APPENDIX A



Central Lancashire Local Development Framework Preferred Core Strategy

Community Engagement and Publicity Summary Report

January 2009



Central Lancashire Local Development Framework Preferred Core Strategy

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	3
ReportErro	r! Bookmark not defined.
Events By Invitation Only	4
Local Service Providers Event and Elected Members Meetin Area Committees/Fora Community Groups Market Engagement	5 5
Electronic Engagement Central Lancashire Website Corporate Intranet/Websites	6
Media Involvement Local Newspaper Involvement Council Newspapers Radio Advertisements	6 7
Conclusions	8
Appendices	9

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Calendar of events	9
Appendix 2 - Leyland Market	
Appendix 3 - Sample Extract - Central Lancashire Website - www.centrallancashire.c	
	.10
Appendix 4 - Sample Extract - Corporate Intranet	.11
Appendix 5 - Sample Extract - Newspaper Advertisement	.12
Appendix 6 - Sample Extract - Corporate News Sheet/Advertisement	.13
Appendix 7 – Sample Extract - Central Radio Advertisements	.13
Appendix 8 - Online Timetable of events	.14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Preferred Core Strategy and its sister document the Summary Core Strategy are necessarily broad in their content as they aim to cover all the topics and key spatial distribution issues that need to be planned for across Central Lancashire. Although this stage of document preparation is not statutorily prescribed and local planning authorities are free to engage as they wish, the approach adopted was aimed to be extensive and varied. So numerous ways of involving a range of organisations and individuals were tried.

Throughout the engagement process opinions have been gathered and interests registered. Numerous events were specifically set up for these purposes and in addition 'regular' meetings of other organisations were attended by Planning Officers to present the Core Strategy and receive reactions to it.

Varied ways of publicising the opportunity to engage with and comment on the documents were used including, direct mailing to over 2000 addresses and through the internet. In addition there was an advertisement campaign carried by several local newspapers as well as local radio.

INTRODUCTION

There are many different ways to engage and interact with the local community and key organisations. Careful consideration was given to choosing appropriate forms of involvement.

Efforts were made to aid people's ability to access and understand the Core Strategy. The full document is necessarily comprehensive although through the use of 'side notes' on each page an attempt was made to help readers appreciate the significance and sources of the main content. The Summary document was produced as a more straight forward overview of the main document aimed at encouraging readers to investigate the latter for matters they were particularly interested in. Respondents were asked to comment on the presentation of the Preferred Core Strategy. Their overall reaction to the presentation and layout of the document was positive with only a few suggestions being made to improve upon this. The issue of multiple columns on each page was raised and a small number of respondents found this layout to be a little confusing and felt that there was too much detailed information on each page.

In terms ways to respond and make comments representations could be made in a variety of ways:

- On-line form
- Paper form or letter using a Freepost address
- Via e-mail

In addition comprehensive notes were taken at each of the engagement events and other meetings. All of the responses, made through any medium, will be taken into account and considered in respect of the future content of the Core Strategy.

EVENTS

A series of events were organised and other meetings attended from October to mid December 2008. Appendix 1 reproduces the calendar of key events. Some of these were specifically arranged to consider the Core Strategy whilst at other meetings the document was an agenda item for discussion. At most events a Power Point presentation, tailored to the individual audience was shown, followed by a question and answer session.

By Invitation Only

Invitation only events were specifically to meet the needs of particular interests namely:

- Infrastructure providers
- Healthcare providers
- Developers
- Transport and travel representatives
- Local Authority Officers (including regional representatives and those from neighbouring authorities)
- Community Voluntary sector
- Housing providers
- Environmental groups
- Elected Members
- Local Strategic Partnerships
- Business community

Although a variety of venues, time of day and formats were used attendances for some events were poor. Individual numbers of people attending ranged from 2 to 54 although overall nearly 200 people were involved in this way. The better attended events were generally with representatives of organisations where there had been earlier contacts made in the Core Strategy process. Getting the interest of 'new' contacts proved more difficult. Most attendees were followed up later and asked to rate the event using an evaluation form. In total, seven forms were returned and all of them generally scored the events positively. Attendees were asked to rank certain aspects of the event from 1 to 5, with 5 being very satisfied and 1 being very dissatisfied. No attendee scored any aspect lower than 3 and the only specific negative comments to be made were regarding room acoustics and parking arrangements.

