

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	2 December 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 The Good Home Inquiry

On Tuesday 14 October I attended a webinar held by the LGA in partnership with the Centre for Ageing Better. The webinar discussed in detail the findings of The Good Home Inquiry. More than 80 per cent of homes that will be needed in 2050 already exist today but over 4 million of them are classed as being below minimum decency standards. Over the last 14 months The Good Home Inquiry has set out to explore not only why we are in this position, but also what we can do about it.

- 2.2** The session discussed the key issues of importance to councils and their partners and sets out the Inquiry's recommendations for national and local routes to improve our housing stock.

- 2.3** In addition it highlighted the wider benefits of good homes – ranging from good health to financial stability and independent yet socially connected living – and why investing in the maintenance and upgrade of our homes is a vital investment in a key piece of the nation's infrastructure.

- 2.4** The inclusion of housing was highlighted as needing to be a part of preventative health strategies to improve population health and address health inequalities. I have discussed the findings of the report with officers and how we can best utilise our housing standards and care and repair service to ensure we maximise our role on this important agenda. Additionally we are making the case that housing should become a key part of new local preventative health strategies under development across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

2.5 Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Bid

We have supported Regenda Homes to submit a bid into the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). This is a substantial bid for over £1.1m of funding to support the improvement of the energy efficiency of 117 Regenda homes in Fleetwood. This bid was the only one to be submitted in Lancashire under this round of the Governments SHDF initiative and involved substantial work, especially from Regenda, who should be congratulated on the submission of such a large bid. We expect to hear if we are successful before the end of December.

3. Flooding

3.1 Wyre faces the joint challenge of rising sea levels and increased periods and intensity of winter rainfall. We continue to build on the three areas of endurance against the impacts of climate change: reducing flood risk, building community resilience and emergency response. The need for this emergency response was called upon in the period from 27 October to Tuesday 2 November 2021.

3.2 Heavy rainfall over much of Wyre's catchments occurred over the period with a slow moving weather front initially causing flooding to Cumbria moving into the Wyre area for a prolonged period. The heaviest rainfall fell on Sunday into Monday resulting in high river levels across the area and flooding to a number of roads within the borough.

3.3 Wyre council provided assistance throughout Sunday evening into Monday morning at Hambleton and Sunnyside Terrace Preesall. Assistance was also provided to Churchtown on Monday evening until Tuesday and Great Eccleston at Moss Side Lane on Wednesday.

3.4 I would like to thank the out of hour's team who worked well into the night on each occasion to assist our communities. The response involved well practiced flood plans, developed with our flood risk management (FRM) partners and cascaded through the Wyre flood forum, which is unique in Lancashire and one of the longest standing flood forums in the country. It provides a focus for our communities through our 10 flood action groups to resolve flooding problems and build understanding of risk with our flood risk management partners.

4. Community Safety

4.1 The Licensing team invited the hospitality trade in Poulton, to the civic centre on the 9 November to provide training on what to do in an emergency situation. The training was delivered by police colleagues and provided those in attendance a better awareness posed by the threat from terrorism and the actions they can take to protect themselves and their customers during an attack. It is hoped that by fostering a close working relationship with the hospitality trade we can create safe enjoyable places for our community to relax in.

5. Comments and questions

- 5.1** 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.