

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	28 October 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 Disabled Facilities Grants

At the six month stage this year spend on Disabled Facilities Grants stands at £1,119,395 with 138 adaptations being completed. A further £534,000 of work has been approved therefore I am pleased to report that we are making good progress following the removal of restrictions resulting from the pandemic.

3. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

- 3.1** The construction of the site compound at Jubilee Gardens has been delayed whilst we await clarity regarding the anticipated date of obtaining the license from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to enable works on site to commence. In the interim, planning conditions for Phase 1 works have been discharged relating to noise, light and vibration.
- 3.2** The team will be presenting the scheme at the Rossall resident's group meeting on 3 November. This will include discussion on the proposed new crest sea wall.
- 3.3** The Phase 2 design is progressing well with the Environmental Impact Assessment anticipated later this month. A planning application will then be made under the Coastal Concordat. Fairhurst Planning consultants have been appointed to assist with the delivery of the scheme. A pre-construction study is being prepared by Balfour Beatty and as part of this a value engineering exercise has been undertaken to identify cost savings and improved benefits. Early indications are the costs will be below the feasibility report costs.

4. Environmental Community Owned Coastal Buffer Strips Innovative Resilience Fund Project; ECO-CoBS

- 4.1** We were successful in our expression of interest for the above project and recently gained approval for studies to develop the business case. This is an innovative scheme across the North West coast supported by the DEFRA Innovation Resilience Fund. Looking at working with nature to provide coastal defences that allow natural processes to occur without impacting on the integrity of the coastal protection to communities.
- 4.2** This gives a buffer in space and time to adapt to the effects of climate change, through community innovative works on the ground. The project will create greater resilience to vulnerable coastal communities whilst benefiting ecology, carbon capture and improved land usage.
- 4.3** The project will provide significant benefit to coastal communities including three schemes within Wyre at:

Arnhill Site on the River Wyre: Improvement of the existing saltmarsh for resilience and environmental benefits: Led by Wyre Rivers trust

Pilling: Intertidal lagoon: Reducing load on the pumping station and increased high tide water storage: Led by Wyre working in partnership with the NFU, RSPB and Wyre Rivers Trust.

Fleetwood Docks site: Preferential use of dredging to form an extended saltmarsh: led by Wyre in partnership with EA and ABP.

5. Community Safety

- 5.1** The police geographic Inspector for Wyre, Kevin Lister, retired in July this year and we would like to wish Kevin a long and happy retirement. We would also like to welcome the new geographic Inspector for Wyre - Martin Wyatt who we look forward to working with particularly within the Wyre Community Safety Partnership.
- 5.2** Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. Unfortunately in the last 12 months Wyre Community Safety Partnership have had to commission their first DHR. With the assistance of the Police and Crime Commissioner an independent chair was appointed to oversee the review, and a number of agencies who had contact with the victim participated in the review. The report has been produced and the findings acknowledged by Wyre Community Safety Partnership and have been agreed. The document has now been submitted to the home office for them to undertake quality assurance checks, and amend as they see fit. Once the report has been signed off by the Home Office the document will be publicly available.

6. Comments and questions

- 6.1** 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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