrew Daniels, Shared Service Lead for Communications & Visitor Economy
Lindsey Blackstock, Open Space Strategy Officer
Doug Cridland, Waste Services Manager

A summary of discussion at the above meetings can be found [here](#).

Evidence submitted by

Green Living Chorley Community Group
Parklands High School
Astley and Euxton Branch - Labour Party
Euxton Parish Council
Members of the public

Background information is available on request.

Background

In July 2019, it was agreed that a Task Group be established to help develop the Council's Green Agenda commencing in September 2019 with Councillor Steve Holgate as the Chair and Councillor Paul Sloan as the Vice Chair.

Radical changes are needed to address climate change. We are facing two unprecedented challenges: we must dramatically reduce our carbon emissions and we also need to prepare for unavoidable environmental impacts by building climate resilience into our systems and services.

Local authorities themselves directly emit a small percentage of the UK's carbon emissions but they influence around 40% of emissions through their roles as planning, transport and waste authorities, as well as a major purchaser and commissioner of goods and services.

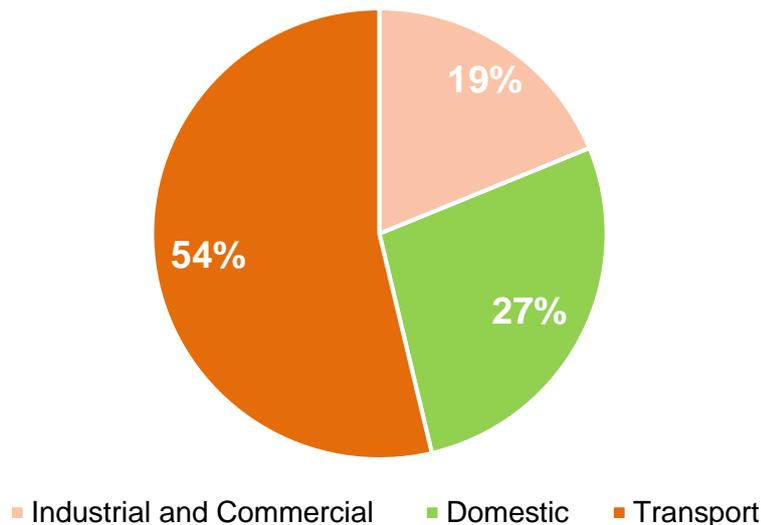
This power to influence makes councils uniquely placed to put the climate crisis at the heart of our place-shaping work, bringing people together and harnessing this desire of action, ensuring that everyone works together at all levels.

Chorley's Position ¹

In order to understand the extent of the issue in Chorley, Members of the Task Group considered the statistics from the [Friends of the Earth](#) group who scored Chorley's climate change performance as 64%. This performance is average compared to other local authorities.

Data available from Lancashire County Council provides Chorley's Carbon Dioxide Emissions as shown in the chart below:

Carbon Dioxide Emissions Chorley (2017)



This means that in Chorley, the total carbon emissions are higher than the national average when measured by tonnage per person which could be due to the proximity to the motorway network, however mortality attributed to poor air quality is better than the all England average when last recorded in 2016.

- A tool developed by Tyndall Manchester suggests that Chorley should aim to reduce overall emissions by 14% that year.
- Chorley's specific areas for improvement are increasing the use of public transport, promoting cycling and walking, increasing renewable energy and increasing waste recycling.

Area breakdown:

- Housing: only 43% of homes are well insulated. It is suggested that Chorley should aim to upgrade the insulation of 2,851 home per year until 2030 and that 1,834 government funded eco-heating systems should be fitted every year.
- Transport: 6% of people commute by public transport, 2% cycle and 9% walk. In the best performing similar local authorities, 21% use public transport, 5% cycle and 14% walk.
- Energy: Chorley has access to 20MW of renewable power in comparison to 74MW in the best performing similar local authority.
- Trees: 8% of Chorley is woodland. It is suggested that Chorley should increase their tree coverage to 20% (Chorley has 71.8% of land designated as greenbelt and over 300 hectares of countryside).
- Chorley reuses, recycles or composts 43% of household waste.

¹ <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-friendly-communities?%23p:postcode=PR7%201DP>

New Legislation

The [Climate Change Act 2008](#)² introduced the UK's first legally binding target for 2050 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% compared to levels in 1990. Progress has been made between 1990 and 2017 with the UK reducing its emissions by 42% whilst the economy has grown by more than two thirds.

However, government recognised the need to go further and on 27 June 2019, the UK government amended the [Climate Change Act](#)³ to set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050.

National Profile

Climate change has been dominating the headlines in recent times and there has been a notable shift in public concern over the environment. This is backed up by the recent reports published by the [United Nations \(UN\)](#)⁴, the UK's [Committee on Climate Change \(CCC\)](#)⁵,

The Green Agenda is supported nationally through different policies and papers such as:

- [‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’](#)⁶
- [The Clean Growth Strategy](#)⁷
- [The Clean Air Strategy](#)⁸

Members considered each of the above policies and reports which outline central government's green agenda and how to work towards a greener, healthier and more sustainable future for the next generation.

Corporate Strategy

In November 2019, Members approved the Council's Corporate Strategy for 2019/20 – 20/21 which, in recognition of the critical importance of the green agenda, reflects the commitment of the council to supporting and enabling residents to be more environmentally conscious and leading the way as an organisation.

