

## **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**

### **GENERAL REPORT**

1. The Executive Cabinet has met twice on 13 August and 3 September 2009 since the last ordinary Council meeting in July 2009. This report summarises briefly the principal items debated and decisions reached at each meeting.

#### **Meeting held on 13 August 2009**

##### **Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry - Chorley Local Strategic Partnership**

2. A Task Group of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has recently undertaken a scrutiny inquiry to examine and better understand how the Chorley Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) works with the Council to provide added value.
3. The purpose of the inquiry was to examine how (i) the engagement of the Council and local people in the work of the LSP and its thematic groups can be widened; (ii) the capacity of the LSP can be maximised through the projects it delivers; and (iii) the LSP can address the high rate of alcohol harm related hospital admission rates and its impact on anti-social behaviour.
4. The Task Group has made 10 specific recommendations which we have agreed to consider. Our recommended response to the report's findings and recommendations will be reported to a future meeting.

##### **Multi-Area Agreement – Mid-Lancashire**

5. The Executive Cabinet received a report of the Corporate Director (Business) and agreed to enter into discussions with the Government for a Multi-Agency Agreement (MAA) to operate in the Mid-Lancashire sub region in line with the priority areas identified in the report.
6. The Government has already approved an MAA to operate in the Pennine region of Lancashire and a draft MAA exists for the Fylde Coast area. A Mid-Lancashire MAA will cover the districts of Chorley, Lancaster, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire, providing a valuable link between different parts of the sub-region and the North West economies.
7. The principle aim of the MAA is to encourage the sustainable economic development of the sub-region and attract inward investment by bringing together key players in flexible ways to address specific issues in partnership.

##### **Enforcement Policy – Children and Young People**

8. Following consideration of a report of the Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods), we approved the revision of the Council's Enforcement and Prosecution Policy in order to clarify the Authority's policy on the issuing of fixed penalty notices on children and young people aged between 10 and 17 years who commit environmental offences (eg littering, graffiti, fly-posting, etc).
9. The Council's Enforcement and Prosecution Policy was adopted in 2001 and the revision reflects the Government guidance on how the issue of penalty notices for environmental offences should be applied when children and young people are identified as the offender.

## **Performance Monitoring Report – First Quarter of 2009/10**

10. The Executive Cabinet received and noted a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance) which set out and reviewed the Authority's performance both in respect of the 36 key projects included in the refreshed Corporate Strategy and against the new National Indicators for which the Council is responsible, during the first quarter of 2009/10 ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.
11. The report reveals a commendable performance on the delivery of the Corporate Strategy key projects, with 33 projects either completed, progressing on or ahead of schedule or scheduled to commence later in the year. Only 3 projects have been rated as "amber" and the report explains the reasons for any envisaged problems with the timing or costing of the projects.
12. The report also reveals a good performance in respect of the National Indicators that can be measured, with only 3 indicators having missed their target by 5% or more. Action plans have been devised to improve the position in respect of those indicators.

## **Chorley Partnership – Performance Report for First Quarter of 2009/10**

13. The Executive Cabinet received an updated report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance) on the activities of the Chorley Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), particularly through its delivery of 8 strategic projects and its performance in relation to the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and targeted key performance indicators from the Sustainable Community Strategy over the first quarter of 2009/10.
14. We noted that the LSP has selected 8 projects linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy to pursue and support over 2009/10 and were pleased to learn that those projects have attracted a total funding pot of over £203,000 from the Council and its partners.
15. The Executive Cabinet noted, in particular, that the Sustainable Community Strategy performance indicators reveal an increase of 5.3% in overall crime throughout the Borough and a reduction in the number of jobseekers' allowance claimants.

## **Annual Treasury Management Report for 2008/09 and Interim Review of 2009/10 activity and strategies**

16. The Executive Cabinet was presented with a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation) which reviewed both the Council's Treasury management performance in 2008/09 and its activities and strategies in 2009/10.
17. The report indicates that, while investment earnings exceeded both the budget and performance benchmark in 2008/09, the performance has been overshadowed by the Icelandic Landsbanki default. The investment performance in 2009/10 has suffered as a result of the restriction of deposits to short term markets or secure deposits with the Debt Management Office. These costs, however, have been offset by reducing costs of borrowing, leaving the net position with little change.
18. In response to Members' questions, the Chair confirmed that the Council will continue in its stringent efforts to recover its investment in Landsbanki, including lost interest payments. The Assistant Chief Executive has been requested to ensure that regular future reports are presented to the Executive Cabinet updating Members on the current situation in relation to the Council's deposits.
19. We accepted the report and have endorsed the current Treasury Management and Investment Strategy adopted in February 2001 for continued adoption.

