

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	27 January 2022

**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 Protect and Vaccinate Funding for Rough Sleepers**

We have received funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to protect and vaccinate rough sleepers. The funding (£11,572) has been released as part of a £25m package nationally in response to the implementation of Plan B, to support rough sleepers into suitable accommodation and to fund practical steps to support increased vaccination rates within this vulnerable population. This funding is in addition to significant funding already awarded as part of the Rough Sleeping Initiative.

**3. Wyre Emergency Response**

- 3.1** I would like to take this opportunity to thank Garry Scott and his team for their ongoing commitment to provide an exceptional out of hour's service. This was called upon during Storm Arwen at the end of November and more recently on 30th December when 54mm of rain fell onto the Wyre catchment over a 15-hour period, causing flooding to highways and the opening of both flood basins on the River Wyre.
- 3.2** The team worked well into the early hours on both occasions, deploying the council's pumps and assisting residents and partner organisations. Their efforts prevented flooding to properties and allowed the highway network to be used with a minimum of disruption.
- 3.3** Mark O'Donnell, LCC Operations manager, expressed his gratitude to the team for providing trained chainsaw operatives and machinery during storm Arwen to remove a number of obstacles on the highway. This team is often called out in the early hours to assist with highway

emergency events as well as flooding, gritting and Wyre specific emergencies.

#### **4. The Ecological Community Owned Coastal Buffer Strips innovation bid (ECO-CoBS):**

**4.1** Following the award of £7.2 million pounds to develop Innovative Flood Resilience along the North West Coast, we are in the process of appointing a Programme Manager to help lead the project. Agreements are now in place for Community Liaison staff to work with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Morecambe Bay partnership. The intention being to build upon their extensive experience and networks to develop the community ownership of the innovation schemes.

**4.2** Monitoring work has also started with the deployment of a RAPIDAR radar system at Fleetwood. The scheme leads have also taken forward initial site visits in particular a well-attended visit to Armshill Saltmarsh and Nature Reserve through Wyre Rivers Trust.

#### **5. Community Safety**

##### **Domestic Abuse**

**5.1** Following the presentation provided to members at Full Council in December I am pleased to report that the awareness raising campaign, "There's no excuse for abuse" commenced on the run up to Christmas with posters being produced and distributed around public houses within the Borough.

**5.2** The campaign has also been highlighted through the council's social media presence and posters.

##### **Have you forgotten something campaign / E-Scooters**

**5.3** Prior to Christmas we developed and ran two social media campaigns one to remind people to lock their car and house to deter opportunistic burglaries and another to highlight the law in relation to using E-Scooters. We also shared the police's own campaign on protecting your assets.

##### **CCTV**

**5.4** Wyre Council's latest annual report on Town centre CCTV monitoring has been produced and is available for viewing on the council's web page. The report provides statistics but more importantly case studies of how CCTV continues to support the police in helping to make our communities safer. The team based at Wyre also monitor the cameras for Fylde Council and are a vital element of the policing family.

#### **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.