

## Scrutiny Inquiry into Neighbourhood Working

### 4

### What approaches to neighbourhood working should we consider? (continued)

Introduction Tonight's session will first hear about plans and proposals being considered by the County council. There are two aspects that are likely to be of particular interest:

- The county is consulting on a strategy for neighbourhood engagement in County services. This could include devolving some powers and budgets to recognised neighbourhood structures including neighbourhood management partnerships, parish councils etc. The quality parish council scheme (which accredits well run parishes) is seen as a possible model for this recognition.
- The county has also worked with the regional Government Office to identify three or four pilots for 'neighbourhood arrangements' especially to explore engagement in the Local Area Agreement process (this directs public funds from different sources to meet key targets and priorities across the county; these can be 'tailored' around neighbourhoods). One of these pilots will be in Chorley. It is likely to be ward-based and the neighbourhood is to be agreed by the local strategic partnership.

The panel then has some questions for all the witnesses to consider. But tonight should take the form mainly of a discussion. Taking account of the experience and aspirations of the public services and the community leaders, what is the best approach for Chorley?

1 Presentation from Adrienne Banks

2 Could other witnesses comment on what we've just heard, and answer this question:

- How could the County council proposals and involvement help you develop neighbourhood working further?

Opportunity for further discussion and questions

3 Could the police and the parish council witnesses now take a few minutes to give us an answer to these questions:

- What is your vision of how we can take neighbourhood working forward in Chorley?
- How can we improve on what we already have?

Which public services are part of the 'team' now and which ones should be more involved in future?

- 
- 4 Key strategic priorities are set out in the Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement, and are overseen by the local strategic partnership.
- How much do these affect your work at the moment? Should neighbourhood working reflect these strategic objectives, and if so, how?
- 5 Who should give direction at the neighbourhood level? What part can and should be played by
- elected members of the District and County council?
  - Parish councils?
  - Partnerships and forums (Clayton Brook Together is one example of what this might mean)
- Is it essential to have one neighbourhood manger or could this role be shared across a number of agencies working as a team?
- 6 Could parish council representatives tell us:
- How might parish councils in Chorley respond to the opportunity to take a role in neighbourhood management?
  - Can you briefly explain the quality council scheme and the possible benefits?
- Discussion with other witnesses: what might a Chorley or Lancashire 'quality neighbourhood working' scheme want to look at?
- 7 We have heard about the idea of a neighbourhood 'hub' – this might be a central point that could act as the focus for communications and management of neighbourhood services. Several witnesses have mentioned schools, health centres etc. What do you think of this idea?
- 8 The Police have an established model of neighbourhood working, based around Community Beat managers and PACT meetings. How might this develop and change in response to new opportunities to develop neighbourhood arrangements?
- 9 Closing comments
-