The council is already working hard to strengthen its green credentials: the Digital Office Park has been designed to the highest green standards with a BREEAM 'excellent' rating, neighbourhood officers use electric vehicles, and staff are encouraged to be environmentally friendly with cycle to work schemes and travel passes.

Going forward, the council intends to do even more to ensure that the environmental agenda cuts across everything that it does. The Corporate Strategy for 2019/20 has been updated visually to represent this pledge and can be viewed [here](#).

Climate Change Emergency

Members recognised that Councils across the world are responding to the issues of climate change by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and making a commitment to address this crisis. UK Parliament and many local authorities have declared a 'climate emergency'.

As a result, Chorley Council declared a climate emergency at the Full Council meeting on 19 November 2019 and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030.

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law>

⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/reports.shtml>

⁵ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publications/>

⁶ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf

⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf

The council's decision to declare a climate emergency can be viewed [here](#).

Service-Level Survey

To help with the inquiry, the Task Group undertook a survey to all Service Leads at Chorley council to recognise the work that the council was already doing. The findings demonstrated that Chorley is already doing a lot to address environmental concerns and has a strong track record of working proactively to support this agenda.

Activities and initiatives include:

- **Sustainable transport:** electric fleet vehicles, electric charging points on Market Street, additional bike storage in the town centre
- **Policy and Strategy:** joint procurement strategy includes priority and action to support sustainable products and services
- **Staff incentives:** subsidised rail passes and 'Cycle to Work' scheme, implemented WorkSmart and upgraded ICT systems meaning it is now easier for staff to work remotely/reduce the amount of car travel
- **Council Buildings:** energy efficiency lighting installed in all buildings, solar panels on Town Hall roof, biodegradable knives and forks.
- **Project and service delivery:** proposals to create wildflower meadows and corridors, community projects such as MySpace.
- **Astley Hall:** 'green museums', new energy efficient track lights and radiators, work with Café Ambio to use paper straws, vegware cups for take away drinks, glass sugar dispensers and growing organically in the eco-friendly walled garden.

A detailed summary of the findings can be found in the [Position Statement](#)⁹.

Mini Fact-Findings

The Task Group acknowledged how big the issue of climate change was and therefore in order to consult with as many people as possible, Members split into smaller groups to interview and gather information from stakeholders.

Two site visits also took place to Lancaster City Council and GA Pet Food Partners Manufacturing site in Bretherton:



Site visit to Lancaster City Council to meet with Mark Davies, Director for Communities and Climate Change

⁹ <https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s107788/Position%20Statement.pdf>



Site Visit to GA Pet Food Partners Manufacturing Site in Bretherton

Students from Parklands High School visited the Town Hall:



Students met with Members of the Task Group to discuss the issue of climate change and raise their concerns.

Learning from Other Authorities

The climate emergency declarations that have been made vary across the UK.

At October 2019 65% of District, County, Unitary & Metropolitan Councils had declared a Climate Emergency. A recent survey by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) showed that of those, the majority have set a net zero emissions target date of 2030 although some have set it as early as 2024 and others at 2050. For 54% this relates to the council's own emissions with the remaining 46% suggesting that the net zero target should be achieved for the entire council area.

66 councils are in the process of developing an action plan to achieve the carbon target and 61% of those have established a working group with responsibility for dealing only with climate declaration matters. The majority of councils are concerned about capacity and skills with 75% identifying major barriers including national government policy and resourcing.

A summary of the types of activity undertaken by other local authorities can be found in the Position Statement. Examples highlighted by the task group in particular included:

- Schemes to tackle single use plastics such as the Single Use Plastic Pledge led by Durham Council which aims to get all residents, schools and organisations to eliminate their use of single use plastics
- Development of renewable energy schemes such as the Southampton City Council Citizen Energy which is powering all council run estate with 100% green energy
- Installation of 73 government funded vehicle charging points in Welsh towns and cities to encourage drivers to switch to electric vehicles

Findings and recommendations

Between September 2019 and January 2020, the task group undertook a vast amount of investigation. This report presents baseline findings from the work undertaken in that period and recommends governance arrangements to support the next phase of work to develop the roadmap.

Members considered a range of evidence including submissions and representations from parish councils, town centre traders, representatives of Chorley and District Natural History Society, Green Living Chorley, local employers, students from Parklands High School, Jigsaw Homes (Chorley's largest social housing provider) and the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP Speaker of the House of Commons. The council also consulted extensively with officers as outlined earlier in the report.

The findings are grouped into several categories and recommendations are likely to result in short, medium, and longer term actions.

Governance and resource

The scale of the challenge that climate change presents is unprecedented and sits outside the normal budget, policy and performance processes of the Council. It is a challenge where the totality of the solutions needed is unclear and the approach taken will be emergent. It will need a concerted focus over a number of years that covers all areas of the Council's activities. With this in mind, a programme of work will need to be undertaken to develop a roadmap to 2030 as a more detailed plan for the local response to climate change including actions and targets.

In order to develop a roadmap there is a need to firstly understand the current local position in terms of climate change. This will require a range of evidence, much of which has already been gathered or identified through the work of the task group and development of the Position Statement. Work has also started to calculate the councils carbon footprint. This baseline position will inform the development of specific actions, targets and measures as the basis for ongoing monitoring, reporting and scrutiny.

