

| Report of | Meeting | Date |
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| Deputy Chief Executive | Scrutiny Committee | Tuesday, 11 January 2022 |

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| Is this report confidential? | No |
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| Is this decision key? | No |
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Partnership Working 2021

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on partnership working, key developments and achievements for 2021.

Recommendations to Scrutiny Committee

2. To note the report and provide any comments or feedback.

Reasons for recommendations

3. To ensure the continued development of constructive and effective partnership working.

Other options considered and rejected

4. The report is presented to keep members informed of partnership working activity; not to do so would limit engagement and awareness.

Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

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| An exemplary council | Thriving communities |
| A fair local economy that works for everyone | Good homes, green spaces, healthy places |

Background to the report

6. Demand for public services is expected to continue to rise as a result of the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Increasingly complex support needs require continued innovation towards developing new ways of working better together for sustainable public services. This can only be achieved through cooperation and collaboration leading to integrated delivery, making the best use of our collective resources to support all of our communities.
7. The partnership environment is complex involving partners from a range of sectors operating across different administrative and geographical boundaries. Although there is consensus across partners on some of the big issues, competing priorities and funding arrangements present challenges. To achieve the best outcomes for residents, it is important to have a shared vision that will guide the implementation of national policy and maximise access to resources.

Partnership development

8. In 2020, the South Ribble Partnership and Chorley Public Service Reform Board started to explore closer partnership working. Each partnership had unique strengths in terms of representation and engagement, however it was also clear that both partnerships shared many of the same partners, the majority of whom operated across the same geographical footprint, for example the Police, hospital, community mental health trust and fire service. Benefits of coming together would include:
 - shared knowledge and expertise
 - additional pace and agility to accelerate transformation
 - stronger influence to change and reform public services at a bigger scale
 - reduced duplication and increased efficiency
 - a shared vision to guide our collective use of resource
9. A series of workshops and engagement sessions were held over the summer with all partners joining to contribute their views and priorities for future partnership working. There were also a number of 1-2-1 sessions between the partnerships team and individual partners to discuss key challenges and opportunities in more depth. In July 2021 partners took the decision to become a joint partnership for South Ribble and Chorley that would work together to address big issues, but also retain a local focus with the ability to take different approaches depending on the needs of each area.

Joint Partnership Strategy

10. Feedback from partners was used to develop a Partnership Strategy for 2021-24 (Appendix 1.1) The strategy document sets out a clear statement of intent together with key priorities and an action plan for the coming 12 months.
11. **Statement of Intent:** 'Chorley and South Ribble Partnership will focus on building strong communities and outcomes for residents, through collaborative working. Each partner has an equal voice that they will use openly and honestly to cooperate fairly. We are all committed to reducing widening inequalities amongst our communities, making it easier to access local services and strengthening growth in the area's economy.'

The agreed priorities are:

- a) **Shared data and Intelligence** - Each partner has data, information and knowledge about neighbourhoods and individuals. A single shared view of our communities will enable better decision making, meaning that we can target resources more effectively and track improvements across communities.
- b) **A local delivery model** – Chorley and South Ribble operate in a wider system of public services which are continually changing and developing. We need to develop a local approach to service delivery that is joined up and makes sense for the residents of Chorley and South Ribble. Working together in this way will mean that residents get support where and when they need it, narrowing gaps in health inequalities and achieving better outcomes.
- c) **Economic growth and reform** – Access to employment and income has been shown to be a key factor in enabling greater wellbeing. Shared economic growth priorities across partners will ensure that all employers, education providers and support services are working towards the same outcomes. More people will have access to local opportunities and fewer people will be economically inactive meaning greater choice and opportunity.

Governance

12. The Partnership is composed of the following elements:

- Place Summit – an annual event for wider partners and stakeholders to consider a topic of strategic importance.
- Partnership Executive – made up of senior executive officers from across the partners, chaired by the Leader of the Council (rotating annually, starting with the Leader of South Borough Ribble).
- Commission Groups / Other partnerships – to drive forward activity that will achieve the priorities. These are established groups or specific project teams commissioned by the partnership.

Measures of success

13. The partnership is focussed on engaging partners to work together towards common strategic priorities with the ultimate aim of achieving better outcomes for residents and communities. The action to develop shared data and intelligence will provide a baseline position from which to measure impact and outcomes. Specific output and outcome measures will also be identified for individual projects and initiatives to track progress and impact.

Progress to date

14. The partners held their first joint meeting in September 2021 and approved the strategy. All partners were represented at the meeting which also considered a number of key strategic items linked to the priorities:

- **Shared data and intelligence** – partners received a presentation from the team working on the Central Lancashire Digital Strategy. This work includes developing a web-based application to bring different partnership data sets together and present them in a visual format using maps, graphs and charts. The partnership will be part of a pilot to test the system (with relevant data sharing agreements in place) in operation across South Ribble and Chorley.

- **Local delivery model** – partners have been working together over the last 12 months to deliver a project to support individuals who may be vulnerable as a result of Covid. Those most at risk of poorer health outcomes were identified, assessed and offered a range of services to address non-medical needs including home safety assessments, community support and financial advice. The project measured feelings of loneliness, overall wellbeing and ability to cope with significant improvements achieved.
- **Economic reform** – partners agreed to hold the first Chorley and South Ribble Summit on the theme of the economy. The event took place in November 2021 at the Strawberry Fields Digital Hub. The format was three facilitated panel sessions with key experts answering questions on key themes: skills and employment; land and assets; and sustainable business. Over 100 businesses and partners engaged in the event either in person or online via a live video stream. The findings will inform shared priorities for economic growth and development across Chorley and South Ribble.

Next Steps

15. The partnership will meet again in January to take forward the strategy, considering the outcomes of the Economic Summit and agreeing further work to deliver the pilot for data and intelligence.

Climate change and air quality

16. The work noted in this report impacts on the following areas of climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda: net carbon zero by 2030, reducing waste production, limiting non sustainable forms of transport, working with sustainable and green accredited companies, limiting or improving air quality, limiting water waste and flooding risks, improving green areas and biodiversity.

Equality and diversity

17. All work delivered by the partnership will promote and adhere to the Equality Act 2010.

Risk

18. Partnership working relies on effective communication and engagement to ensure a strong and cooperative working relationship.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

19. There are no direct financial implications of this report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

20. There are no issues of concern from a Monitoring Officer perspective. The importance of good partnership working in the public sector is self-evident.

| Report Author: | Email: | Telephone: | Date: |
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