

GENERAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

1. The Executive Cabinet has met on 15 December 2011 and 23 February 2012 since the last ordinary Council meeting held on 6 December 2011. This report summarises briefly the principal items considered and decisions taken at those meetings. The Cabinet's recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2011

Localism Act 2011 and Transitional Arrangements for Planning

2. The Executive Member for Partnerships and Planning presented a report updating us on the Localism Act in relation to the Local Development Framework.
3. National planning policy is in a transitional phase and the timing of the revocation of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the introduction of the final National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will be highly material to the progress of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy.
4. In addition to the risks involved in not having an up to date development plan, there are the reputational and financial risks relating to the resources already spent in preparing the plan. Another consideration will be the impact of delay on the currency of the evidence base used to inform plan making, where new evidence might be necessary leading to further expenditure.
5. The Secretary of State/Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will be approached to consider appropriate transitional arrangements for Chorley and/or Central Lancashire to allow the Lancashire Core Strategy to proceed on an exceptional basis towards adoption.

Community Infrastructure Levy

6. The Executive Member for Partnerships and Planning presented a report outlining the background and rationale for pursuing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
7. CIL has the potential to unlock funding additional to that previously secured under Section 106 planning obligations and will enable authorities to better forecast funding to arise from developer contributions. This should mean that new developments are better accommodated within existing communities and serviced by the necessary infrastructure.
8. The commissioned viability research takes into account the proportions of affordable housing sought from market residential developments as set by policy in the Core Strategy, the wide variability in the economic viability of non-residential developments and recommended draft charge rate levels to consult on.
9. The timetable for adoption is November 2012 and is deliberately planned to follow behind the envisaged adoption of the Core Strategy.
10. We noted CIL monies could be passed, with the consent of the Charging Authority, to other agencies/infrastructure providers (such as Lancashire County Council) and be spent on infrastructure provided outside the Charging Authority's area, provided it benefited the latter.
11. We approved the preliminary draft Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule for consultation.

Health and Wellbeing Local Partnership Arrangements

12. The Executive Member for Partnerships and Planning presented a report advising us of changes to the delivery of public health services in light of Government changes to health service delivery across England.
13. The upper tier authority (Lancashire County Council) will have the primary responsibility for delivering public health improvement and will be a significant budget holder. It is essential that there are local

arrangements in place to ensure health and wellbeing issues are addressed and feed into the developing wider Lancashire health and wellbeing structures.

14. It was proposed, and agreed, that a health and well being partnership be formed with South Ribble Borough Council to primarily mirror the GP Clinical Commissioning Group (GPCCG) footprint. The GPCCG will be a key partner. Other representation at the partnership will be Member input from both Chorley and South Ribble Councils. Other key partners will include Lancashire County Council, PCT as well as representation from the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector. The first meeting was in January 2012.
15. We commented on how these arrangements are above those required statutorily, although the partnership will not replace the official wider Lancashire health and wellbeing structures. The Member appointment to the partnership is the Executive Member (People).

Charging Policy for Housing Act 2004 Immigration Inspections and Enforcement Notices and Orders

16. We considered a report advising us of the provisions within the Housing Act 2004 for Local Authorities to charge for enforcement notices and orders and for immigration inspections.
17. Provisions within the Housing Act 2004 allow local authorities to make a financial charge for enforcement action they might be required to take. In accordance with the Councils Enforcement Policy, other than for Emergency Remedial Works or Emergency Prohibition Orders, landlords will be given an opportunity to resolve the hazards and deficiencies at their properties informally before the service of a formal Notice or Order.
18. Council officers also carry out immigration inspections as all properties intended for the receipt of certain non-EU visitors must be inspected to ensure that space and decency standards are met. Prior to the visitor entering the country the immigration service require an official confirmation from the Council that the intended residence for the duration of the stay will not become overcrowded and has adequate facilities to accommodate the visitors. There is provision within legislation to make a charge for this and the recovery of charges will follow the Councils normal financial procedures.
19. In response to a query from Members, officers confirmed that neighbouring local authorities already make charges for this service.
20. We approved the making of reasonable charges as appropriate for the purposes of recovering the administrative and other costs when the Council takes enforcement action under the Housing Act 2004 and the inspection of properties for immigration applications.

Sunbed (Regulations) Act 2010

21. We received a report relating to the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010. The Act 2010 came into force earlier in 2011 and provides for the prohibition of sale or hire of sunbeds to people under the age of 18. In addition the Act gave the Secretary of State powers to make regulations for further control of the sale, hire and use of sunbeds, although to date no Regulations have been made under the Act in England. The enforcing authority for the Act is the District Council.
22. Officers clarified that there is no inspection regime required. However, there is a tendency for other activities, which are inspected, to be carried out on the same premises, for example, ear piercing. Officers would act on any complaints made.
23. We gave approval for the delegation to the Director of People and Places of the power to appoint authorised officers under the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 and to inform Council of this change to the scheme of delegation within the Constitution.

