

APPENDIX B – PROJECT OVERVIEWS

Provide quality community services and facilities

Promote and support community food growing

Building on the work undertaken with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, this project would work with parish councils, RSLs, Groundwork and local communities to develop a specified number of community food growing schemes. Food growing schemes could also be supported through time credits and a communications campaign. Benefits could potentially include: Promotion of healthier lifestyles (people are more active and aware of healthy food); Promotion of inter-generational activities; community cohesion; low cost fresh produce.

Working together to improve local communities

The aim of this project is to engage with partner agencies, such as Police, Fire Rescue, Parish Council's, LCC, Health and housing providers as well as local community groups to develop plans for areas of the borough. The project will look at identifying what actions partners and local community groups need to undertake to improve the quality of life, health and wellbeing for people in the neighbourhood areas. This will involve developing short term and long term plans for local area, through identifying gaps, looking at what work can be undertaken to fill the gaps, and exploring how we can better co-ordinate and/or collate their individual plans in order to collectively deliver better results for residents in their local areas. Local community groups will be encouraged and supported to work with agencies to decide what happens in their local area and develop pride and ownership in the delivery of any actions developing a more sustainable approach to neighbourhood working.

Support Parish Councils/Neighbourhood areas

Recognising and maximising the role that Parish Councils and local community groups in non-parished areas do and could further play in improving the local area. This may include providing support to build capacity as well as providing clearer links from the Council's website to Parish Councils and local community groups. This has a close link with the project to work together to improve local communities.

Embed time credits into community groups

This project would embed the existing time credits programme into community groups to ensure its ongoing sustainability. It may also include developing a self-sustaining currency system and developing an online system which would require minimal central administration.

Promote and encourage community management of facilities

This project is based on previous projects to transfer community centres into community management, but it aims to expand and develop the principles to other assets such as play areas and open spaces. It aims to develop greater feeling of ownership and pride in the local community, and offer a more cost-effective method for managing assets.

Deliver the Friday Street health centre

Using the capital budget provision already set aside, work with partners to finalise and deliver the Friday Street health centre.

CCTV Provision

This project will deliver improved CCTV infrastructure as well as a new support contract for the maintenance and support.

Deliver the Extra Care Scheme

This project will look to deliver a purpose built housing scheme for the over 55's with community facilities and flexible 24 hour domiciliary care while promoting independence and social integration for the residents.

On completion this facility will provide the area with increased housing provision supporting outcomes from the Lancashire Extra Care & Specialised Housing Strategy. It will also become a long term asset for the council, reducing costs to social care budget, meeting health and wellbeing outcomes while providing long term revenue income for the council.

We will work closely with our health partners to deliver this scheme, however if the anticipated funding streams are not achieved we propose to review options to team up with private sector partners.

Potential Measures:

- % people satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live
- % of people who regularly participate in volunteering
- No. of volunteering hours earned
- No. of new volunteers recruited
- No. of community groups engaged in time credits
- Number of services/facilities in community management
- % increase in services/facilities managed by local communities
- The number of communities who have expressed an interest in managing local services/facilities.

Providing opportunity for all Chorley residents

Estate adoption

To improve the process of the adoption of estates following the completion of new housing developments. While this matter has been the subject of an Overview and scrutiny task group in 2012, the slow adoption of estates remains an issue. This project would seek to successfully complete any remaining O&S recommendations and identify and implement any further actions which could help to speed up and improve this process.

Develop a rural enterprise team

Develop a service which provides tailored support and advice to businesses and individuals in rural communities. In addition, this would include establishing a rural team, similar to the 'town team' engaging rural businesses and parish councils. The third element involves supporting businesses and individuals to access funding through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and establishing a grants package to support business to access the RDPE funding (match funding).

Develop policies that ensure community facilities match housing developments

Undertake a review of policies to ensure that housing developments in an area do not overwhelm local services. Carry out integrated impact assessments for all new housing developments and in some cases commission full public health impact assessments.

Work with partners to deliver affordable and quality public transport across the borough

Work with Lancashire County Council and providers to ensure that all communities across the borough are served with a public transport service that is useful and affordable.