It was identified early in the process that although the council is already taking positive action to address climate change, there is a need to accelerate activity and apply dedicated expertise if we're serious about the 2030 target. Additional resource was recommended through an interim report by the task group to be considered as part of the 20/21 budget setting process.

Recommendations

1. Establish a baseline
 - a) Undertake work to map and calculate the council's current carbon footprint
 - b) Commission work to develop a roadmap and action plan towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 including targets, actions and measures
2. Set up appropriate governance
 - a) Set up a council-led climate change steering group to oversee activity and provide direction
 - b) Embed green considerations in all decision making by including a space for an environmental impact comment on all committee reports. Also review the sustainability element of the existing Integrated Impact Assessment. This should ensure that Members are aware of the environmental consequences of any plan, policy or programme prior to the decision to move forward, for example, highlighting the removal of trees to progress local developments.
 - c) Produce regular monitoring reports to track progress against key objectives and measures
3. Allocate appropriate resources and develop the Roadmap to 2030
 - d) Identify dedicated officer resource to coordinate development of the council's green agenda and roadmap to becoming carbon neutral
 - e) Consider the additional resources needed to deliver the action plan which could include funding for specialist knowledge, additional expertise or specific projects
 - f) As part of developing road map to 2030, key priorities should include investigation of renewable energy sources for the council as well as sustainable transport options and air quality monitoring

Community leadership

Councils can play a significant role in realising the benefits and opportunities of climate action in their area. The council is ideally placed to bring agendas together to ensure 'win-win' outcomes for the local community, raising the profile of green issues through visible action in collaboration with residents and stakeholders. As a community leader the council has a role in:

- Developing a vision and mainstreaming ownership and responsibility
- Encouraging and empowering residents and businesses to participate and act
- Communication and engagement, listening to local views and bringing people together
- Representing and advocating for change at regional and national levels

Collaborative and coordinated action will help deliver on a range of local priorities: improving health outcomes, saving the council money, creating jobs, boosting the local economy, enhancing the natural environment and strengthening local transport systems.

Recommendations

4. Communications and engagement
 - a) Develop a communications and engagement campaign via social media and other outlets to educate residents about the green agenda and encourage small behaviour changes that will collectively add up to a more significant impact. Include information about sustainable living and sources of advice and support.

- b) Immediately establish a networking group to consider environmental issues, meeting regularly to act as a group of community leaders for the green agenda, engaging wider stakeholders and utilising local expertise. Incorporate a youth element by working with local schools and the Youth Zone. Deliver a networking launch event in Spring 2020.

5. Support for local businesses

- a) Develop an accreditation scheme for 'green' traders and businesses operating in the town centre and demonstrating commitment to a set of specific green principles such as minimising waste and cutting out single use plastics by providing reusable or recyclable containers.
- b) Support local businesses to be more environmentally friendly by promoting best practice and demonstrating the business benefits. For example, GA Pet Foods offered to act as an ambassador for the green agenda, advising other businesses and sharing their knowledge/experience

Council operations

Local authorities only emit a small proportion of the carbon for an area through their operations. For example, Lancaster City Council emitted 3,018 tonnes of carbon dioxide from directly provided activities in 2018/19 compared to 754000 tonnes produced by the district as a whole in 2017.

However, the scale of the challenge is huge and requires immediate and concerted action by all individuals, organisations and the government. Therefore, the council should look first at its own operations and identify how it will make changes to work towards the carbon neutral target. The council should also consider its direct areas of wider influence such as housing, planning and environmental management such as tree planting.

The service level survey highlights existing areas of best practice, particularly in Streetscene with recent developments in the approach to grass cutting, development of wildflower corridors and recycling initiatives. This proactive approach should now become part of business as usual for the wider organisation.

Recommendations

6.Green operations

- a) Establish a staff working group as a sub-group of Staff Matters to consider how the council can support and encourage a more environmentally friendly workplace including the further developing of initiatives like Sustainable September.
- b) Develop a 10-year tree planting strategy for Chorley to coordinate the planting of trees and hedgerows across the borough, taking a partnership approach including workshops, species management and maintenance
- c) Develop a council Waste and Recycling Strategy to outline how the council will support residents to recycle more and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Action in the strategy should range from providing better quality information about what can be recycled through to working with partners to improve waste processing.
- d) Investigate green burial sites in Chorley, including council-owned cemeteries
- e) Through the council's role as a Licensing Authority, investigate and develop an action plan for electric or hybrid Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles

7. Housing, planning and development

- a) Adopt a clear set of principles for our approach to planning policy in relation to the green agenda such as those recommend by the [Royal Town Planning Institute](#) and apply this throughout the preparation of the local plan including public transport, green spaces and sustainable development.
- b) Promote sustainable developments and the council's contribution by developing a 'green plaque' scheme as a visible way to identify buildings that have strong green credentials.