## **Revenue Budget, 2009/10 – Monitoring Report for First Quarter period ending 30 June 2009**

20. The Executive Cabinet considered and noted a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation) monitoring the Council's financial performance during the first quarter of 2009/10, in comparison with the budgetary and efficiency savings targets for the current financial year.
21. The report confirms that establishment savings equating to £87,500 and procurement savings of £15,000 have been achieved in the first quarter of 2009/10.
22. Whilst an overall savings target of £410,000 was set at the beginning of the financial year, further savings of £33,000 are now required, owing to reducing income streams. The situation in respect of three budget areas is being closely monitored to ensure that the increased savings target will be achieved by the end of the financial year.

### **Meeting held on 3 September 2009**

#### **Cotswold Supported Housing - Service Improvement Update**

23. The Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance) presented a report informing members of the progress made following the transfer back of Cotswold Supported Housing, a hostel owned and managed by the Council for the purpose of accommodating homeless people.
24. In October 2008 Executive Cabinet took the decision to transfer the hostel back to the Council in order to make the necessary service and accommodation improvements. The transfer took place in June 2009 and since then significant improvements have been made creating a positive and safer environment for both residents and staff.
25. Several Members have visited Cotswold House as part of a Member Learning Session and before and after photographs were shown by the Head of Housing. Further refurbishment work will commence shortly.
26. Members raised several queries relating to the future plans for play space, the introduction of a family and single persons zone, the benefits of the concierge service and joined up approach with the homeless service. We thanked the staff involved for their hard work and enthusiasm.

#### **Central Lancashire and Blackpool Growth Point - Update and Envisaged Procedural Arrangements**

27. We received a report of the Corporate Director (Business) updating on the Growth Point and seeking endorsement of the procedural arrangements. We noted that the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF2) is only accessible to Growth Point partnerships. From this £3.3 million funding has been received for Buckshaw Village railway station. The development of the LDF Core Strategy will be accelerated through Growth Point.
28. In addition to this Government Office for the North West have stated that the Council are not committed to "a level of housing growth other than that which it has signed up to deliver...no greater than that envisaged in RSS".
29. We noted there will be regular updates on the Growth Point, that there are no conditions in place for funding to be returned to GONW and the Council has the will and desire to achieve the affordable housing target in place.

### **Lancashire Waste Management Strategy, 2008 to 2020 ('Rubbish to Resources')**

30. We considered a report of the Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods) informing of the recent revision of the Lancashire Waste Management Strategy and the subsequent implications for Chorley Council. The Lancashire Waste Partnership comprises the County Council, the two unitary Authorities and the twelve District Councils which developed and adopted the Lancashire Municipal Waste Strategy.
31. The Strategy contains challenging targets including reducing waste growth by 0.5% per annum, recycling and composting 40% of all waste by 2005 and 56% by 2015 and reducing the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill to 10% by 2010. Chorley has performed well against these targets as over 47% of waste was recycled and total waste arising going to landfill has reduced from 24,826 tonnes to 21,256 tonnes per year over the past four years.
32. In response to Members' questions I confirmed that the Strategy contained a requirement to collect food waste for composting. The frequency of collection and container type will be determined by each Authority and information collected from the current food waste trial to 5,000 households in parts of Chorley, Astley Village, Eccleston and Mawdesley will be used to design the best scheme for Chorley.
33. There are different methods of collection and residents in Chorley are putting their food waste in their brown bin with garden waste. Information from a trial using caddys has not revealed any issues with vandalism. Provision for a food waste collection service to all properties in Chorley has been included within the new waste management contract, but not the receptacles.

### **Draft Joint Procurement Strategy with South Ribble Council**

34. The Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation) presented a report advising performance achieved against the current Procurement Strategy and seeking approval for a new Joint Procurement Strategy with South Ribble Borough Council.
35. The Council adopted the current 5 year Procurement Strategy in July 2004. The 2004-2009 Strategy contained a Savings Target of £500,000 which was exceeded in the first 18 months of the strategy life and total Procurement related savings over the 5 year period were in excess of £1.7 million.

### **Performance of Key Partnerships - 2008/09 Year End Progress report**

36. We considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation) providing a corporate update on the performance of the Council's key partnership arrangements during 2008/09.
37. The report outlined information required by the Council's framework for partnership working, including the performance of the Council's key partnerships against targets set for the current year; an assessment of key partners financial strength and stability; the outcome of the first round of equality monitoring as part of the key partnerships contract management process and an update to the framework to more clearly capture the requirement regarding partner's business continuity arrangements.
38. In response to queries from Members it was noted that the construction of the beginners golf course at Duxbury will be funded by Glendale.

**Recommendation**

39. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR PETER GOLDSWORTHY  
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report.

AU/RR