

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL**

**MEETING DATE Tuesday, 25 November 2014**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Roy Lees (Mayor), Councillor Marion Lowe (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Eric Bell, Julia Berry, Alistair Bradley, Terry Brown, Henry Counce, Jean Cronshaw, Matthew Crow, John Dalton, David Dickinson, Doreen Dickinson, Graham Dunn, Robert Finnamore, Christopher France, Gordon France, Margaret France, Anthony Gee, Danny Gee, Peter Goldsworthy, Mike Handley, Steve Holgate, Keith Iddon, Mark Jarnell, Hasina Khan, Paul Leadbetter, Adrian Lowe, Matthew Lynch, June Molyneaux, Greg Morgan, Mick Muncaster, Steve Murfitt, Beverley Murray, Mark Perks, Pauline Phipps, Dave Rogerson, Joyce Snape, Kim Snape, Ralph Snape, John Walker, Paul Walmsley, Alan Whittaker and Peter Wilson

**OFFICERS:** Gary Hall (Chief Executive), Lesley-Ann Fenton (Director of Customer and Advice Services), Jamie Carson (Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community), Chris Moister (Head of Governance) and Carol Russell (Democratic Services Manager)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Charlie Bromilow, Kevin Joyce, Alistair Morwood and Richard Toon

**14.C.194 Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 23 September 2014 of Council**

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the last meeting of the Council be approved as a correct record for signature by the Mayor.**

**14.C.195 Declarations of Any Interests**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**14.C.196 Mayoral Announcements**

The Mayor provided an update on a number of fundraising events he and the Mayoress had held and also provided details of forthcoming events including his Charity Ball on 6 February 2015.

#### **14.C.197 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

#### **14.C.198 Corporate Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17**

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources presented a report seeking approval to the refresh of the Council's Corporate Strategy for 2014/15 to 2016/17. The document is the key driver for the Council's business planning process and is reviewed on an annual basis. Councillor Wilson highlighted key achievements and successes in the current year and put forward proposals for a refreshed Strategy in 2014/15.

The report summarised performance for the 2013/14 Corporate Strategy which showed that 80% of projects had been completed or were on track to be delivered by the end of April 2015.

The Corporate Strategy for 2014/15 would retain the vision, priorities and long term outcomes agreed through the comprehensive consultation carried out in 2012. The revised Strategy included 18 projects, 16 of which were new and 2 of which were carried over from the current year.

The 16 new projects proposed were as follows:

- 1. Digital access and inclusion**
- 2. Development and delivery of community action plans**
- 3. Implement a Working Together with Families Employment Scheme**
- 4. Chorley Flower Show**
- 5. Deliver improvements to Market Street**
- 6. Progress key employment sites**
- 7. Increase visitor numbers to Chorley**
- 8. Progress plans to extend Market Walk**
- 9. Destination play area at Astley Park**
- 10. Deliver improvements to Rangletts Recreation Ground**
- 11. Establish a business case and model for an extra care scheme**
- 12. Explore alternative ways of providing home ownership**
- 13. Deliver an improved CCTV provision**
- 14. Improve the functionality of online services**
- 15. Investigate future business models for public services in Chorley**
- 16. Deliver the Chorley Public Services Reform Board work plan.**

The two Continuation projects are:

- 17. Develop and agree plans for delivery of Friday Street Health Centre**
- 18. Continue to explore options to deliver the Chorley Youth Zone**

The report included 31 performance measures which would be used to monitor the Council's progress in achieving agreed priorities and long term outcomes. Some revisions to these measures had been undertaken for 2014/15. The resourcing of the proposed projects would be through existing resources and through funding to be agreed in the 2014/15 budget process.

Councillor Paul Leadbetter submitted an alternative Corporate Strategy for 2014/15 to 2016/17 on behalf of the Conservative Group. The alternative Strategy included three core values and also referred to strategic actions rather than projects. Councillor Leadbetter stated that his group would support the Labour Group proposals if they would also agree to the following 12 of the Conservative Group strategic actions which addressed issues outside of the town centre, also being included:

1. Promote and support community food growing
2. Support parish councils/neighbourhood areas
3. Promote community management of facilities
4. Develop a rural enterprise team
5. Review policies to ensure community facilities match housing developments
6. Work with partners to deliver affordable public transport across the borough
7. Deliver a "shop local" campaign
8. Expand the offer of grants to businesses and shops across the borough
9. Revitalise rural service centres
10. Establish a consultancy business for front and back office support and improvement
11. Undertake a comprehensive review of all council services/shared services
12. Implement a staff suggestion scheme

Councillor Mark Perks referred to the need to acknowledge and address the pockets of deprivation reflected in the 12 super output areas in the borough.