- c) Work with local housing providers to ensure that Chorley's housing stock is as efficient as possible and to ensure that opportunities aren't being missed to save energy e.g. boiler replacements, insulation and recycling facilities.
- d) Establish a dialogue with Lancashire County Council to consider the opportunity for sustainable transport schemes including commercial models

National policy

The task group recognise that to achieve the most significant change a change in national government policy is required. This is reflected in the council's climate change declaration which asks:

That the Leader of the Council be requested to write to the Secretaries of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; Transport; Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and Housing, Communities and Local Government calling for the creation, provision or devolution of powers and resources to make achievement of the 2030 target possible in Chorley;

8. In addition it is recommended that the council specifically calls on government to:

- a) Ensure the electricity grid is equipped to cope with a higher percentage of renewable and electric cars
- b) Increase minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector (to at least a minimum EPC band C rating in 2030) and empower local authorities to ensure compliance
- c) Deliver a major investment in public transport, walking and cycling including bus services



Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Early Intervention & Support	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27/02/2020

NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To review and revise the delivery of neighbourhood working in Chorley and ensure the model continues to develop and meets the needs of members and the communities they serve.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To discuss the impact derived from the redrawn ward boundaries and propose recommendations for new neighbourhood areas to be submitted to Executive Cabinet for approval

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	√

BACKGROUND

4. In November 2007 Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertook an inquiry into Neighbourhood Working. They commissioned a report from Partners in Change “*The Scope and Prospects for Neighbourhood Working in Chorley*”.
5. This led to the creation, adoption and implementation of the neighbourhood working model for Chorley which provided
 - The establishment of neighbourhood teams.
 - Support for working with existing neighbourhood-based groups.
 - A funding mechanism to support local initiatives.
 - The reinforcement of the role of the ward Councillor in neighbourhoods
 - Support for relatively deprived and poorly organised neighbourhoods.

Reasons

- People will feel and be involved in their communities.
 - Services will be improved by local influence and delivery.
 - Community confidence and cohesion will be built.
6. In its launch in 2008, there were seven neighbourhood areas and each area had a Ward Member meeting twice a year which discussed issues arising in the particular area and received retrospective reports on neighbourhood activities delivered by Council and partner services
 7. In 2012 a review of the neighbourhood working model was undertaken. The findings from the review resulted in the following recommendations that was approved and implemented into the delivery of neighbourhood working.
 8. Neighbourhood working' had never been clearly defined in the terms and manner in which it could be delivered and subsequently had evolved into a mixture of discrete projects and initiatives 'sponsored' by Members together with 'business as usual' delivery of neighbourhood, community development and street scene services.
 9. It was recognised that a clear definition of neighbourhood working was established in order that the scope and nature of existing, proposed and expected neighbourhood activity and service delivery can be checked. Therefore, a definition of neighbourhood working was adopted as follows:

'Working with our partners to improve the quality of life, health and wellbeing of all our citizens and improve the environment of the neighbourhoods in which they live'

This definition emphasised the need to work on a partnership basis and to address wider issues within our communities such as health but recognises that work and activities that improve the environment and quality of life for our communities is also essential.

10. As part of the review, in general Members were satisfied with the size of the neighbourhood areas with the exception of the Eastern Parishes which encompassed a large rural area east of Chorley as well as Adlington, Anderton Rivington and Heath Charnock, therefore approval was granted to redraw boundaries of the neighbourhood areas, increasing the number of areas from seven to eight.
11. It was recognised that engagement with other local community organisations and structures was limited within model and therefore took the opportunity to engage more closely with Parish Councils and County Council Members to coordinate activity across the neighbourhood areas.
12. It was agreed that the Parish representative should not be the clerk, or someone who was not also a Borough Councillor. There was potential for areas, like the town centre and Buckshaw Village for a representative from the community to be involved.
13. It was established that neighbourhood working is divided into three areas of delivery:

- Business as usual and universal service delivery – these are the core council front line services such as refuse and recycling collection; statutory services and regulatory services.
 - Priority projects that are identified through an agreed and prioritised annual plan. For example, Parish Councils in consultation with Ward Members and the local community within a neighbourhood area may elect to provide services provided they do not fall into the category of universal, statutory or regulatory services.
 - Work packages that Ward Members will lead on, on behalf of the neighbourhood area and utilising a small budget
14. Since 2012, the original concept of providing and developing an action plan for each neighbourhood area has been superseded and evolved to a point where Members have a twice-yearly neighbourhood area meeting whereby neighbourhood area groups submit expressions of Interest to undertake environmental and community 'Neighbourhood Priority Projects' in their wards.
15. The neighbourhood meetings in January and February of each year provide the mechanism for the neighbourhood groups to identify and agree three preferred priority projects that are important to the residents of each area and will be delivered within that financial year
16. A fundamental aspect of neighbourhood working is to ensure that community needs are properly evaluated then prioritised and planned into business as usual' service delivery, community projects and priority projects.
17. Neighbourhood Priorities are drafted in the context of the following principles:
- Plans should fall within the neighbourhood working definition and address local needs.
 - Plans should be realistic.
 - Plans must be achievable and have no more than three actions/objectives to meet in a financial year.
18. Neighbourhood Priority Projects follow the below criteria but is not an exhaustive list
- Included
- Additional works and schemes to improve areas of open public space over and above business as usual work
 - Work and projects that support the formation of new community groups or sustain existing ones
 - Leading or supporting community events that meet the principles and definition of neighbourhood working
 - Activities and work that promote community cohesion such as initiatives that integrate demographic groups into the life of the community.
- Excluded
- Issues that are the sole responsibility of another agency and the Councils only input would be as a lobby.
 - Borough wide issues that are subject to existing partnership arrangements e.g. health, community safety

