

Report of	Meeting	Date
Assistant Chief Executive (Policy & Performance)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2008

## **BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING STATEMENTS – SUMMARY OF DIRECTORATES' STATEMENTS**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To give a summary of the Business Plan Monitoring Statements completed by directorates for the second quarter of 2008/2009.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. To note the report.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **(If the recommendations are accepted)**

3. The Business Plan Monitoring Statements are a key tool for Members in ensuring that the Council is delivering against its Corporate Priorities. This summary report ensures that Members receive the information in an appropriate format.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

4. N/A

### **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5. 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 organisation	✓

### **BACKGROUND**

6. The Business Plan Monitoring Statements give an overview of the current performance of Directorates in completing actions contained within their 2008/09 Business Improvement Plans. This report gives a summary of the overall performance so that Overview and Scrutiny Committee can easily concentrate on potential issues. The detailed directorate related information is contained within each report.

## **BUSINESS DIRECTORATE**

### **7. Key Messages**

- The Chorley Strategic Housing Partnership was launched in September and was very well attended by local housing partners. This meeting will meet again in early 2009. The draft Prevention of Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013 will be circulated for comment in November 2008.
- 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 Town Centre Audit and Urban Design Strategy is now complete. The Strategy highlights the opportunities and challenges for Chorley Town Centre and recommends a number of Urban Design Objectives and associated projects and implementation processes as a means to realise the vision.
- An application has been submitted and is under consideration for Group 1. The application is an outline planning application for the redevelopment of the site to include up to 1,200 new residential dwellings and up to 27,500m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floor space.
- The Government announced on 16 July 08 that the expression of interest for a Growth Point for the Central Authorities, Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council was accepted.
- As a reflection of our positive work to build relationships and develop the Markets Action Plan with the Markets Steering Group, the Group has won the prestigious Action for Market Towns Award for Partnership and Strategic Working. The Markets redevelopment has now received full planning permission, however, at the request of market traders, work will commence in January 2009 so as not to disrupt Christmas trade.

### **8. Performance**

Two of the directorate's indicators that can be measured on a quarterly basis are below target:

- NI 156 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation
- NI 157a Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for 'major' application types

## **NEIGHBOURHOODS DIRECTORATE**

### **9. Key Messages**

- The Neighbourhood Development Team progressed well in the second quarter of the year, with the first drafts of the 7 Neighbourhood Area Profiles getting well underway. These are due to be completed by the end of November. Feedback from the recent Ward Walks, the 14 'drop-in' sessions and feedback from other sources, is about to be collated, then considered, using background information from the profiles, by the 7 Neighbourhood Teams.
- In July, the Public Health team secured a successful health and safety prosecution. The business owner pleaded guilty based on the evidence submitted.
- In Food Safety, there was an Inter-Authority Audit of our food safety systems and procedures. An overall pass was awarded with some minor observations, which have now been implemented.
- Public Health and Neighbourhood Officer Teams joined forces to deliver the 'Butt It' campaign to target smoking litter in the town centre during September. This work was also co-ordinated through the Pubwatch organisation and local traders.
- In Waste Management, discussions and planning meetings for the mobilisation of the new contract have been proving productive over the summer months. Orders for 45,000 new bins and new vehicles have been placed and a delivery programme is due to be agreed by the end of this quarter.

- The CDRP team have commenced a pilot CDRP partnership with South Ribble. They are also continuing to review and refine the MATAC process to better involve the relevant agencies. In addition, following the appointment of Project Co-ordinator for the Vulnerable Household project in June, work around developing interventions got underway from July. The project has been rebranded as the “Families First” project. It is expected that all 15 families will be engaged with by the end of the financial year 08/09. To date, 2 families have signed up.

10. **Performance**

Of the performance indicators that can be measured at this time, one is below target:

- Number of missed collections per 100,000 collections of household waste.

## **PEOPLE DIRECTORATE**

11. **Key Messages**

- Following the restructure in the first quarter, the Active People Manager (Parks and Open Spaces) will be advertised in the third quarter.
- Good progress has been made with the Astley Park Heritage Lottery Fund Project. The landscaping and walled garden areas are complete. The refurbishment of the Coach House is well underway and due for completion in the third quarter. As reported previously, the project budget remains very tight, with minimal contingencies left uncommitted. The strategy of applying for match funding will help us mitigate these risks. During the second quarter we have undertaken market testing for the catering outlet in the Coach House and we have recently awarded preferred bidder status.
- We have continued to develop activities under the Get Up and Go banner. During the summer holiday period, we ran an extended programme that took weeks of activity to all seven of our neighbourhood working areas. We have also continued to develop activities in the evenings, for example, work at Southlands, Clayton Green and Coppull Leisure Centre.
- All four Play Rangers have been appointed as part of the Big Lottery project. The Play Rangers are now delivering a rolling programme of activities that will visit all wards within the Borough.
- Executive approval has been secured for the Council to participate in the 60+ and under 16s Free Swimming initiative. Free swimming will be available from 1 April 2009.
- The Clubhouse at Duxbury Park has recently been completed and opened. The final phase of drainage improvements now needs to be completed and the new 6 hole beginners golf course will be delivered in 2009.

12. **Performance**

Two indicators are below target:

- Number of visits to Council leisure amenities.
- Number of visits made by children and young people to leisure centres.

## **BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION DIRECTORATE**

13. **Key Messages**

The directorates have completed a number of key actions during the second quarter. Some of the highlights include:

- The Council’s business continuity plans have now been updated.
- All equal pay claims have been settled
- The statutory accounts have been signed off by the auditor
- The Council achieved the 2nd Best Council to work for in The Times awards

- The project to make the Council's buildings more energy efficient has slipped slightly, but the tender has now been awarded and work should commence in the next 6 weeks.

14. **Performance**

Two indicators are currently below target:

- Average time taken to process changes to housing and Council Tax benefits
- Average number of days sickness

**POLICY AND PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE**

15. **Key Messages**

- The annual re-refresh of the Corporate Strategy has been completed.
- The directorate organised a well attended Citizens' Panel Event to inform our Neighbourhood Working and Locality Plan agenda
- Working with other districts and Lancashire County Council, the directorate procured MORI to undertake the new statutory Place Survey, a survey of residents about the local area.
- The Communications and Marketing function has been successfully restructured to incorporate Events and Tourism
- The Chorley LSP's draft Climate Change Strategy has been prepared and is out for consultation.
- Successful community lottery event and continued attraction (£183,110) of grant offers to the borough area.
- Launching a number of high profile campaigns, such as 'Count on Us'.

16. **Performance**

All of the directorate's indicators were at or above target at the end of the second quarter.

**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	✓

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There are no background papers to this report.

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Chris Sinnott	5337	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	BIP Monitoring Summary 200809 Q2