

Appendix B: Chorley – Corporate Strategy Projects 2022/23

Project	Status	Position Statement (Q2)
Housing where residents can live well		
Open the extra care scheme at Tatton Gardens	COMPLETE	<p>The new extra care facility at Tatton Gardens was officially opened in February 2023 by Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, the Mayor of Chorley, and the Chair of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership. The facility features 62 assisted living apartments for those aged 55 and above. The development includes a community centre, which is now welcoming community organisations such as youth, dance, and baby groups, as well as a fully operational GP surgery and nursery, supporting our residents to start, live, and age well. The site also has units for a community café and a hair salon. The project is now completed, and its day-to-day operations are part of normal service delivery.</p> <p>Since the completion and official opening the project was shortlisted for three awards in this year's Northwest Regional Construction Awards and was awarded Sub-regional Project of the Year Lancashire.</p>
Implement a home energy support scheme	GREEN	<p>This project provides energy advice and practical support to install energy saving measures, so that residents are able to address increasing energy costs and support action to tackle climate change.</p> <p>A two-year programme has been developed and will offer visits to high risk / fuel poverty households to undertake a home audit and provide advice on efficiency measures. The scope includes working with partners such as Preston Care and Repair and will be aligned to the existing council-based service/scheme i.e., winter warmth. Actions have now commenced to deliver the programme and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Home Energy Support Adviser has been successfully appointed. • A home energy questionnaire has been developed, along with a list of addresses targeting residents with low energy efficiency. • The council website has been updated to include information about the scheme and how individuals can participate. • Promotional materials for the scheme will be distributed at community events and posted on social media. <p>Work will continue with more scheduled community events and the commencement of home visits.</p>
Deliver the Local Plan	RED	<p>The objectives of this project are to progress the new Central Lancashire Local Plan which replaces the existing Core Strategy and three respective Local Plans in one single Development Plan for central Lancashire for a 15-year period.</p> <p>The first phase of consultations on the preferred Local Plan options concluded in February 2023, with over 2,000 responses received providing feedback. The consultation involved drop-in sessions at sites across the borough such as community centres, libraries, and schools, an online survey, email and telephone enquiries, and representations from key stakeholders, statutory bodies, and partners. The analysis of the Preferred Options Consultation responses has now been completed and the statement produced, which will go to the Local Plan Working Group and the Joint Advisory Committee before being published.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place to agree the process for assessing the heritage impact of sites. An outline structure of the new Central Lancashire Local Plan has been developed and a desktop assessment of all remaining and new sites for housing and employment has been undertaken.</p> <p>The sites have been mapped and provided to the various consultants and statutory consultees/public bodies for assessment. The Preferred Options Consultation response data has been collated and analysed and a Consultation Statement has been prepared and will be published in due course.</p> <p>Work is being undertaken with all stakeholders to conclude the site assessment and viability work and bring forward a report to Council which will include a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out the time frame for the plan making process. Timescales for the development of the Local Plan will then be assessed and reprofiled to ensure that sufficient progress is achieved.</p>
Deliver affordable housing	GREEN	<p>Following completion of major schemes like Tatton, the Council has committed in its Corporate Strategy to develop further options for the delivery of solutions for high quality, affordable and green housing.</p> <p>This project is closely linked and co-dependent on the Deliver Flexible Housing Solutions project and will develop options and proposals that can be taken forward to support delivery of affordable and specialist housing. Options that are being developed for further consideration include the direct development or acquisition of properties to increase</p>

		the availability of affordable housing and investigation into the requirements for specific housing types to accommodate unique needs and prevent homelessness, such as transitional accommodation and specialist housing.
