

Report of	Meeting	Date
Assistant Chief Executive (Policy & Performance) (Introduced by the Executive Member for Policy and Performance)	Executive Cabinet	12 th February 2009

CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP 3RD QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008/9

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform Members of the Chorley Partnership's performance over the 3rd Quarter of 2008/9 on the LAA and the Sustainable Community Strategy projects.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That Members note the contents of the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The report shows that:

CRIME

- Overall crime has risen by 6.2% since the last quarter (there were 1461 incidents in the 2nd Quarter, compared to 1552 incidents in the 3rd Quarter) This is 8.5% higher than the same period last year (1552 incidents compared with 1430 incidents in the third quarter of 2007/8).
- Serious acquisitive crime rate (burglary, robbery, etc) has risen (155 incidents in the 3rd Quarter, compared with 150 in the 2nd Quarter) and the assault with injury crime rate has also risen (180 in the 3rd Quarter, compared with 163 in the 2nd Quarter).

ECONOMY

- Vacant town centre floor space has risen. Following the closure of Woolworths and another shop unit on Market Walk, vacant town space is now at 11.5%.

HOUSING

- The borough's use of temporary accommodation is falling. This quarter 32 households were being housed in temporary accommodation, compared with the second quarter when 36 households were living in temporary accommodation.

PROJECTS

- All the community strategy projects are progressing on track, with the exception of the Chorley Community Network website which has been delayed slightly by one month due to capacity issues and will now be available in February for final testing.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

4. N/A

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. N/A

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

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

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

7. 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	X

LESLEY-ANN FENTON
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE)

There is one background paper to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Claire Thompson	5348	15 th January 2009	***

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Chorley Partnership 3 rd Quarter Performance Report 2008/9	15 th January 2009	Policy & Performance	***

Introduction

This report outlines how the Chorley Partnership has performed over Quarter 3 (October – December 2008). The report contains updates on:

- the work of the LSP, through its 11 strategic projects, including expenditure
- the key performance indicators from the Sustainable Community strategy and the LAA

Executive Summary

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2008/9 Project Update

PROJECT	Description	Lead Agency	Status	Budget Status
5 Weeks of Action	Intensive targeted activity in community safety areas to reduce crime, improve the physical environment and promote health & wellbeing	Chorley Council	4 full weeks of action now delivered (Clayton Brook, Chorley South West, Coppull and Chorley East) and 1 day of action (Astley Village).	On track
Alcohol consequences campaign	Promotional campaign aimed at raising awareness of alcohol related harm	Chorley Council / NHS Central Lancashire	Campaign rolled out throughout town centre, on buses, train station posters, etc.	On track.
Girls Aloud	Teenage pregnancy project at Albany Science College	Albany Science College / NHS Central Lancashire	Project complete	Project completed to budget

PROJECT	Description	Lead Agency	Status	Budget Status
Family Support	Recruiting volunteers to work with families in Chorley in need of extra support	Homestart	18 new volunteers recruited by Homestart to work with Chorley families. Family support groups set up in Chorley (18 families) and Clayton Brook (23 families). In total 83 families supported over first 6 months of 2008/9.	On track
Timebanks	A volunteering programme whereby participants 'deposit' their time in the bank by giving practical help and support to others and are able to 'withdraw' their time when they need something done themselves	Age Concern Lancashire / NHS Central Lancashire	A project co-ordinator has now been appointed in Liptrott, to co-ordinate the project.	On track
Climate Change – supporting local businesses	The Chorley Business Climate Change Club will be set up following the launch of the climate change strategy. Chorley Council will be offering grants to businesses who have undertaken a Carbon Trust affiliated audit. Groundwork will run a series of business seminars on reducing energy consumption and increasing efficiency	Groundwork / Chorley Council	Climate change event held, launching the LSP's Strategy. Grant application pack produced and council & LCC's grant schemes promoted to SMEs. 3 SMEs are currently having free energy audits.	On track.

PROJECT	Description	Lead Agency	Status	Budget Status
Mental Health awareness	Campaign to educate people about mental health and to challenge the negative stigma associated with mental health	NHS Central Lancashire	A Mental Health Awareness event on Saturday 7 th March from 10am – 4pm, at Chorley Town Hall.	Invoice not yet received.
Chorley Community Network	To create a network promoting the VCF sector in Chorley, including a website of VCFS organisations and activity	CVS	Database compiled, website being created, slightly delayed due to capacity issues by one month, and will be ready by February for testing and final amendments Launch of website and publicity to be held in February, along with other volunteering events	On track.
Marketing Chorley phase 2	To produce an inward investment pack and package of support to attract new businesses to Chorley	Chorley Council	Pack currently being designed ready for publication	On track.
Supporting rural economic diversification	To support businesses in rural areas of Chorley start up, and stay in business	Chorley Council	Scheme has been publicised 5 referrals to date. Target of 10 by end of March.	On track – application packs printed.

