

| Report of  | Record of                 | Date       |
|--|---------------------------|------------|
| Director (Communities)<br>(Introduced by Executive Member<br>(Early Intervention)) | Executive Member Decision | 20/03/2023 |

## 2023/24 Neighbourhood Priorities - Approval for Delivery

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| Is this report confidential? | No |
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| Is this decision key? | No |
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### Purpose of report

1. The information provided in this report aims to provide a summary of the decision-making process which has taken place (January to March 2023) to agree neighbourhood priorities 2023/24
2. It presents the proposed neighbourhood priorities that have been proposed within each neighbourhood management group to be approved.

### Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that the neighbourhood priorities proposed within each neighbourhood management meeting are agreed. (paragraph 25)
4. It is recommended that when scoping out the detail and financial resources required for each priority, financial or in-kind contributions are sought from partners within the neighbourhood including parish councils, County Council, voluntary sector and other stakeholders.
5. Where a priority is subsequently scoped out as requiring increased financial resources, consideration will be made in consultation with the Executive Member (Early Intervention) for this neighbourhood priority to be carried out at additional cost, phased, or developed further as an individual corporate project.

### Reasons for recommendation(s)

6. The council is committed to supporting projects and partnership delivery that focuses on the wider determinants of health as these issues impact on the daily lives of our residents, how happy and healthy they feel living in in their community and in turn their individual life choices and outcomes.

### Alternative options considered and rejected

7. To not support the continuation and development of neighbourhood priorities across the borough and not make the £50,000 funding available.

## Executive summary

8. Neighbourhood working and associated projects is a key priority within the council's corporate strategy and encourages the improvement of environmental, health, and social features within the identified neighbourhoods of Chorley

## Corporate priorities

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

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| Housing where residents can live well                                       | A green and sustainable borough               |
| An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas | <b>Healthy, safe, and engaged communities</b> |

## Background to the report

10. In November 2007 Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertook an inquiry into Neighbourhood Working. This led to the creation, adoption and implementation of the neighbourhood working model for Chorley which provided the establishment of neighbourhood teams, a funding mechanism to support local initiatives, reinforcement of the role of the ward Councillors in neighbourhoods, and support for relatively deprived and poorly organised neighbourhoods.

11. The definition of neighbourhood working created is 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.

12. Neighbourhood working delivery is developed from a twice-yearly neighbourhood area meeting whereby neighbourhood area groups submit expressions of Interest/proposals to undertake 'Neighbourhood Priority Projects' in their wards/communities.
13. The neighbourhood meetings in January and February of each year provide the mechanism for the neighbourhood groups to identify and agree preferred priority projects that are important to the residents of each area and will be delivered within that financial year. (Except 2021/22 due to ward boundary changes which selection took place in September / October meetings)
14. Neighbourhood Priorities are reviewed at 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.

## Neighbourhood Working Budget

15. Budget provision for neighbourhood priorities is made as part of the annual budget setting process. There is an annual budget of £50k to support neighbourhood priority project delivery as Neighbourhood working was established as a key project within the council's corporate strategy

16. Resulting from the creation of six areas, each Neighbourhood Area group will have a budget of approx. £8,000 to allocate to their chosen priority projects
17. Each neighbourhood area group is responsible in allocating the funds accordingly to projects which they agree to deliver. This gives the group opportunity to fund either one large project or allocate to several different projects. It is recommended that no more than a maximum of four projects are chosen to be delivered
18. 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 projects that would otherwise not have been able to be delivered.

