

# **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**

## **GENERAL REPORT - 16 August 2012**

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

### **Executive Response to Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry on Tourism and Promoting Chorley**

2. We received a report from the Executive Member (Resources, Policy and Performance) responding to the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Tourism and Promoting Chorley.
3. We discussed the recommendations and noted that planning has already started for Christmas events. Coach trips will be actively encouraged and plans are in place to achieve this.
4. The parking at the recent Big Drum Day event was discussed and we noted there had been a period of 20 minutes where the provision had not been adequate. Lessons will be learned for future events with the provision of additional hard standing if possible.
5. We approved the recommendation to implement the recommendations made by the task and finish group, and the additional work to be undertaken over the coming year as outlined in the report.

### **First Quarter Performance Report 2012/13**

6. The Executive Member (Resources, Policy and Performance) presented a report setting out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the first quarter, 1 April to 30 June 2012.
7. It was clarified that the bus shelter improvement plan does not include the provision of additional shelters.
8. The Sharepoint Electronic Document Management System project was discussed. It was clarified that the new supplier, Northgate, is a large software provider and the system in question (Information@Work) is a mature one. The Council had previously withdrawn from a joint project with Lancashire County Council and other Lancashire Authorities with Northgate to deliver a Customer Relationship Management system. The system in that case had not been a mature one. The project is rated amber as it is expected that the project will soon be back on track.
9. We considered the refresh of the Council's website and that this project now has a status of green (progressing according to timetable and plan). Officers are working hard to deliver this project.
10. The Council is leading discussions with a number of partners in relation to a service package for accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds and providing they commit to the project the aim is to have a new contract in place by 1 April 2013.
11. We noted that 9 new businesses have started in Chorley (up to 31 July) since May when the new Business Start Up post was established and filled.

### **First Quarter Chorley Partnership Performance Report 2012/13**

12. We received a report updating on the performance of the Chorley Partnership during the first quarter, from 1 April to 30 June 2012.
13. Although crime overall has increased by 3.9% in quarter one compared to the same period of last year, there have been significant decreases in alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour.
14. The partnerships project to increase opportunities for NEET young people in Chorley now has a green rating.

15. We discussed policing numbers and the impact on crime. I advised that the Chief Constable has given assurances that, there has been no impact on the levels of crime arising from cuts to funding, as savings have been made from back office areas. However, I will be meeting informally with the Chief Inspector and will raise Members concerns. There is a need to analyse the quarter two figures to identify any issues and keep the figures under review.

### **Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012-13 Report 1 (End of June 2012)**

16. We considered a report from the Executive Member (Resources, Policy and Performance) setting out the current financial position of the Council as compared against the budgets and efficiency savings targets it set itself for the financial year 2012/13.
17. We noted that £282,700 has been approved, as part of the 2012/13 budget, for investment in the Business Start-Up Scheme, the extension of business rate subsidy and shop floor refurbishment grants, the provision of council apprenticeships (NEET's), debt advice funding and revenue costs of town centre land acquisition.
18. The changes to car parking charges were considered. We noted that the detail of the report has been superseded by a recent Executive Member Decision. It is difficult to foresee the impact, but this will be monitored and reported back.
19. We approved the transfer of £300,000 from General Balances to a specific earmarked Town Centre Reserve and the use of underspends on existing staffing budgets to fund the creation of a permanent Business Advisor post to provide a specific advisory service for existing local businesses who have been trading for over three years.

### **Councillor Community Grants Fund**

20. The Executive Member (People) presented the report outlining the proposal for the creation of a trial Councillor Community Grants Fund.
21. We discussed the methodology to measure the success of applications. This Community Grants Fund project is a pilot and will be used to inform future schemes. It is aimed at supporting volunteers.
22. We approved use of the remainder of the Core Funding budget for 2012/13 to deliver the Councillor Community Grants Fund.

### **Recommendation**

23. To note the report.

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BRADLEY  
Executive Leader

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