



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING STATEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION DIRECTORATE

FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2007

1. KEY MESSAGES

The main objectives for the Directorate as a whole over the next 12 months to build on the improvements made during 2006/7 particularly in relation to communication and customer care. Initiatives include increasing the number of customers using e-planning system and the development of a Directorate wide Improvement Plan which will include actions to improve our service to customers.

With regards to individual teams a main focus will be to build the Strategic Housing Team following housing stock transfer. A report setting out the priorities for the team will be produced and specific action identified. A key factor will be building relationships with Chorley Community Housing as well as other RSL's.

The focus for the Planning Policy team will be to move the LDF Core Strategy forward in conjunction with Preston and South Ribble.

Economic Regeneration will be focusing on delivering the actions set out in the Town Centre Strategy and the Economic Regeneration Strategy.

In Development Control the performance targets have been reviewed and increased. With regards Building Control we are looking at ways to bring more business including promoting the service. However, recruitment still remains an issue. There is a shortage of experienced planners and there is competition from both the private and public sector. We currently have a number of vacancies in the Directorate which I am looking to fill over the next couple of months. This may affect performance and I am looking at ways to deal with this issue in the interim.

2. BUDGET UPDATE

DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION

JUNE 2007 £'000 £'000

ORIGINAL CASH BUDGET 1,062

Add Adjustments for In year cash movements

Virements for other Services

- Markets Transferred from Property Services	(80)
- Land Charges Transferred from Legal Services	(92)
- Tourism Transferred from Leisure & Culture	7

ADJUSTED CASH BUDGET 897

Less Corporate Savings - Vacancy savings (22)

Less Corporate Savings - PDG (21)

CURRENT CASH BUDGET 855

FORECAST

EXPENDITURE

>Salary savings on vacant posts	(35)
>Legal Fees re Planning Application	15
>Tourism General Subscriptions	4
>NNDR	<u>1</u>

Expenditure under (-) or over (+) current cash budget (15)

INCOME

>Profiled income for Land Charges 1
>Profiled income for Building/Planning Applications 14

Income under (+)/ over (-) achieved 15

FORECAST CASH OUTTURN 2007/2008 855

Key Assumptions

Assume Market Toll income to achieve budget level.

Key Issues/Variables

A number of vacant posts within salary savings.

Key Actions

Salary budgets for Anchor Technical Officers and Buckshaw Officer included.
This expenditure is offset by a recharge to DFG capital allocation and a match funding of S106 monies respectively

3. **SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS**

Economic Regeneration Strategy – Lancashire Economic Partnership are in the process of refreshing the Lancashire Economic Strategy which is funded by the NWDA. A number of projects in the Economic Regeneration Strategy have been included in this.

An investment programme/action plan is being prepared.

Town Centre Strategy – A number of the initiatives in the action plan are currently being implemented.

Market Walk Phase II – A public consultation event has been held prior to the submission of a planning application. Other initiatives include:

Town Centre Promotion – Preparation for Christmas including a Dickensian Evening.

A Street Café Policy approved for consultation by Cabinet.

Heritage – The key heritage projects included in the Business Improvement Plan have been put on hold due to staff vacancies.

Transport Accessibility Plan – An action plan is currently being developed and will be presented to September meetings.

Buckshaw Village – Discussions between officers and BAe Systems have commenced on the future developments of Group 1 and Group 4N the remaining areas of land at Buckshaw.

Railway Station – Network Rail are currently drawing up the outline proposals for the Station (known as Grip 3). This is due to report at the end of July.

Strategic Regional Site/Buckshaw Link – The SRS or “the Revolution” was officially launched and development has commenced on the Buckshaw Link.

Climate Change Strategy – A cross Directorate Climate Change Strategy Task Group has been established. The first action is to establish the Council’s carbon footprint and Liberata have been asked to do this.

Big Wood/Copperworks Wood – Public Consultation on the proposals is currently being undertaken particularly with regards access into the area.

4. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator Description	Target at 31st June 2007	Performance June 2007	Comments
% of Planning Applications processed on time- Major	73	83	Green Star
% of Planning Applications processed on time- Minor	77	74	Blue Circle
% of Planning Applications processed on time - Other	88	88	Blue Circle
% Of Building Plans Determined by Statutory Target	100	Not measured	N/A
Development and Regeneration % invoices processed within 30 Working Days	96.71	90.22	Red Triangle
Development and Regeneration Sickness Absence- Days	2.30	1.62	Green Star

Signature: _____

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION