

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy & Performance (Assistant Chief Executive) Introduced by the Executive Member for Policy and Performance	Executive Cabinet	6 th September 2007

THE CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP – A PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To outline the improvements made to the Chorley Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership for Chorley) and to keep Cabinet informed about the current work being co-ordinated by the LSP, as well as future plans for the LSP.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- This report outlines the progress made to date on strengthening the Chorley Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership for Chorley.

Since re-structuring in 2006, the progress to date includes:

- 6 projects have been commissioned by the LSP, match funded by partners, to deliver joined-up multi agency projects in targeted areas
- Full membership of the Board, consisting of 40 representatives from the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors
- Re-freshing of the Community Strategy
- Performance Management Framework developed
- Constitution formalised
- Chorley People quarterly newsletter developed
- Chorley Partnership website developed

The months ahead will be challenging:

- Publication of the Community Strategy and Action Plan
- IDeA Peer Review of the LSP
- Embedding performance management throughout the LSP
- External accreditation from GONW in the new year.

In 2008, CPA will be replaced by CAA (Comprehensive Area Assessment) which will focus much more on the LSP and how well structured and managed it is to deliver multi-agency services in partnership with other organisations. Therefore it is crucial we embed performance management into the LSP and ensure it is performing effectively against the targets outlined in the Action Plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

4. To keep Members informed about the progress of and work being carried out by the Chorley Partnership, and to highlight the importance of the LSP to the new performance regime, Comprehensive Area Assessment, being implemented in 2008.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. N/A

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region	X	Improved access to public services	X
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance	X	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	X
Involving People in their Communities	X	Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	X

BACKGROUND

The Chorley Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Chorley. LSPs are identified in the White Paper as being the main vehicle for developing a vision for transforming a place and for tackling hard cross-cutting social problems affecting an area, that often require a joined-up multi-agency approach.

In 2006 the Partnership was re-structured in to make it fit for purpose in line with the increased emphasis placed on the LSP in the White Paper. The LSP structure is outlined in Appendix A. An overarching Board meets 4 times per year in various locations across the Borough. The Board is chaired by Lincoln Shields, a representative of the Business Sector, and is made up of 40 other members from across the public, private, community, faith and voluntary sectors.

The Executive sits below the Board and is the body responsible for the operational running of the Partnership. It monitors performance of the Community Strategy, expenditure on LSP-funded projects and promotes joined-up partnership initiatives between all sectors. The Partnership is to be recommended to consider the merger of the Executive with the Local Public Service Board. It is proposed that the new body will be chaired by the Leader of the Council, which means that its role in joining up public service delivery with our other public sector partners is even more paramount.

Underneath the Executive sits the 6 thematic partnerships, some of which are statutory bodies such as the Community Safety Partnership and the Children & Young People's Partnership (now to be known as the Children's Trust) and others that are non-statutory bodies but cover important cross-cutting themes, such as the Stronger and More Involved Communities sub-group.

The LSP's key task is to oversee the production of Chorley's Sustainable Community Strategy, which is delivered through an Action Plan owned and agreed by all Partners.

The Performance Advisor (Partnership) within the Policy & Performance Team (Claire Thompson) is responsible for the day-to-day co-ordination of the LSP and the performance management of its work streams.

In 2008, Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) is being replaced by Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which will focus much more on the LSP than before, and a crucial test will be how effective the LSP has been in joining up services and demonstrating service improvement and/or efficiencies generated by partnership working. We also need to demonstrate a robust performance management process is in place. Therefore it is critical that we strengthen the LSP this year.

2007 – PROGRESS TO DATE

7. Following on from the re-structure of the LSP in 2006, Chorley Borough Council allocated the LSP a budget of £85,000 to deliver cross-cutting, multi-agency projects to meet the objectives identified in the Community Strategy. This was then matched twice over from other Partners, including the NHS, the Police and the private sector, to name but a few.

These projects are:

- Marketing Chorley (Economic Regeneration Partnership)
- MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating) (Community Safety Partnership)
- Vulnerable households (The Local Public Service Board)
- Reducing Teenage Pregnancy in Chorley (The Children's Trust)
- Next Steps (Neighbourhood, Environment and Streetscene Partnership)
- Promoting Volunteering in Chorley (Stronger and More Involved Communities sub-group)

These exciting projects are already demonstrating how effective the LSP can be in bringing together partners to work together on challenging issues, streamlining resources and ultimately making a bigger impact on people's lives and service delivery in Chorley.

The MATAC project has recently been praised by the Home Office for its innovative use of technology and sharing information between partners to more effectively combine resources and target hotspot areas of crime.

8. The Partnership Board now has full membership. 40 people represent organisations from the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors. The LSP is chaired by Lincoln Shields, a representative of the business community.
9. The Community Strategy is currently being re-freshed, in time for the wider re-refresh of Ambition Lancashire, the county-wide community strategy and the new LAA in 2008. Now re-branded by the Government as the 'Sustainable Community strategy', this key document provides the strategic Vision for the town over the next 20 years. As ours was initially produced in 2005, it is scheduled to run until 2025, with re-freshes every 3 years.

By the end of September a final Sustainable Community Strategy for Chorley will be published. Its 5 key priorities for Chorley are:

- Ensuring that Chorley is the pulse of a thriving central Lancashire economy
- Improving life chances for all
- Developing local solutions to global climate change
- Developing the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live, work and play
- Building Stronger Communities with improved access to public services

Following on from this will be a re-freshed Action Plan that will enable us to monitor progress against the community strategy.

10. A performance management framework has been designed for the Partnership. This will utilise the Council's Performance Plus information system, to allow progress against the community strategy targets to be monitored. Regular reports will be presented to the Executive, twice-yearly to the Board and on an annual basis to the Council.
11. A constitution for the Partnership has been formalised, stipulating Terms of Reference for each of the groups of the LSP, and setting out the role and responsibilities of the LSP.
12. A quarterly newsletter called the Chorley People is being produced to communicate to Partners and other stakeholders the work of the LSP.
13. The Chorley Partnership website www.chorleypartnership.co.uk, is being re-freshed on an ongoing basis. Minutes, agendas and details of future meetings can now be downloaded, as well as other key documents. Links to Partners' and other relevant external websites, are planned for the future.
14. In November, the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) will be conducting a Peer Review of the Chorley Partnership. The Review Team will be on site on 6th and 7th November and will be conducting interviews with members of the LSP, as well as staff working for partner organisations, a focus group of residents and Elected Members of the Council. The review will give us an indication of how well the LSP is progressing compared to other LSPs around the country and suggest areas for further improvement. Crucially. The Review will also help us to gauge how prepared we are for the new CAA arrangements in 2008.
15. In areas with NRF funding, LSPs are given a formal traffic light ranking by GONW. However this is not a requirement for LSPs in non-NRF areas as the LSP is not responsible for commissioning NRF monies. Following on from a successful IDeA Peer Review, we hope to have an informal visit from GONW that will rank us as an Amber/Green rated partnership.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

16. This report has no implications in the following areas.

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal			

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Claire Thompson	5348	17 th August 2007	

APPENDIX A

Chorley Partnership Structure