Deliver flexible housing solutions	GREEN	<p>The aim of this project is to understand the requirement for specific types of housing to support different needs such as transitional accommodation or specialist housing. The project will inform recommendations and actions to respond to identified needs. The proposal is to take forward this priority through a new Housing Strategy and action plan.</p> <p>A Housing fact file has been produced and includes key information and statistics to inform wider discussions on housing related activity. The development of a new Housing Strategy and action plan will take place, initially identifying priorities that can be developed into more tangible actions and projects.</p> <p>Work on this project has also included a review of the data and intelligence around housing to enable effective discussions with stakeholders and to shape future plans.</p>
A green and sustainable borough		
Deliver improvements to public transport network	GREEN	<p>This project focusses on delivery of year one of a five-year bus shelter improvement plan across the borough. Improving the look and feel of the area and providing better facilities to encourage public transport, including the implementation of 'living roof' bus shelters. The project will also bring forward an options paper identifying opportunities for a community car-based scheme for areas where bus services are limited.</p> <p>The Bus Shelter improvement plan has been developed, and the programme will cover a 5-year phased programme to replace 83 bus shelters, with the replacement of 19 in year one. The procurement route was identified, and tender documents drafted for year one. Tender responses have been evaluated with a contract award presented for approval.</p> <p>Following the decision to install five living roof bus shelters next year (2024/25), site meetings have taken place to review the 10 potential viable locations identified.</p> <p>Scoping work has also taken place to develop an options paper identifying opportunities for a community car-based scheme in areas where bus services are limited.</p>
Deliver natural green initiatives	GREEN	<p>As part of the council's commitment to the corporate priority of "a green and sustainable borough" this project focusses on outdoor green habitats and biodiversity, delivering environmental improvements such as increasing the number of mini meadows, improving the wildlife corridors through the planting of wildflowers and bulbs, and planting additional trees to increase the commitment made in 2019 to plant a tree for every resident.</p> <p>At the end of 2022/23 the council reached and exceeded its target of planting a tree for every resident, with over 117,000 trees now planted or provided to residents and groups. The launch of a new tree giveaway initiative has taken place this year, with the successful promotion of the tree giveaway at Chorley Flower Show, which not only engaged residents but also generated substantial interest. As a result, people have already signed up for the giveaway.</p> <p>The Westway Nature Reserve enhancement scheme has been completed, which involved improvements to the pathways, removal of dead trees, as well as the implementation of natural enhancements to the pond, and the installation of information boards on the site to promote engagement in the natural environment.</p> <p>Annual wildflower meadows programme was completed, with meadows planted at high profile sites throughout the borough as part of the initiative to promote biodiversity, such as at Ackhurst Lodge and along Preston Road. The preparation and sowing of wildflower meadows and planning has begun for the wildflower bulb locations for autumn planting ready for next spring with wildflower bulbs ordered and suitable locations identified.</p>
Launch sustainable energy package for business	GREEN	<p>This project will provide a package of support for businesses to undertake energy adaptations, addressing the challenge of rising energy costs for businesses by launching grants that can support energy efficiency measures as well as support business in distress.</p> <p>The scheme provides a grant of up to £2,000 towards the costs of purchasing energy reduction equipment identified by free certified energy audits and provides information for businesses on the energy saving and net zero support available in addition to a directory of local companies offering products and services related to energy saving measures. This will ensure that small businesses continue to survive and thrive despite the economic landscape and contribute to the Council's carbon neutral ambitions.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place with the Chamber of Commerce to establish a new streamlined grant process ensuring that businesses can quickly access grant funding and implement the energy saving measures recommended from the energy audit. A soft launch of the grants scheme took place in June with a press release and promotion on social media, and the Council website has been updated with details of the grant. A full launch event took place on 1 November and included the introduction of the council's Climate Change Accreditation Scheme.</p>

Improve our Council buildings	AMBER	<p>The improvement to council buildings project is one of many projects as part of the Workplace Strategy 2021-2024. The strategy aims to transform how we work as a council, allowing for a more flexible and agile working model.</p> <p>The project has been rated as Amber due to delays in advancing the heating system options and the need for more comprehensive exploration of wider improvements to the council's buildings.</p> <p>An officer Accommodation Working Group has also been established, bringing together different services across the council and will provide a consistent, co-ordinated approach to drive forward all non-routine improvements to the council's working accommodation to ensure a modern and fit for purpose environment that supports the workplace strategy.</p> <p>The scope of the project is now being reviewed and reprofiled to ensure that it meets the needs of the council.</p>
