

EXECUTIVE CABINET - GENERAL REPORT

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

MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2013

Consultation on delivering the Government's policies to cut alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour

2. We received a report from the Executive Member (Places) outlining the Council's draft response to the Government's consultation exercise on their proposals to cut alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour.
3. The consultation applies to England and Wales and the consultation runs for 10 weeks until 6 February 2013. The consultation covers:
 - A minimum unit price for alcohol.
 - A ban on multi-buy promotions in the off-trade.
 - Reviewing the mandatory licensing conditions
 - Health as a licensing objective for cumulative impact policies
 - Freeing up responsible businesses
4. We noted that alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour is a big problem and that any measures that will have a positive impact should be welcomed. However, information on how any measures will be administered and enforced will be required from the Government. These issues will be taken up by the Lancashire Licensing Officers group in their response to the Consultation.
5. We approved the Council's response to the consultation as set out in the report.

Changes to the Lancashire Waste Management cost share agreement

6. The Executive Member (Places) presented a report informing us that Lancashire County Council (LCC) are seeking to reduce the waste management cost share payment the Council receives. The report sets out other alternatives the Council has considered to reduce the financial impact of this.
7. Chorley Council is a waste collection authority whilst Lancashire County Council is a waste disposal authority. To encourage waste collection authorities to adopt the Lancashire Waste Strategy and provide kerbside recycling collection services LCC has offered a funding stream known as cost share. The agreement is for ten years and ends in March 2014.
8. The current cost share payment is based on property numbers, provided the property has access to a fortnightly kerbside collection service for recyclable material, garden waste if the property has a garden and residual waste. The payment is uplifted each year by RPIX and grows in accordance with the number of new properties, typically 500 to 600 per year in Chorley. As part of the cost share agreement the Council also receives a loss of income payment each year as material is now delivered direct to Farington Waste Technology Park for processing. This payment is also subject to an annual uplift. The Council would receive a total of £ 1.02m in 2012/13 through cost share.
9. The cost share option offers greater financial certainty to the Council compared to recycling credits which are subject to fluctuation as they are calculated using the weight of recyclable waste collected.

10. We expressed concern that Chorley appears to be in a detrimental position because of the higher number of new homes being built in the Borough compared with other local authorities. There is concern that authorities are being treated differently and that the distribution mechanism is flawed as Chorley has excellent recycling rates where other authorities, receiving the same payment, do not. Negotiations on this matter will continue.
11. We agreed to accept the Lancashire County Council's cost share proposal as set out in the report, subject to the outcome of the recycling credit review LCC have indicated will take place after May 2013. The Council will continue to press for an increase in payment related to annual property growth

Approval for the contract award procedure and evaluation criteria for all seasons leisure centre resealing of roof beams

12. We received a confidential report from the Executive Member (Resources, Policy and Performance) seeking approval for the award procedure and evaluation criteria for the contract for resealing the roof beams in the swimming pool hall at All Seasons leisure centre.
13. We noted this is specialised work and approved the procurement approach of advertising tenders through the Chest e-tendering system using an open invitation. Tenders will be evaluated using a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) and then all bids that pass this stage will be evaluated to establish the most economically advantageous tender based on 70% cost, 30% quality.

Governance business transformation

14. The Executive Member (Resources, Policy and Performance) presented a confidential report updating us on a business transformation review of Governance being undertaken by the Head of Service.
15. We approved the proposed changes to the Governance base budget to be implemented in 2013/14 and approved consultation on the staff structure proposed in the report. We granted delegated authority to the Executive Member (Resources, Policy and Performance) to approve implementation of the structure following the consultation responses being received.

MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2013

Chorley Council Performance Monitoring - Third Quarter 2012/13

16. We noted a report from the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance setting out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the third quarter of 2012/13.
17. Although the report relates to the third quarter this is the first report on the new Corporate Strategy. Performance of new key projects is excellent, with all of the projects on track or scheduled to start later in the year. Performance on the Corporate Strategy measures and key service delivery indicators is good with 88% of the Corporate Strategy measures performing above target or within the 5% tolerance. 80% of key service measures are performing above target or within the 5% tolerance.
18. The Corporate Strategy measure performing below target is the percentage of customers dissatisfied with the way they had been treated by the Council. This is a new target and the new questions provide a greater opportunity for users to express dissatisfaction. An email survey has also replaced the previous face to face or telephone survey.

19. The key service delivery measure performing below target is the processing of minor planning applications. The issues that have affected performance, as reported in quarter one, have continued to impact on the performance of this indicator, which is likely to remain below target for the rest of the financial year. The issues include a significant increase in the volume of minor applications and problems with printing and indexing.
20. In both cases an action plan has been developed to outline what action will be taken to improve performance.

Chorley Partnership Performance Monitoring - Third Quarter 2012/13

21. We noted a report from the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance updating us on the performance of the Chorley Partnership during the third quarter of 2012/2013.
22. Performance in achieving the key performance targets remains good. Latest figures available for alcohol related hospital admissions show a reduction of 5.4% at quarter one 2012/13 compared to quarter one 2011/12. Primary fires in Chorley are lower than anticipated although crime overall has increased by 3.0% in quarter three compared to the same period last year. There has however been a significant decrease in anti-social behaviour and robbery. Domestic abuse detections are performing above target.
23. We noted that several figures are missing within the All Crime table. This is due to the way figures have been provided by the Police, although the Police have since committed to provide the information as requested by the Council to enable effective reporting. There has been a geographical spike in crime which the Police are investigating.
24. Discussions are ongoing with the Police in relation to cross border crime. There is a need for agencies to work together to tackle this.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2012/13 Report 3 (end of December 2012)

25. We received a report from the Executive Member for 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.
26. The Council expected to make overall target savings of £200,000 in 2012/13 from management of the establishment. Excellent progress has been made in this area and the full savings target for 2012/13 has been achieved. The projected revenue outturn shows a forecast underspend of around £564,000 against the budget.
27. In response to a query we discussed the different mechanisms to measure the impact of the schemes introduced to increase the number of people in the Town Centre, including numbers of people parking and for how long, and footfall surveys as part of a wider piece of work in this area.

Lancashire Single Homelessness Initiative

28. The Executive Member for Homes and Business presented a report updating us on the Lancashire Single Homelessness Initiative, including the funding methodology to be applied, and the measures to be funded using the grant.
29. In 2012, £20 million funding had been made available by the DCLG to be targeted for services for single homeless people. It intends to mitigate the impact of a series of welfare reform measures, including the extension of the single room rent to those aged 25 to 35 years of age.
30. The DCLG has selected lead authorities to act as coordinators within specific regions and Chorley Council has been selected to coordinate the Lancashire programme, with grant allocation of £504,000. Chorley Council will act as the accounting body. This will cover the 14 authorities across Lancashire.
31. We approved the funding methodology which uses population to determine how the main pot of funding will be distributed. The key purpose of the grant is to ensure single people (to whom the Council does not owe a statutory duty to) are provided with a service to enable them to access accommodation either in the private rented sector or the social sector, which is affordable to them and therefore prevents the need to sleep rough.

Draft Central Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan January 2013

32. The Executive Member for LDF and Planning introduced a report informing us about the content of the draft Central Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan.
33. The Council supports Option 3, "improve and extend Central Lancashire's highway and transport network". However, we expressed concerns about the limited schemes identified for Chorley, the funding expectations through CIL and omission of proposals from the masterplan.
34. We supported the draft response and echoed concerns raised, particularly relating to the lack of proposals to deal with areas on congestion, parking at Chorley railway station, infrastructure to support employment centres or to re-open Coppull railway station.
35. We noted the report and the consultation response to be sent to Lancashire County Council.

