

Report of	Meeting	Date
Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance (Introduced by the Executive Member for Corporate Policy and Performance)	Executive Cabinet	27 th March 2008

‘ONE CHORLEY FORWARD TOGETHER’ CHORLEY’S COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform members about the production of a community cohesion strategy by the Chorley Partnership and the role that the Council will play in delivery of the strategy

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Strategy be noted and endorsed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has produced a community cohesion strategy for Chorley titled ‘One Chorley Forward Together’. This work was led by the Council and involved consultation with a number of key bodies and individuals.
4. The strategy sets out Chorley’s response to the national community cohesion agenda, which is increasing in importance.
5. Members of the LSP Board agreed the strategy on the 11th of March and partners will now begin work to deliver the actions contained within the strategy.
6. Delivery will be led by the stronger, more involved communities sub group of the LSP which contains representation from a number of key bodies from the statutory, community, voluntary and faith sectors.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	✓	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	✓
Involving people in their communities	✓	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	

BACKGROUND

8. Community cohesion is becoming an increasingly important national agenda. A need has been identified for Chorley to develop its own response to this agenda which sets out the challenges and opportunities faced locally in terms of community cohesion.

9. The national agenda is dominated by issues of race and religion and is often confused with the anti-extremism agenda. It was felt that it was important that we engage with partners in the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to ensure that a collective view is taken about the best ways to make our communities places where everybody feels that they belong and are able to prosper.

10. The 'One Chorley- Forward Together' strategy is also the Council's and the Local Strategic Partnership's response to 'Our Shared Future' the high profile paper from the Commission of Integration and Cohesion on community cohesion.

11. The Council is the lead agency for a number of key actions contained within the strategy (as attached) and is also driving forward the Community Charter a key element of the strategy. The 'One Chorley-Forward Together' strategy will also have important linkages with campaigns being led by the Council such as the Chorley Smile campaign.

THE STRATEGY

12. The strategy sets out the vision Chorley as below:

One Chorley, a place in which all regardless of their background and circumstances feel that they belong, and the community is moving forward together. People should have the opportunity, resources and motivation to participate as they wish in our community.

The strategy also sets out the key priorities, which will be:

- improving life chances for all,
- developing the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live work and play,
- building stronger communities with improved access to public services.

13. The strategy has gone through an extensive period of consultation. Consultees included all members of the LSP, ethnic minorities consultative committee, churches together, disability liaison group, councillors and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Throughout the consultation a view was expressed that it was important that the strategy fitted with people's understanding of Chorley and the specific community cohesion challenges and opportunities facing the Borough as well as responding to the national agenda.

14. The LSP Board agreed the strategy on the 11th of March 2008.

DELIVERY

15. The following means of taking forward the strategy have been identified:

- Press Release (from all partners)
- Publish the strategy on Council and LSP websites
- Place an article in e news and Views (the Council's staff newsletter)
- Place copies in reception buildings
- Provide a copy to all members
- Provide a copy to key partner agencies and members of the LSP

Delivery of the strategy will be monitored through the stronger more involved sub group of the LSP on a quarterly basis and the LSP executive annually.

16. The Council is the lead agency for a number of key actions contained within the strategy (as attached) and is also driving forward the Community Charter, a key element of the strategy. The 'One Chorley-Forward Together' strategy will also have important linkages with campaigns being led by the Council such as the Chorley Smile campaign.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	✓
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

18. The community cohesion strategy is an important element of our work to take forward equality and diversity in Chorley. Through working with our key partners to deliver the actions contained within the strategy we will ensure that we are effectively responding to the challenges and opportunities faced by our communities.

LESLEY-ANN FENTON

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Sarah Dobson	5325	12 th March 2008	