

## **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**

### **GENERAL REPORT**

1. The Executive Cabinet has met once on 14 October 2010 since the last ordinary Council meeting in September. This report summarises briefly the principal executive items considered and decisions taken at that meeting.
2. Separate reports on the following items considered initially at the Cabinet meeting and referred on to the Council with recommendations appear elsewhere on the Council agenda:
  - New Sustainable Community Strategy for 2010 – 2020;
  - Central Lancashire Core Strategy – Amendments;
  - Police and Crime Act 2009 – Adoption of Powers to regulate sexual entertainment venues;
  - Capital Programme, 2010/11 to 2012/13 – Monitoring.

### **'Chorley Smile' – Citizens' Panel Summer Survey**

3. One of the Council's Performance Advisors (David Wilkinson) attended the meeting to make a short presentation on the results of the recent place survey of the Citizens' Panel to obtain their perception and satisfaction rating of the Council's delivery of services and value for money performance; and to highlight any issues of general concern.
4. The survey results, compared to the outcome of the 2008 poll, are most pleasing in that the percentage of residents satisfied with the way the Council operates; provides value for money; delivers services; and with the local area generally as a place to live, has risen significantly.
5. The results reveal Chorley Council to be in fourth and seventh place respectively out of 352 authorities nationally in relation to residents' views on the way the authority provides value for money and runs the organisation. Similarly a higher percentage of residents surveyed were satisfied with the Council's performance in respect of a number of key national indicators (eg residents' ability to influence decisions in their locality, regular volunteering; perception of safety).
6. The results of the Citizens' panel poll places Chorley in the top quartile of authorities nationally for its performance on the majority of the measurable targets and residents' perception of our performance and delivery of services. The Executive Cabinet accept that this result is a pleasing reflection of the efforts of all Members and Officers over past years.

### **Local Development Framework – Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Documents – Issues and Options stage**

7. The Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy presented a report which explains the purpose of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) within the context of the LDF Core Strategy and outlines the envisaged timetable for the key stages of the work.
8. The Site Allocations DPD will ultimately determine the specific sites for development within the Borough in accordance with the policies and general locations set out in the Core Strategy. It will identify local issues and include policies to either protect existing uses on sites or guide the way sites are developed.

9. The Executive Cabinet approved for public consultation purposes, the Issues and Options Discussion Paper attached to the submitted report as the first stage of a lengthy process leading to the approval of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. The document seeks to canvass views on the numerous potential development sites that have been put forward. No firm decisions have yet been taken on any of the sites and commitment to the allocation of sites for specific uses and the finalisation of development management policies will come later during the 'Preferred Options' stage of the development plan process. The 'Issues and Options' document does, however, identify those sites which are not considered to be viable for development (eg greenbelt sites) and lists the development management policies intended to be saved, awarded or introduced through the document.
10. Representations received during the consultation period up to January 2011 will be assessed and a preferred approach towards the issues and options will be set out in the 'Preferred Options' document to be produced in the summer of next year. The Publication and Submission stages of the Development Plan Document are envisaged to take place between October 2011 and March 2012, leading to the final adoption of the DPD around December 2012.

### **Residential Development in Gardens – Outcome of consultation**

11. The Executive Cabinet at its meeting on 12 August 2010 endorsed a draft Interim Policy Statement for use as a development control tool when assessing proposals for new developments in residential gardens for the purpose of a 6 weeks consultation period.
12. The draft Interim Policy which contains a general presumption against residential development in private gardens has been compiled with legal advice in order to reflect recent policy changes.
13. The report confirms that, at the expiry of the consultation period, 130 representations have been received, 114 of which support the proposed Policy. Appendices to the report summarise the contents of the representations and the Officers' associated comments.
14. After taking account of the representations received and the officer responses, the Executive Cabinet approved and adopted for development control purposes the Interim Policy on Private Residential Garden Development, as outlined in the appendix to the submitted report.

### **Alcohol Intervention Programme – Update on work of Chorley Partnership**

15. We received and noted a report of the Director of Transformation, Planning and Policy updating Members on the Alcohol Intervention Programme developed by the Chorley Partnership.
16. Alcohol related hospital admissions within the Borough have increased by over one third during the past five years. Consequently, Chorley Partnership agreed to channel a proportion of the Performance Award Grant towards a number of schemes aimed at tackling the issues.
17. A targeted alcohol intervention programme, which comprises the following four elements, has been developed by the LSP. Providers for each project were commissioned before the start of the programme in September, 2010:
  - Free health checks for all Chorley residents;
  - Brief intervention training for front line staff from a variety of Chorley organisations;
  - An alcohol awareness programme for High Schools;
  - Targeted outreach work with young people and families.

## **Organisational Restructure**

18. The Executive Cabinet considered a confidential report of the Chief Executive on proposals to restructure teams within the People and Places Directorate; Strategic Housing section; Policy and Performance section; and Administrative and Transactional Services.
19. The principal focus of the restructure will be to centralise a number of services that are currently undertaken separately across the authority, which will reduce back office costs whilst protecting front line services. The proposals, if realised, will achieve an annual saving of over £470,000.
20. We approved the organisational restructure proposals for consultation purposes with affected staff and trade unions.

## **Recommendation**

21. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR PETER GOLDSWORTHY  
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report.

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