Outcome for procurement of Hybrid Mail

36. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a confidential report updating us with the outcome of the Council's procurement of the hybrid mail service.
37. We approved the appointment of UK Mail who achieved the highest scoring tender as the preferred supplier of the Council's outbound mail service for a term of three years. We also approved UK Mail to initially undertake the printing, packaging and posting of the annual council tax bills for 2013/14 before extending to incorporate other Council services.

Proposed disposal of Council land at Hodder Avenue, Chorley

38. We received a confidential report seeking approval to the disposal of council owned land to an approved Registered Provider for the construction and letting of affordable rented housing.
39. We approved the transfer of the above site on the terms proposed for the provision of affordable rented homes.

Restructuring of Shared Assurance Services

40. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a confidential report seeking approval for proposed staffing changes in Shared Assurance Services .
41. The proposals were considered by the Shared Services Joint Committee on 24 January 2013 and were now recommended for approval by both host authorities.

MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2013

I submitted my apologies for this meeting and in my absence Councillor Peter Wilson, Deputy Leader of the Council took the Chair and therefore reports on the following items of business that were considered at this meeting.

Chorley Council Young People Engagement Programme

42. This item was brought forward as it related to a question raised by a member of the public.
43. The Executive Member for People introduced a report on the proposals to roll out an innovative programme of work to enhance the engagement of young people in the workings of Chorley Council, to include a programme of meetings, the launching of an ambassador scheme and an Annual Chorley Council Young People's conference.
44. The approved programme was intended to work alongside, and compliment, other forms of engagement with young people in Chorley and the use of social media would help to engage young people in the rural areas of the borough.

Introduction of a capital grant scheme for existing businesses - Chorley Business Investment for Growth

45. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a report that detailed the introduction of a new capital grant scheme for existing businesses in Chorley.
46. We approved the grant scheme as it will provide financial support towards capital investments for businesses with a vision for growth and job creation by complementing existing Council and partners grant schemes.

Exceptional Hardship Policy (outside the Council Tax Support Scheme)

47. We received a report of the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a report informing us about an Exceptional Hardship Policy that set out the way in which the Council would deal with requests for a reduction in Council Tax liability under Section 13A (1)(C) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
48. The granting of the hardship relief is wholly discretionary and we considered that a reduction or remission of council tax on grounds of hardship would be by exception rather than the rule.
49. We approved the implementation of the Exceptional Hardship Policy and noted that the full cost of granting relief in such cases would be borne wholly by the Council.

Adoption of a Discretionary Housing Payments Policy

50. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a report on the revised Discretionary Housing Payment Policy which had been amended to meet the requirements of new Department for Work and Pensions guidance.
51. The Council receives an amount of money each year from the Government to award Discretionary Housing Benefit to residents who are in receipt of Housing Benefit to meet additional housing costs that they may have so the approval of the revised policy was granted.

Core Funding 2013/14

52. The Executive Member for People presented a report outlining the Core Funding allocations for 2013/14. Although there were no direct allocations for rural based organisations, many of the groups we are supporting provide services all across the borough.
53. We approved the recommendations outlined in Appendix A of the report subject to the agreement and signing contracts and or grants with the organisations.

Contract for provision of generalist debt advice and support services in Chorley

54. We received a report of the Executive Member for People for the granting of a contract for the provision of generalist advice and support services in Chorley by Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB).
55. We awarded the contract which will commence on 1 April 2013 in line with specified monitoring requirements, ensuring that this service is maintained for the residents of Chorley and delivered by an organisation which evidences good value for money.

Update - Chorley Remembers HLF Project

56. We received an update from the Executive Member for Places on the Chorley Remembers Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) project. We have been working closely with Chorley Remembers to deliver the works contained within the project and we noted the progress to date.
57. The Chorley Remembers exhibition is nearing completion and will open to the public shortly, visitor attendance will be monitored closely and reviewed after two years following its location to ensure that the exhibition is correctly sited and still attracting business.
58. We approved that £36,082.77 be allocated from the £250K 2013-13 capital budget for Astley Park to fund remedial work to the arch including the repair and restoration of the main gates, side gates and cobbled area.