Develop use of green energy in the Borough	GREEN	<p>This project is to explore the feasibility of green energy production in Chorley, and includes investigating opportunities for energy production through water, hydrogen, wind and solar. It will also continue to deliver infrastructure improvements such as electric vehicle charging points.</p> <p>The low carbon technology options report has been completed and has been presented to the Climate Change Working Group for review. The options paper provided an overview of the available low carbon and renewable technologies for the council.</p> <p>The Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Point Study looking at further Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Point across the council's assets (commercial, residential and car parks) has progressed with all required data collected and reports drafted for review by the Climate Change Working Group. This study will enable the council to set a future budget and ensure that a definitive plan is in place for future Electric Vehicle charging points to be installed.</p>
An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas		
Open Strawberry Meadows	COMPLETE	<p>This project is a continuation of the 2022 Corporate Strategy project, to complete the final delivery of the Strawberry Meadows employment site through the completion of the construction, marketing and handover.</p> <p>Strawberry Meadows employment site was completed in quarter four, following the official opening of the new facility in October 2022. Its day to day operation has now been handed over to the Property Management Team, who will ensure the long-term management of the facility and tenants. The new state of the art business and industrial hub hosts a mixture of light industrial units, hybrid units containing workshop and office space, and larger units capable of being expanded, helping to provide a strong and expanding business sector across the borough.</p> <p>This facility will enable us to continue to succeed in attracting people to do business in Chorley. Demand for the units has been high with leases offered to a variety of tenants, which include a florist, an online auctioneer, a scaffolder, and an engineering firm promoting the diversity of businesses in Chorley and future job opportunities.</p>
Deliver improvements to local service centres	GREEN	<p>This project will focus on delivering physical enhancements to Local Service Centres in areas outside the Town Centre such as Euxton, Coppull, Adlington, Whittle, and Clayton.</p> <p>Progress has been made with initial site investigations taking place to evaluate the potential improvements that can be undertaken by the council to improve the identified local areas. A project plan will be developed with a view to presenting the schemes and options for consideration.</p>
Continue development at Astley Hall	GREEN	<p>Following Astley Hall's extensive two-year restoration to preserve the Grade two listed building, this project focusses on further enhancing the visitor experience and deliver wider improvements to other areas of the Hall complex.</p> <p>Feedback collected from visitors since the reopening of the hall has been used to further enhance the visitor journey and experience. This will influence the content of the information boards and signage to make the hall informative but accessible. Work has also been undertaken to reopen the gallery space to showcase the Hall's art collection and refurbish the walled garden glasshouse.</p> <p>Work has been undertaken to develop and cost a plan of wider improvement works to the Hall to further enhance the experience, and activities within the improvement programme, include the conversion of the Conference Room into a new Workshop and Activity Room for educational visits, and opening of the servant's rooms and oak dressing room in the Hall.</p> <p>Preparatory work has been completed to finalise a list of improvement projects, which will utilise UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) to fund the project, and the list of projects will be brought forward to be delivered with detailed timescales.</p>

Launch a skills and jobs programme	GREEN	<p>The aim of this project is to work with our partners to support skills, development, and innovation, to launch a skills and job programme to promote future career pathways and provide a local skills pipeline.</p> <p>Several events have been hosted in partnership with local schools aimed at promoting training opportunities to broaden the career aspiration of young people. Careers events have taken place supporting individuals into employment and training opportunities from a variety of sectors.</p> <p>An Employment and Skills Officer has been successfully recruited, who will support the delivery of the Skills and Jobs Programme for Chorley and enable the development of a comprehensive programme of support allowing aspiring local businesses to stay and grow in the borough. The mapping exercise has taken place to identify upskilling, training and employability provision that is currently available in the area. The key themes for the programme are being developed, and the Employment and Skills Officer will work in collaboration with partners to help build relationships and enable closer working.</p>
Healthy, safe, and engaged communities		