- Activities which are universally delivered across the borough
19. While the council continues to support the delivery of the preferred priorities through funding and officer time, each neighbourhood area is encouraged to consider what match-funding and support may be available through other partners. This has been a successful development in recent years in enhancing the projects that would otherwise be able to be delivered.
 20. Neighbourhood Priorities are reviewed at the 6 monthly neighbourhood meetings and revised and updated as appropriate with any significant changes being subject to Executive Member approval, i.e. where there is a budgetary impact.
 21. Currently each neighbourhood area holds a Member meeting supported by democratic Services, Service Lead for Communities and Neighbourhood Priorities Officer every six months. The purpose of the meeting is to provide feedback on projects, initiatives and service activity at a neighbourhood level to Members. In addition, recent rounds of meetings have provided opportunities for other Council service areas to explain developments in their areas such as Customer Services, Housing Benefit and Planning.
 22. Through Neighbourhood priorities members have significantly more control and say in what happens in their area and potentially direct access to resources to deliver. This in turn means a shift in the way service managers plan and resource their services and may take time to develop and embed as business as usual.
 23. It is recognised that business as usual activities undertaken as part of neighbourhood working come from several service teams baseline budgets but that work, or services provided over and above will need to be provided through a separate budget if seen appropriate

Meeting Points for Discussion - New Neighbourhood Area Footprints

24. Whilst we carry out the neighbourhood working review, it is important that delivery of the programme is still maintained throughout 2020/21

In order to achieve this, it is crucial that the first task of the review is to redraw and create new Neighbourhood Areas as a result of the ward boundary changes to come into effect in May 2020. The proposed recommendation will be presented to Executive Cabinet for approval

25. To help with discussions there are several example options created that can be seen in the Appendix
 - Option 1 – Six neighbourhood area model
 - Option 2 – Four neighbourhood area model
 - Option 3 – Seven neighbourhood area model (2 wards per area)
 - Option 4 – O&S chair Five neighbourhood area model
26. It is important the allocated Neighbourhood Priority Budget needs to be considered depending on number of areas and subsequently number of priority projects that would be established. (currently £50K budget)

Neighbourhood Working Review – Future Tasks

27. The full review will look at all aspects of Neighbourhood working and how it is currently implemented. It will provide an opportunity to look at is working well and identifying ways in which delivery can be improved or new aspects that could be introduced

The following discussion points are some ideas that could be considered at future meetings and throughout the review

28. Definition of neighbourhood
Is the definition still suitable for what Neighbourhood working sets out to achieve?

29. Frequency of meetings
Currently area groups come together twice per year with the January/February meeting used to determine the plan for the neighbourhood area in the following financial year subject to the budget set for that year. The June/July round of meetings used to review; determine progress and adjust projects accordingly.

30. Representation at Neighbourhood Meetings
Can we engage more with wider community groups/organisations?
In neighbourhood areas that are not parishes, it will be essential that the neighbourhood meetings through Ward and County Councillors consult with key groups and stakeholders within their neighbourhoods to identify the needs that can be addressed through the neighbourhood working process.

31. What should be discussed at the meeting
The purpose of the meeting is to provide feedback on projects, initiatives and service activity at a neighbourhood level to Members. In addition, meetings can provide opportunities for other Council service areas to explain developments in their areas

It provides an opportunity to bring to officers' attention around Business as usual and universal service delivery

Current Agenda Items

- Neighbourhood Priorities
- Adoptions
- Empty Homes
- CIL spends
- Intelligence – Data and local insight
- Open Space development / improvements

32. Budget
Current budget provision for neighbourhood priorities is made as part of the annual budget setting process. Draft neighbourhood plans with costs will be subject to Executive Cabinet approval prior to their implementation with budget provision confirmed and costs approved.

There is an annual budget of £50k to support neighbourhood priority project delivery. Where applicable there is community development support including further development of a sustainable model to promote volunteering and support community groups

33. Cllr Grants

Neighbourhood area meetings provide the avenue to identify issues of concern within ward areas across Chorley. There is the opportunity this can assist Cllrs in helping to identify meaningful smaller projects and addressing needs in their local area and allocating their grant

34. Community Clean Up

Previously through Neighbourhood Working Chorley Council have provided an annual programme of skip/clean up days across the Borough. These events were fully delivered by council staffing.

It is recognised that there is a need to be able to respond positively to assist residents/groups who wish to tidy up a local grot spot and work with them to deliver these events.

This support would be to help facilitate clean up events; such as the loaning of equipment, identifying how to dispose of waste and then community development support to build on the energy and enthusiasm of the group to undertake more activity utilising Time Credits

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

35. 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

36. There is an annual budget of £50k to support neighbourhood priority project delivery, how this budget is allocated within neighbourhood areas will be subject to review following the changes to the ward boundaries.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

37. Following the Chorley (Electoral Changes) Order 2019 and the redrawn ward boundaries, the neighbourhood working areas in turn will need to be reviewed due to the changes which will be implemented in May 2020.