Neighbourhood Priorities

59. The Executive Member for Places presented a report outlining the 24 neighbourhood priorities that had been put forward at the recent neighbourhood area meetings and to agree a budget where appropriate.
60. There is a diverse range of priorities and some will require further consultation to fully understand and determine community needs. Some priorities had similarities across the neighbourhoods and some will fall within programmes of work already planned for 2013/14.

61. We approved the 24 priorities and actions for 2013/14 outlined in the report.

Draft Select Move Common Allocations Policy

62. We received a report from the Executive Member for Homes and Business seeking permission to consult on the new Select Move Commons Allocation Policy following a review that had recently taken place by the Select Move Steering Group.

63. The policy has been re-written in response to the Localism Act 2011 and to meet the aims of our partners. Localism allows more freedom to determine which group of people don't qualify to join the housing register and the changes made reflected this.

64. We granted approval for the Select Move partnership to consult on the draft Select Move Common Allocations Policy and that any minor changes to the policy prior to the consultation be delegated to the Executive Member for Homes and Business.

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report 2013

65. The Executive Member for Homes and Business updated us on the Council's requirements in respect of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA), to advise us on the HECA related activity carried out to date and that activity proposed the next two years.

66. The report had already been approved by the Executive Leader, Executive Member for Economic Development and Governance and been effective from 23 February 2013, so we noted the report for information.

Bengal Street Depot: Proposed Sharing of Site

67. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a confidential report on the proposed sharing of the Bengal Street Depot by a registered charity Recycling Lives.

68. We approved in principle to share the Bengal Street Depot site and to pursue negotiations and to enter into appropriate legal agreements with Recycling Lives to lease the agreed areas of the site.

69. We also granted delegated authority to the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance to approve the terms for the letting of part of the depot and offices in line with figures in the report.

98 - 102 Market Street: Refurbishment

70. We received a confidential report from the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance that sought to proceed to tender for works to renovate 98-102 Market Street, Chorley for the creation of three retail units with frontage on to Market Street, Chorley and for the creation of a statutory car park area to the rear of the premises.

71. We approved the refurbishment of 98-102 Market Street into three retail units in accordance with the proposals set out in the report and granted delegated authority to the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance to agree the suggested scoring matrix in the procurement exercise and agree the award of works to the successful tenderer.

72. We also approved the creation of a statutory car park to the rear of the premises, to have free, 30 minutes parking bays adjacent to Gillibrand Street, Chorley, with delegated authority given to the Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance to approve the final scheme.

Capital contribution towards the costs of the conversion for affordable housing of 12-14 St George's St Chorley

73. The Executive Member for Homes and Business introduced a confidential report requesting a capital contribution towards the costs of the conversion for affordable housing of 12-14 St George's Street, Chorley (formerly Harry's Bar) into 8 x 1 bedroomed flats for rent.
74. This development will help to improve and regenerate an area of the town centre and will provide eight much needed affordable homes for single persons and couples. The units will also assist us in meeting our affordable housing target of 100 new homes per annum.
75. Approval was granted for a capital contribution towards the cost of Progress Housing Group providing the 8 x1 bedroomed flats for affordable rent.

Capital contribution for the provision of affordable housing (6 x 1bed flats at Halliwell St Chorley)

76. The Executive Member for Homes and Business presented a confidential report requesting a capital contribution towards the costs for affordable housing of 12-16 Halliwell Street, Chorley into 6 x 1 bedroomed flats for rent.
77. The development of this site and payment of the grant will be on the condition of Adactus's bid for Empty Homes funding from the Homes and Communities Agency being successful. The approved capital contribution assists in making the bid attractive in terms of value for money.

Recommendation

78. That the report be noted.

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BRADLEY
Executive Leader

COUNCILLOR PETER WILSON
Deputy Executive Leader

RR/DS