

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods) (Introduced by the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods)	Executive Cabinet	26 March 2009

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLANS

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 Further to the approval at Executive Cabinet on 14th February 2008 of the arrangements to progress Neighbourhood Working, this report proposes the route by which to adopt and monitor the subsequently produced Neighbourhood Action Plans for each of the 7 Neighbourhood Areas in Chorley.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2 To delegate approval of the Neighbourhood Action Plans to the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods) in consultation with the Lead Member for Neighbourhoods and the relevant Ward Members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 3 The report outlines the process undertaken in developing specific action plans for each of the 7 Neighbourhood Areas and the subsequent process for approval and monitoring. Whilst the Neighbourhood Action Plans should be considered as flexible plans, the formal period of monitoring for those plans to be approved is from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) (If the recommendations are accepted)

- 4 Neighbourhood working is an important area of development for Chorley. It is therefore important that an appropriate approval and monitoring process is agreed for the Neighbourhood Action Plans. It is essential to secure the support of the Executive Member, the Lead Member and the ward members and to ensure that actions are agreed and monitoring arrangements are in place. Delivery of the actions are the responsibility of a number of agencies, including specifically Chorley Council, and it is essential that an element of ownership of the actions, and financial spend, is established from the outset.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 5 None appropriate.

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		Improved access to public services	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance	X	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	X
Involving People in their Communities	X	Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	X

BACKGROUND

7. Early in 2008, we began to focus on how Chorley Council could work together with partner agencies, other organisations, and most importantly residents, to make a really positive impact at a very local level. To focus attention, 7 Neighbourhood Areas, covering the whole Borough, were identified.
8. Profiles for these 7 Neighbourhood Areas have been developed using local intelligence information about the people and the place. They also show where and how facilities and services operate, how communities are represented, who our key partners are and they also identify opportunities for the future. Information contained within Parish Plans, community action plans, and a wide range of other data relating to each Neighbourhood Area, and importantly, each smaller neighbourhood, community or Parish, have also been included within the profiles.
9. Ward walks were undertaken across all 20 Wards in the Borough and which were led by the Councillors for each Ward. These walks provided for the collection and collation of issues prevalent within the ward areas and which required an immediate, medium or long term response. The walks also provided for the opportunity to celebrate and share success and these examples are being used as 'best practice' to support development across respective ward areas.
10. A number of consultation mechanisms were adopted to ensure representative issues were identified for inclusion. These included 'drop-in' sessions for local residents, at different community venues across the Neighbourhood Areas. We received views on Neighbourhood Area issues from residents involved in Locality Planning through the Chorley Smile Panel, from Chorley's Equality Forum, and children taking part in Chorley's Playday and Local Democracy Week activities.
11. Each of the 7 Neighbourhood Areas has a dedicated 'virtual' Neighbourhood Team, made up of people from all the key partner organisations – Council, Police, Health, Registered Social Landlords, Children's Centres and including voluntary, community and faith sector groups – that have something positive to offer to that neighbourhood.
12. Using all of the different kinds of information listed above, a Neighbourhood Action Plan has been developed for the forthcoming year for each Neighbourhood Area. These initial plans will help us all to find a way forward on a range of issues, from increasing the frequency of maintenance activities to tackling some complicated grass roots projects.
13. It is proposed that the Action Plans are approved as a delegation to the Executive Member and Lead Member in consultation with the ward members. The Action

Plans will be monitored as a review after the first six months of operation, in September 2009.

14. Growth contained within the 2008/09 budget included more resources being available for improving the local neighbourhoods in Chorley. The allocation of budget for 'pump-priming' the neighbourhood action plans has been carried forward to the 2009/10 budget and which is allocated against key actions within each of the Neighbourhood Action Plans. The approval process proposed ensures that discussion and agreement on this allocation is made with the relevant ward members.

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