CHRIS SINNOTT
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE / DIRECTOR (EARLY INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT)

Report Author	Ext	Date
Bernie Heggarty	5818	18/02/2020

Funding Allocation - £50k

Per Neighbourhood - £8K

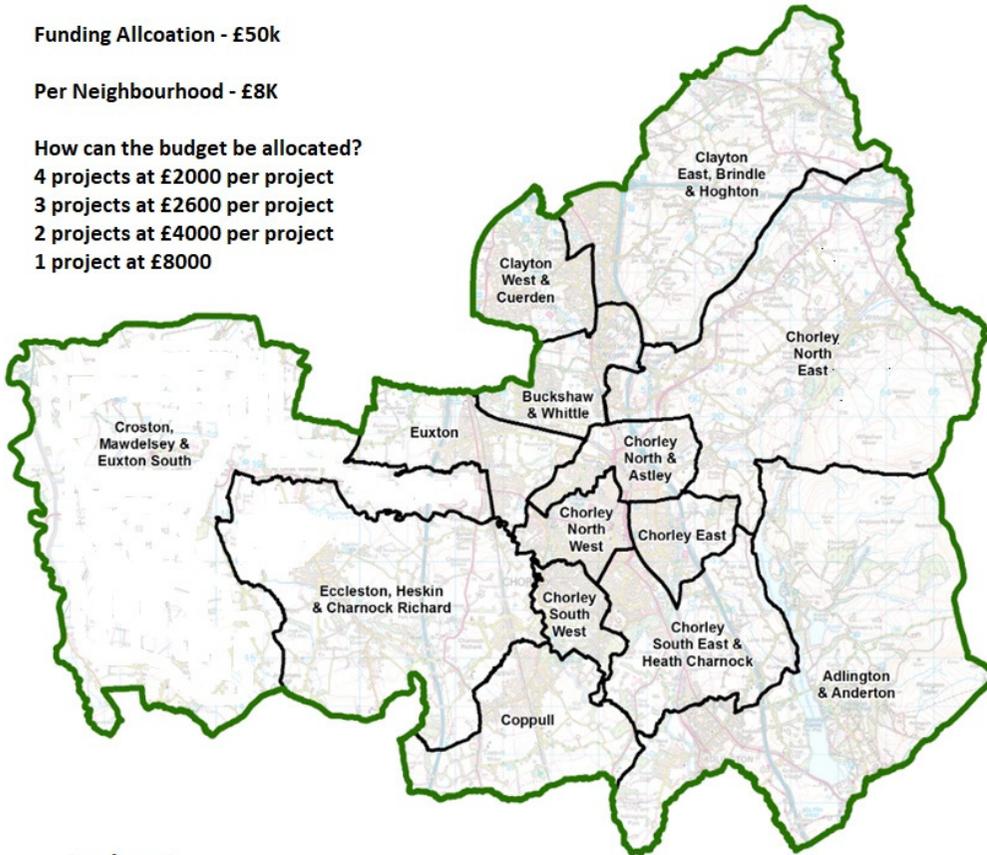
How can the budget be allocated?

4 projects at £2000 per project

3 projects at £2600 per project

2 projects at £4000 per project

1 project at £8000



Option 1
Six Neighbourhood Areas

Chorley Borough Council | New Council Ward from May 2020
Fourteen new Wards each with three councillors



Northern

Clayton West & Cuerden
Croston, Mawdesley & Euxton South,
Clayton East, Brindle & Hoghton

Eastern

Adlington & Anderton
Chorley North East

Southern

Coppull
Chorley North West
Chorley South West

Western

Mawdesley & Euxton South
Eccleston, Heskin & Charnock

Whittle, Euxton, Buckshaw

Buckshaw & Whittle
Euxton

Central

Chorley East
Chorley North & Astley
Chorley South East & Heath Charnock

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Funding Allocation - £50K

Per Neighbourhood - £12k

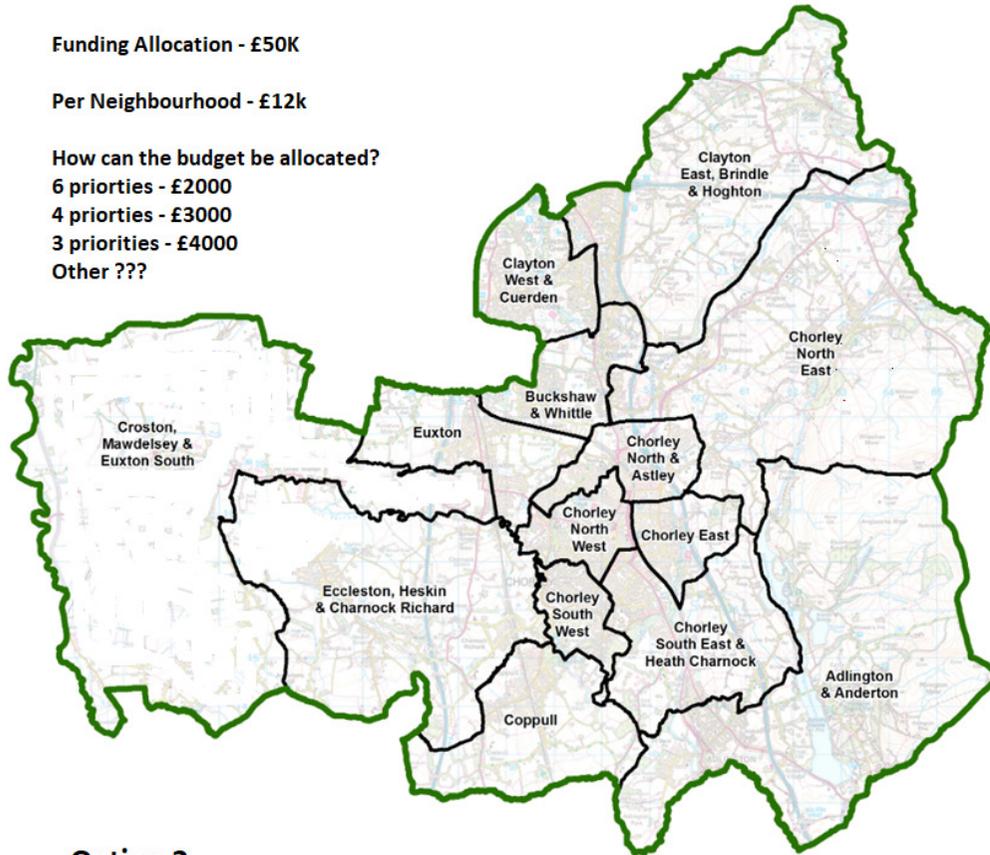
How can the budget be allocated?

