

## **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**

### **GENERAL REPORT**

1. The Executive Cabinet has met on one occasion on 3 June 2010 since the last ordinary Council meeting in April 2010. This report summarises briefly the principal items considered and decisions taken at the meeting. A separate report has been prepared on the item requiring a Council decision.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Inquiries – Executive’s response**

2. At earlier meetings of the Executive Cabinet we had been presented with the findings and recommendations of (i) the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Task Group set up by the Chorley, Preston and South Ribble Councils to consider issues around the provision and access to affordable housing for both sale and rent; and (ii) the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group’s inquiry into town centre issues.
3. Following consideration of the two inquiry findings reports, we endorsed the recommended responses to the two Task Groups’ recommendations, as contained within the submitted reports of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy, for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. We hope that the agreed actions will assist the delivery of both more affordable homes throughout the Central Lancashire sub-region and plans to enhance town centre facilities and its environment.

### **Chorley Council Performance Monitoring Report – Fourth Quarter of 2009/10**

4. We received and noted a report of the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy, which set out and reviewed the Authority’s performance both in respect of the key projects included in the Corporate Strategy and against the National Indicators for which the Council are responsible, during the fourth quarter of 2009/10 ending on 31 March 2010.
5. We were pleased to note that of the 33 projects identified in the Corporate Strategy, two have been completed and the remaining 31 projects are progressing ahead of or according to plan. The report also reveals that the targets set for 17 of the 25 national indicators able to be monitored have been matched or exceeded. Action Plans have been prepared to address the matters covered by the 4 indicators that have missed the stipulated targets by 5% or more during the quarter period.

### **Chorley Partnership Annual Report for 2009/10**

6. The Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy presented the Chorley Partnership’s end of year performance report for 2009/10.
7. The report reviewed the Partnership’s activities and performance throughout 2009/10, commenting particularly on the progress and impact of the LSP sponsored projects and how they are contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Community Strategy. The report also reviewed the Authority’s performance against the second year of the Local Area Agreement.
8. The following significant trends and statistics revealed in the report were highlighted by the Executive Member (Policy and Performance):
  - Unemployment has reduced over the past year.
  - The number of persons in temporary accommodation had fallen considerably to its lowest ever level during the past year.
  - Crime levels overall had reduced by 2.1% compared to 2008/09.

- The number of all types of crime in Chorley had decreased over the past year, with the exception of house burglaries and serious violent crime.
- Teenage pregnancy had fallen by 2.2% when the three year average for 2006/08 was compared to the three year average for 2005/07.
- 74 new business start-ups were recorded in 2009/10.
- The delivery of affordable homes in the Borough had increased significantly by 174% since the past year.
- Chorley's recycling rate had increased since 2008/09.

### **Central Lancashire Economic Regeneration Strategy**

9. The Executive Cabinet approved and adopted the Central Lancashire Economic Regeneration Strategy.
10. The Strategy for Central Lancashire has been jointly prepared by the Chorley, South Ribble and Preston Councils in order to align with the draft refreshed version of the Chorley Economic Regeneration Strategy, the Mid-Lancashire Multi-Area Agreement and the emerging Local Development Framework Core Strategy. It will support and assist action to influence national and regional decisions and to drive forward the Central Lancashire economy. The strategy will, therefore, help to shape the economic development of the Central Lancashire sub-region over the next 15 years.

### **Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership – Collaborative Model**

11. The Director of People and Places presented the Executive Cabinet with a report on the outcomes achieved since the adoption of the pilot merger of the Chorley and South Ribble Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in 2008.
12. The trial merger has been deemed a success and we approved the recommended continuation of the arrangement on the basis of a collaborative model, rather than an official, formal merger, which is likely to be too prescriptive. A collaborative model will allow a degree of flexibility and enable the authorities to retain greater control over our respective budgets. This collaborative model was, in fact, supported at the joint scrutiny review session between Members of Chorley and South Ribble Councils on 31 March 2010.

### **Tree Management and Maintenance Policy**

13. The Executive Cabinet approved for adoption a Tree Management and Maintenance Policy for application to trees situated on Council owned land.
14. The policy aims to give clear guidance on the future management of the authority's tree stock by the introduction of more robust and coherent arrangements and procedures. The policy will introduce best practice systems for the inspection of all trees across the Borough and the apportionment of trees within risk zones. The policy will also provide guidance on the handling of requests relating to Council owned trees and the provision of available options to other service users.
15. Future requests for tree works will be assessed to ensure that the budget provision is targeted at those trees at greater risk and a tendering process for identified works will secure best value.

### **Income Generation Proposal**

16. We received a confidential report from the Chief Executive on an approach from the North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership for Chorley Council's Management Team to provide assistance to Copeland Council in its review and acceleration of the Authority's ambitious improvement plans.

17. Chorley Council has been selected to offer its services to Copeland Council on the basis of its reputation for the successful delivery of transformation programmes.
18. The Executive Cabinet endorsed the provision of the consultancy service, which will generate an income of £70,000 for the Council.

### **Performance of Key Partnerships**

19. The Executive Cabinet considered a confidential report of the Director of Transformation providing Members with a corporate update on the performance of the Council's key partnership arrangements during 2009/10.
20. 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 and an assessment of the partners' financial strengths and stability.
21. In the light of the monitoring information, we agreed to take the measures recommended to address a number of emerging issues, together with the removal of Anchor Homes Improvement Agency, the Shared Services Contact Centre and "Parkwise" from the "Key Partnerships" register.

### **Recommendation**

22. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR PETER GOLDSWORTHY  
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report.

AU