

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Business) (Introduced by the Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration)	Executive Cabinet	4 th October 2007

CHORLEY PROFILE – A STATE OF THE BOROUGH REPORT – AUGUST 2007

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform members of the publication of the 2007 Chorley Profile, which includes a wide range of updated social, environmental and economic information about the Borough, building upon the 2006 Profile.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. This report highlights some of the statistics and trends identified in the 2007 Chorley Profile. It focuses on areas where updated information and statistics have been produced, and highlights areas of strength and weakness for the Borough. It shows a Borough with a growing population, with generally high average household incomes, high educational standards, a crime rate below the Lancashire average, high employee jobs growth and high levels of business start-ups. However, the statistics also indicate that life expectancy, particularly for females, is lower than the national average, that liver disease is a significant problem, that house prices are increasing at a rate above the Lancashire and national averages and that median wage levels for people working in the Borough are low.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

4. To keep Members informed about the latest statistics and trends relating to the Borough.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None.

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	√	Improved access to public services	√
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance	√	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	√
Involving People in their Communities		Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	

BACKGROUND

7. A State of the Borough Report, known as the Chorley Profile, describing the Borough and outlining key statistics has been produced in 2004 and 2006. The 2007 Profile updates information in the 2006 edition. Whilst there is no statutory requirement to produce a Profile, it acts as a useful reference source and helps to inform the evidence base for the Local Development Framework. Members should all have received a personal copy of the 2007 Profile at the Full Council meeting on 18 September.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE PROFILE

8. The Profile includes a wide range of statistical and contextual information arranged around topics. In many areas little new information has been produced since the last Profile, so no updates have been made. This report highlights those areas where most new information has become available focussing on the topics of population, health, education, crime, housing and employment. Key findings are highlighted below:

9. Population

- The Borough population was estimated to be 103,700 in mid-2005, up from the mid-2004 estimate of 103,000.
- In 2005 the Borough had fewer children and elderly people than the national average, a similar proportion aged between 25 – 44 and a significantly higher proportion of people aged between 45 – 64.
- The total population of the Borough is expected to rise to 107,700 by 2010 and to 115,700 by 2020, with a significant increase in those aged 60 or over.
- Average gross household income levels in the Borough are higher than the Lancashire average, with the wards of Pennine, Clayton-le-Woods & Whittle-le-Woods and Brindle & Hoghton having some of the highest incomes in the county.
- Barclays Bank research ranks the Chorley parliamentary constituency as the 101st wealthiest constituency in England (out of 570 constituencies in total), indicating high levels of disposable income. This is a significant fall from the 2003 figure when Chorley was ranked 32nd, but probably largely results from changes to the cost of living factor used by Barclays, which is now less favourable for North West England.
- In 2004 just over 95% of the population were white British, which is considerably more than the English average. Other white groups, white Irish, Indians and Pakistanis all numbered between 500 and 1000 people.

10. Health, Education and Crime

- Male life expectancy is currently 76.1 years and female life expectancy 80 years, for those born between 2002 and 2004. The male figure is slightly below the England and Wales average, but the female figure is significantly below the national average.

- Chronic liver disease is a significant problem in the Borough – liver disease mortality is well above the national average and when compared to places with similar characteristics nationwide the rate in Chorley was worse than in any of these areas.
- Borough secondary schools achieve high levels of GCSE success with four of the six schools achieving pass rates above the national average in 2006.
- Domestic burglary, vehicle crime and violent crime rates are consistently lower than the Lancashire rates.

11. Housing and Employment

- There was a significant drop in the number of new houses built during 2006/07 when compared to 2005/06, with very few affordable homes completed.
- Average house prices rose from £148,468 to £169,184 between 2005 and 2006, which is a rise of 14%, exceeding the Lancashire and England and Wales averages.
- Over the period 1998 – 2005 Chorley experienced the highest rate of employee jobs growth of any district in Lancashire, particularly in the other business services, education and health & social services sectors. However, over the same period the number of employees in the manufacturing sector declined by 34%.
- The level of business start-ups was amongst the highest in Lancashire in 2006.
- In March 2007 the unemployment rate in the Borough was lower than the national average and lower than for Lancashire as a whole.
- In 2005 median annual earnings for people working in the Borough were £18,595 per annum, which was lower than the Lancashire figure of £20,224 and considerably lower than the national figure.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

12. This report has no direct implications in the following areas.

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal			

JANE E MEEK
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (BUSINESS)

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Chorley Profile – A State of the Borough Report August 2007	August 2007		Civic Offices Union Street
Chorley Profile – A State of the Borough Report January 2006	January 2006		Civic Offices Union Street

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Stephen Lamb	5282	07/09/07	CP Cabinet Report 07