

LCC TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

January 2017

Background

1. Chorley Council has committed over £300K to protecting vital community services otherwise at risk of closure or reduction as a result of Lancashire County Council (LCC) budget cuts. This includes support for a number of bus routes (6/6A, 24A and 109A) serving residents across the borough and three libraries: Coppull, Eccleston and Adlington. Bus routes will be funded until the end of March 2017 and libraries to April 2018.
2. The funding will allow for a transitional period, during which Chorley Council will work with community stakeholders including Town and Parish Councils, community groups and local residents to consider the options available and develop sustainable solutions for future service provision. A key element of this work will be exploring possible funding models including income generation and consideration of Town and Council Parish precepts.

Update

3. Library Services

A number of actions have been completed to date with regard to library services:

- Chorley Council Community Development Officers from the Health and Wellbeing team are now actively working with local groups to understand the needs of the community and offer assistance with any potential community asset transfer process. The team have met with local stakeholders in both Adlington and Coppull to begin to work towards establishing their relevant constitutions and make sure the groups are established and have all the relevant arrangements in place to support any potential community asset transfer processes in the future. The groups are also beginning to explore and consider future ways in which these community services may be delivered, looking at ways in which they can be made as sustainable and cost effective as possible whilst delivering valuable services for local residents. The team are looking to meet with relevant stakeholders in Eccleston to begin discussions in this area in the near future.
- Parish and Town Councils were invited to attend a meeting with Cllr Alistair Bradley and Gary Hall on Monday 5th December 2016 to discuss how we may work together to sustain services for our local communities; this included consideration of parish precepts. Following this meeting, rough costing information has been circulated in the form of a number of illustrative models to demonstrate ways in which this funding could be raised/ achieved. Parish and Town Councils have been asked to consider the information provided at their upcoming meetings and provide their initial thoughts and feedback by Friday 27th January 2017.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been drafted to be agreed with LCC. The MoU sets out the operating approach, expectations and supporting governance structures between Chorley Council, Lancashire County Council and local community stakeholders for the duration of the transition period until April 2018. It is

hoped that a meeting to discuss and agree this MoU with Lancashire County Council will take place early January 2017.

4. **Bus Routes**

In terms of bus routes, Chorley Council is continuing to work closely with Lancashire County Council and local bus operators to investigate and understand future options to ensure a cost effective service that meets the needs of local residents. We have received relevant data and information from LCC and Bus Operators to allow us to begin to analyse usage and demand along the routes. This analysis will be used to inform potential options for the future of these routes post April 2017. As part of this work, consideration will also be given to community transport schemes.