

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director Policy and Governance (Introduced by the Leader)	Council	19 th July 2016

CHORLEY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide a summary of the Council's achievements during 2015/16 as well as highlighting both the challenges and opportunities facing the Council in 2016/17.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Overall performance during 2015/16 has been good, delivering tangible outcomes that meet the Council's key priority areas:
 - 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
- The successful delivery of key projects has been underpinned by strong organisational performance and supported by the Council's programme of new investment in 2015/16, totalling £4.422m. Looking ahead, we continue to face challenges as a result of budget pressures combined with high demand for services. Projections show a potential budget gap of around £3m to 2018/19. This report highlights activity to date, the resulting outcomes for local people and our approach to meeting the challenges ahead.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- N/A

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- N/A

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

7. 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	✓

BACKGROUND

8. The annual report is a key mechanism for presenting information about the Council's performance to residents, partners and key stakeholders. The report provides information regarding the key activities which have been delivered over the past 12 months to meet our vision and corporate priorities.
9. Looking ahead, the report identifies some key challenges faced by the Council in order to meet residents' needs, and sets out a number of key initiatives for 2016/17 which we will be undertaking to ensure that our organisation remains in a position to meet these needs.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

10. The Chorley Council Annual Report is attached to this paper as an appendix. The key headlines from the report include:

a. Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all

We have delivered many successful events this year, attracting thousands of people into the area. The first ever Chorley Flower Show attracted 10,000 people and 16 professional exhibitors, making it a huge success with significant potential for growth in future years. The Chorley Time Credits scheme has continued to reward people for giving up their time to volunteer, with 72% of volunteers giving their time at least once a week and 83% of Time Credits members reporting an improvement in their quality of life. We have continued to commission much needed services providing advice and support for families, vulnerable adults, older people, young people and community safety. In 2015 we undertook our residents' survey which showed improvement in the majority of areas, with 77% of residents satisfied with the way the council runs things (an increase of 18.5% when compared with the previous survey in 2013) and 60% agreeing that the council provides value for money (a 17.5% increase since 2013).

b. A strong local economy

This year, we have continued to strengthen Chorley's local economy, working hard to attract new businesses and seeing over £1.5 million worth of investment brought into the area. We have held a number of Choose Chorley Business Network Events attended by 414 business people. Work has continued to assist residents getting into paid employment through our employment initiatives and schemes. Overall employment levels buck regional and national trends at 80.8%. The number of young people not in education, employment or training was 4.5% at the end of March 2016, equating to 153 young people. This is better than target which is 4.8% and the Lancashire rate which is 5.1%. We also launched our new 'Check Out Chorley' website, which has had over 28,540 page views in the first three months.

c. Clean, safe and healthy communities

We have encouraged people to get active and stay active, promoting and delivering healthy lifestyles, with 26,452 young people attending our Get Up and Go activities over the last twelve months and over 120 people taking part in the Couch to 5K programme. We have continued to increase the amount of affordable housing across the borough, delivering 85 affordable homes this year bringing the total to 379 homes since 2012. Work has continued on the delivery of our Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy with the Astley Park Destination Play Area receiving very positive feedback from local residents and work to develop Rangleetts Recreation Ground being completed, providing a vital asset for young people in the local area.

d. An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area

Our customers remain satisfied with the work that we do with the level of overall dissatisfaction standing at 17.1% at the end of 2015/16 against a target of 20%; this is the lowest level since 2012 when dissatisfaction was 31.1%. Work has been undertaken to improve the Council website, making it more icon driven and therefore easier to use on both mobile and tablet devices. We've also progressed development of the Youth Zone, with plans developed for the proposed site on Railway Street in Chorley to provide new facilities for young people including a fitness suite, football pitches and activity rooms. The Chorley Credit Union has given out a total of 1,170 loans this year, totalling £555,074, providing local people with a safe and ethical banking option.

e. Council spending

In 2015/16 Chorley Council took the decision to once again freeze Council Tax, despite continuing large scale reductions in Central Government grants. At the same time, the Council committed to new investments totalling £4.422m, with priorities for investment identified by residents including;

- Working with public service providers in the borough to make sure residents are getting the best deal possible
- Supporting businesses and improving the local economy
- Providing services for young and older people
- Improving the town centre
- Supporting safer communities
- Putting on events for families
- Improvements to play areas in the borough

f. Future challenges in 2016/17

Managing the impact of cuts to public service budgets against increasing demand for services as the population of Chorley grows and changes, is likely to be the biggest challenge facing the organisation over the coming year. However, the Council has been proactive in its response and positioned itself well to ensure that vital services for local residents are maintained. A number of plans and strategies are in place, including the Transformation Strategy, which will support the Council to achieve its ambitions and the recommendations of the Future Governance Models for Chorley report. The work of the Chorley Public Service Reform Partnership will also support the Council in these challenges, working to integrate and re-configure public services in Chorley to provide the best outcomes for residents. Developing the local economy continues to be a priority and a number of initiatives have been put in place for 2016/17 to create jobs, promote inward investment, attract new business into the borough and to improve the town centre, leisure and retail offer in Chorley.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

11. 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	

CHRIS SINNOTT
DIRECTOR (POLICY AND GOVERNANCE)

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Kate Cronin	5348	5 th July 2016	Annual report 2015_16 covering report