

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member for Places)	Executive Cabinet	21 March 2013

NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITIES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek Executive Cabinet approval to progress the 24 neighbourhood priorities that were put forward at the recent neighbourhood area meetings and to agree a budget where appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Members are asked to approve the 24 priorities and actions identified through the recent round of Neighbourhood Area meetings and listed as Appendix 1 to this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Following a review of neighbourhood working in 2012, the round of meetings in January and February 2013 has determined a total of 24 priorities across the eight neighbourhood areas.
- The table attached as Appendix 1 to this report summarises the priorities and provides an indication of actions, resource and lead service area required for each priority.
- It is recognised that there is a diverse range priorities and that some will require further consultation to fully understand and determine community needs.
- Funding for the delivery of the priorities will be through existing budgets, business as usual resources, leveraging in partner resources and approaching Parish Councils to release a proportion their precept.
- The priorities cover a range of issues, however some priorities do have similarities across neighbourhoods and some also fall within programmes of work planned for 2013/14. Where this is the case the respective programmes of work will take into account the respective priorities and seek to deliver them in those terms.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reason Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

(If the recommendations are accepted)

8. To progress the priorities determined by the neighbourhood area representatives for the benefit of the communities within their respective neighbourhood areas.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9. None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities	√	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	√

BACKGROUND

11. In November 2012 Executive Cabinet agreed improvements to neighbourhood working and a change to the way neighbourhood area meetings were conducted, following a review earlier in 2012.
12. Neighbourhood Areas were invited to submit three key priorities or actions for their areas during the round of meetings in January/February 2013.
13. The neighbourhood area priorities have been collated into a table and are attached as Appendix 1 to this report together with an indication of what actions might be required to deliver each priority, which service areas, partners and agencies might be involved in that delivery and an indicative cost. The table also indicates the service area best placed to lead on each priority.
14. Members will note that there is a range of priorities submitted by the neighbourhood areas from discrete work packages involving the installation of infrastructure to more developmental priorities involving engagement and support for communities.
15. It is believed that all priorities are deliverable to a greater or lesser extent during 2013/14, although some will require a level of local consultation to establish exactly what the communities needs are. This may delay the ultimate delivery or even change the focus of the priority but it is anticipated that the priorities will be delivered in a phased approach during 2013/14 to ensure the best use of officer time and partner resources.

DELIVERY

16. Each neighbourhood area meeting has nominated a chairperson for the meetings and each priority has a lead service assigned to it. For a number of priorities the lead service will need to liaise closely with the chairperson of the neighbourhood area in order to properly scope the priority.
17. Each priority will be managed through the Councils internal project management process with a set of objectives and tasks against which the successful delivery of the priority can be measured.

18. There is currently a base budget of £100K in the Neighbourhoods budget, a proportion of which is earmarked for community clean up days, delivering on environmental 'grot spots' and completing outstanding commitments to Members 'Expressions of Interest' submitted in 2012/13.
19. Members will note that there are similarities and themes emerging across neighbourhood areas with respect to the priorities as follows:
20. Five of the priorities across four neighbourhood areas relate to play and open space provision. There is currently a piece of work being undertaken to develop a new Play and Open Space Strategy and these priorities will be factored into that work.
21. Two priorities across two neighbourhood areas relate to the development of a service to deal with overgrown hedges and trees on private land. It is envisaged that some of this development work will be resourced through existing budgets and if an operational element becomes part of that service then it could be cost neutral, cost shared with other agencies or fall under the pilot Private Property Improvement Scheme.
22. Four priorities across three neighbourhood areas relate to community development work and will require some start up budget to establish a flood action group in Western Parishes Neighbourhood Area and network of health improvement focussed community groups in Chorley Town East Neighbourhood Area and a community food growing group in South East Parishes as well as improving the networking of existing community groups.
23. Two priorities across two neighbourhood areas seek to improve access to the business community in those areas. This is essentially an economic development activity and will form part of a wider piece of economic development work outside the Chorley Town Centre focus. Hence this will be delivered through the existing work programme in this service area together with sources of external funding as appropriate.
24. Three priorities across two neighbourhood areas relate to road safety issues including speed reduction and improved off street parking. This will require close partnership work with police and LCC Road Safety Teams.
25. Six priorities across four neighbourhood areas relate to general environmental improvements including planting programmes, footpath enhancements and improvements on derelict land.
26. Two priorities across two neighbourhood areas seek to improve back and side streets.
27. Overall it is anticipated that all the priorities can be delivered to some extent over the year 2013/14 subject to effective engagement with the partners, agencies and groups that are identified in Appendix 1 against each priority.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

28. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	√	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	√	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

29. The Council has allocated a sum of £100,000 in its budget for Neighbourhood Schemes. The report sets out that further work is required to cost out the priorities and to look for matched and alternative funding streams to support the projects. The Councils costs should be contained within the approved budget.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

30. Legal issues have been raised and properly addressed within the body of the report.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Simon Clark	5732	28 February 2013	N'hoodpriorities2013