Local Strategic Partnership and Elected Members Events

The two largest events were those held for representatives of the four Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and elected Members of the four Councils covering Central Lancashire. It was decided to employ the services of a professional facilitator – Ian Roberts (Greengage Ltd) who ran the meetings and encouraged participation.

At the LSPs event delegates were divided into small groups and asked to concentrate on the specific themes of the Core Strategy. This was preceded by a presentation and general information session, and was followed by a group discussion. A similar style was adopted at the elected Members' event but concentrated less on particular themes and more on the Core Strategy as a whole.

Area Committees/Fora

Both Preston City Council and South Ribble Borough Council hold a regular series of community events known as Area Committees/Area Fora. These meetings are a an opportunity for members of the public, along with their elected councillors and other interested parties to discuss the important and topical subjects affecting both the local area. South Ribble has a cycle of 6 meetings with Preston Council hosting 5 and each Committee/Forum received a presentation on the Core Strategy and the opportunity to discuss it. The Core Strategy was also an agenda item at Lancashire Local meetings.

Community Groups

Many Core Strategy presentations were made at other community meetings – some open to the public and some private groups – who agreed to allow us to an appropriate item being included on their agenda. This included neighbourhood group meetings in Chorley and meetings across Central Lancashire of parish council associations.

General Public

The aim here was to meet local people in places that are busy with shoppers. These featured eye catching posters were used picking up key messages in the advertising campaign (see later), balloons to give away to children and copies of the Summary Core Strategy – see Appendix 2. South Ribble's venue was Leyland Market, Chorley Officers had a display in the Market Walk shopping centre and Preston staff used the Citizenzone vehicle in various locations across the City. There was some useful feedback from these events but it proved difficult to get folk commenting on the bigger, strategic issues.

PAPER ENGAGEMENT

Letters were sent to over 2000 addresses on the consultation database covering a wide range of national, regional and locally based organisations and individuals. The letters drew attention to the availability of the documents, the timescale of the consultation and the ways comments could be made. Copies of the documents were made available for inspection in each of the District Councils planning offices and local libraries, plus as is the custom in Chorley Borough, local post offices in villages without a library.

Approximately 600 printed copies of the Preferred Core Strategy were made available free of charge during the consultation period as were several hundred copies of the Summary document.

ELECTRONIC ENGAGEMENT

Central Lancashire Website

The Central Lancashire web site was used for several reasons. It was a portal whereby up to date information could be quickly and freely made available. It allowed for representations to be made in a timely fashion and enabled people to browse all the relevant documents along with associated information in a convenient way. An online calendar of events was made available with details of times and directions to the meetings. This information was updated regularly.

A log of 'hits' to the website has been compiled (see Appendix 3). There was an increase in October 2008 of approximately 30% compared to pre-consultation internet use. This increased level of use was maintained throughout the consultation period (September 30th – December 19th).

District Council Websites

The individual Council websites were uploaded with the Core Strategy documents and background information as well as being set up to act as portals to the Central Lancashire Website (See Appendix 4).

MEDIA PUBLICITY

Local Newspapers

As this was a non-statutory stage in preparing the Core Strategy there was no legal requirement to place public notice advertisements in local newspapers. So instead of this it was decided to use a more eye catching advertising campaign devised with the assistance of the Councils' Communications Officers and featuring a few key messages aimed at stimulating interest in the document. The advertisements provided contact information (website address and telephone number) to the Central Lancashire website and the Officer team, where more details could be gained.

To ensure full control over content, advertising space was bought in a range of local newspapers – namely the Chorley and Leyland Guardians, the Lancashire Evening Post, the Lancashire Advertiser and the Citizen franchise. Overall a series of advertisements with accompanying 'advertorial' pieces appeared over several weeks (See Appendix 5). These adverts were also made available on some of the newspapers' own websites in the form of an animated moving banner with direct links to the Central Lancashire website.

