

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People & Places Director of Partnerships, Planning & Policy	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10 April 2014

MONITORING REPORT OF INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS: ADOPTION OF ESTATES REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform members about progress with the recommendations of the Task Group review into the Adoption of Estates.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the monitoring report be noted and that a further report on progress be reported in due course.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. Following the consideration of the task group's recommendations by the Executive Cabinet, all recommendations were essentially agreed. A response to the recommendations was made by Lancashire County Council, and this is included within this report. Progress on recommendations within the control of Chorley Council is also reported.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4. 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

5. The final report of the Overview & Scrutiny Task Group considering the Adoption of Estates was presented to Executive Cabinet on 20 June 2013, and detailed fourteen recommendations, all of which were agreed by the Executive Cabinet in their response on 24 October 2013.
6. Officers have made progress against those recommendations and this is summarised within this report, together with an appended schedule providing further information against each of the fourteen recommendations.

RESPONSE BY LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

7. Specific recommendations were made for Lancashire County Council, and a formal response has been received. The Director of Lancashire Highway Services, Phil Barrett provided a written response, and an overall comment: "*Thank you for inviting the County Council to consider how to work with you to improve our services to local developers, residents and others with an interest in adoptions in new estates. I am sure the measures already in hand and outlined above will be of value in this regard.*"
8. The attached schedule of recommendations details the specific responses made by the county council to each relevant recommendation. In summary, the overall response is positive, and further joint working will be required.

PROJECTS IN HAND IN RELATION TO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

9. A number of recommendations require small projects to deliver the outcomes required. These include a project led by ICT to make 'mapzone' information about adoptions available to public users; and a project led by People & Places to review the risk based approach to open space adoption.
10. The recommendations have also influenced the organisational structure of the Council, in that a new role of 'Development Implementation Co-ordinator' has been established through the review of Transactional Services / Planning Business Support to manage matters pertaining to Community Infrastructure Levy, Planning Obligations and Adoptions. The role is expected to be filled by end of June 2014, and a number of recommendations will be the responsibility of the post-holder. These include the establishment of a robust data set on outstanding obligations using existing IDOX software, the development of a record of adoption case load and associated reporting, and the pilot for the introduction of development/site exit meetings.

LETTERS TO RELEVANT PARTIES

11. The recommendations required letters to be written. Those to the Law Society, the Council for Licensed Conveyancers and NHBC were issued in April 2014, and replies will be reported in due course.
12. Recommendation 14 sought to urge developers to nominate a dedicated officer to work on adoption matters, and to review their complaints procedures. It is considered that it would be appropriate to write to regular developers to advise them of the new role of Development Implementation Co-ordinator, to seek a regular contact on adoption matters, and to request a review of any complaint procedures. This will be addressed by end April 2014.

THE USE OF STANDARD PLANNING CONDITIONS & NATIONAL WORKING GROUP

13. The Planning Service has been applying the standard conditions as proposed by the Department of Transport Working Group on adoptions. Following the attendance of Chris Bond at the scrutiny panel, Chorley Council has been invited to attend the working group, and the invitation was extended (by request of Chorley Council officers) to Lancashire County Council. The working group is advising the minister on adoption matters. Progress will be reported to the Executive Member for Planning & LDF.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

14. 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

15. The new role of Development Implementation Co-ordinator will assist in delivering the recommendations of the task group, and the financial implications of the new role have already been reported and accepted by the Executive Cabinet.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

16. No Comment.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE & PLACES

LESLEY-ANN FENTON
DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS, PLANNING & POLICY

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Executive Cabinet: Response to Recommendations, 24 October 2014 [13.EC.98]	24 October 2013***		Council Website: https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=3472&Ver=4 Council Intranet: http://cbc-us-mod/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=3472&Ver=4

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jennifer Moore Head of Planning Services	5571	7 April 2014	