PROJECT	Description	Lead Agency	Status	Budget Status
<p>Circle of Need – Older People</p>	<p>The Circle of Need project 's scope has now been refocused to concentrate on older people's needs, with particular emphasis on benefits and little known services such as pension re-tracing.</p>	<p>Chorley Council</p>	<p>Staff in the One Stop Shop are now offering Older People (identified by enquiries about concessionary travel) extra services such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Energy Saving Products (light bulbs etc) • Warm front energy saving grants • Pensions Tracing Service • Home Fire Safety checks <p>This will now be rolled out to link to other services.</p>	<p>On track.</p>

Performance Indicator Update

Community Strategy Indicators

As most of the indicators in the Community Strategy are measured on an annual basis, we can only update 3rd quarter progress of the following indicators:

Indicator	2007/8 baseline	2008/9 Target	2 nd Quarter outturn	3 rd Quarter Outturn
New business starts ups	74	53	34	48
Vacant town centre floor space	7%	7%	8%	11.5% (including Woolworths site)
Reduction in overall crime	4485 crimes	1% reduction by March 2011 (4440 crimes)	1461 crimes	1552 crimes (4491 crimes YTD* or a 0.1% increase since April 2008)

* Year to Date cumulative figure

Local Area Agreement Targets

Out of the targets in the new Local Area Agreement that can be reported on at this stage, we can update progress on the following:

Ref.	Indicator	2007/8 baseline	2008/9 Target	2 nd Quarter outturn	3 rd Quarter Outturn
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	8.27 per 1000 population (618 incidents)	8.19 per 1000 by March 2011 (1% reduction over 3 years)	3.65 per 1,000 population (150 incidents)	5.09 per 1,000 population (155 incidents)
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate	6.3 per 1000 population (495 incidents)	6.24 per 1000 population by March 2011 (2% reduction over 3 years)	3 (163 incidents)	4.8 (180 incidents)
NI 192	Household Waste recycled and composted	47.19%	1% improvement p.a.	51.75%	50%

Other LAA targets (no reward grant)

Ref.	Indicator	2007/8 baseline	2008/9 Target	2 nd Quarter outturn	3 rd Quarter Outturn
NI 156	No of households living in temporary accommodation	26	30	36	32

The Credit Crunch

This quarter we have a focus on how the credit crunch and economic downturn is affecting Chorley, and what we are doing about it.

As at December 2008, this was the update from the partners in the Economic Regeneration theme group on the picture in Chorley:

First Views on Impact

- 3.5% drop in town centre visitors during Mar-Oct 2008
- Faster rate of increase during May 2008 to October 2008 in proportion of residents working age claiming job seekers allowance, following regional and national trends
- Increased likelihood of redundancies, 1 company gone into receivership with major redundancies
- Reduced take-up of business premises at The Revolution Strategic Regional Site and at Buckshaw Link now apparent
- Construction at major housing sites drastically slowed
- 18% reduction in planning applications in 2008
- 14% reduction in building control applications in 2008
- Increase in the volume of housing benefit in-tray correspondence from 300 to 750
- Reduction in the amount of Council Tax collected in comparison to the same period last year.

Responding to the Economic Downturn – What's happening now

- **Redundancy Task Force**

Chorley Council has set up a dedicated partnership to be able to help businesses that are making redundancies. The team is made up of a mix of committed, professional public/private sector organisations and provides quality advice, information, guidance and support to people in a redundancy situation.

The Task Force has been applied to Palgrave Brown at Brinscall. Wolseley and Woolworths, amongst others.

- **Connect To Work**

Chorley Council and A4e Lancashire are working in partnership to help people in the local area get back into work. Connect to Work is a unique service that helps both employers and potential employees find each other in the world of work. It is free to use as it is supported by Government funding. The project is a job brokerage scheme, which matches candidates to the employer they are looking for and generally helps people back to sustainable work. A £200 Back to Work fund is available to assist with the purchase of interview clothes or work wear. The project targets incapacity benefit recipients. Employers receive a free 2-week work trial to help them and the client adjust and see if they are suitable.

- **Enterprise Facilitator**

This project recognises the opportunity for self-employment in the economic downturn. Following a successful bid for funding from Chorley, a pilot outreach service to areas with high concentrations of people who are out of work. The new Enterprise Facilitator works with local people and groups to encourage entrepreneurship and promote self-employment. The Enterprise Facilitator operates across Chorley, South Ribble and Preston.

- **New Business Start Up Contract (from 1st April 2009)**

Targeted support to those in a worklessness situation, under threat of redundancy and ex-offenders, as well as NWDA mainstream categories of women, ethnic minorities and disabled, to start up their own businesses, with the right support.

- **'Count on Us' Credit Crunch Media Campaign**

In partnership with Chorley Guardian, a regular light hearted feature to provide information and advice to businesses and individuals.

- **Housing Association Leasing Scheme**

The council is working with RSLs to consider options of returning empty properties back into use as affordable housing in order to address the demand for rented accommodation.

Responding to the Economic Downturn – What's planned

- **Building confidence and communication as a priority**

This is about ensuring one point of contact for customers via the Council's Contact Centre. Contact Centre staff will be provided with key business support/community telephone numbers and encouraged actively to listen out for credit crunch buzz words and refer customers to key sources of support.

Comprehensive support (such as debt counselling, health issues, business advice, redundancies) provided by a variety of organisations.

- **Mortgage Rescue Scheme**

The mortgage rescue scheme is designed to prevent some of the most vulnerable families losing their homes and experiencing the trauma of repossession. The scheme is to help families with dependant children, the elderly or other vulnerable households who would be eligible for statutory assistance if they were to lose their home. The scheme offers an early intervention option available to councils to assist householders before they face eviction. The scheme has 3 elements:

Shared Equity – This is designed to help householders who have experienced payment shocks and need some help in paying their mortgage.

Shared Ownership – This is designed to help those unable to meet their mortgage payments, but still able to make a contribution to monthly payments.

Sale and Rent Back – This is designed to help the most vulnerable households on low incomes with little chance of sustaining a mortgage.

- **Event: Support during the Recession**

An event (with a tunnel approach) offering practical advice to be held early 2009 to support community and businesses.