### **Process for proposing priority projects**

19. All information on proposing 2023/24 Neighbourhood Priority projects have been circulated to Neighbourhood area groups. This includes:
  - Guidance to support proposing priorities – see Appendix 1
  - Community Insight information
  - Examples of previous ideas
  - Proposal Form – see Appendix 2
  - Residents Survey – see Appendix 3
  - Central Lancashire ICP – Marmot review - Health inequalities / social determinants of health – see Appendix 4
20. The council continues to encourage projects that focuses on the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, as these issues impact on the daily lives of our residents. In addition, the impact that the Cost of Living crisis is having on our communities is set to further exacerbate negative impacts for many residents, widening gaps in inequalities therefore neighbourhood area groups were encouraged to think about using this as an opportunity to consider projects that help to reduce this impact and lessen the long term impacts.
21. It was encouraged to think about how the project could help achieve any of the below
  - Provide opportunities to make communities healthier
  - Provide help to keep neighbourhoods clean and safe
  - Provide support for those experiencing financial hardship
  - Provide opportunities that address food poverty
  - Provide opportunities that address furniture poverty
  - Provide opportunities for those experiencing mental health issues
  - Provide opportunities to addresses social isolation
  - Provide opportunities to enhance life skills of residents
  - Provide support to overcome digital barriers and address gaps in provision
  - Provide opportunities that help encourage residents to be more active
22. To help aid discussions in the meeting and selection of priorities group members was asked to complete as best possible the Priority Proposal Form. This looks to gather information and make it easier at the area meeting to discuss, access feasibility and prioritise selection

Form includes

- Detail of Project - what is to be delivered and anticipated actions
- What are expected outcomes/how will it enhance life of people in the community
- Is there a rationale or any evidence that supports why the project is needed?
- What other partners may need to be consulted in order to deliver the project
- What are the anticipated costs of the project?
- What other resources may be needed to deliver the project
- Do you feel the project can be completed within financial year?

23. Proposal forms are recommended to be submitted prior to the meeting in which they can be fully discussed, and final priority projects agreed

### Timescales

24. Delivery of this year's neighbourhood priorities will follow the below timescales:

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| <p><b>Information:</b><br/>Selection reports created and sent to each neighborhood area group with project proposal criteria<br/><i>Selection reports includes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Community insight</i></li> <li>• <i>Guidance to help create priority proposal</i></li> <li>• <i>Priority proposal form</i></li> <li>• <i>Timescales</i></li> </ul> | <p><b>December</b></p>                    |
| <p><b>Nomination:</b><br/>Deadline for Neighbourhood Priority project proposals to be submitted<br/>See below table for each area group deadline</p> <p>Proposals collated and circulated for Neighbourhood Area meetings</p>  | <p><b>January/<br/>February</b></p>       |
| <p><b>Selection:</b><br/>Neighborhood area meetings<br/>Discuss and agree projects to be delivered for 2023/24 delivery<br/>Meeting agenda content covered as agreed</p>   | <p><b>January/<br/>February/March</b></p> |
| <p><b>Approval:</b><br/>Produce EMD to get final Exec Member sign off for 2023/24 Neighbourhood priorities delivery</p>  | <p><b>March</b></p>                       |
| <p><b>Scoping:</b><br/>Assign Lead Officer to projects for scoping and delivery<br/>Lead officer works with lead member from neighbourhood group to scope the priority – including timescales, costs and funding etc.</p>  | <p><b>April</b></p>                       |
| <p><b>Delivery:</b><br/>Delivery of agreed priority projects</p>   | <p><b>April 23 to<br/>March 24</b></p>    |
| <p><b>Update and monitoring:</b><br/>Neighbourhood Area meetings<br/>Update on the progress regards selected neighbourhood priorities</p>  | <p><b>June / July</b></p>                 |

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| <b>Mid-term Update and monitoring:</b><br>Update provided by email (in addition to ongoing progress updates on individual projects) on all selected neighbourhood priorities to neighbourhood management groups | <b>October</b>                     |
| <b>Updates and Completion:</b><br>Updates given at neighborhood area meetings with details on outstanding actions and anticipated completion of all priority projects   | <b>January /<br/>February 2023</b> |

## PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITIES

25. The priorities proposed for approval at each neighbourhood management group are outlined below:

| Neighbourhood Area       | Priority Project |  |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Northern Parishes</b> | Priority 1       | To support the continued development of activity at Clayton Brook Community Centre which includes food club, café, community cooking sessions  |
|                          | Priority 2       | To create a wellbeing garden for the local community at Clayton Brook CC   |
|                          | Priority 3       | To deliver a Community Clean Up initiative at identified areas   |
|                          | Priority 4       | To deliver a holiday activity and food programme for young people which ensures all children can access provision  |
| <b>Chorley Town East</b> | Priority 1       | In collaboration with Chorley Town West, restore and convert a derelict telephone box into a usable community asset  |
|                          | Priority 2       | To enhance Rangleys Recreation Ground to be more welcoming to visitors. Includes installation of two community notice boards plus welcome signage at Brindle St and Pilling Lane entrances |
|                          | Priority 3       | To support delivery of Adlington and district food club initiative and support Young Peoples activity programme at Fairview Y&C Centre   |
|                          | Priority 4       | Feasibility Study to investigate traffic issues and parking on Howarth Rd particular at school peak times potentially utilising a one-way system or creating a layby                       |

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| <b>Northwest Parishes<br/>and<br/>Chorley North</b> | Priority 1 | Improvements to the footpath near Buckshaw Primary School   |
|   | Priority 2 | To deliver Community Clean Up initiatives at identified areas in Chorley North and Euxton   |
|   | Priority 3 | Improvements to roundabout in Buckshaw which includes creation of artwork to be installed at the site to give local identity plus general tidy up of existing planting  |
|   | Priority 4 | To make environmental improvements at identified areas which includes tree planting at Buckshaw Avenue, Wildflower Meadow at Whittle le Woods, and memorial/fruit trees at Whittle community garden   |
| <b>Chorley Town West</b>                            | Priority 1 | In collaboration with Chorley Town East, restore and convert a derelict telephone box into a usable community asset   |
|   | Priority 2 | Deliver an initiative which provides residents the opportunity to be more active and promotes the benefits of healthy lifestyles  |
|   | Priority 3 | Replace and/or install noticeboards at identified areas around Chorley Town West  |
|   | Priority 4 | Actively promote education, awareness and activities to tackle hate crime, discrimination and abuse within Coppull and surrounding area   |
| <b>Eastern Parishes</b>                             | Priority 1 | Support the sustainability of Adlington & District Good Food club to help address food poverty and provide further help to residents experiencing financial hardship  |
|   | Priority 2 | To support the development of a regular weekly Youth Club in Adlington at Fairview Y&C Centre   |
|   | Priority 3 | To deliver a programme of environmental and open space improvements which include repair/replacement of benches, new entrance signage in Adlington and community clean up initiatives in identified locations across the Neighbourhood area |
|   | Priority 4 | To carry out works on potholes in the parking spaces/layby at White Coppice in front of the Heapey Parish Notice Board and improvements to markers at the edge of the parking area  |

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| <b>Western Parishes</b> | Priority 1 | To make improvements to Telephone kiosks in Bretherton and replacement noticeboard in Croston                                     |
|                         | Priority 2 | To deliver community clean up initiatives in Ulnes Walton and Bretherton and installation of new waste bin on Southport Road      |
|                         | Priority 3 | To install the Mill Steam Pump on verge of former mill lodge to provide a lasting reminder of the industrial heritage of the area |
|                         | Priority 4 | To deliver a programme of improvements that addresses accessibility issues across Charnock Richard                                |
|                         |            |   |

### **Climate change and air quality**

26. The work noted in this report has an overall positive impact on the Councils Carbon emissions and the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Council.

### **Equality and diversity**

27. NA

### **Risk**

28. All priority projects will be scoped accordingly, and risks identified through appropriate policies and procedures. Neighbourhood priorities which require external partners may lengthen timescales on delivery or completion, but in these cases all stakeholders will be notified, and alternative solutions will be proposed and agreed

### **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

29. As detailed above the neighbourhood priorities are supported by a £50k annual revenue budget.

### **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

30. No comments.

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| Report Author:  | Email:                         | Telephone: | Date:      |
| Bernie Heggarty<br>(Neighbourhood Priorities Officer) | bernie.heggarty@chorley.gov.uk | 5818       | 13/03/2023 |

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.

*BEV MURRAY*

Councillor Bev Murray  
Executive Member for Communities

Dated 20/03/23

This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.