

## ***OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY PROJECT OUTLINE: Revised draft***

**Review Topic: Neighbourhood Working**

**Investigation by: Environment & Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel**

**Type: Inquiry**

**Objectives:**

- 1) To assess the extent to which the Directorate now provides services on a Neighbourhood basis and to develop recommendations for future development of localised services.
- 2) To recommend an appropriate model for neighbourhood working in Chorley taking account of size, services, partners, resources and governance
- 3) To consider and compare best practices from other districts and elsewhere.
- 4) To recommend an achievable strategy for delivery of the proposed model

**Desired Outcomes:**

1. To identify services and activities appropriate for neighbourhood delivery.
2. To recommend criteria to identify 'neighbourhoods' for the purpose of neighbourhood working
3. To take account of changes set out in the Government's White Paper published in October 2006.
4. To deliver recommendations which implement a neighbourhood management and engagement strategy.
5. To explore the possibility of a manageable action plan for neighbourhood working and localised service delivery.

**Terms of Reference:**

1. To conduct an investigation into current neighbourhood working in Chorley and identify and recommend possible improvements
2. To report the inquiry's findings and recommendations initially to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3. To explore and take account of best practice from both inside and outside Chorley.

**Key Issues:**

1. The Corporate Strategy includes a project to be prepared on neighbourhood management and engagement strategy.
2. Following the Area Forum pilots, there are proposals to roll out Community Forums across the Borough
3. It is a priority to improve customer feedback and services

**Risks:**

1. Raising expectations beyond capacity to deliver.
2. Differentiation of services across different neighbourhoods may result in policy management problems
3. Potential demand on resources from additional governance, management and restructuring costs

**Venue(s):** Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley

**Timescale:**

**Start:** July 2006

**Finish:** end March 2007

## Information Requirements and Sources:

### **Documents/evidence:** *(what/why?)*

Extensive documentation on neighbourhood management elsewhere, in particular

- evaluations of NRU-supported neighbourhood management pilots
  - evaluations of other NM examples including those in Liverpool, Poplar, Salford and Wolverhampton
  - Reports on Resource Mapping Report (Blackburn)
  - Safer and Greener Charter for Bolton (Great Lever case study)
  - 'From community garden to Westminster' (Groundwork/Centre for local economic strategies)
- (Provides substantial base of information on good practice elsewhere)

Other relevant examples of neighbourhood initiatives

Local Government White Paper published in October 2006.

(Contains recommendations for developing neighbourhood management)

### **Witnesses:** *(who, why?)*

- Chief executive (Donna Hall)
- Director of Policy and Performance (Lesley Ann Fenton)
- Director of Finance (Gary Hall)
- National experts - Richard Crossley (Head of Neighbourhood Management, DCLG); Ed Cox (Local government Information Unit and Togetherwecan Network); possible alternatives if unavailable
- Managers of exemplar projects from elsewhere
- Police (Chief Inspector Andrew Murphy and Chief Inspector Debby Howard)
- Housing services – Housing directorate/Chorley Community Housing and Places for People group
- Leisure Services – Jamie Carson and Liz Morey
- Lancashire County council – senior officer responsible for local area agreement (will become statutory requirement, will be focus for performance and should impact on neighbourhood working and targets)
- Parish Councils
- Groundwork representative
- Active community groups, agencies and partnerships

### **Consultation/Research:** *(what, why, who?)*

Scoping document to inform the background to the Inquiry and to cover:

- Definition of neighbourhood working
  - Classification of models for neighbourhood management
  - Review of practice and learning from elsewhere (based on documentation, above)
  - Current neighbourhood working in Chorley
  - Developing government policy
- Prepared by external consultant

Successful outcomes are subject to consultation with external stakeholders and with communities in particular actively involved groups and parish councils.

### **Site Visits:** *(where, why, when?)*

Other Lancashire Districts from Blackburn, Bolton (alternatively: Salford; Manchester)

- to see examples of established models for neighbourhood management on range of scales

Visit to meetings of PAiCE, SWITCH, Clayton Brook Together

Visit to one or more Parish Councils

- to examine scope of interest in participating in neighbourhood management from currently active communities

(Note - this second visit could take the form of a community conference)

**Officer Support:**

Lead Officer: John Lechmere

Democratic Services Officer: Gordon Bankes

Corporate Policy Officer:  
Director of Policy & Performance (Lesley-Ann  
Fenton)

**Likely Budget Requirements:**

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>£</u>
Site Visit Cash	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>200.00</u></b>

**Target Body for Findings/Recommendations**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet

Potential partners and stakeholders in neighbourhood working

Community groups and parish councils.