

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Business)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	August 2008

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING STATEMENT – BUSINESS DIRECTORATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report progress against the key actions and performance indicators in the Business Directorate Business Improvement Plan for 2008/2009

RECOMMENDATION

To note the report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

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

BACKGROUND

The Business Plan Monitoring Statement reports progress against the key actions and performance indicators included in the 2008/09 Business Improvement Plan for the directorate. The report covers the period 1st April to 30th June 2008.

KEY MESSAGES

Successful Examination in Public took place into the Sustainable Resources Development Plan Document in May. Awaiting Inspector's Report that is due imminently. Likely to be found "sound" and if so will be the second in the North West under the new style planning system.

The Council's Climate Change Strategy was adopted in May. This Strategy should underpin and inform the Corporate work of the Council, and act as a public affirmation of the Council's commitment to address Climate Change.

Continued partnership working with South Ribble and Preston in preparing the Core Strategy that will shape the future of Central Lancashire. Julian Jackson Policy Team Leader at Chorley has been seconded to lead the joint team based at the County Council.

Submitted joint representations with South Ribble and Preston relating to the Proposed Modifications to the Regional Spatial Strategy, (the Regional overarching planning strategy for the North West) and a separate response to the consultation on the Partial Review. This is vital work as it is ensuring Chorley's voice is heard, for example, in relation to the distribution of housing numbers throughout the North West.

The draft Prevention of Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013 is almost complete and will be circulated for comment in August 2008. This will set out how the Council will deliver reductions in homelessness and improve early intervention and prevention of homelessness.

The Housing Options team continue to maintain zero use of bed and breakfast and are developing measures for prevention of homelessness.

The grants service continues to deliver much needed services to vulnerable households, with over 256 grants delivered in 2008/7 and over 203 jobs delivered as part of the handyperson scheme. The Home Improvement Agency is now considered to be a key partnership within the Council. The Choice based lettings project is on track and is set to implement a scheme in Chorley by March 2009.

The Affordable Housing Framework, a key piece of work to secure the future affordable housing needs has been completed and approved by the Council. The framework will influence and contribute towards achieving the corporate objectives in respect of Affordable Houses.

The appointment of the new Town Centre Manager has commenced the delivery of the 3 year town centre investment strategy and a real impact is already being made.

Exciting capital improvements to the Covered Market now have full planning permission, with work commencing in late August 2008.

The Town Centre Audit and Design Strategy is now nearing completion. This key piece of work will take forward the Town Centre Strategy to identify Chorley Town Centre's unique selling points and a blend of achievable and innovative recommendations to create positive conditions for private investment including "Market Street: A Thriving Street Again."

The Revolution Strategic Regional Site will cater for Chorley's investment needs in the short to medium term. Long lead in times to bring forward such high calibre sites means starting now to undertake a desk top analysis of land supply for future inward investment and Chorley's function within the sub-region. This work is crucial as it will impact on the continuous supply of jobs, investment and prosperity in Chorley.

The performance on minor and other applications have increased during the first quarter from the excellent performance last year.

Major application performance is below target. The number of major applications has reduced to 6 in the first quarter and 2 were not determined in time due to:

- The requirement to reach a decision on an application that has been live for years.
- An application with a Legal Agreement that could not be signed within 13 weeks.

Input by Chorley into the National Pilot Development Management Project has contributed to national guidance and will provide support to positive changes in the management of planning applications within Chorley in the next 12 months.

Positive progress has been achieved in the development of Group 1 on Buckshaw and the strategic community facilities. An application is expected shortly.

SERVICE LEVEL BUDGET MONITORING 2007/2008**SERVICE LEVEL BUDGET MONITORING 2008/2009****BUSINESS DIRECTORATE**

JUNE 2008	£'000	£'000
ORIGINAL CASH BUDGET		935
Add Adjustments for In year cash movements		
Virements to/from other Services:		(71)
- Allocation of budgets for 2008/09 LSP Projects		20
- Slippage - Stat Hsg - Agency Staff Provision for 08/09		40
ADJUSTED CASH BUDGET		924
Less Corporate Savings:		
CURRENT CASH BUDGET		924
FORECAST		
EXPENDITURE		
>Strategic Housing Restructure (Sept 08 - March 09)	30	
>Strategic Housing Agency Costs, until end Sept 08	20	
>Legal Costs re 54 Lancaster Lane Planning Application	25	
>Reduced B&B requirement	(10)	
Expenditure under (-) or over (+) current cash budget		65
INCOME		
>Housing Planning and Delivery Grant	1	
>Markets Income	44	
>Planning/Building Control Income	4	
>Land Charges	7	
Income under (+)/ over (-) achieved		56
FORECAST CASH OUTTURN 2008/2009		1,045

Key Assumptions

HPDG is provisional figure.

