

Report of	Record of	Date
Director (Communities) (Introduced by Executive Member (Early Intervention))	Executive Member Decision	15/04/2024

2024/25 Neighbourhood Priorities - Approval for Delivery

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 (February/March 2024) to agree neighbourhood priorities 2024/25.
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 26)
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:

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

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/February/March 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. Delivery of this year's neighbourhood priorities will follow the below timescales:

Information: Selection reports created and sent to each neighborhood area group with project proposal criteria. Selection reports includes, Community insight, Guidance to help create priority proposal, Priority proposal form, Timescales	December
Nomination: Deadline for Neighbourhood Priority project proposals to be submitted. Proposals collated and circulated for Neighbourhood Area meetings	February
Selection: Neighborhood area meetings Discuss and agree projects to be delivered for 2024/25 delivery. Meeting agenda content covered as agreed	February/ March
Approval: Produce EMD to get final Exec Member sign off for 2024/25 Neighbourhood priorities delivery	March
Scoping: Assign Lead Officer to projects for scoping and delivery. Lead officer works with lead member from Neighbourhood group to scope the priority – including timescales, costs and funding etc.	April
Delivery: Delivery of agreed priority projects	May to March
Update and monitoring: Neighbourhood Area meetings Update on the progress regards selected Neighbourhood priorities	June / July
Mid-term Update and monitoring: Update provided by email (in addition to ongoing progress updates on individual projects) on all selected Neighbourhood priorities to neighborhood management groups	October
Updates and Completion: Updates given at neighborhood area meetings with details on outstanding actions and anticipated completion of all priority projects.	February / March 2025

20. All information on proposing 2024/25 Neighbourhood Priority projects have been circulated to Neighbourhood area groups. This includes below (see appendix)
 - Guidance on proposing priority projects (see appendix 1)
 - Neighbourhood Priority Ideas (see appendix 2)
 - Ward Profiles (see appendix 3)
 - Social Prescribing – Referral Reasons by ward (see appendix 4)
 - Proposal Form (see appendix 5)
21. 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 there is an opportunity for Member to consider project that help to reduce this impact and lessen the long term impacts.
22. Therefore, consideration would be 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 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.
 - Provide opportunities for residents to feel proud of where they live.
23. To help aid discussions in the meeting and selection of priorities it has been requested 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
24. 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 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?
25. Proposal forms are recommended to be submitted prior to the meeting in which they can be fully discussed, and final priority projects agreed.

Proposed Neighbourhood Priorities

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

Neighbourhood Area	Priority Project	
Northern Parishes	Priority 1	To deliver a holiday activity and food programme for young people to support families and address child food poverty.
	Priority 2	To deliver Community Clean Up initiative at identified areas and make visual improvements and cleaning to main roundabout on A6 within Clayton-le-Woods.
	Priority 3	Scheme of improvement works to enhance accessibility and appearance at identified locations along Withnell Fold Circular Walk including Withnell Fold Nature Reserve
	Priority 4	Feasibility study to investigate the possibility of installing a skate park in Clayton Brook
Chorley Town East	Priority 1	To help develop a confidence and wellbeing Boyzone project for young people and deliver community clean up in Heath Charnock
	Priority 2	To support the sustainability and development of weekly Youth Club for Adlington and District at Fairview Y&C Centre
	Priority 3	Investigate and deliver road safety campaign around Bolton Road, Heath Charnock Fredericks area – possible mobile device.
	Priority 4	Project to address traffic speed and ASB concerns in the Nickleton Brow/Rivington view area. To further develop partnership working with key organisations to support delivery of recommended interventions
Northwest Parishes and Chorley North	Priority 1	To investigate feasibility and deliver a Street Art project at the railway underpass in Buckshaw Village
	Priority 2	To develop a Community Café at Lancaster Way Community Centre in Buckshaw Village also incorporating wellbeing support for residents
	Priority 3	To make visual improvements to identified roundabout within Buckshaw and delivery of community cleans up in Astley Village, Euxton, Whittle and Chorley North
	Priority 4	To investigate anti-social behaviour around Granville Road and explore feasibility of installation of Alleygates

Chorley Town West	Priority 1	Create a community café at Buttermere community centre which will also provide residents with wider wellbeing support and help address financial hardship.
	Priority 2	To deliver a young people's activity programme around Coronation Recreation Ground to address antisocial behaviour.
	Priority 3	Investigate and deliver a scheme of work to make open space improvements to the area around Kimberley Street in Coppull
Eastern Parishes	Priority 1	To support the sustainability and development of weekly Youth Club in Adlington at Fairview Y&C Centre
	Priority 2	To deliver community skip day initiative in Adlington and community clean up events across the neighbourhood area
	Priority 3	Provision of handrail to address accessibility issues at the walkway from Victoria Street, Wheelton to the Village Hall
	Priority 4	To make improvements to the footpath/Board Walk located within Brinscall near lodge bank.
Western Parishes	Priority 1	To support Bretherton Parish Council to acquire land to develop Community Garden in Bretherton
	Priority 2	To support Charnock Richard Parish Council in progressing the next phases of the Orchard Garden open space amenity in Charnock Richard.
	Priority 3	To provide further funding and support to the Garden of Reflection project in Eccleston
	Priority 4	To support Eccleston Parish Council in the acquisition of land at two identified locations within Eccleston.

Climate change and air quality

27. 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

28. NA

Risk

29. 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

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

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

31. There are no concerns to raise from a Monitoring Officer perspective.

Jennifer Mullin

Director communities

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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 15/04/2024

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.