

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	14 September 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** I am pleased to be able to advise members that following a bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer Lancashire Neighbourhood Fund – Fighting Crime Grants scheme we have secured £40,000 towards the upgrade of the council's town centre CCTV system which was approved by Cabinet earlier this year.

3. Housing

3.1 Winter 2023/24 Affordable Warmth Funding Bid

In preparation for next winter Lancashire County Council are once again making funding available to district councils to deliver high impact affordable warmth interventions to individuals who are most vulnerable to harm from cold or damp homes. Ultimately, the funding aims to reduce levels of death and illness over the winter months and to improve people's wellbeing. We have submitted a bid for up to £89,153 of funding for the Borough.

3.2 Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2)

Supported by our officers Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) have been proactively promoting the recently launched Lancashire HUG2 funding in the Borough. Their promotion team attended the Great Ecclestone Show and the Garstang Show recently and mail-outs have started across some of our eligible rural areas. Further information and details of how residents can apply are available at <https://www.chil.uk.com/> HUG2 supports the installation of insulation and renewable heating technologies, such as air source heat pumps or solar thermal and to be eligible houses need to be without gas central heating with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D to G. Applicants are means tested.

4. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

4.1 I am pleased to report that Planning and Marine Management Organisation (MMO) licence conditions have been discharged allowing a timely start to the Phase 2 works. The works commenced on 31 July, ahead of schedule.

5. Wyre Natural Flood Management

5.1 I was delighted to visit one of the project sites in August with the Chief Executive to see first-hand how working with landowners, utilising innovative funding mechanisms can provide multiple benefits. These benefits include space for wildlife, improved water quality carbon sequestration and reducing the risk of flooding to downstream communities.

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

6.1 I can advise that on 9 August I attended a meeting with United Utilities arranged by The Chief Executive to discuss the recent failure, discharges and future investment plans to improve water quality in the Wyre area.

7. Flood Event 23 July 2023

7.1 Heavy prolonged rainfall (over a month's rainfall in 48 hours) led to flooding across many areas of the borough including Thornton, St. Michaels, Garstang, Stalmine and Preesall over the weekend of 22-23 July. The community flood action groups played a very important role in notifying residents and communicating messages and I would like to thank them for their contributions.

7.2 Our emergency response team responded to several incidents over the weekend, assisting residents and providing flood pumps across the area. I would personally like to thank all the officers involved for all their efforts during the weekend.

8. Electric Charging Points

8.1 The final commissioning of the Electric Vehicle charging points within our car parks was completed during August. This includes a 22KV charger at Quaile Holme Road car park to allow the NatWest Bank electric bank vehicle to operate. Wyre have now installed 44 7KV, 2 22KW and 5 50KW chargers. All have been upgraded to accept chip and pin payment (allowing all to utilise).

9. Comments and questions

9.1 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.