Key Issues/Variables

Closely monitor all income

Key Actions

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

Delivery of the Markets Action Plan continues with a review of markets management policy, and a new floral sculpture to promote the Flat Iron Market

The Rural Economic Diversification Project is about to be launched to provide targeted outreach and in depth, bespoke advice and support to new business start ups and 2yr+ businesses, complementing the service provided in the urban core.

Marketing Chorley – Following the completion of development opportunities material, preparation of exhibition stands and attendance at business events, the refresh of the business web pages is now nearing completion.

A bid for European Funding to support the provision of the new railway station at The Revolution, Buckshaw Village, has been approved at the first concept stage by the North West Regional Development Agency. The bid will now go through full appraisal stage with an outcome expected in Summer 2009

The progress of the Sustainable Resources Development Plan document is to schedule. It may in fact be adopted earlier than expected due to the quick response of the Inspector after the Examination in Public. This will require a revised Supplementary Planning Document that will give advice to developers on how to ensure that new development is both energy efficient and includes low carbon energy sources. It is intended that consultation will take place on the draft Supplementary Planning Document at the same time as the Development Plan Document. This will result in Chorley having some of the most cutting edge “sustainable” planning policies in the country. This will initially require additional work by development control but is in line with Government policy and the Council’s Climate Change Strategy. It will also require the Council’s own developments to meet the high standards set.

As the Climate Change Strategy has been adopted detailed work is required on the Actions set out. Many of these actions fall to all, and individual, Directorates. In reality the Business Directorate will lead on ensuring that the actions set out are completed.

A report is needed to go to Executive Cabinet to release monies relating to Climate Change. Considerable progress has been made in partnership with the County Council , the LSP and Groundwork Peninne in putting together a programme for working with businesses including potential grant funding after diagnostic work has been undertaken. This would give businesses in Chorley a commercial advantage.

Continued partnership working with South Ribble and Preston in preparing the Core Strategy that will shape the future of Central Lancashire. Julian Jackson Policy Team Leader at Chorley has been seconded to lead the joint team based at the County Council. The Preferred Options Core Strategy Development Plan Document is due to be approved in July for consultaton in September. This will result in considerable work in publicising the Preferred Options for development in Central Lancashire.

Continued work will be required to respond to changes in the Regional and National Planning arena, including progressing the Growth Point

The St Georges Street conservation appraisal is nearing completion. Appraisals of the St Laurences and Rivington areas are now underway and due to be completed by March 2009.

A series of member support and information sessions have been planned for September onwards.

The Development Control team is to be reorganised to provide a more responsive team that will support the Development Management Agenda.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Description	Actual	Target 2008/09	Lead Officer
NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation (smaller is better)	42	37	Zoë Whiteside
NI 157a Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for 'major' application types (bigger is better)	67%	81%	Paul Whittingham
NI 157b Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for 'minor' (bigger is better)	84%	80%	Paul Whittingham
NI 157c Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for 'other' application types (bigger is better)	94%	89%	Paul Whittingham

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY UPDATE

The Rural Economic Diversification project is a direct response to a service gap identified in the equality and diversity impact assessment of the Economic Regeneration Strategy.

The Employment Charter is seeking to encourage employability of those with disadvantaged backgrounds and difficult to reach.

The increased opportunities to submit application online and view and respond online enables greater engagements by all sections of the communities.

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

There is no anticipated slippage on major projects and the slippage on B & B from last year is under control now.

VALUE FOR MONEY/EFFICIENCIES UPDATE

A mini review of the Directorate Support function is underway and this will contribute to the expected VFM review for the Business Directorate in autumn.

JANE MEEK
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (BUSINESS)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Business Directorate Service Managers		24 th July 2008	Business Directorate Monitoring Statement 1 April – 30 June