

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	14 April 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 Homes for Ukraine –** The Council is actively supporting the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Lancashire-wide delivery of the scheme is being coordinated by the Refugee Integration Team at Lancashire County Council. Our roles, as a District Council include the completion of home safety checks of sponsor accommodation, the payment of the £350 per month ‘thank you’ payments, addressing any homelessness issues arising and addressing any community safety / integration matters.
- 2.2** Matters regarding safeguarding, support for sponsors, school placements, the provision of translation and interpretation services are being delivered by Lancashire County Council (LCC).
- 2.3** We have set up our own web page on the council’s website at www.wyre.gov.uk/Ukraine This web page will be updated with further information from Government as and when it is received. If residents are interested in becoming a sponsor under the scheme then they should register on the National website and LCC have also requested residents email the Refugee Integration Team at HomesForUkraine@lancashire.gov.uk so that they are aware and can make appropriate links with local support.
- 2.4 Additional funding for housing for ex-offenders -** Following our successful delivery of a housing initiative to support ex-offenders into settled accommodation, we recently applied for funding for a six month extension to the initiative. The bid (for £23,061 across Wyre and Fylde) was successful and will help support an additional 30+ ex-offenders into private rented sector tenancies across both boroughs.

2.5 Disabled Facilities Grants – During 2021/22 we completed 380 Disabled Facilities Grants to a value of over £2m. This was a great result by the team during a year impacted by the pandemic, which makes a major contribution towards helping to maintain the independence at home for many of these residents.

3. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

3.1 Wyre Beach Management Scheme - Although the application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for temporary storage of rocks on the beach has been submitted, there is concern over the current processing time for MMO applications. We have therefore delayed the start date for works to construct the temporary compound at Jubilee Gardens to after this year's main summer period.

3.2 Phase 1 works (revetment at Rossall Beach) are due to commence early in March 2023 with the main scheme works Phase 2 (rock groynes and northern frontage revetment) commencing in July 2023 (subject to planning approval).

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

4.1 The Ecological Community Owned Coastal Buffer Strips innovation bid (ECO-CoBS) - I have previously advised members that the Council have been awarded £7.2m pounds to develop Innovative Flood Resilience along the North West Coast. To help deliver this project, two part-time Community Liaison staff have been appointed through Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Morecambe Bay Partnership.

4.2 Their main tasks will be to support local authority and Rivers trust officers in the scoping and development of natural flood risk management on the coast. Communication and monitoring plans are currently being developed for each of the projects. These will form an important part of the Outline Business Case to be submitted to the Environment Agency's Large Project Review Group in April.

5. Community Safety

5.1 Wyre Community Safety team are working closely with the serious violence reduction network on a pilot project in Fleetwood to work with schools to identify children who are vulnerable to being exploited as early as possible and obtain appropriate support.

5.2 The project will allow schools to refer children they are concerned about into a Multi-Agency Support Panel who will have knowledge of support that the children and their families can access to reduce their vulnerability.

5.3 A conference held on 17 March at Marine Hall in Fleetwood by the serious violence reduction network launched the project and we look forward to working collaboratively with the team going forward. It is hoped that by working with identified children early we will be able to prevent an escalation of worrying behaviours.

- 5.4** Wyre Council have been working with Counter Terrorism Security Advisors to train our staff on how to spot someone behaving in a suspicious manner and what to do in these circumstances. This training is going to be extended to our CCTV team and volunteers. The aim of this training and ACT awareness training previously undertaken with the business community is to raise awareness of the threat and to increase vigilance.
- 5.5** In February together with Cllrs Ballard and Orme I attended a conference on Rural Crime organised by Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC). Presentations illustrated the cruelty resulting from illegal killing and poaching of animals and the connection of rural crime much of which is high value theft of farming equipment and the proceeds being used for criminal activity in our urban areas. At the Conference we were able to meet four police officers who are part of the rural task force based at Garstang.
- 5.6** On 7 March I attended the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire at which the Police and Crime Commissioner reported on progress in dealing with his priorities of getting tough on anti-social behaviour, disrupting and dismantling organised crime, tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence, cracking down on burglary and robbery and targeting dangerous drivers.

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.