6 priorities - £2000

4 priorities - £3000

3 priorities - £4000

Other ???

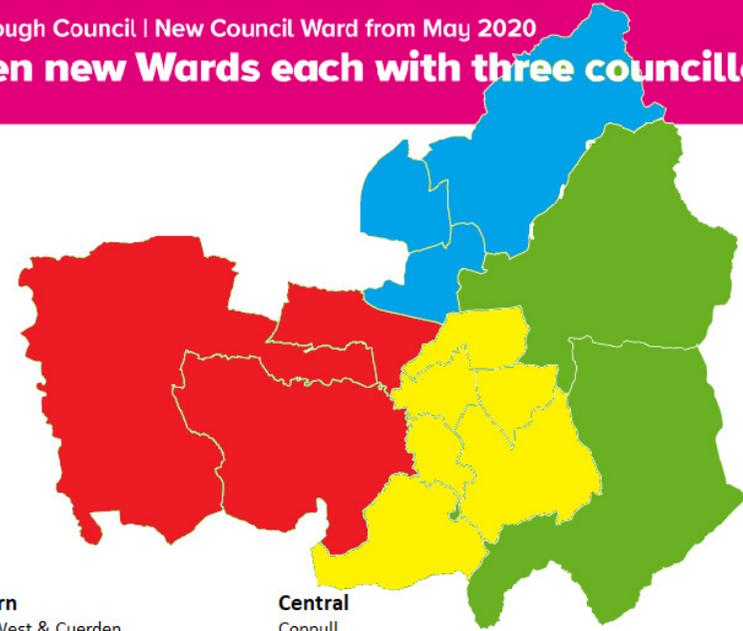


Option 2

Four Neighbourhood Areas

Chorley Borough Council | New Council Ward from May 2020

Fourteen new Wards each with three councillors



Northern

Clayton West & Cuerden
Clayton East, Brindle & Hoghton
Buckshaw & Whittle

Central

Coppull
Chorley North West
Chorley South West
Chorley East
Chorley North & Astley
Chorley South East & Heath Charnock

Western

Croston, Mawdesley & Euxton South
Eccleston, Heskin & Charnock
Euxton

Eastern

Adlington & Anderton
Chorley North East

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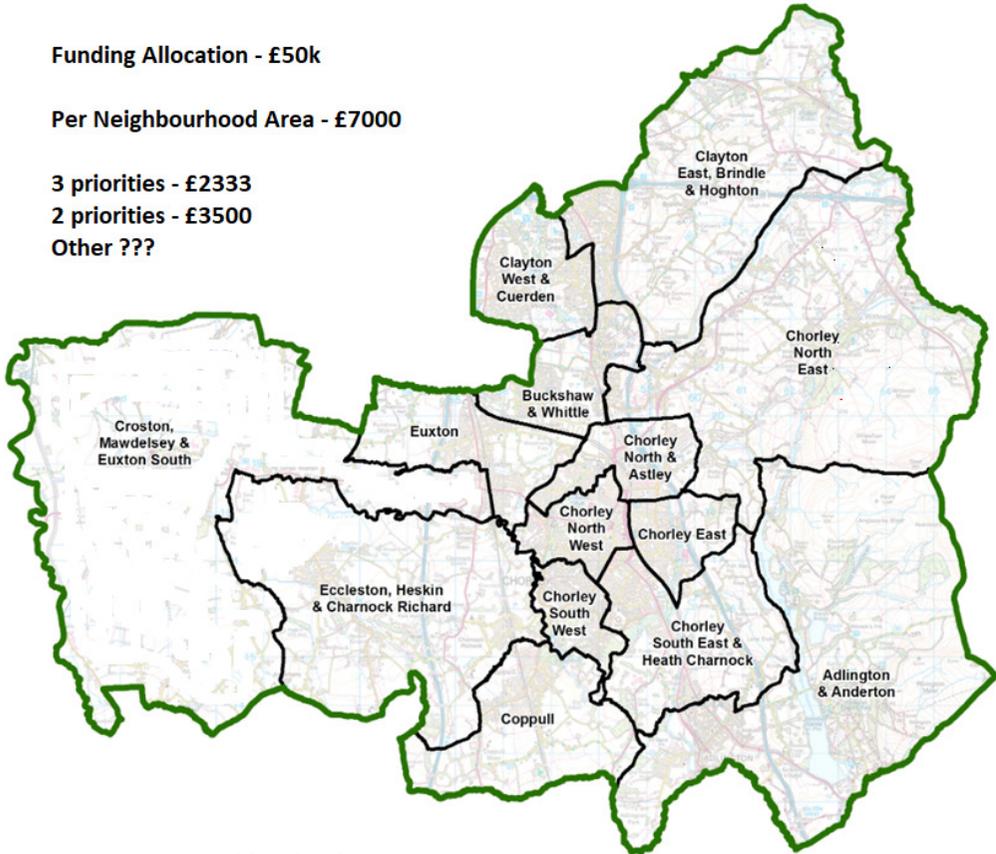
Funding Allocation - £50k