Deliver a health and wellbeing programme	GREEN	<p>This project works closely with local providers to develop a community-based health and wellbeing programme. The programme focusses on improving mental and physical health, employing different locally delivered activities.</p> <p>Progress has been made on the project with the launch of a range of initiatives such as the Suicide Prevention Action Plan, which aims to increase awareness of support and reduce stigma. Additionally, a delivery partner was successfully identified to deliver community-based suicide prevention training 'orange button', providing learners with the confidence and tools to understand the impact of suicide.</p> <p>The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) summer programme was successfully delivered with 1,409 funded attendees engaged over the summer holiday period and an impressive attendance rate of 82%.</p> <p>The Adult Health and Wellbeing Grant continues to be distributed with a wide range of activity being delivered across the borough, including walking netball, walking football, seated yoga, photography, boxing for veterans, woodwork, cheerleading, gardening, and crafts.</p>
Deliver the Cost of Living Action Plan	GREEN	<p>This project delivered the Cost of Living Action Plan, which was approved by Executive Cabinet in October 2022 and ensured that efforts to reduce the burden of the cost of living impacts are coordinated and deployed effectively to make the best use of resources to achieve the best possible outcomes for our residents.</p> <p>Since its launch in October 2022, the action plan has delivered the warm spaces programme, which provided warm and friendly places for over 2,800 residents at key venues across the borough in response to rising energy costs. The Warm Spaces Programme was expanded to cover the summer months and the Welcome Spaces Programme, supporting residents to access cost of living support alongside social inclusion activity. The uniform swap shop scheme was expanded with schools, and a delivery partner identified for a confidence and independence course aimed at vulnerable residents and hosted at Chorley Sheds.</p> <p>The Household Support Fund phase three was completed, with 6,744 households supported financially totalling £426K, with the three biggest areas of support being energy and water (46%), food (21%), and wider essentials (18%).</p> <p>A comprehensive plan to deliver the Household Support Fund phase four (HSF4) was agreed at Council and a total value of £640k is currently being distributed.</p>
Provide support for families and young people to start and live well	GREEN	<p>Examples of some of the key initiatives delivered by this project include working with partners to deliver positive parenting workshops and events, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a school speakers programme in partnership with local schools, • The Big Early Help event in partnership with the Children and Young Family Wellbeing Service, • A Winter Play Day was hosted in collaboration with Inspire Youth Zone • 'Empowering Parents, Guardians and Carers' event at the Town Hall • Delivery of a Train the Trainer Money Management Programme and a Parenting Programme.

<p>Increase digital connectivity in the rural areas (REPF)</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>The Rural England Prosperity Fund seeks to help support specific challenges in rural areas including lower productivity, poor connectivity, and access to services. Options for the delivery of the rural element of the prosperity funding were considered including rural broadband to address gaps in connectivity and a rural grants scheme to promote growth and sustainability. Given the timescales for the funding and feedback received from local businesses, taking forward the digital connectivity was no longer feasible. The proposal was therefore to offer a rural grants scheme to enable eligible businesses to make capital improvements to their operations.</p> <p>Development of the Rural England Prosperity Fund project has taken place, which seeks to help support specific challenges in rural areas by offering a rural grants scheme to enable eligible businesses to make capital improvements to their operations. A collaborative agreement for the administration of the scheme has been secured with Lancashire County Council, ensuring agreed procedures and processes are in place to support the delivery, monitoring, and evaluation of the scheme. To ensure that the scope of the scheme is aligned to local needs and priorities, a consultation has been undertaken with local businesses to understand the level of demand and identify potential applicants.</p> <p>The scheme was launched on 15 September for rural businesses across Chorley to apply for grant funding.</p>
<p>Deliver high quality, responsive Council services</p>	<p>GREEN</p>	<p>The Council has an ambitious transformation programme that includes delivering improvements to ensure high quality and responsive services.</p> <p>A single operating model for Property and Development as well as Pest Control was successfully implemented, with both teams now operating on a shared basis with South Ribble Borough Council. This forms part of the wider programme of shared services, which will provide greater capacity, more resilience, and create development opportunities for staff.</p> <p>Delivery of the Property and Asset development plan has continued to enable a joint operating model.</p> <p>To ensure that services are more accessible for residents, external forms for the Council website have been reviewed and work is continuing with ICT and services to deliver channel shift improvements by enhancing the capability for online self-serve bringing forward new web forms and technology. A Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system will be procured, and new external website forms will now be developed.</p>