During the period of engagement a log was kept of 'clicks' through these newspapers' websites into the Central Lancashire site:

- Guardian Newspapers 38 direct clicks through out of 30,000 hits
- Lancashire Evening Post 27 out of 40,000

Almost certainly other viewers of these banners will have accessed the Central Lancashire website independently on other occasions.

Council Newspapers

Each of the three district authorities publishes its own newspaper primarily aimed at informing local residents. South Ribble Borough Council publishes its tabloid sized 'Forward' on a quarterly basis. Chorley Borough Council issues the 'Chorley Borough News', and Preston City Council produces the 'Prestonian' which is available each month.

Advertisements, in the same style as the local newspapers, were placed in each of the publications and so the messages should have been seen in the vast majority of households across Central Lancashire (See Appendix 6).

The Central Lancashire LDF news sheet - 'LDF News' - is also published on a regular basis and is available in paper and online forms and it carried information on the Core Strategy engagement.

Radio Advertisements

Central Lancashire now boasts it own radio station covering the Preston, Chorley and South Ribble areas – Central FM. So this was an appropriate choice for advertising the Core Strategy – not only because the station's area of coverage matched the plan area but as a new concern the cost of advertising was relatively inexpensive and the service all inclusive i.e. actors, recording and air time. However the downside of using a new radio station was that listener figures were not available.

A series of four separate adverts was commissioned – each with a separate distinct message and each delivered using an actor from a different age group e.g. older man, younger girl etc in an attempt to convey that the Core Strategy is of relevance to everyone. (See Appendix 7)

The four messages advertised were based on those that also appeared in the local newspapers:

- 1. Land for 17,000 new jobs by 2026
- 2. 6 Park & Rides around Preston by 2026
- 3. 24,000 new homes by 2026
- 4. 4 New railway stations in the area by 2026

The Preferred Core Strategy Comments Form contained an Equality/Diversity Monitoring Form in order to assess whether the community engagement process was reaching all sectors of the community. Of the formal responses received, 28 (about a quarter of the total) were accompanied by a completed equality/diversity monitoring form. This relatively low number may be partly explained by the fact that a large proportion of consultation responses were from planning consultants and formal organisations that tended not use the standard comments form. The completed equality/diversity monitoring forms revealed the following:

- 68% of respondents were male •
- 53% of respondents were over the age of 50, with the age group breakdown as follows:
 - o 16-24: 11%
 - o 25-29:8%
 - o 30-39:11%
 - o 40-49: 17%
 - o 50-59: 32%
 - o 60+: 21%
- Of the 28 completed forms, the following racial groups were recorded:
 - o White: British: 24
 - o White: any other: 1
 - Mixed: White & Black Caribbean: 1
 - Gypsies and Irish Travellers: 1Other: 1
- 4 of the respondents considered themselves disabled •

CONCLUSIONS

A wide variety of methods were utilised to publicise the Core Strategy and to engage with the public. Undoubtedly many people were made aware of the consultation stage or saw/heard key messages related to it. Inevitably it would only have been a minority of these people who actively took part in the engagement by attending meetings, visiting Council offices, libraries and the websites. In terms of making representations interested organisations typically find documents of this type more relevant than the public at large.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Calendar of events