In particular the aim would be to support people in outlying areas who may be isolated or lack access to transport to access services or visit people/places in the borough. This may be delivered through working with Central Lancashire dial a ride and expanding/developing their existing service provision to Chorley through mini bus and car share schemes.

Potential measures:

- Number of rural businesses intensively advised
- Number/value of grants provided to rural businesses
- Amount of match funding accessed by rural businesses
- % of housing developments with impact assessments
- % of impact assessment actions completed
- % of rural bus routes retained

Develop the Chorley Borough's Economy

Create more high paid jobs in Chorley

Whilst Chorley has good employment and education levels, many Chorley residents have to travel outside of the borough to find jobs which are better paid than those available in Chorley. This project will aim to specifically focus on attracting business to Chorley which can offer better paid jobs for local residents and opportunities for young people to progress into a professional career, for example in high tech or health sectors. This could be delivered through:

- Working with UCLAN, local colleges, training providers and employers to help local people develop their skills, qualifications and readiness to progress into higher skilled and higher paid jobs.
- Developing a local Centre of Excellence to train and educate a workforce capable of undertaking high skilled and high paid jobs.
- Appointing an Inward Investment Manager to identify new opportunities and funding streams.
- Developing an inward investment campaign targeted at high tech/health sector or generally better paid employment sector – to attract and encourage them to relocate to Chorley.
- Working with existing businesses (who offer well paid work) to promote jobs opportunities to local people first.

Revitalise rural service centres and deliver a 'shop local' campaign across the borough

Support shops and businesses in rural service centres (links to/covered by the expansion of grants across the borough and the development of a rural enterprise team).

Complementing the national campaign, the campaign will encourage people to use the shops and businesses across the borough to support the local economy and local area.

Expand the offer of grants to businesses and shops across the borough

Expand the offer of grants (shop front improvement grants, shop floor refurbishment grants and business rate subsidy scheme) to businesses and shops across the borough rather than being focussed on businesses specifically in the town centre and a limited number of service centres. A review of the criteria and approach to the grants should also be carried out to consider the sustainability of businesses receiving the grants and try to reduce the numbers of businesses which receive grants and subsequently close within 24 months of receiving our support.

Deliver a new town centre and car park masterplan

Following Council approval to proceed with the Market Walk Extension, work now needs to be undertaken to revisit and refresh the town centre masterplan and also to develop a

comprehensive car parking strategy which addresses the towns car parking needs both now and in the medium term.

Potential measures:

- Shop/Unit vacancy rates - outside of the town centre
- No. grants awarded
- % grants awarded to businesses in outlying areas
- The number of town centre visits

Continually improve the efficiency of the Council

Increase productivity across all Council services

This project will seek to improve staff productivity across all services areas, to both enable the Council to deal with the inevitable increases in demand for services which will take place over the next few years and also to generate savings options of up to £1m. Some services are effectively using management data which includes work volumes and processing times to improve staff productivity, and it is intended that this approach would be rolled out across all Council services as far as possible. In some areas it appears that if all staff were working at average productivity levels or above that the same demand could be met with 30% less staff, or that the existing staff could take on more or higher volumes of work. To apply this across the board, could achieve over double the £1m target but would impact on the ability to deliver services.

Establish a consultancy business for front and back office support and improvement

Using existing resources, and improved productivity, market the services of back office functions to other organisations to recoup some of the cost of the back office.

Undertake a comprehensive review of all council services/shared services

A programme of value for money reviews to identify areas for savings, improvements and change across the organisation that can be implemented to improve performance. Working more closely with other authorities, particularly neighbouring authorities, should give the opportunity to improve services and to make cost savings. Work will be undertaken to identify services that could be shared, and to then explore and develop opportunities with other councils.

Implement a staff suggestion scheme

A scheme would be developed to encourage staff to make suggestions about how the council can be improved, to improve service delivery or to work more efficiently. Incorporated within this would be a staff introduction incentive scheme.

Potential measures:

- % increase in contracts generating an income for the Council
- Amount of additional income generated
- % of residents who feel that the Council provides value for money
- Staff satisfaction