

Executive Cabinet

1. Any Cabinet recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2017

Final report of Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Child Sexual Exploitation

2. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor John Walker presented a report on the work undertaken on a review of the Council's responsibilities in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation. Members of the Task Group were encouraged by the work already undertaken by the council to raise awareness of this type of abuse. However, it was felt that the authority could play a bigger role in this area.
3. The review had identified a set of recommendations that Members felt would keep SCE awareness at the forefront of people's minds and that checks and balances suggested would ensure that the council does not become complacent about its responsibilities and role in the community. Councillor Walker thanked the Chair, Councillor Roy Lees and members of the Task Group and officers involved with the inquiry.
4. The Executive Cabinet accepted the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group for consideration and a response to the recommendations will be reported to a future meeting.

Chorley Council Performance Monitoring Report – Third Quarter 2016/17

5. The Executive Member (Resources) presented a report of the Director of Policy and Governance that set out performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy, and key performance indicators during the third quarter of 2016/17. 1 October to 31 December 2017.
6. Overall performance of the 2015/16 remained good, with 81% of projects either on track or complete. Only two projects (13%) were rated amber and action plans for each project was contained within the report. Only one (6%) was rated red, the delivery of the Friday Street Health Centre, due to a long standing issue regarding access to funding and although the project had undergone further consideration as part of a review by the Clinical Commissioning Group, clarification was still being sought on how this was progressing.
7. It was reported that this would be the final time that the 2015/16 Corporate Strategy projects would be report to Executive Cabinet. Those projects not yet completed, would either be carried over for delivery in the 2016/17 Corporate Strategy, were due to be completed in quarter four or alternatively would continue to be delivered through business as usual activity.
8. Performance for the Corporate Strategy indicators and key service delivery measures also remained good with 100% of the indicators and 80% of key service measures performing well above target or within the 5% tolerance. Only two measures were performing below target, time taken to process all new claims and change events for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit and the number of missed collections of household waste. Action plans for these indicators had been developed to improve performance in these areas.

9. In response to members, it was explained that the target for processing all new and change events for Housing Benefit within six days was an ambitious one, having previously being 10 days, to reflect the Council's ambitions in service delivery. A 12 month training programme was currently underway in the Single Front Office which would mean increased resources being available to process benefit claims that would in turn improve on this indicator.

Primrose Gardens Retirement Living Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA)

10. The Executive Member (Customer and Advice Services) presented the report of the Director of Business, Economic and Growth) that provided an update on the Primrose Gardens project and sought approval for entering into a contract with Eric Wright Construction to progress the first stage of site enabling works.
11. The main advantage of this approach would allow the Council to progress the site preparation whilst investing sufficient time for overall scheme costs to be refined and value engineered, It would also reduce the risk to the Council and ensure that the final contract price is fully market tested. An addendum to the report was also presented that provided an update on work being undertaken by officers to ensure that Primrose Gardens is viable for both capital and revenue financing.
12. The Cabinet granted approval for the Council to enter into a Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA) under the Lancashire Regeneration Property Partnership to enable the site preparation works to commence, including the demolition of the HSS Hire and St John Ambulance buildings. The recommendation to use a JCT (D&B) 2016 form of contract for the construction contract was noted along with the proposal to change the tenure mix of the scheme to 100% affordable rent.
13. It was recognised that there was a strong possibility that additional HCA grant funding of approximately £300k would be secured to ensure all capital costs are fully funded and it was noted that this uplift in the HCA grant required the council to commit a start on site before 31 March 2017. The PCSA satisfies this because it is with the same contractor, who is the main development contractor. This will mean that the council will have entered into the HCA contract and would enable the first tranche of the grant (75% of the total) to be drawn.
14. It was noted that officers are exploring options to reduce the annual operational costs of the retirement village model. This would include the benchmarking of running costs against similar developments, in addition to a review of staffing and concierge services. Officers would also explore developing alternative models of generating income. This would include modelling income from the commercial aspects of the scheme and working with our health colleagues around a step down/re-enablement for a block number of units.

Proposed Waste and Streetscene Staffing Review

15. The Executive Member (Streetscene) presented the report of the Director of Customer and Digital that sought approval for a new proposed structure in the Waste and Streetscene team for consultation.
16. Following the management restructure in April 2016 and approval of the Streetscene Modernisation Strategy a review of the structure was thought necessary to ensure the service is able to deliver the priority areas of work over the next few years. The review will also drive

improvements in health and safety, productivity and the quality of work delivered by the teams on site. The proposed structure for consultation was approved along with delegated authority to the Executive Member (Streetscene) to approve the final structure, subject to there being no major changes. The Executive Cabinet also approved the two ERVS requests contained within the report.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2017

Purchase of Victory Park and Oak House and Associated Land

17. The Executive Member (Resources) presented the report of the Director of Policy and Governance requesting authorisation to purchase Victory Park, Oak House and associated land. The Council had been in negotiations with Northern Trust concerning a proposed land swap whereby Northern Trust would transfer their interest of the land opposite the Town Hall (comprising the Royal Oak Public House (the offices), the former Cash Converters site and offices occupied by Miller Metcalfe and Entwistle Green) and the Victory Park Football Ground site. In exchange, the Council would transfer their interest in the land at Southport Road, Chorley.
18. The Monitoring Officer advised that the sale of Southport Road was expected to be completed by the end of March. Whilst a short-term licence would be issued to Chorley Football Club, the Executive Leader made it clear that the Council had purchased land that the football club was sited upon, not the actual Football Club.
19. The Executive Cabinet granted approval for the Council to purchase the land and buildings known as Victory Park, Duke Street, Chorley for the sum of £200,000 and the land and buildings known as Oak House, High Street, Chorley to include the former Converters site, High Street Chorley and other offices within the title for the sum of £2.05m. The total estimated cost of the purchase including stamp duty and land tax is £2.375m.
20. Approval was also granted to the Council for the temporary use of prudential borrowing, if the receipt from the sale of Southport Road is not received before the purchase of Victory Park and Oak House. Delegated authority was also granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic and HR Services to prepare the necessary documentation to complete the purchase.

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report 2017

21. The Executive Member (Early Intervention) presented the report of the Director of Early Intervention and Support that explained the Council's requirements in respect of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) and to advise on HECA related activity carried out to date. The report also set out proposed HECA related activity for the future.
22. One of the key aspects of the Council's HECA report was work being undertaken to address Fuel Poverty. The Council's corporate strategy target is for Chorley's rates to be below the North West average and although Members noted that this target had been achieved, they still felt that there was additional work to be done in this area. The Executive Cabinet approved the proposed Council HECA related activities for the next two years as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

Care Leavers Council Tax Discount

23. The Executive Member (Customer and Advice) presented a report of the Director of Customer and Digital that highlighted the difficulties that Care Leavers can face when they leave care (aged 16 or over), and have to manage their own budgets for the first time.
24. To support care leavers, the Executive Cabinet approved the recommendation to make changes to our Council Tax Scheme (CTS) discretionary hardship policy to give Care Leavers who meet the CTS criteria 100% Council Tax relief, until they reach the age of 25. Approval was also given to approve the recommendation, that were a Care Leaver didn't meet the CTS criteria, the Council offers Council Tax relief of Chorley Council's element, which would roughly be 10%. The Council will also write to all major preceptors to make them aware of the difficulties Care Leavers face, and asking them to support giving all care leavers 100% relief until the age of 25 by contributing to the cost chargeable to this council's General Fund in proportion to their share of council tax income for 2017/18.

Recommendation

25. To note the report.

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BRADLEY
EXECUTIVE LEADER

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