

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	6 July 2023

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. Community Safety

- 2.1** The council is working with a local taxi company and the Police to introduce an initiative to identify individuals who are in a vulnerable state and ensure that they are taken home safely. Based on a project that has operated with success in Blackpool. The scheme has now been extended to operate in the Wyre area. The project will be monitored and only those cases where significant police concerns are raised will be eligible for the scheme.
- 2.2** Wyre Community Safety team has worked extremely closely with Lancashire Fire and Rescue, Neighbourhood Police teams and Blackpool and Fylde College to deliver a project called Wasted Lives to try and raise awareness of road safety within the Borough.
- 2.3** The project was delivered through an impactful and thought provoking session where they talk about the fatal five which includes drink and drug driving, speeding, mobile phone use, seat belts and distractions. They delivered this to the communities of Knott End and Preesall on Friday 9 June 2023. It is hoped that the project will be able to be delivered in other areas of the borough in the future.
- 2.4** In addition the Fire and Rescue team also attended the Cleveleys Classic Car Show where they displayed a car that had been involved in a car collision, with a display board which told the story of the people involved in the road collision. The event was very well attended and there was great interest in the display and how it highlighted what could happen if you are distracted whilst driving.

- 2.5 Students from Blackpool and Fylde College filmed both the events and they will be making short films on the subject which hopefully will provide further digital tools to raise awareness amongst drivers.
- 2.6 Last year Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed how reports of youth related anti-social behaviour were handled in Wyre. A recommendation from the report approved by Cabinet was to work with local schools to write and deliver sketches demonstrating what anti-social behaviour means to them and the impact it has on their lives.
- 2.7 Pupils from Saint Aidan's, Cardinal Allen and Fleetwood High showcased performances at a successful Wyre Beat event held at Marine Hall in Fleetwood.
- 2.8 Wyre Beat is a project coordinated by Wyre Council working alongside Lancashire Police, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Wyre's Youth Council and Lancashire County Councils Targeted Youth Support team.
- 2.9 Wyre based mental health support charity Doherty's Destiny kindly provided prizes for the schools taking part. On the night Cardinal Allen was awarded first place, winning the top prize of £500 for the school. I would like to thank Councillor Andrea Kay chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group for her involvement in supporting the delivery of this successful event.

3. Housing

3.1 Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding

We have received confirmation of a funding award to assist in the prevention of rough sleeping for the current year, 2023/24. The Rough Sleeper Initiative has been ongoing for a number of years now to provide a rapid response to reports of rough sleepers and ensure support is provided to break the cycle of rough sleeping.

- 3.2 We will be receiving £75,860 from DLUHC which will go towards funding an officer to engage with rough sleepers as soon as a report is received, to help fund emergency accommodation, tenancy training and rent in advance/rent bond for those that need it. Through this package of support the aim is to provide stable accommodation for any rough sleepers and the provision of necessary support to help ensure they don't return to the streets.

4. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

- 4.1 I am pleased to advise members that phase 1 of the project to provide a rock revetment to the sea wall immediately north of Café Cove Cleveleys is complete. Works to improve the appearance and to increase the height of the front sea wall are to commence in September with completion in December.
- 4.2 To facilitate the works, unfortunately will require a road closure to take place along the length of Rossall Promenade north of Thornton Gate. Emergency vehicle access will be maintained during the works and

residents will be advised of the planned closure which will commence in September through to December 2023.

- 4.3** Phase 2 works will commence in August this year as the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) licence has now been received as has planning permission. Officers are now discharging the conditions prior to commencement.
- 4.4** In addition, the Environment Agency have approved the additional funding required to cover inflationary costs to enable completion of the scheme which is due to be concluded by December 2026.

5. Our Future Coast

- 5.1** The project board has now been established with representatives from partner agencies such as Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency, Lancaster University and Marine Management Organisation as well as Wyre Council.
- 5.2** The project together with the Wyre Natural Flood Management project being led by Wyre Rivers Trust are receiving national coverage including representation at the National Flood and Coast Conference which identified the projects as the way forward for building community resilience through innovation in working methods and financing.

6. United Utilities failure of the outfall pipe at Fleetwood Waste Water Treatment Works.

- 6.1** We were informed by United Utilities of a pollution incident in the early hours of 13 June 2023. Unfortunately storms on the evening of 12 June caused emergency discharge to the Combined Sewer Overflows at Anchorsholme and Manchester Square owing to a damaged pipe at Fleetwood Waste Water Treatment Works.
- 6.2** United Utilities called a meeting of partner organisations in the early hours of the Wednesday morning. Following this, the Environment Agency gave advice against swimming and the council displayed advisory signs at accesses to the beach and advised residents about the incident via various media channels.
- 6.3** At the time of writing the preferred temporary option prior to replacement of the damaged pipe section is to lay pipework to bypass the fault. Additionally to increase capacity within the system, sewerage was taken by tanker to other treatment works to remove the build-up in the system.

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.