Calender Of Events										
Date	Date Time Meeting Venue									
30/09/08										
09/10/08	19.00-21.00	Eastern Area Forum	St Oswalds Parish Centre	Preston						
15/10/08	10.00-12.30	Preston Strategic Partnership	Harris Knowledge Park	Preston						
15/10/08	18.30	Chorley Parishes Council Liaison Meeting	Town Hall	Chorley						
17/10/08	All Day	Market Stall	Leyland Market	Leyland						
23/10/08	19.00-21.00	Central Area Forum	Catherine Beckett Centre	Preston						
27/10/08	19.30	Chorley Lancs Assoc. of Local Councils	Town Hall	Chorley						
30/10/08	18.30	Preston Lancashire Local	County Hall	Preston						
04/11/08	12.00-15.00	Community and Voluntary Sector	Gujarat Centre	Preston						
05/11/08	14.00	Housing Associations	Town Hall	Preston						
06/11/08	19.00-21.00	Western Area Forum	Lea County Primary School	Lea						
06/11/08	18.30	South Ribble and Preston Assoc. of Local Councils	Civic Centre	Leyland						
06/11/08	09.00-13.00	Officer Workshop	Civic Centre	Leyland						
10/11/08	14.00-16.00	Infrastructure Providers	Town Hall	Preston						
11/11/08	09.00-13.00	Health and Wellbeing	Civic Centre	Leyland						
11/11/08	All day	Market Stall	Market Walk	Chorley						
13/11/08	16.00-17.30	SMICT (Chorley Partnership)	Tatton Community Centre	Chorley						
13/01/08	19.00-21.00	North Area Forum	Harris Park Conference Centre	Preston						
13/11/08	19.15-21.30	West Leyland Area Committee	Leyland Baptist Church	Leyland						
14/11/08	09.30-13.00	LSPs Event	Town Hall	Chorley						
17/11/08	19.15-21.30	Western Parishes Committee	Hutton Village Hall	Hutton						
18/11/08	19.15-21.30	Eastern Area Committee	Higher Walton Community Cent	Higher Walton						
19/11/08	09.00-13.00	Development Industry	Civic Centre Shield Room	Leyland						
19/11/08	18.30	Chorley Equality Forum	Town Hall	Chorley						
20/11/08	18.15	South Ribble Lancashire Local	Civic Centre	Leyland						
20/11/08	19.00-21.00	Eastern Area Forum	St Oswalds Parish Church	Preston						
24/11/08	14.00-16.00	Transport	Town Hall	Preston						
26/11/08	09.30-12.00	Environment	Town Hall	Chorley						
27/11/08	17.00-19.00	District and County Council Members	Town Hall	Chorley						
27/11/08	19.00-21.00	Central Area Forum	Preston and District SCOPE	Preston						
02/12/08	13.00-15.00	South West Chorley Forum SWITCH	Eaves Green Community Centre	Chorley						
03/12/08	13.00-15.00	East Chorley Forum PAICE	Tatton Community Centre	Chorley						
04/12/08	19.00-21.00	Rural Area Forum	Barton Village Hall	Preston						
05/12/08	13.00-15.00	Clayton Brook Together	Clayton Brook Village Hall	Clayton Brook						
11/12/08	08.00-09.30	Business	Holiday Inn	Preston						
11/12/08	19.15-21.30	Penwortham Area Committee	Penwortham Girls High School	Penwortham						
15/12/08	19.15-21.30	Leyland East Area Committee	Lancashire Football Association	Leyland						
	19.15-21.30	Central Area Committee	St Pauls CofE School	Farington Moss						
19/12/08		Consultation Clos	es							

Appendix 2 - Leyland Market Event



Page 9/14

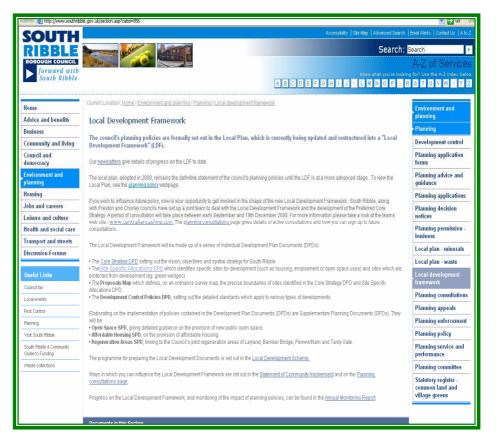
Appendix 3 - Sample Extract - Central Lancashire Website - www.centrallancashire.com