Budget Principles

24. We received a report outlining our aspirations in relation to the 2012/13 budget and our budget principles upon which the budget would be built.
25. Our key principles to be adopted were similar to the last financial year in that they represented the essence of what we are trying to achieve and had been adapted to reflect the current issues facing the Borough and represented our key areas for investment.
26. Our principles include; to freeze Council Tax for 2012/13, continue to be a high performing Council, providing value for money. To develop schemes to assist in Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS), safeguarding frontline services, particularly to continue our support to the voluntary sector and PCSO's, and to focus on the removal of bureaucracy and managerial posts.
27. We gave approval to the budget principles and information for consultation and discussion.

The Localism Act: Key Provisions

28. We received a report outlining the implications of the Localism Act 2011, which received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. The intention of the Act is to provide Councils with a licence to innovate and to decentralise power back to communities and locally elected councillors.
29. The provisions of the Act are wide ranging and covered a number of different topics. Further legislation as to the detail of how the provision will operate in practice, were yet to be enacted.
30. In response to queries from Members we noted that a Member Learning session will be held on the Localism Act and that information will also be cascaded to Town and Parish Councils.

Revenue and Benefits Restructure Report

31. We received a confidential report providing a brief update in respect of the shared revenues and benefits service with South Ribble Council and proposals for changes to the staffing structure.
32. We noted the report and approved the proposed changes to staffing for consultation to help support the Council's savings target. We granted delegated authority to approve the structure to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources, following feedback from staff.

MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2012

Supplementary Planning Document

33. We received a progress report on the preparation of several Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) for public consultation.
35. The SPDs relate to four key topic areas: Affordable Housing, the Re-Use of Employment Premises, Rural Development and Access to Healthy Food. We were also informed that work on two additional SPD's covering Design and Open Space were also well advanced and would be reported to us shortly.
36. We endorsed the four Supplementary Planning Documents for public consultation and granted delegated authority to the Executive Member in liaison with the Director of Partnerships, Planning and Policy to make minor amendments to the documents if needed, prior to the formal consultation process.

Review of Existing Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy 2010 - 2012

37. We received a report on proposed changes to the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy which reflected the schemes that had been set up since the policy had last been approved.

38. Changes to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), which forms part of the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy would be reported to us at a future date.
39. We approved the proposed changes to the policy and noted that the Disabled Facilities Grants were still to be completed. We also approved the start of the negotiations with Registered Providers (RP) to develop a local agreement, whereby the Council and RP's would share the cost of major adaptations (over £1000) on a 50/50 basis, funded from the DFG budget and noted that a further report on DFG's would be presented to us at our March meeting.

Multi Agency Child Sex Exploitation Strategy

40. Our Executive Member for People explained that the multi agency Child Sex Exploitation (CSE) Strategy was being presented to enable the Council to sign up to its objectives and actions.
41. The aim of the strategy was to tackle the incidence of child sex exploitation (CSE) and Lancashire was in a strong position to tackle CSE through the coordinated approach taken by community safety partnerships and Children's Trusts.
42. The Chorley Children's Trust and the Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership had agreed to the principles of the strategy and to contribute to the actions within it.
43. We agreed to sign up to the aims of the Strategy and committed to delivering those elements of the action plan that were appropriate to the Council, to demonstrate that we are fully engaged in tackling child sex exploitation.

Third Quarter Performance Report 2011/12

44. We received a report setting out performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the third quarter of 2011/12. Our overall performance remains good, with most projects either completed, or on track.
45. Our performance on the key measures in the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators is still strong, with 92% of the Corporate Strategy measures performing above target or within a 5% tolerance.
46. Several indicators were also performing better than target, including the level of avoidable contact, new businesses established and sustained for 12 months and % of customers satisfied with the way they are treated by the Council.

Third Quarter Chorley Partnership Performance Report 2011/12

47. We received a report showing that performance of the Chorley Partnership in achieving key performance targets was still positive. The latest figures for alcohol related hospital admissions showed a 8% reduction, Accidental Dwelling Fires were lower than expected and although crime overall had increased by 5.9%, compared to the same period last year, the year to date figure had shown a reduction of 1.9%.
48. Chorley Partnership has 47 key projects/priorities in the delivery plan for 2011/12 and the overall performance remains excellent with 94% rated green.

Lancastrian Scrutiny Task Group – Final Report and Recommendations

49. We received the final report of the Lancastrian Scrutiny Task Group for information. The report had been signed off by our Executive Member for Resources at the beginning of January to enable the recommendations to be implemented as soon as practicable.

50. The recommendations had included a new pricing structure for the hire of the Lancastrian and the reintroduction of private parties on a trial basis, with appropriate levels of supervision for these events. The arrangements will be reviewed after 12 months.
51. We noted the report and welcomed the ideas from the Task Group to try to increase the use of the Lancastrian Suite within the Town Hall.

Proposed Course Improvements to Duxbury Golf Course

52. We received a confidential report outlining Glendale Golf's proposed course improvements works to Duxbury Golf Course.
53. We supported the improvement works in principle, subject to the granting of planning permission, agreement of the full scope of works and a review of the detailed costings.

Key Partnerships mid Year Report

54. We received a confidential report updating us with the progress made on the performance of the Councils key partnership arrangements to keep us updated and to ensure effective management of the arrangements.

COUNCILLOR PETER GOLDSWORTHY
Executive Leader

RR