Per Neighbourhood Area - £7000

3 priorities - £2333

2 priorities - £3500

Other ???



Option 3 - 7 Neighbourhoods
Two wards per Neighbourhood

Chorley Borough Council | New Council Ward from May 2020
Fourteen new Wards each with three councillors



Clayton West & Cuerden
Clayton East, Brindle & Hoghton

Croston, Mawdesley & Euxton South
Eccleston, Heskin & Charnock

Adlington & Anderton
Chorley North East

Euxton
Buckshaw & Whittle

Coppull
Chorley South West

Chorley North West
Chorley North & Astley

Chorley East
Chorley South East & Heath Charnock

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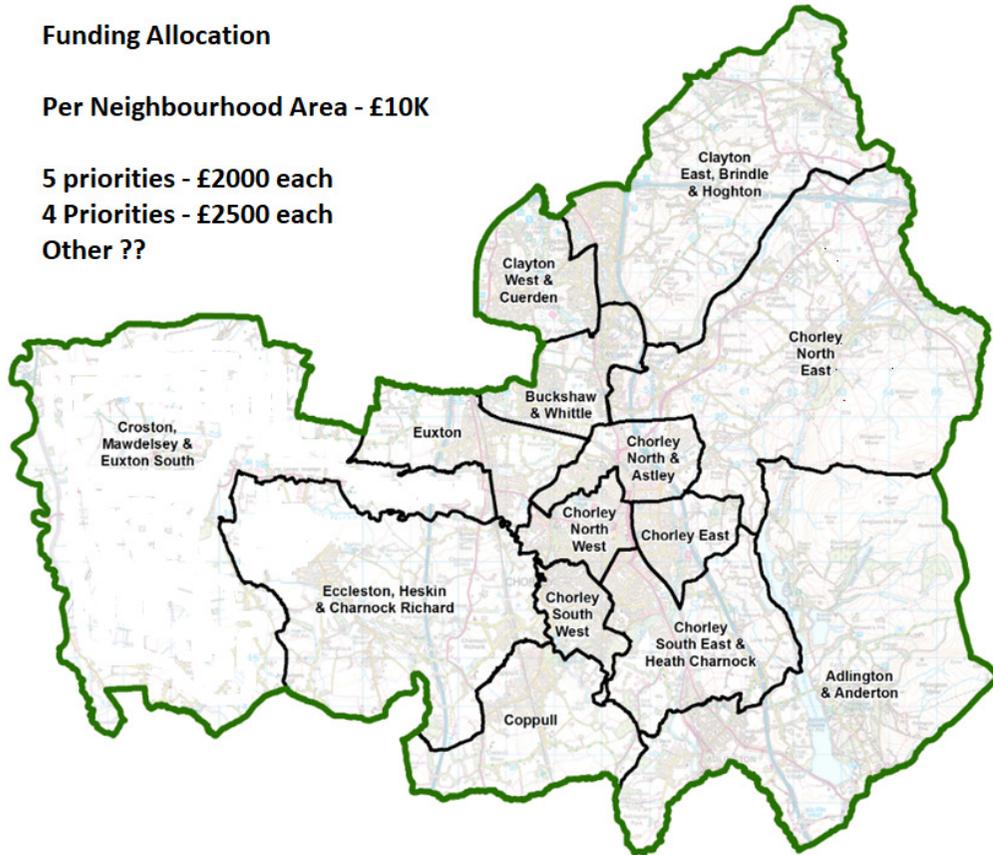
Funding Allocation

Per Neighbourhood Area - £10K

5 priorities - £2000 each

4 Priorities - £2500 each

Other ??



Option 4

Five Neighbourhood Areas

Chorley Borough Council | New Council Ward from May 2020

Fourteen new Wards each with three councillors



Northern

Clayton West & Cuerden
Clayton East, Brindle & Hoghton

Western

Croston, Mawdesley & Euxton South
Eccleston, Heskin & Charnock
Euxton

Eastern

Chorley North East
Chorley North & Astley
Buckshaw & Whittle

Southern

Coppull
Chorley South East & Heath Charnock
Adlington & Anderton

Central

Chorley East
Chorley South West
Chorley North West

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