

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	30 November 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** At the last Council Meeting, I reported the launch by the Police of - Operation Prosper. Whilst this initially targets organised crime in a specific area of Fleetwood, this will have an impact over the whole of Wyre and should benefit all areas.
- 2.2** Unfortunately when organized crime group's activity is reduced, there is always the potential for certain individuals to take advantage of the situation, and try and replace the activity. This process can often appear seamless and unfortunately the police working in isolation will not be able to prevent this process using enforcement alone.
- 2.3** The police need the help of the Community to assist them, and I am pleased to be able to advise members that a community engagement event will be held in the new year when I will be able to provide further details.

3. Housing

3.1 Homelessness Prevention

So far this year we have seen a total of 826 homelessness presentations to our Housing Options Service. The team is busy but officers are continuing to provide an effective service focused on preventing homelessness whenever possible. Officers work to find appropriate housing for clients in the social or private rented sectors and to minimise the use of temporary accommodation. However, there is an increasing pressure on the homelessness budgets and a greater use of the homelessness reserve may be necessary. This reflects a national trend and work is ongoing at a strategic level to try and address this.

3.2 Disabled Facilities Grant Funding

Between 1 April and 30 October our Disabled Facilities Grant Service has completed 139 disabled adaptations at a value of over £1.7m to support those with disabilities to live more independently at home. Additional cases have been allocated to officers to deliver against the £181,497 of extra funding we were awarded in September.

4. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

4.1 I am pleased to advise members that phase 1 of the project including the new sea wall are complete ahead of time and below budget. The memorial benches along this frontage are now being reinstated and the road will be opened by end of November.

4.2 Phase 2 of the works is well underway. Rock has continued to be installed in the tank traps area and good progress is being made. Approximately 30,000t of rock of the 140,000t of rock has now been delivered. The rock quarry stockpiles have been formed for Rossall South and the tank trap groynes stockpiling will then commence in the Fleetwood area. The construction of the crossover ramps continues and this work will move into the Cleveleys area shortly.

4.3 The piling platforms for the navigation markers have been delivered and installation has commenced. LCC have completed access works to the Northern Area compound with the compound works due to start this month.

4.4 On the evening of 5 November Lancashire Fire and Rescue attended a fire at the temporary works compound on Jubilee Gardens. There has been some damage to the compound hoarding, stored materials and a couple of contractor vehicles within the compound.

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.