

Report of	Meeting	Date
Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance) (Introduced by the Executive Member for Policy and Performance)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3rd December 2007
	Executive Cabinet	6th December 2007

JOINT LOCALITY PLAN 2007/08

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To present the Joint Locality Plan 2007/08 to Members for consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the proposed Joint Locality Plan is adopted
- To delegate to the Executive Member for Policy and Performance the decision to approve any amendments made by Lancashire County Council's Cabinet or the Lancashire Locals Committee.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- The development and publication of a joint locality plan is a key part in improving two-tier working between Chorley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council. It is a key project within the Corporate Strategy, supporting the long term outcome 6.2, 'An Excellent Community Leader'.
- The joint nature of the plan means that some small changes may be made after approval by Executive Cabinet. Delegating responsibility to the Executive Member for Policy and Performance will ensure the plan is published in an efficient and timely manner.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- N/A

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 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

8. The October 2006 Local Government White Paper states that 'status quo is not an option in two-tier areas if councils are to achieve the outcomes for place shaping and service delivery that communities expect and deliver substantial efficiency improvements'.

In response to the White Paper, county and district partners across Lancashire produced 'Transforming Local Government in Lancashire'. It outlined how partners would develop relationships to work more closely and effectively together towards 'enhanced two-tier' working. This included the development of a joint Locality Plan.

Two district councils, Chorley and Rossendale, worked with the County Council to develop locality plans which other districts could use as models when developing locality plans for their area. At a recent pan-Lancashire officer meeting, Chorley's locality plan was seen as a strong example, and many councils will now be using the best practice developed by Chorley.

CHORLEY'S JOINT LOCALITY PLAN

9. The Locality Plan for Chorley was developed for the first time in autumn 2007. The first plan has been used as an opportunity to develop an initial methodology for its development and identify the most appropriate way to take forward the plan in future.
10. The aim of the Locality Plan is to encourage a better, and closer, working relationship between Chorley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council, where opportunities for joint working are identified and pursued. In addition, it is hoped that the plan will set out clearly to the public the roles of the respective Councils in Chorley and some of the main projects that will be carried out in the next twelve months either by one of the Councils, or jointly in partnership.
11. The plan was based on the priorities contained within the sustainable community strategy. It was hoped that this way, there would be a clear link between the priorities of both Councils and the Locality Plan. The plan should also contain all the main projects that will be undertaken in the Borough over the next year.
12. The Policy and Performance Directorate coordinated Chorley Council's response to the locality plan. Information was gathered from directorates about schemes that will be delivered in the next 12 months that will be tangible and noticeable to the public. These schemes could be delivered by Chorley Council alone, or in partnership with Lancashire County Council.
13. The initial information gathered from directorates in Chorley was used as a basis for discussions with Lancashire County Council to identify more effective ways of working together and to develop a joint locality plan. In it, projects and planned work were identified to illustrate the different projects that local government would carry out in the next twelve months, and who would undertake it. It is hoped that the projects selected would all be tangible work that a member of the public would be able to identify when it was undertaken.
14. One of the initial benefits realised through the development a locality plan is that it has helped to crystallise what Lancashire County Council does in the Chorley area. Where previously many projects carried out by the County Council would not be co-terminous with the Chorley area, it has been possible to identify the benefits that will be felt in Chorley.

15. The Locality Plan is attached for approval. As it is a joint plan, it will also be considered at Chorley's Lancashire Locals committee on 10th January 2008, and then approved by Lancashire County Council's Cabinet. Once fully approved by both Councils, the plan will be published and made widely available, by displaying it in public buildings and making copies available to any interested parties.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

16. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal			

LESLEY-ANN FENTON
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Chris Sinnott	5337	14 th November 2007	