

## **Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel**

Monday, 21st March, 2022, 5.00 pm

Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

### Supplementary Agenda

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the above meeting of the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel, the following information:

**4 Matters Arising from previous Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel Meetings**

Report attached.

(Pages 66 - 75)

Gary Hall  
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel

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Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel  
Update on Recommendations made at previous Scrutiny Panel Meetings

Date & Min	Recommendation	Lead Member	Lead Officer	Accepted ?	Implemented?	Completed?	Progress/Comments
22/03/21 Min 33.5	The costs associated with refurbishing Penwortham Leisure Centre be provided to members	Finance, Property and Assets	Mark Lester	Yes	Yes	No	The costs of refurbishing Penwortham Leisure Centre are being pulled together and will form part of a wider investment plan for the Council's four Leisure Centres which will go to Full Council in April.
15/11/21 Min 52.3	Asks that future performance indicators choose more appropriate comparators which are similar to South Ribble and our Borough, to help make the most of the benchmarking data available	Leader of the Council	Vicky Willett	Yes	No	No	This recommendation will be taken into account when reviewing future performance indicators
15/11/21 Min 52.4	Expresses gratitude for the offer of the outcomes from the post-COVID Economic Summit and updated key issues for South Ribble being provided to Members	Finance, Property and Assets	Vicky Willett	Yes	Yes	Yes	Executive Summary of Economic Summit appended.
15/11/21 Min 52.5	Requests that the plans to improve the time taken to process new housing benefit claims are expedited and additional resources be	Planning, Business and Regeneration	Asim Khan	No response provided	No response provided	No response provided	No response provided

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Date & Min	Recommendation	Lead Member	Lead Officer	Accepted ?	Implemented?	Completed?	Progress/Comments
	made available to improve performance						
15/11/21 Min 52.6	Requests that further information be provided on how the number of trees that are planted that survive and thrive are monitored and managed	Health and Wellbeing	Vicky Willett	Yes	N/A	Yes	<p>The trees are monitored and checked as part of the Parks teams regular site maintenance and visit schedule. As part of this any trees that are identified on a site as not surviving are then programmed into the next years tree planting programme. Only surviving trees are counted as part of the Corporate measure.</p> <p>Time to maturity varies depending on the species of the tree (Only native tree species are planted). On average it takes 10 years for a tree to start looking semi mature and not like a sapling (few branches and leaves), full maturity can take 25 – 50 years. However, trees like Oak can take a much longer to mature.</p>

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Date & Min	Recommendation	Lead Member	Lead Officer	Accepted ?	Implemented?	Completed?	Progress/Comments
15/11/21 Min 53.2	Asks that consideration be given to the housing benefit surplus of £149,000 being used to improve the speed of processing housing benefits claims	Finance, Property and Assets	Louise Mattinson	No	No	N/A	<p>Having checked with the Service Lead for Customer Services, I can confirm that the processing time for new HB claims performance was ahead of the target of 16 days in October at 13.22 days</p> <p>The £149k underspend is only an estimate at this point in time and at the close of the financial year any over or under spend against the HB Subsidy allocation will either be paid over to us, or re-paid to the government.</p> <p>These monies can only be used for the actual payment of HB and not for any other purpose - monies paid through the HB Subsidy account are subject to an external audit each year (our is undertaken by Grant Thornton) to verify and confirm that funds have been applied correctly and this is reported to DWP, with a clawback of funding made, based on an extrapolation of</p>

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Date & Min	Recommendation	Lead Member	Lead Officer	Accepted ?	Implemented?	Completed?	Progress/Comments
							the value of the error identified.
15/11/21 Min 53.3	The committee looks forward to an update on the recruitment of apprentices and reducing the £44,000 underspend	Finance, Property and Assets	Louise Mattinson	Yes	Yes	Yes	<p>There are 4 Apprentice posts (2 of which were filled and 2 of which were vacant at the start of the year).</p> <p>2 apprentices secured other posts within the council during the year however due to the pressures of Covid, and the resource focus and work of the team on Business Grants, the team have been unable to undertake any further recruitment as yet.</p> <p>The team are now focusing on 'post-grant work' and are developing options on future resourcing and workload planning in readiness for the new year.</p> <p>Whilst recruitment to apprentice posts can be undertaken at any time during the year, timing is a factor when it comes to school and college leavers</p>

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							and getting a pool of talent from which to select.

