

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Leader)	Council	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2013

## CHORLEY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide a summary of the progress made by Chorley Council during 2012/13 and identify areas for improvement and challenge for 2013/14.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report be noted.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Performance over the past 12 months has largely been positive with good progress against the key priorities identified in the corporate strategy, in particular economic development and neighbourhood working. In addition, a number of indicators including resident satisfaction with the council have improved significantly since the last resident satisfaction survey carried out in 2008. However, several areas for improvement remain including reducing customer dissatisfaction and delivering more support to strengthen the economy and get people into work to overcome future challenges linked with increasing deprivation and debt.

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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<b>Key Decision?</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- N/A

### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- N/A

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 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**

7. The Annual Report is produced by Chorley Council to present our key successes, and challenges. The Annual Report is a key mechanism for presenting information on the Council's performance to residents, partners and key stakeholders.

## **SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

8. The Chorley Council Annual Report is attached to this report as an appendix. The key headlines from the report are:
  - In 2012/13, 240 potential new businesses were advised with 88 new businesses established, a 25% increase on 2011/12. 220 existing businesses were advised.
  - 54 jobs have been created through targeted interventions in 2012/13.
  - 97% of streets inspected were clear of rubbish and litter, 95% were clear of dirt, leaves and plants and less than 1% of streets had fly posting or graffiti.
  - Green Flag Awards were awarded for Yarrow Valley Country Park, Withnell Local Nature Reserve, Tatton Recreation Ground and Astley Park.
  - In 2012/13 183 affordable homes were delivered, an increase of 8% in comparison to 2011/12.
  - Latest figures for quarter three (October to December) 2012/13 show that the rate of alcohol related admissions in Chorley was 499 per 100,000 population. Compared with the same period in 2010/11 this is a decrease of 10%.
  - Overall crime has increased in Chorley by 0.9% which equates to 49 crimes. However anti-social behaviour is down by 6% compared to 2011/12.
  - Domestic abuse offending continues to record increases although the detection rate is positive at 73% compared to a target of 70%.
  - The number of vacant ground floor shop units is 5.3% compared to 11.9% nationally and 14.2% for the North West.
  - The time credits project now has 400 members, 45 organisations earning and spending time credits, contributing 4000 hours to volunteering and community development.
  - At the end of March 2013 the number of town centre visits was 34,692, an increase of 4% compared to the same time last year although this is still below the more challenging 2013/14 target of 37,500.
  - Over the last twelve months the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET's) has reduced by 5.1%. However, 18-24 year olds continue to make up the largest proportion of Job Seekers Allowance claimants in Chorley with a number of interventions now in place to help address this.
  - The unemployment rate of those economically active is at 5.9% of Chorley's working age population - this is the highest it has been since March 2010.
  - In May 2013, 66.7% of residents were satisfied with the service they received from the council and of those 53.4% were very satisfied.
  - The recent resident satisfaction survey shows a big increase in satisfaction with the way the council runs things from 51% in 2008 to 72% at May 2013. Residents also feel that they are getting better value for money.
9. The report identifies challenges and areas for improvement in 2013/14. These include levels of debt, deprivation and unemployment with a clear focus on reducing welfare dependency and supporting people into work whilst protecting vulnerable families.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

10. 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

11. No comment

## COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

12. No comment

GARY HALL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Victoria Willett	5348	24 June 2013	Annual report 2013/14