

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

GENERAL REPORT

1. The Executive Cabinet has only met once on 18 August 2011 since the last ordinary Council meeting held on 19 July 2011. This report summarises briefly the principal items considered and decisions taken at that meeting. The Cabinet's recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

Executive's response to recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Task Group's Inquiry into Highways issues

2. We received and considered a report outlining our response and actions following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's inquiry into Highways issues. The Executive Member (Places) advised there are many positive proposals within the report, including taking responsibility for grass verges and gritting in the town centre from Lancashire County Council, although delivering the actions will take some time due to negotiations required.
3. In response to a query, we noted that Lancashire County Council do not currently have the functionality to enable feedback to customers on the progress of service requests.
4. It is hoped that the initial letters for the enforcement of overhanging vegetation on private land will be undertaken, on behalf of Lancashire County Council.
5. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee thanked the Executive Cabinet for their response and the Members of the Task Group for their recommendations.

First Quarter Chorley Partnership Performance Report 2011/12

6. We considered a report of the Chief Executive setting out the performance of the Chorley Partnership from 1 April to 30 June 2011.
7. Key points were highlighted, including that overall crime has reduced by 9.6% compared to this period last year, reductions have been seen in most categories of crime during the first quarter and that the percentage of unauthorised absence in primary and secondary schools in the Chorley area is below the national average.
8. The report included an update on progress made in the delivery of the key projects of the Chorley Partnership in 2011/2012, with four of the five projects currently rated 'green'. The Early Intervention project is currently rated amber. Some work has been completed, but due to external delays, the timetable for completion has been revised and all projects are expected to be commissioned during the second quarter. The deliberate primary fires figure is high due to recent moorland fires.

First Quarter Performance Report 2011/12

9. We considered a report of the Chief Executive setting out performance against the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators from 1 April to 30 June 2010.

10. Overall performance of key projects remains good, with the vast majority of the projects either completed, on track or not scheduled to start until later in the year. Overall performance on the key measures in the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators is strong, with 92% of the Corporate Strategy measures performing above target or within the 5% tolerance.
11. Five projects has been rated amber and one of the key service delivery measures is below target. This indicator relates to the time taken to process Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit change events. An action plan has been developed to outline what action will be taken to improve performance.
12. Members highlighted that the allotments project is now subject to a decision by DCLG. The Director of Planning, Partnerships and Policy will be taking over responsibility for the development of an Asset Management Strategy project.
13. Members congratulated officers on the better than target performance in relation to the processing of planning applications for 'major', 'minor' and 'other' application types.
14. It was confirmed that the issues with the Shared Revenues and Benefits with South Ribble Council relate to significant changes in the welfare system nationally and there will be no delay to customers in receiving their benefits.

Planning Breach at Heath Paddock, Heath Charnock

15. We received and considered a confidential report outlining the current position regarding compliance with the enforcement notices on land known as Heath Paddock which is currently being used as an unauthorised gypsy/traveller site by the owner/occupiers.
16. It was agreed to note the decision of the Development Control Committee made on 9 August to seek an injunction to control the planning breach;
17. To set aside £115,000 from balances from the general revenue fund to cover the cost of this enforcement action; [This was based on all police and fire service costs being the full responsibility of Lancashire Police Authority and Lancashire Fire & Rescue respectively and the Council not bearing any such costs associated with this action].
18. To grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to spend up to £30,000 in response to any operational necessity that arises including remediation of the site should the owners not comply with the second enforcement notice to remediate the site by 21 September 2011.

Recommendation

19. That the report be noted.

COUNCILLOR PETER GOLDSWORTHY
Executive Leader

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