

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

GENERAL REPORT - 24 November 2011

1. The Cabinet's recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

Funding the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) Service

2. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Adrian Lowe, presented a report outlining the results of the Committee's scrutiny of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service for Chorley and South Ribble.
3. The scrutiny aims to understand the value of the service to residents of Chorley and South Ribble and to look at future delivery of the service. The Committee has heard from a number of partners from the Community Safety Partnership.
4. The Committee found that the IDVA service is highly valued not only in supporting victims of domestic abuse but also in preventing repeat cases. In doing so it is of benefit to all partners and will, in the long term, mean savings within each organisation.
5. There is no clear commitment on funding from partners. We discussed the value of the service and supported the recommendations to consider making some provision for funding for the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service for Chorley and South Ribble in the 2012/13 budget and that Chorley lead the way in seeking funding from the other key partners who benefit from the service, namely the Police, South Ribble Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, the PCT and CCH and other social landlords.
6. Secondly we agreed to consider a three year commitment to fund the service from March 2012 to March 2015 (with annual review) during the budget process, and that a similar commitment be sought from other partners through the Community Safety Partnership.

Planning Review - Fees

7. The Executive Member for Partnerships and Planning presented a report requesting approval to amend and introduce new changes to the planning fee schedule.
8. The majority of the fee proposals relate to commercial developers and those relating to householders are optional services. This means that the impact on Chorley residents will be minimal.
9. We approved the proposed changes and additions to the planning fee model for implementation from 1 January 2012.

Safeguarding Policy - Review and Update

10. The Executive Member for People presented a report advising of a review of the Council's child protection policy and arrangements for dealing with safeguarding issues that might arise through contact with children and young people.
11. The Council's current Policy was drafted in 2009 and the arrangements for dealing with safeguarding issues have altered due to senior management restructures in late 2010.
12. A future Members Learning Hour will be arranged to provide detailed information on the policy and procedures as well as Members' responsibilities with regard to safeguarding. Training for frontline staff will be provided to ensure they are fully conversant with their responsibilities and understand the procedures for raising safeguarding concerns arising from their work activities.

Update on London 2012 progress in Chorley

13. The Executive Member for People introduced a report which highlights current progress of initiatives and work to promote and link Chorley to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games.
14. The report includes an update on the implications for the Olympic Torch Relay passing through Chorley centre, Euxton and Croston. The Council has the responsibility for facilitating the Olympic Torch's safe arrival; ensuring the Olympic Torch Relay Route is dressed for the occasion; encouraging local people to get involved including lining the route and liaising with local partner agencies, such as the police, to enable the Olympic Torch to pass through the borough.
15. In response to queries from Members a further report will be presented outlining the detailed costs of this. We approved a budget provision of £40,000 to support the activities and initiatives planned for the Torch Relay and Olympiad period.

Allotments Update

16. The Executive Member for People presented a report relating to The Common, Adlington element of the allotments project.
17. The Common is one of three sites identified to be taken forward for development of new allotments.
18. Initial consultation with 37 neighbouring properties was undertaken in May 2011. Further consultation was carried out as part of the planning application for the provision of a car park on the site. Opposition had been expressed by local ward councillors, Adlington Town Council, and residents including a 52 signature petition and 179 letters of objection.
19. Other local potential sites have been identified, including Harrison Road. All of the sites present further issues including access, ecological impact and/or do not offer good value for money.
20. We agreed to defer delivery of allotments at The Common, Adlington, withdraw the planning application for on site car parking and requested that officers identify alternative sites in the Borough for allotment plots.

Waste Contract Update

21. The Executive Member for Places introduced a report on the performance of the waste contract and making recommendations on how the Council introduce food waste collections. LCC no longer require separate food waste collections from all properties as part of the current cost sharing agreement.
22. Veolia has continued to meet their monthly performance targets and Chorley achieved a recycling rate of 48.55% in 2010/11, which is the best in Lancashire.
23. It is proposed to start collections of co-mingled food and garden waste from all properties with a brown bin from March 2012. Other than initial publicity costs, there are no additional costs for vehicles or containers. As the Farington Waste Technology Park (WTP) only passed the acceptance tests for food waste in September it is prudent to wait until after the winter period before fully introducing comingled food and garden waste collections. Introducing the new changes in March 2012, at the start of the growing season, will ensure that residents have significant amounts of garden waste to mix their food waste with and the service is unlikely to be disrupted by severe winter weather.
24. Officers clarified that residents retained the option to dispose of food waste in their domestic bin.

