

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Public Protection Streetscene and Community	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	31 March 2016

REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING – FIRST MONITORING REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide Members with a monitoring update following the review of neighbourhood working by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and subsequent report to Executive Cabinet in February 2015

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Members are asked to note the report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- In late 2014 O&S undertook a review of neighbourhood working and reported their findings to Executive Cabinet in February 2015.
- In June 2015 the Executive Cabinet responded positively to all the recommendations made and this monitoring report provides an update of progress.
- Neighbourhood working in Chorley continues to be successful focussing activity on three agreed and defined projects within each neighbourhood area for delivery each financial year.
- To that end 24 projects have recently been agreed by Executive Cabinet for delivery in 2016/17 and the good attendance and engagement at all neighbourhood meetings has been recorded.
- The table below details the recommendations arising out of the review and the progress made against each:

O&S Task Group Recommendation	Progress
<p>1. To develop a liaison mechanism between the eight Chairs of the Neighbourhood Area Meetings through an informal meeting that could take place prior to a Chorley 3 Tier Liaison meeting as any issues (of a strategic nature and involving all three tiers of Local Government) can be raised at that meeting.</p>	<p>Changes to the ‘3 Tier Forum’ have resulted in the new Chorley Liaison meeting forum. Opportunities to bring the Neighbourhood Area meeting chairs together have therefore not materialised.</p> <p>Chairs will be contacted to establish if such a network meeting would be of value. However Parish councils are now contacted prior to Chorley Liaison for any agenda items they wish to be discussed.</p> <p>In the meantime the Chorley Liaison agendas are reflective of issues that cut across the three tiers of local government in Chorley.</p>

O&S Task Group Recommendation	Progress
<p>2. Provide training to borough and parish councillors on effective tools to engage and connect people in their own area.</p>	<p>Member Learning Hours are used to provide Members with information and current thinking on particular issues. In the past 12 months the following sessions have been provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How the modern Councillor Communicates</i> • <i>Dealing with Common Ward Problems</i> • <i>Funding Sources</i> <p>In addition a number of Parish Councils are currently being engaged with regard to community response in emergency situations such as flooding.</p>
<p>3. That the Neighbourhood Priorities are renamed as Preferred Projects to reflect that, over time, issues and aspirations change.</p>	<p>All reports now refer to 'preferred projects'</p>
<p>4. To have a single point of contact at the Council for community groups and parish council's to raise matters relating to neighbourhood working.</p> <p>Reporting of day to day environmental issues to use existing channels, for example My Account</p>	<p>There is insufficient capacity for a single point of contact, however over the last twelve months several sessions have been undertaken with parish councils and Ward Members on the use of My Account to log calls and enquiries.</p>
<p>5. To improve communication between officers, councillors and stakeholders about the outcomes of priorities to community groups and the public, to include monthly updates on progress and delivery to be provided by the lead officer through use of IntheKnow, IntheBoro, Facebook and Twitter.</p>	<p>Lead officers are tasked with providing timely updates on the delivery of preferred projects. In addition in 2015 Executive Cabinet were provided with an update report on preferred project delivery.</p> <p>The use of other media has been limited and lead officers will be exhorted to use a variety of communication channels.</p>
<p>6. Where appropriate, the neighbourhood working process should be used to encourage greater financial contributions from parish council funds for the delivery of neighbourhood priorities. It is envisaged that robust debate at neighbourhood area meetings should be the forum to challenge greater contributions from parish councils who may be reluctant to make those contributions.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood groups are encouraged to challenge all representation within the group as well as wider agencies and community groups to make contributions (financial and 'in kind') to the successful delivery neighbourhood priorities and other neighbourhood working aspirations.</p>
<p>7. The Council to explore with the Voluntary and Community Faith Sector (VCFS) how the use of current resources provided by the Council to the VCFS, can be used by the VCFS to improve networking</p>	<p>The idea of a VCFS annual forum is being explored together with a 'volunteers fair' where the vast array of voluntary groups and organisations can market themselves and attract new volunteer recruits</p>

O&S Task Group Recommendation	Progress
across the VCFS sector in Chorley. This could include the facilitation of an Annual Forum on a dedicated topic, for example health initiatives, to help shape future key projects and encourage greater involvement at all levels.	
8. The civic pride campaign be fully integrated into neighbourhood working and members informed or engaged in all aspects of civic pride delivery.	This is yet to be delivered
9. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel are supportive of the Corporate Strategy project to introduce Community Action Plans in parts of the Borough and recommend consideration is given to a wider roll out depending on the implementation and outcomes achieved from the initial plans.	Year 1 of the community action plan project has been completed and will be reviewed later in 2016/17 when a wider roll out will be considered as part of that review.
10. The use of local neighbourhood forums may be considered as appropriate by the Neighbourhood Area meetings as a means to engage and understand community needs. Such forums could be facilitated or hosted jointly with the neighbourhood representatives.	Because of the resource implications of supporting larger public accessed forum meetings each neighbourhood area is asked to consider their own needs individually and determine how such a format could be resourced

8. Overall neighbourhood working appears to be delivering a range of projects determined locally and delivered on time and within the limited budget available.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
--	-----	-----------

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9. 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	√

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

10. 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

11. No Comment

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

12. No Comment

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROTECTION STREETSCENE AND COMMUNITY

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Simon Clark	5732	23 March 2016	O&S Nhood Monitoring