

Report of	Meeting	Date
Project Director (Introduced by the Executive Leader and Executive Member for Economic Development and Partnerships)	Executive Cabinet	25 June 2015

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN CHORLEY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To present the report from the Commission on the Future of Public Services in Chorley and the potential responses to the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report is noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- On 4 and 5 March, the council hosted an independent commission to examine the future of public services in the borough. The commission received evidence from a range of organisations and individuals, and has produced a final report.
- The report sets out the findings of the commission, and their recommendations for making public services sustainable while meeting the needs of the borough in the future. The full report and recommendations are set out in the appendix to this report.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- The Commission on the Future of Public Service in Chorley has made a series of recommendations based on the evidence that it has gathered about the challenges facing public services in the borough. It is important that the council considers these recommendations in its work, and specifically in developing relationships with partners and its future governance models.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

7. 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

8. To support its work in examining potential future governance models for public services in the borough, the council established an independent Commission on the Future of Public Services in Chorley.
9. The commission was Chaired by Professor Steven Broomhead (Chief Executive of Warrington Council and former Chief Executive of the North West Development Agency), and had six other members who were from senior roles in a range of organisations involved in public services.
10. The Commission gathered evidence through a written call for evidence and then through a series of sessions held on the 4 and 5 March where organisations and individuals presented their views about public services in the borough.
11. The report from the commission was considered by the Future Governance Viability Working Group at their meeting on 3 June, and they recommended that it should be presented to the Executive Cabinet for noting.

FINAL REPORT, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The final report of the Commission has been recently published and is included in this report as Appendix A
13. The report includes 10 recommendations from the commission to local public services, aimed at providing a focus for change. The recommendations are:
 - Articulate a new collective vision for public services in Chorley
 - Strengthen and empower partnership working to act collectively
 - Hold a 'Chorley conversation' to talk about the future with residents and service users
 - Information and intelligence should be freely shared
 - 'Test-beds' for action and transformation should be identified
 - Public services should agree a model of locality-based working
 - Discuss and decide which neighbouring areas to work with to benefit Chorley
 - Embed a shared culture across public services
 - Focus on early intervention and prevention
 - All partners must fully engage
14. Also of note is that, in introducing the recommendations, the commission specifically references that Chorley is fettered in its ability to drive public service reform, partially because Chorley Council is limited in its power and resource.

15. The recommendations are not aimed specifically or solely at Chorley Council, although the report does reference that the council should be congratulated for its ambition and openness to change, which the commission felt would be important in driving the change that is needed.
16. While the recommendations are not necessarily aimed at the council, Chorley Council will have an important role in providing the leadership to change public services. Work has already started to develop a local response to the commission report and recommendations. This includes:
 - a. Reforming and refocussing the Chorley Public Service Reform Board, with an aim to gain a greater degree of commitment from partners, and provide the collective capacity and leadership to public services
 - b. Undertaking cost-benefit analysis of proposals to integrate health and well-being services in the borough.
 - c. Establishing a 'Chorley conversation' to engage residents and service users in any service change and design.
17. The outcome of the work undertaken in response to the final report and recommendations will be presented to the Future Governance Viability Working Group, who in turn will present their conclusions and recommendations back to Council.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

18. 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

19. No comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

20. No comments

CHRIS SINNOTT
PROJECT DIRECTOR

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Chris Sinnott	5337	4 June 2015	Commission Report – Exec Cabinet June 15