25. We also agreed to defer separate food waste collections from properties without gardens (8,500) for the duration of the contract (2019) which would save £70,000 per year. This follows the results of the trials collecting food waste separately from terraced properties undertaken by South Ribble Borough Council and Preston City Council. The participation rate was 35% for South Ribble and 40% for Preston City Council. As participation rates are lower when compared to properties with gardens the cost per tonne of food waste collected is significantly more expensive for these property types. Pendle Council suspended their separate food waste in October 2011 to 7,000 terraced properties partly because of the high cost of collection.

Second Quarter Council Performance Report 2011/2012

26. The Chief Executive introduced a report setting out the performance of the Council against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the second quarter of 2011/2012, 1 July to 30 September 2011.
27. Overall performance of key projects remains good, with the vast majority of the projects either completed, or on track. The timescales to deliver the project to refresh the Council's website has slipped for several reasons. However, the live site is expected to go live in quarter 4.
28. Overall performance on the key measures in the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators is strong, with 83% of the Corporate Strategy measures performing above target or within the 5% tolerance. Two key performance indicators within the Corporate Strategy are below target: % of health checks resulting in a referral and the % of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, Employment or training (NEET).
29. The health checks service team are planning to take the health checks into communities and work with employers going forward. On the NEET indicator the figures follows a national trend, but the Council is looking at ways to reverse this trend.
30. One of the key service delivery measures is below target, namely the number of families owed a statutory duty in temporary accommodation. In this case, an action plan has been developed to outline what action will be taken to improve performance.

Second Quarter Chorley Partnership Performance Report 2011/2012

31. The Chief Executive presented a report on the performance of the Chorley Partnership during the second quarter of 2011/2012, from 1 July to 30 September 2011.
32. Performance is assessed on the delivery of partnership projects, against measures in the delivery plan and key service delivery measures. Performance in achieving the key performance targets remains good, although overall crime in quarter two has increased by 3% compared to this period last year, the year to date figure shows a reduction of 4.6%. Accidental Dwelling Fires figures are lower than anticipated.
33. Generally performance on the key projects / priorities in the Chorley Partnership delivery plan is strong, with 89% rated green as is performance on the key projects of the Chorley Partnership, with all five of the projects currently rated 'green'.
34. Member raised concerns about the impact of cuts within the Police force on levels of crime in Chorley going forward.

Grant of a lease - land at Balshaw Lane, Euxton

35. The Executive Member for People introduced a report seeking approval for the terms agreed for the grant of a 25 year lease to Euxton Parish Council on land at Balshaw Lane, Euxton for the creation of a skate park.
36. The Council owns land at Balshaw Lane Euxton. The land currently provides car parking, amenity open space and access to Yarrow Valley Country Park. A consultation exercise carried out by Euxton Parish Council identified a lack of leisure facilities and activities for young people in the

village of Euxton. As a result, further public consultation was carried out and it has been suggested that a skate park will meet the needs of young people in Euxton.

37. Terms have been proposed, and accepted for the grant of a 25 year lease to enable the creation of a skate park by Euxton Parish Council.
38. We also agreed to authorise Liberata Property Services to instruct the Head of Governance (Legal Services) to proceed with the drafting of the Lease, with the Lease to be signed once the Parish Council has secured full funding for the project.

Results of a joint insurance procurement exercise in conjunction with South Ribble Borough Council

39. We considered a confidential report which outlined that at the June meeting we approved a joint procurement exercise, in conjunction with South Ribble Borough Council, for the renewal of the current insurance covers in place at both Councils under existing Long Term Agreements (LTAs) that are due to expire on 31/12/2011.
40. We also approved the contract award procedure and tender evaluation criteria and agreed that South Ribble Borough Council would act as the lead body for the joint procurement and conduct the exercise in compliance with its Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Guidance.
41. The joint exercise has now been undertaken and a detailed Tender Evaluation Report had been provided by the Councils' common insurance brokers.
42. We agreed that Risk Management Partners (RMP), Zurich Municipal (ZM) and ACE European Group Limited be appointed to provide insurance cover for the respective classes of insurance noted in the report.

Planning review and restructure

43. The Director of Planning, Partnerships and Policy presented a confidential report detailing the results of an in-depth review of the planning service which has been carried out during the last six months.
44. The review has already resulted in numerous process improvements in the service, which can be measured through improved performance in planning processing times and more improvements are planned.
45. In addition to these improvements the review has identified areas where the service can be improved and strengthened through restructuring.
46. We approved the proposed structure, as detailed in the report, for consultation and granted delegated authority to the Executive Member for Partnerships and Planning to approve the final structure.

Recommendation

47. That the report be noted.

COUNCILLOR PETER GOLDSWORTHY
Executive Leader

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