

Report of:	To:	Date	Item no.
Cllr Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	18 January 2018	8(e)

Executive Report: Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio as set out below.

2. Additional funding for Disabled Facilities Grants

- 2.1 In the Autumn Budget, the Chancellor announced an additional £42 million of capital funding for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) in 2017-18 for local authorities in England. DFG is for the provision of adaptations to disabled people's homes to help them better access, and move around, their homes and/or gardens. Home adaptations can be a welcome intervention for many, enabling people to live independently and safely. There is also flexibility to use some of the additional funding on wider social care capital projects. Our indicative additional budget allocation is £153,604.17 and we have indicated to DCLG that we wish to accept this full allocation.

- 2.2 I am pleased to confirm that our Disabled Facilities Grant Team have now completed adaptations in well over 100 vulnerable residents' homes to a value of over £1,000,000 so far in the current financial year.

3. Community Safety

- 3.1 **Lock it or lose it Campaign** - In response to a spate of opportunistic thefts from vehicles in the Wyre area the Community Safety Team teamed up with colleagues in waste collection to deliver a lock it or lose it campaign leaflet that was distributed with the latest waste collection service leaflet and calendar.

- 3.2 **Shop Watch** - Our Community Safety Team, together with partners, have applied successfully for £7,400 funding from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office to further develop local shop watch schemes. The aim of Shop Watch is to enable communication between shops, town

centre CCTV and the police. It is hoped that this will help attract new shop members to the schemes and will also provide the police with real time information on incidents as they occur.

- 3.3 White Ribbon Campaign** - On Tuesday 28 November the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner brought together over 40 White Ribbon Ambassadors from Lancashire to learn the latest ways to combat male violence against women and girls. The campaign recognises the role men and boys play in creating a culture where abuse and harassment against women and girls is unacceptable. Myself and Councillor B Birch, together with officers Mark Broadhurst, Neil Greenwood and Ian Williamson attended and explored ways to help tackle domestic abuse. The workshop looked at efforts already being taken to highlight the issue and what other actions Ambassadors could take. We will be taking local action to support The White Ribbon Campaign over the next twelve months.
- 3.4 Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire** - On 11 December I attended the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire. The Police and Crime Commissioner in his report referred to the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Spring Inspection which rated the efficiency of the Lancashire Police Force as good. However, an inspection of crime data integrity involving 2500 incident logs, to ensure that if a crime had been reported then it had been recorded in the crime system or a suitable negation supplied, revealed significant under reporting and the Inspectorate gave an inadequate rating on this aspect. It was stated that work is already underway to put in place the Inspectorates recommendations.
- 3.5 Police Control Centre Update** - In my October report I mentioned that average times for the Police Control Centre to answer 999 & 101 calls was taking longer. This trend still continues, particularly in answering 101 calls. As a result the Call Centre is being redesigned into three pods or sections (based on the three Lancashire Police Divisions) so as to take calls for their own Division, as this has indicated performance will be improved. This operational change will not be completed until the end of 2018 and, in the meantime, more control room operatives are being recruited.
- 3.6 Increase in Total Crime Figures** - The Commissioner's Report indicated that total crimes across Lancashire have increased by 13% - particular areas of increase were non and less serious injury assaults and public order, burglary, domestic abuse and business crimes, whilst serious assaults and anti-social behaviour incidents had reduced. User (i.e. victim) satisfaction rates with the Police for burglaries, violent crime and hate incidents had gone down. The Police and Crime Commissioner hoped that these satisfaction rates would improve once IT equipment was operational later in the year which would update victims how the crime they had suffered was being dealt with in the criminal justice system.
- 3.7 Anti-Fracking Protests** - The Commissioner mentioned that the anti-fracking protests involved the use of between 50 to 75 police officers per day (sometimes increasing to 100 per day) and was costing in the region of £150,000 per month. Some 329 arrests were made in the first ten months of 2017.

4. Comments and questions

- 4.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with procedure rule 11.5.

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