

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	16 September 2021

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. Housing

- 2.1** I am pleased to report that we have been successful as part of a pan-Lancashire bid for funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) Changing Futures project. All districts across Lancashire joined together to complete the bid and were successful in receiving £6.5 million from MHCLG.
- 2.2** This substantial package of funding will provide essential support and treatment for vulnerable adults facing a combination of homelessness, substance misuse, poor mental health, domestic abuse and sometimes contact with the criminal justice system. The three year programme will help some of the most vulnerable in society get the support they need by funding local partnerships to better co-ordinate public and voluntary services and provide joined up support.
- 2.3** Lessons learned from Changing Futures will go on to inform national policy. Delivery models and interventions are now being planned and will be tailored to the priorities specific to each area. Within Wyre we will be building on successful interventions delivered over recent years.

3. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

- 3.1** The setting up of the site compound and access works for the scheme is due to commence this Autumn. The works in accordance with the revised programme (including setting up of site offices, storage area, haul road, road crossing and widening of ramp access) is due to be completed by the end of the financial year.

3.2 Completion dates for service diversions have been received and will be in place to allow the works to progress. The most significant risk remains the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) licence, necessary to track over the beach which was applied for on 10 June and is still outstanding.

3.3

The environmental reports and assessments required for Phase 2 works within the designated area of Morecambe Bay are nearing completion. The anticipated submission of the planning application will be by December 2021 for a works start date of June/July 2022.

4. Wyre Natural Flood Management (NFM) Scheme

4.1 We have agreed to become a buyer in the Wyre NFM scheme (to be implemented by the Wyre Rivers Trust), together with United Utilities, FloodRe and the Environment Agency. The scheme will deliver over £1 million investment in the upper Wyre catchment including native tree planting, management of watercourses, peat moors and changes to land management practices. This will provide benefits in creating habitat and biodiversity, carbon offsetting, flood resilience and community engagement and social value. The scheme will be implemented over a nine year period with ongoing future support by agreement.

5. Car Parking

5.1 From 1 September 2021 Wyre Council joined Chipside Lancashire, a group consisting of all Lancashire councils (except Lancaster City Council), for car parking enforcement. Enforcement on Wyre Council car parks will be undertaken by NSL Ltd with back-office support from Chipside Ltd. This replaces the contract with Lancashire Parking Services and NSL Ltd that has been in place since 2014.

5.2 In addition the contract for cashless parking charges has been renewed. The current provider, RingGo, will continue to provide the service that allows users to purchase parking places via a mobile telephone app. Charges for users have significantly dropped, with the council electing to remove the convenience fee for users; it is expected that this will help encourage use of the scheme. This will have the added benefit of reducing the costs for maintenance of the payment meters and may also reduce cash collection costs.

6. Community Safety

6.1 Lancashire County Council together with partners have commissioned independent consultants to look at governance arrangements for Community Safety across the Lancashire footprint on how to link the role of County Council and District Councils in delivering community safety. The outcome of this work will have implications for how the Wyre Community Safety Partnership will operate in the future.

6.2 A Strategic needs assessment has been undertaken for all District authorities. Wyre saw a reduction in all levels of crime from 2019 to 2020 by 11%. Within Wyre, Pharos ward has the highest level of recorded crime. Violence reduction is a key priority for all community safety partnerships and over the next 12 months we will be undertaking some focussed work on how this may be achieved by working with a variety of partners.

7. Comments and questions

7.1 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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