

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Leader)	Council	16 July 2024

Chorley Council Annual Performance Report 2023/24

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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Purpose of the Report

- To provide a summary of the Council's achievements during 2023/24 as well as highlighting the challenges and opportunities facing the Council in 2024/25 and beyond.

Recommendations

- That the report be noted.

Reasons for recommendations

- To ensure the effective monitoring of Council performance and delivery across the year.

Other options considered and rejected

- No other options have been considered or rejected. This is because the report does not present any items for decision.

Executive summary

- Overall performance against the Corporate Strategy in the 2023/24 financial year was excellent, with significant progress achieved across the Council's key priorities. These include:
 - 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.
- Despite the challenging period due to the cost of living crisis and inflation affecting the economy, the delivery of the Corporate Strategy priorities over the last 12 months has continued to deliver improved outcomes for the borough, its residents, communities and businesses.

7. Looking ahead, the Corporate Strategy for the 2024/25 financial year, vision, priorities and long term-outcomes have remained the same to ensure that the long term impacts of strategic activity and investment are maintained. The refreshed strategy will reflect the future ambitions and objectives of the Council, building on progress made over the last few years, the strategy will concentrate on ensuring that Chorley is in the best possible position for the future. Key issues include housing, business support, activity to increase jobs and skills, climate change, community resilience and wellbeing.
8. The annual report for 2023/24 is available at Appendix A, which includes the Trade Union Facilities time for 2023/24, as required by regulation from 2017.

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. The annual report is a key mechanism for presenting information about the Council's performance for residents, partners, and key stakeholders. The report provides information regarding key activities that have been delivered over the past 12 months to meet our vision and corporate priorities.

Summary of the report

11. The annual report for 2023/24 is available at Appendix A. The key headlines from the report include:

Delivering Corporate Strategy Priorities

Housing where residents can live well

12. The Tatton Gardens project completed in 2023 and was shortlisted for three awards at the North West Regional Construction Awards. The state of the art facility provides specialist housing and care facilities to individuals aged 55 and over and has transformed the local area. The scheme received at Sub-regional Project of the Year Award, demonstration the dedication of all involved in creating the fantastic facility.
13. We have made enhancements to 12 different parks and open spaces across the borough. Highlights of investment works undertaken include improvements to the changing facilities at King George V Playing Pitches, an indoor and outdoor archery facility at Wigan Lane Sports Hub and improvement work to the play areas at Astley Park and West Way. These initiatives reflect the Council's commitment to creating vibrant, accessible spaces for the community to enjoy.
14. The Council has secured £20 million from the Governments Levelling Up Fund for town centre improvements. Regeneration works include the creation of a Civic square

for community use and events and enhancements to the public realm, connecting key areas to encourage active travel, reduce car journeys, and minimise noise and pollution in the town centre.

15. The Council has delivered year one of a two-year home energy support programme to assist residents through the challenges they face with the cost of living and the high cost of energy. The scheme has conducted 130 visits and energy audits for households at high risk of fuel poverty and implements recommendations such as distributing small devices on providing practical advice on energy efficiency.

A green and sustainable borough

16. As part of the Council's commitment to improving public transport networks, a five year bus shelter improvement programme has been developed to replace 83 bus shelters across the borough. In the first year of the program, we have successfully installed 15 bus shelters at locations including Adlington, Astley Village, Withnell, Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton-le-Woods, Euxton and Heapey. Additionally, two living roof shelters have been installed in Chorley town centre. The replacement of the shelters will seek to encourage public transport use by transforming bus stops into modern, safe, and inviting spaces that all residents throughout the borough can utilise.
17. The Council has remained committed to addressing climate change by delivering natural green initiatives and accomplishing our goal of planting 116,000 trees (a tree for every resident) by 2025. This milestone has been surpassed, with 151,780 trees now planted. In 2023/24, the Council planted 34,638 trees, which included giving away trees to our communities. Other initiatives included the successful delivery of the annual wildflower meadow programme, establishing prominent vibrant wildflower meadows across the borough and the delivery of enhancements to Westway Nature Reserve.

An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas

18. The historic Astley Hall Located in the stunning Astley Park, celebrates its 100 years since opening to the public as a museum. To celebrate this milestone the Council launched the 100 years of Astley memories initiative, inviting members of the public to share their stories and experiences of the hall and in turn become a part of the hall's history. Astley Hall remains one of our premier visitor destinations and an invaluable asset to Chorley.
19. As a Council we are committed to listening to the business community and ensuring that Chorley remains a great place to do business. We have launched a Skills and Jobs Programme with the aim of promoting future career pathways, support local skills development, encouraging growth and innovation. Over the year there has been a number of activities hosted with partners, including the launch of the Chorley Apprentice Grant and the development of the Chorley Employment Gateway Expo. These initiatives will attract new skills and promote employment, volunteering, and training opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses.