Central Lancashire Website Hits												
Date	Total Sessions	Total Page Hits	Total Hits	Total bytes Transferred	Average Sessions Per Day	Average Page Hits Per Day	Average Hits Per Day	Average Bytes Transferred Per Day	Average Pageviews Per Session	Average Hits Per Session	Average Bytes Per Session	Averaç Lengti Sessio
December 2008	2589	12727	23195	891.44 MB	83.52	410.55	748.23	28.76 MB	4.92	8.96	352.58 KB	00:30:2
November 2008	2998	12451	25875	181.74 MB	99.93	415.03	862.50	6.06 MB	4.15	8.63	62.07 KB	00:23:0
October 2008	2257	1 4087	26364	443.58 MB	72.81	454.42	850.45	14.31 MB	6.24	11.68	201.25 KB	00:27:3
September 2008	2084	11914	20075	70.62 MB	69.47	397.13	669.17	2.35 MB	5.72	9.63	34.70 KB	00:27:2:
Total Sessions			99	28								
Total Website Hits			955	09								
Total Page Hits			511	51179								



Page 10/14

Appendix 4 - Sample Extract - Corporate Intranet



Appendix 5 - Sample Extract - Newspaper Advertisements (2)



A NEW PLAN TO TACKLE THE BIG ISSUES

The next step towards completing the big picture planning blueprint for the future of Central Lancashire – Chorley, Preston and South Ribble – has arrived. This is the chance to create the sorts of places we want now and for generations to come.

The three Councils, assisted by Lancashire County Council, have worked together to produce a new area wide strategy as part of the new style development plan – the Local Development Framework.

Called the Preferred Core Strategy it is a draft for consultation but when finalised, it will guide planning and investment decisions for the next 18 years to 2026. The Councils consider that the current economic slowdown is the time to get plans in place so as to best cater for future growth.

Councillor Peter Malpas executive member for Business at Chorley Council says "Preston, South Ribble and Chorley are very much interconnected as far as transport routes are concerned. The new strategy deals with all types of travel and covers proposals for improving both private and public transport".

Councillor Neil Cartwright cabinet member for Development at Preston City Council "Rail travel is becoming increasingly popular for commuting, business and leisure trips as people look for an alternative to car use. The strategy aims both to improve services and access to them".

Councillor Cliff Hughes cabinet member for Regeneration and Planning at South Ribble Borough Council says "Four new stations are suggested in the strategy. The one at Buckshaw Village is well advanced and will serve as a Park and Ride. A site at Cottam is also earmarked as a Park and Ride. Further stations are proposed at Coppull and Midge Hall"

You can find out more at www.centrallancashire.com or by ringing 01772 536775.

The deadline for comments is 19th December 2008.

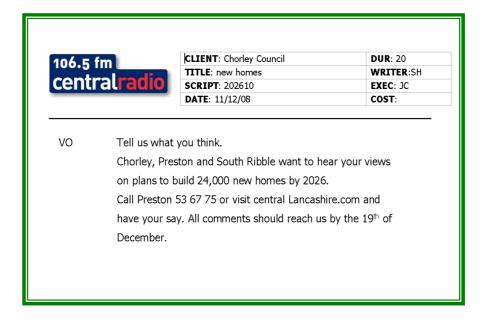


Page 12/14

Appendix 6 - Sample Extract - Corporate News Sheet/Advertisement



Appendix 7 – Sample Extract - Central Radio Advertisements



Appendix 8 - Online Timetable of events

	Western Parishes Area Committee	Eastern Area Committee		Lancashire Local Preston Gity Eastern Airea Forum			
	24	25	26	27 Preston City Council Central Area Forum	28	29	30
2008							
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
ber	1	2 Chorley SWITCH Meeting	Chorley BAICE Meeting	4 Preston City Council Rural Area Forum	5 Clayton Brook Together Meeting	6	7
ecemb	8	9	Chorley Lancashire Local Meeting	11 <u>South Ribble</u> <u>Penwortham</u> <u>Area Committee</u>	12	13	14
)ec	15 <u>South Ribble Leyland East</u> <u>Area Committee</u>	16 South Ribble Central Area Committee	17	18	Close of Consultation	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
2008	29	30	31				