In response, the Leader of the Council referred to work already underway in rural areas through both the existing projects and the new ones proposed for 2014/15. Councillor Wilson stated that a number of actions within the Conservative Group Strategy would be undertaken as they were included in business as usual projects and community action plans, however the overall strategy would not be supported by the ruling group.

Councillor Paul Leadbetter proposed an amendment to adopt the Corporate Strategy put forward by the Executive Member for Resources, but to include the additional 12 Conservative Group projects listed above. This was seconded by Councillor Mark Perks.

#### **On being put to the vote this amendment was LOST**

Councillor Peter Wilson, Executive Member for Resources proposed and Councillor Alistair Bradley seconded and it was **RESOLVED – that the Corporate Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17 be approved.**

#### **14.C.199 Chorley Youth Zone**

Members considered a report of the Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community on the delivery of a Youth Zone in Chorley.

The report outlined the background to the development of the facility which was originally proposed by LCC 18 months ago. The Council had been in negotiation with LCC regarding the development of their Union Street premises and also separately in discussion with the Arts Partnership regarding the potential development of their Railway Street premises.

Discussions with LCC had also included using the library premises as a Public Services Hub and these negotiations were ongoing. An indicative plan for the development of a Youth Zone has been drawn up for the Railway Street site and this included the Council's purchase of the Leigh Arms.

The operation of the Chorley Youth Zone would be undertaken by a new charitable organisation, Chorley Youth Zone Charitable Trust. The Trust would involve Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council, Onside Youth Zones and The Arts Partnership. The Youth Zone will be leased to the Trust, by Chorley Council, on a long term basis for a peppercorn rent. Should LCC not wish to be involved, the project still remained viable.

The costs of the project were detailed in the report showing capital costs to the Council of £1.2m and revenue costs of £50,000. If LCC decided not to be part of the scheme, the Council would contribute a further £450,000 in capital and £50,000 in revenue costs. The timeline for the scheme showed the facility was likely to open around April 2016.

Councillor Mark Perks indicated that whilst he was pleased that the development of a Youth Zone was under consideration, he had concerns that the facility would not be co-located with Children and Young People's Services as was the pattern in other areas of Lancashire where Youth Zones had been developed with a more joined up approach to service provision.

Councillor Perks raised further concerns about the cost to the Council in terms of borrowing to fund the project. The Executive Leader stated that this may not be necessary and may be possible from ongoing revenue funding. Councillor Perks indicated that if there was an assurance that borrowing would not be required, he was more mindful to support the scheme. Councillor Bradley said he was unwilling to restrict the Council by such a commitment.

The Executive Leader, Councillor Alistair Bradley moved and the Executive Member for Community Services, Councillor Bev Murray seconded, and it was **RESOLVED – that the Council approves the following:**

- 1. The delivery of a Chorley Youth Zone.**
- 2. Notes that an Executive Member Decision will be taken to assemble the land for the Youth Zone.**
- 3. The plan to work in partnership with Onside Youth Zones, the Arts Partnership and Lancashire County Council to deliver a Chorley Youth Zone, be agreed.**
- 4. A commitment be made to use best endeavours to develop a Public Service Hub at Lancashire County Council's premises on Union Street.**
- 5. In the event that a final agreement on funding and delivery cannot be reached in a reasonable time frame, with Lancashire County Council, then the Council will deliver a Chorley Youth Zone with Onside Youth Zones and The Arts Partnership.**

Councillors J Berry and R Finnamore left the meeting at this point.

#### 14.C.200 Council Appointment

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Executive Leader proposed and Councillor Peter Wilson, Deputy Leader seconded and it was **RESOLVED – that Councillor Mark Jarnell be appointed as Council Champion for Young People and also replace Councillor Robert Finnamore as a substitute member of the Development Control Committee.**

Mayor

Date