

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 20 JUNE 2013

Approval for the procurement approach including the award procedure, evaluation methodology and criteria to purchase one large (15t) and two compact mechanical sweepers by working in partnership with South Ribble Borough Council

2. The report seeks approval for a proposed joint procurement approach with South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC). SRBC also need to procure the same number and type of vehicles and by working together the Council's are likely to achieve savings compared to procuring the vehicles separately.
3. We noted the percentage within the evaluation criteria allocated to environmental / sustainability is quite high when compared with other Local Authorities. The percentage set out for servicing / maintenance and fuel reflects the efficiency of the vehicles.
4. A query was raised in relation to the maintenance of the vehicles. The supplier will be expected to train the drivers and fitters as part of the delivery of the vehicles. The basic maintenance will be undertaken in-house, with specialist repairs brought in, if required. This arrangement will be monitored over the life of the vehicles.
5. We granted approval to working in partnership with SRBC for the purchase of two large and four compact mechanical sweepers and to the procurement approach and evaluation as set out in the report.

Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations on Private Rented Sector Housing Standards

6. The Executive Member for Places explained that in April 2012 an Overview and Scrutiny Task Group produced a report relating to 'Private Sector Housing Inspection'. Within the report recommendations had been made to the Executive Cabinet that additional resource be directed to establishing a programmed private sector housing standards inspection service. This would supplement the existing reactive housing standards work undertaken within the People and Places Directorate.
7. Since the Task Group findings and recommendations have been received and accepted for consideration in June 2012 work has commenced within the Environment and Neighbourhoods Team to establish a programmed inspection regime for the private rented housing sector in Chorley. This utilises the existing resources of officers trained to inspect housing to the required standard.
8. A new database system has been introduced and, since October 2012, officers have undertaken over 50 programmed inspections. Work has commenced to build up a database of private rented sector accommodation using local intelligence, housing benefits information and council tax details.
9. As part of the Service Improvement Plan for 2013/14 and in line with the Corporate Strategy there is a specific project in place within the Health Environment and Neighbourhoods Team to 'Develop and deliver a scheme to increase housing standards'. This project will be delivered during 2013/14 and will redirect existing resources to fully establish a programmed inspection regime for the private rented housing sector. It will also develop a private rented

housing standards policy, subject to Council approval, against which housing standards compliance could be measured.

10. A query was raised in relation to a Landlord Accreditation Scheme not being introduced. Councillor Bev Murray, who had been the Chair of the Task Group, explained that this had been considered during the inquiry, but that Members felt there would be a low take up of this kind of scheme. This could be revisited in the future.
11. I commented that the work being undertaken will help to locate where the private rented houses are. The recommendation relating to the development of a private rented housing standards policy will improve standards, as will the inspection regime. Members could report issues, as could tenants.
12. We accepted the recommendation of providing a proactive inspection programme for private rented sector housing standards. We granted approval that the resourcing of the inspection programme be made through the utilisation of existing resources. We confirmed that a Landlord Accreditation Scheme not be introduced in Chorley at this time and granted approval that a private rented sector housing standards policy be developed.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Adoption of Estates Final Report

13. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the final report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group into the Adoption of Estates. The Task Group had been chaired by Councillor Matthew Crow.
14. The topic had been selected following numerous requests by residents across the borough to address the growing number of estate and open space adoption issues. In response to a query Councillor Holgate advised that the Task Group identified a mix of small and large housing estates across the Borough that had or were still having adoption issues. These had been used as case studies from which to identify the concerns and issues that existed. The Group then interviewed the developers of these estates, along with borough and county officers and residents.
15. The Task Group had, at the conclusion of the review, agreed 14 recommendations, which had been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I thanked Councillor Holgate, Councillor Crow and the Members and officers for their input into the inquiry.
16. We received and accepted the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Adoption of Estates for consideration, with a view to the Executive Cabinet's recommended response to the recommendations being reported to a future meeting.

Chorley Inward Investment Plan

17. I presented the report and explained that Chorley needs to compete for the creation of jobs in a busy region as jobs enable residents to pay their way and contribute to society. An independent company has been commissioned to make recommendations for the Plan. These are split into "must do", "could do" and "should do".
18. I outlined some of the recommendations, including the development of a dedicated business website, a soft landing scheme and downloadable marketing materials.
19. The Leader of the Opposition requested a copy of the full plan, which will be made available to all Members. This includes timescales for actions to be completed by. It is hoped that over one hundred jobs will be created through the implementation of the plan, with hopes that it could create hundreds.

20. With the action taken since the new administration in May about one hundred jobs have been created already. This includes action undertaken by the newly appointed Business Advisor, a "Starting In Business Grant", a business network and various seminars.
21. We noted the contents of the report and approved the delivery of the recommended inward investment plan activities.

Chorley Council Performance Monitoring Quarter Four 2012/13

22. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a report setting out the performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and key performance indicators during the fourth quarter of 2012/13, 1 January to 31 March 2013.
23. Overall performance of key projects is good, with a majority of the projects on track or scheduled to start later in the year. One project, the trial reopening of Market Street has been rated amber due to recommendations to amend the scheme, however completion is due to happen by the end of the second quarter 2013/14.
24. We noted the report and that action plans have been developed to outline what action will be taken to improve performance on the Corporate Strategy and key service delivery measures that are performing below target.

Chorley Partnership Performance Monitoring Quarter Four 2012/13

25. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a report on the performance of the Chorley Partnership during the fourth quarter of 2012/2013, from 1 January to 31 March 2013.
26. We noted that the performance of the Chorley Partnership in achieving the key performance targets remains good. The latest figures available for alcohol related hospital admissions shows a year to date reduction of 5.3% at quarter two 2012/13.
27. Primary fires in Chorley are lower than anticipated and crime overall has shown a decrease of 11.6% in quarter four compared to the same period last year. Following the trend over the past twelve months this has resulted in an overall increase of 1%.
28. In response to a query we noted that the Responsible Authorities Group are encouraging people to report domestic violence which mean that the reported figures have increased.
29. We noted the report.

Campaigns and Engagement Strategy

30. We considered a report which sought approval for a new Campaigns and Engagement Strategy. The strategy outlines how the Council will develop to where we want to be, in order to achieve the objectives set out in the corporate strategy.
31. Although there is a change of emphasis the strategy will play a central role in improving residents' satisfaction. If customers understand and are aware of the services that are available to them, know how to access them and are able to communicate openly with the Council, they are more likely to appreciate that they receive value for money services in exchange for the council tax they pay.
32. We granted approval to the Campaigns and Engagement Strategy.

Information Technology Business Continuity

33. I presented a confidential report which proposes a comprehensive Disaster Recovery (DR) solution that will also support more effective Business Continuity (BC) for the Council.
34. We granted approval to the proposed changes to build on the existing Disaster Recovery infrastructure for Council Information Systems currently housed at County Hall Preston and to the required funding.

Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and Council Tax Support – Sanction and Prosecution Policy

35. The Executive Member for Resources, Policy and Performance presented a confidential report highlighting legislative changes which affect the amount of an Administrative Penalty.
36. The report explains the changes and implications for customers who accept an offer of an Administrative Penalty as an alternative to criminal proceedings and make Members' aware of aspects of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Detection of Fraud and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 which impact on those who committed Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and Council Tax Support fraud.
37. We granted approval to the revised and updated Sanction and Prosecution Policy

Recommendation

78. That the report be noted.

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BRADLEY
Executive Leader

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