20. The Council has officially acquired the Chorley Bus Station from Lancashire County Council (LCC), which will be improved under the Council's management in order to further enhance public transport across the borough. Improvement plans for next year include redecoration, improvements to the external cladding, a green wall installation, and the refurbishment of the toilets. The Council remains committed to ensuring that the town centre is a safe and vibrant place to live, work, and visit.
21. Throughout the year, the Council has hosted a series of highly anticipated events across the borough to foster a sense of pride and encourage visitors to Chorley including the flagship Chorley Flower Show which attracted 12,000 attendees, Chorley Live with over 10,000 and 1,500 participants at the Chorley 10k race. The excellent lineup of events also featured What's Your Story Chorley, Picnic in the Park, the Christmas lights switch-on, and Winter Wonderland. These popular well attended events promote Chorley as a great place to live, work, and visit as well as encouraging residents to get involved in their local community.

Healthy, safe and engaged communities

22. To support residents with the impacts from the rising cost of living and the increase in inflation, we have successfully delivered the Cost of Living Action Plan providing practical support and intervention for our local communities. We have delivered the Household Support Fund that provided over £715,000 in essential support to over 18,000 households. Other initiative to highlight include the Warm and Welcome spaces, which provided a safe, warm and friendly environment to 3,622 residents. Our Handy Person scheme completed 579 jobs providing low-cost or free professional services for DIY tasks residents.
23. The Chorley and South Ribble Partnership has continued to collaborate with partners to ensure that we provide more co-ordinated service to meet the need of our residents. We have launched a new data sharing platform that brings together data from a range of partners including education, social housing, health and policing. The platform brings together local data sources to provide overarching, place-based insights to help us make more Informed decisions.
24. Health and wellbeing remain a key priority and progress has been made working closely with local providers to deliver different locally delivered initiatives focused on improving mental and physical health. Over the year, this includes Holiday Activities and Food (HAF), where 13,081 spaces were attended; 181 residents have participated in the adult weight management scheme; and 129 primary-aged children and their parents have engaged with the Play and Skills at Tea-time Activities (PASTA) scheme.

Council Spending

25. The Council has invested in improvements across the borough, which have helped to secure better long-term outcomes for residents. Investments that respond to resident priorities include:
 - £2.8m of further investment in affordable homes and adaptation grants,

- £200k for environmental improvements and proactive activity to clean up neighbourhoods,
- £441k over the MTFS for investment within bus shelters,
- £150k to continue improving Astley Hall,
- £100k investment in measures to improve home energy efficiency,
- £120k to provide more support for families and young people to access services that can give them the best start in life,
- £400k to improve rural business connectivity,
- £240k to provide additional support for businesses.

Future Challenges 2024/25

26. Looking ahead to the 2024/25 financial year, we have a number of challenges that we will face as a local authority. Increases in demand for services, financial and political uncertainty, and as the cost of living crisis continues it is essential that the Council has a clear plan in place to deliver and support relief for those who are most in need of help while maintaining high quality public services.

27. To ensure that the Council is positioned to meet the challenges ahead, the Corporate Strategy has been refreshed, retaining the vision, priorities and long term-outcomes to ensure that the long term impacts of strategic activity and investment are maintained. This strategy continues to progress action to address the economic impact of unprecedented inflation rates and high cost of living, including support for businesses and activity to increase jobs and skills. The strategy responds to the needs of communities, moving health and wellbeing initiatives into their next phase of delivery and doing more for neighbourhoods right across the borough. Housing and homelessness prevention remain key themes with specific Council action to ensure that everyone is able to live in good quality, energy efficient and suitable homes. The four priorities continue to be:

- 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.

Climate change and air quality

28. The work noted in this report impacts on the following areas of climate change and sustainability targets of the Council's green agenda: net carbon zero by 2030, reducing waste production, limiting non sustainable forms of transport, working with sustainable and green accredited companies, limiting or improving air quality, limiting water waste and flooding risks, improving green areas and biodiversity.

Equality and diversity

29. There are several projects over 2023/24 that have contributed towards improving equality outcomes for residents across the borough, which are presented in the annual report. Examples include providing support for families and young people to start and

live well, improving resident's wellbeing through the Health and Wellbeing programme and delivering the Cost of Living Action Plan.

Risk

30. Each corporate project delivered in 2023/24 had a risk register established on the GRACE risk management system to ensure the effective identification, monitoring, and mitigation of risks to the Corporate Strategy and its delivery. Risks to service level projects were also captured through service and business plan risk registers.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

31. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

32. The report is for noting only. There are no direct legal implications resulting from this report.

Background documents

Relevant background documents are linked below:

- [Chorley Council Annual Performance Report 202223.pdf](#)
- [Quarter One Performance Monitoring Report 2023-24.pdf](#)
- [Quarter Two Performance Monitoring Report 2023-24.pdf](#)
- [Quarter Three Performance Monitoring Report 202324.pdf](#)
- [Quarter Four Performance Monitoring Report 202324.pdf](#)

Appendices

33. The following documents are included as appendices:
- Appendix A – Chorley Annual Report 2023/24

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