

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Policy, Reform and Communications))	Council	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2023

## South Ribble Annual Performance Report 2022/23

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Council with a summary of the council's achievements during 2022/23 and provide an overview of the challenges and opportunities facing the council in 2023/24.

### Recommendations to Cabinet

2. Council is asked to consider and note the report.

### Reasons for recommendations

3. The Annual Report forms part of the council's performance management framework and support the council in reflecting on its performance over the previous year.

### Other options considered and rejected

4. N/A.

### Executive summary

5. Overall, the council has performed well against the Corporate Strategy 2022/23, with progress achieved against the key priorities. These include:
  - An exemplary council
  - Thriving communities
  - A fair local economy that works for everyone
  - Good homes, green spaces, healthy places
6. Despite the challenges from the cost of living crisis, the council has continued to deliver the priorities and project set out in the 2022/23 Corporate Strategy successfully. It has supported residents, groups and businesses, whilst maintaining high quality services.

7. Looking ahead, challenges for the council will include continuing to support the borough through the ongoing impacts of the cost of living crisis, ongoing increased demand for local services, and continuing to tackle climate change.

### **Corporate priorities**

8. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

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

### **Background to the report**

9. The Corporate Strategy was updated and refreshed by the Council on 23 November 2022 to ensure that the Council can continue to meet the needs of the borough.
10. The Annual Report is a key mechanism for presenting information about the Council's performance to residents, partners, and key stakeholders. The report provides information on activities that have been delivered the last year to meet our vision and corporate priorities.

### **Summary of the Report**

11. The South Ribble Annual report for 2022/23 is available at Appendix A. The key headlines from the report are provided below.

### **Key Achievements**

#### An Exemplary Council

12. The Council maintains engagement with partners through the Chorley and South Ribble Partnership, which is committed to reducing inequalities, facilitating easier access to local services, and strengthening local economy growth. Over the year, the partnership held a series of roundtables to support the development of the Economic Strategy and involved local businesses in crucial discussions from various sectors.
13. The Partnership has also made significant progress in the development of a data and intelligence dashboard, which aims to provide a single view of our communities. The aim of the project is to share information and use technology more effectively, so that we can target areas of need within our communities and design services match.
14. The Council's shared senior management team won Senior Leadership Team of the Year from the MJ Awards for South Ribble and Chorley Councils in July 2022. The awards are an annual celebration of excellence across local government, with our entry competing against other local authorities of varying sizes and geographical locations. The achievement reflects the quality of work delivered by the team and the council, with the judging panel providing feedback on our commitment to investing in the local communities to create a healthy, fair, and sustainable borough.

15. The Workplace Strategy was implemented, which has enhanced our working environment and business models, aligning them to the future needs of the council and its employees. Building on the focus of supporting our employees and meeting future challenges, the People strategy was launched in September 2022 to ensure that we continue to have the skills and knowledge to deliver excellent services.

### Thriving Communities

16. The Council delivered the second year of its flagship event, Music in the Park over the May bank holiday weekend in Worden Park. The event sold over 3,200 tickets to residents and visitors coming to the borough to enjoy a night of nostalgic 80's and 90's music. Attendees enjoyed this year's line-up, as well as the diverse local stalls which included food and drink vendors and face painting. The successful event not only fostered community cohesion, but also had a positive impact on the local economy by providing an opportunity to engage and bring our local community together.
17. The Community Hubs continue to deliver priorities tailored to their local community's needs. The five hubs have delivered against their individual action plans, in addition to the Boost Fund Plus and Leisure Local grant funding. This included events to bring the community together following the pandemic, investing in the local area, and providing community support.
18. South Ribble's Youth Council are key in engaging young people, getting them involved in decision-making, shaping, and improving their local communities. This year, the Youth Council have delivered their first project which focused on the Cost of Living. The project included a three-day pop-up shop over the winter months called "Festive Freecycle". The shops offered free clothes and toys to support local communities in Leyland, Bamber Bridge and Penwortham. The event was a great success, thanks to the Youth Council's work to request donations and promoting the pop-up shops on social media.

### A Fair Local Economy that Works for All

19. The Council has provided support to local communities and households to recover from the to recover from the pandemic and the Cost of Living crisis with advice, support, and key services through a range of initiatives. The "South Ribble Together" website was updated to ensuring residents have access to information and advice including food banks/community shops, warm spaces, and support from wider providers.
20. A Cost of Living conference was held in August 2022, with key local partners to discuss the challenges and we can work together to support residents. The feedback from the conference helped develop the Cost of Living action plan, which focuses on outcomes which will make a real and tangible difference to households in South Ribble.
21. The Leyland Town Deal, the £38m investment to renovate the town centre, progressed with all six planning applications for the scheme approved as well as a large consultation process undertaken by the council gathering the views from residents, stakeholders and businesses.

### Good Homes, Green Spaces, Healthy Places

22. Worden Hall renovations were completed, with the building formally reopened to the public following £2.8m in Council investment for the renovation of the building. This has allowed it to evolve into an accessible, flexible community and event space.
23. The Council delivered McKenzie Arms, which provide a mix of 15 high quality affordable townhouses and apartments in Bamber Bridge as part of the Council's commitment to providing more affordable housing.
24. As part of the Council's investment into local green spaces and play areas, improvements have been made to enhance the quality and accessibility of a number of play areas. This includes:
- **Birch Avenue Play Area:** installation of state-of-the-art equipment aimed at toddlers and juniors. The new equipment comprised of multi-climbers, slides, roundabouts, seesaws and sensory panels. The Play Area was last updated in 2005, and the full renovation has updated the space as an interactive and accessible space for local families to enjoy.
  - **Holme Playing Field Playground:** Installation of a playground for toddler and juniors, alongside dynamic equipment for teens. The play area has a dog-proof fence, along with a brand new double ended ball court.

### **Climate Change**

25. The work noted in this report impacts on the following areas of the climate change and sustainability targets of the Council's 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**

26. Equality and diversity are embedded within the Corporate Strategy and how the council acts. An equality impact assessment was undertaken as part of the corporate plan refresh and each individual project will have its own equality impact assessment.

### **Risk**

27. Each corporate project delivered in 22/23 had a risk register established on the GRACE risk management system. This is to ensure effective identification, monitoring and mitigation of risks to the Corporate Strategy and its delivery. Risks to service level projects were also captured through service and business plan risk registers.

### **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

28. There are no direct financial implications from this report

### **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

29. This report is for information and noting – there are no direct legal implications.

### **Background Documents**

- [South Ribble Annual Report 2021/22](#)
- [Quarter One Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23](#)

- [Quarter Two Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23](#)
- [Quarter Three Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23](#)
- [Quarter Four Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23](#)

## Appendices

### Appendix A – South Ribble Annual Report 2022/23

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