

Report of	Meeting	Date
Assistant Chief Executive (Policy & Performance) Introduced by the Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Performance	Executive Cabinet	6 th December 2007

THE CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP – A PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To outline the improvements made to the Chorley Partnership (the Local Strategic Partnership for Chorley) since last quarter, to keep Cabinet informed about the current work being co-ordinated by the LSP and future plans for the LSP.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The Sustainable Community Strategy, including the Chorley Partnership's vision for Chorley, and its 5 key priorities, has now been published.
- The LSP is now starting to scope out possible partnership projects for 2008/9 building on the success of 2007/8 projects.
- The LSP is engaged with the revision of the LAA process and is currently debating and responding to consultation on the 35 national indicators Chorley would like to see considered for negotiation with central government, including 5 locally developed indicators specific to Chorley.
- The IDeA Peer Review – the final report from the IDeA was very positive, recognising the great strides we have made in improving partnership working, evidenced by the innovative work that is taking place. It also outlines areas for further development, which are being incorporated into an LSP Improvement Plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3. To keep Members informed about the progress of and work being carried out by the Chorley Partnership, and to update Members on the LSP's role in the 2008 LAA negotiations, as well as possible projects for the Partnership for the 2008/9 financial year.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. N/A

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region	X	Improved access to public services	X
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance	X	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	X
Involving People in their Communities	X	Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	X

PROGRESS TO DATE

1. Since the last quarter's progress report to Executive Cabinet, more positive work has been carried out through the LSP.
2. The Sustainable Community Strategy for Chorley has been published and an accompanying action plan is being produced with full partner involvement.
3. The Local Public Service Board and Executive have been amalgamated into one decision-making body, streamlining the amount of LSP meetings partners attend and driving forward joint working in Chorley.
4. The 6 projects given injection funding from Chorley Borough Council are progressing well:

Vulnerable Households – the pilot in South Ribble is already being hailed as an example of best practice of partnership working, and if proves successful, could attract LAA funding in the future. Currently still in its pilot phase, this two-year project is currently identifying 15 families in Chorley to work with.

MATAC – this project is already displaying dramatic successes in the reduction of crime in targeted hotspots in Chorley and has been hailed as best practice by the Home Office.

Reducing Teenage Pregnancy – the Teenage Pregnancy Action plan is being delivered, involving schools and colleges, the youth service, children's centres, the PCT, etc. Initiatives such as young mums talking to teenagers about the reality of parenthood, sexual health advice and other initiatives are ongoing.

First Steps – plans are now in place to improve the community centre outside area with landscaping and planting schemes, to be maintained by residents. Groundwork have consulted with residents on what sort of design they would prefer and partners such as the police and Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment have been consulted on issues around community safety, which have also informed the designs.

Marketing Chorley – prominent feature display stands have been produced and are situated in key locations throughout the Borough, promoting Chorley as a place to invest. The Marketing Chorley action plan is ongoing.

Chorley Community Network – the Stronger and More Involved Communities sub-group is making progress with making links with VCF groups in Chorley and so far over 200

groups have been added to the database. We are exploring the option of making this database available online via the Chorley Partnership website.

5. IDeA Peer Review

The Chorley Partnership underwent a review by the Improvement and Development Agency to seek an external perspective on the partnership's approach to:

- Achievements and impact
- Vision and strategy
- Leadership and relationships
- Governance and performance

The review team spoke to partners and held focus groups of staff involved with the LSP. The final report detailing their findings is attached to this document. The report recognises that whilst it is still early days for the LSP in its current form, the partnership is poised to make real difference through joint working in Chorley, evidenced by the 6 projects already taking place. The report highlights the achievements of the LSP so far, recognises the commitment of the Council and its partners, as well as the work that has taken place to improve the governance and effectiveness of the Chorley Partnership. The report also suggests areas for continued improvement, such as improving communication within the partnership and to press ahead with the delivery of the six LSP-funded projects.

6. Engagement in the Local Area Agreement consultation process

The Chorley Partnership has been asked by the Lancashire Partnership to respond to consultation on the 35 national indicators we would like to see considered for negotiation with central government, which best reflect Chorley's priorities.

The Policy & Performance team have put forward a suggested initial draft list of 35 indicators they feel best fit the priorities within the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Chorley Partnership Executive is currently debating this list, and the other alternatives, and is participating in a county led consultation event on 12th December to refine the final list. The deadline for comments on the 35 indicators is 19th December 2007.

7. LSP projects for 2008/9

Work has begun to scope out possible projects for the Chorley Partnership for the next year. At the joint action planning session, and across the theme groups, discussions are commencing around a limited number of potential LSP projects for next year. Examples of possible projects so far include:

- Climate change – exemplar households, exemplar businesses, green transport plan, promoting the green agenda to small and medium sized businesses, fuel poverty, etc.
- Promoting Cultural Chorley – a common understanding of “what the culture of Chorley is”
- Expanding MATAAC to include more information
- Inter-generation community projects
- Alcohol harm reduction strategy for Chorley
- Research into young people using alcohol to find out the scale of the problem and to identify best ways of changing young people's behaviour

Discussions will continue in the theme groups and at the LSP Executive on where best to allocate resources, depending on the Council's budget decisions in the new year.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

This report has no implications in the following areas.

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal			

There is one attached paper with this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Claire Thompson	5348	19 th November 2007	