

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Early Intervention & Support	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6 October 2016

## REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING – SECOND MONITORING REPORT

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide Members with a second 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 'preferred projects' within each neighbourhood area for delivery each financial year.
- To this end, 24 projects have 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
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.	During the last year Parish Councils have been regularly contacted prior to Chorley Liaison for any agenda items they wish to be discussed.  Therefore, the Chorley Liaison agendas are reflective of issues that cut across the three tiers of local government in Chorley.
2. Provide training to borough and parish councillors on effective tools to engage and connect people in their own area.	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:  <i>Licensing, Safeguarding, Dealing with Common Ward Problems, Future Governance, Planning Practice, Welfare Reform, Negotiation &amp; Influencing Skills, Understanding the Single Front Office, Listening &amp; Questioning Skills, Understanding the New Management Structure, NPS Legal Highs, Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106, Market Walk</i>

O&S Task Group Recommendation	Progress
	<p><i>Developments.</i></p> <p>In addition a number of Parish Councils are currently being engaged with regard to community response in emergency situations such as flooding. These include; Croston, Adlington, Whittle-le- Woods (Town Lane area) and Eccleston.</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.' And a 'rules of engagement' protocol established (see Appendix 1).</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 Reporting of day to day environmental issues to use existing channels either the website <a href="http://www.chorley.gov.uk">www.chorley.gov.uk</a> or 01257 515151.</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 here: <a href="https://myaccount.chorley.gov.uk/">https://myaccount.chorley.gov.uk/</a></p> <p>A particular member learning hour focussed on 'Understanding the Single Front Office.'</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 between neighbourhood area meetings.</p> <p>In addition in 2015 Executive Cabinet were provided with an update report on preferred project delivery.</p> <p>In Autumn 2016, there will be a focus on all neighbourhood projects completed in 'In the Know' and using other 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>There has been a particular challenge in 2016/17 financial year in managing the aspiration and resource required to support larger scale preferred projects across the borough.</p> <p>However, there have also been instances of pooling resources with parish councils and other agencies which have proved beneficial in maximising resources within local communities.</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 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</p>	<p>Facilitated 2 well attended Multi-agency Networking events - a Big Brew Networking event and a Rising above the Challenge' Conference. Also launch of the volunteer academy.</p>
<p>8. The civic pride campaign be fully</p>	<p>The Civic Pride campaign has enabled sessions to</p>

O&S Task Group Recommendation	Progress
integrated into neighbourhood working and members informed or engaged in all aspects of civic pride delivery.	be delivered in primary schools on the theme of 'Our Environment and You,' and 'Me and My Pet.' Also, focussed work including 'Skip Days' and Junior Citizens' has enabled individuals and communities to contribute positively to the place in which they live.
9. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel are supportive of the Corporate Strategy project to introduce Community Action Plans (CAPs) 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 is currently under review.  The past year's experience shows a strong desire for partnership working within communities, and this has brought both successes and challenges. The review of CAPs will consider how 'Neighbourhood Working' practice also includes neighbourhood priorities, understanding of community needs and assets and the use of Spice Time Credits as an integral connector and motivator to community and neighbourhood working across the borough.
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. This is a consideration that needs to be considered in more detail alongside the review of CAP's.

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

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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## 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 EARLY INTERVENTION & SUPPORT

There are no background papers to this report.

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
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