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# Chorley and South Ribble Partnership Economic Summit 2021

## Executive Summary

The first Summit of Chorley and South Ribble Partnership brought together a range of partners and businesses to:

- a) Understand the post Covid environment
- b) Establish a collective ambition to develop an inclusive economy, where there are opportunities for all
- c) Identify the regional and national opportunities and barriers

A body of evidence was gathered prior to the summit discussions and on the day key stakeholders shared their insights across a range of themes. Broadly the evidence and the input from stakeholders corroborates the initial assumptions of challenges and opportunities around employment and skills, land and assets and businesses doing good within the context of Covid recovery. A summary of feedback is included at Appendix A. Key points include:

- Businesses and public sector need space to come together to understand more deeply local needs as well as making strong connections with other businesses in the area
- Shift of power to employees whether its choice of work and career path, greater demands for agile and home working and offers from global and national employers
- Businesses need to be more involved in local curriculums to drive employability
- A commitment to supporting local businesses through procurement and opportunities

## Next Steps

The aim of the summit was to identify a number of shared high-level priorities that all partners across Chorley and South Ribble recognise as relevant and important to economic recovery and future growth. This shared recognition of what's important will drive our collective activity in the same direction.

As councils, the proposal is to use this feedback and high-level priorities identified by partners and stakeholders to guide and inform the development of our local economic strategy which will be independent and reflective of each council's ambitions.

To continue and deepen relationships with the business community the Partnership will commission a series of facilitated round table discussions to focus on the themes set out in Appendix A. Delivery is expected to commence from May and last for approximately six months.



## Summary of Key Findings by Panel

### Employment & Skills:

Themes	Description
<b>Shift in dynamic towards the employee and the ability to 'choose' their working conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In certain sectors where home working is feasible; how far is there growing competition amongst younger working age groups from international or London competition offering London salaries but ability to work from home either all or significantly most of the time.</li> <li>▪ Recruitment in sectors with historically poor conditions, unsociable hours or pay i.e. hospitality, driving etc. – shift to more stable and employment and better sociable hours.</li> </ul>
<b>Disconnect between school curriculum and businesses' needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding the needs of businesses to develop a locally based curriculum that provides the skills for businesses locally leading to additional courses (such as the Centre of Digital Excellency, CODE).</li> <li>▪ Skills for the future to meet demand on changing sectors for cyber and low carbon industries.</li> <li>▪ Apprentices &amp; other recently qualified jobseekers leave college but seem unaware of the opportunities available with businesses locally.</li> </ul>
<b>Economically inactive local people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The vacancies and gaps in recruitment, coupled with increase in minimum and living wages provide opportunity for economically inactive people to get back in to work.</li> </ul>

### Land and Assets:

Themes	Description
<b>Lack of available land in the area causing a shift in local businesses forcing them to source work outside the area subsequently weakening the local economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Due to lack of land some businesses will work outside the area damaging the local economy.</li> <li>▪ Council need to work with Lancashire county council to free up the land in Cuerden to be used by local businesses.</li> <li>▪ One option to solve this could be seeking out greenbelt land that can be built on if it doesn't compromise sustainability.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication and networking lacking between businesses and something that the council could assist with</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Networking needs improving, connections and communications are key for businesses to expand and continue to be successful.</li> <li>▪ More events like the summit being hosted by the council can facilitate this growth with local businesses and create connections.</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting the everchanging needs of the local area and those within it</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Being a part of planning the local area, development, housing – meeting the needs of a workforce that employers want to attract. The more lucrative the opportunity the more likely it is that the workforce will be attracted to these businesses.</li> <li>▪ Competitive tendering as a deterrent for local businesses, as they found it focuses more on price than quality.</li> </ul>

**Businesses for Good:**

Themes	Description
<b>Emphasis on keeping it local</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promoting local businesses and celebrating heritage and business success.</li> <li>▪ Hosting larger events, geared towards a national audience (such as G7 Speaker’s Summit) as pivotal in creating a larger awareness of the area.</li> <li>▪ Facilitating/Enabling businesses to remain local through cross-sector communication.</li> <li>▪ Sustainability rooted in supporting local businesses, to help produce the effect noted above.</li> <li>▪ Create more facilities like Strawberry Meadows for businesses to be based out of so they can keep business local.</li> </ul>
<b>Making sure sustainability is being maintained</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help link businesses together to create communication networks between local businesses.</li> <li>▪ Educating people of the smaller behavioral changes that can lead to collective reduction in carbon footprint.</li> <li>▪ Considerations need to be taken into the balance between energy efficiencies and costs associated with sustainability.</li> </ul>

**Summary of key points by theme:**

Employment and Skill	Land and Assets	Business for Good
Meet the challenge of shifting work habits and opportunity of ‘choice’ available to the employee	Supporting growth and development through supply of land that supports business growth and a housing supply that meets the needs of the borough’s population	Strengthen and grow the dialogue between businesses and public sector bodies to support and understand their needs; working collaboratively to build back better
Everyone has access to appropriate work and skills development opportunities regardless of age	Supporting local infrastructure which is a key enabler for growth	Building Back Green, supporting businesses to become more sustainable both economically and environmentally
A local curriculum informed by employers, based on what businesses need – not what we ‘think’ they need		Local First – Think local first when procuring or buying goods/services to support a dynamic local supply chain and business community

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