

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	18 April 2024

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** During February the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) held an E-Scooter event at Asda Fleetwood. The event was organised in response to the number of complaints and accidents involving E-Scooters and is intended to raise awareness of the legalities of using E-Scooters and the current fire risks around the use and storage of the lithium batteries used to power them. Further events may be arranged later in the year.
- 2.2** During the course of the year we have worked with Child Safety Media and various partners within the CSP who have all signed up to support the crucial crew initiative this year. This is a project aimed at year 6 children and an event took place between the 19th – 23rd February at the Lofthouse building Fleetwood, where along with partners we delivered key community safety messages via a number of interactive presentations including:
- Anti-Social Behavior
 - Road Safety
 - Cyber Security Team
 - Drugs, Alcohol and Vaping
 - Basic First Aid
 - Water safety
 - Community Railway Safety
- 2.3** I along with the Chief Executive and other officers had the pleasure of attending the Redeeming our Communities (ROC) launch event at the North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood on February 28. During the event we looked at identifying areas where along with the community we can

make a difference to peoples lives in Fleetwood and where additional help may be required.

3. Housing

- 3.1** The Autumn Statement 2023 announced an additional £120 million to help councils address homelessness pressures and to support Ukrainians into settled accommodation in 2024-2025. We were awarded an extra £102,276 of Homelessness Prevention Grant and will use this funding to support those that are at risk of homelessness and to help fund the provision of temporary accommodation. Our original award for 2024-2025 was £287,741 and so our total allocation of Homelessness Prevention Grant will be £390,017 for the year.
- 3.2** Funding has been awarded to Lancashire County Council from the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) (for work alongside the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC)) to deliver the Government's aim that by 2024/25 there will be more people recovering from addiction in stable and secure housing as part of a programme of investment in treatment and recovery interventions. Funding has been allocated by the County Council to appoint a Strategic Lead Officer for Lancashire together with additional Housing Options Officers in each of the three Lancashire localities. We are to receive funding for a new Housing Options Officer post to work across Wyre and Fylde to support those with substance misuse issues. The post will be hosted by Fylde Council.
- 3.3** We have been selected to take part in a new Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities Healthy Homes Project to better understand the impact of housing enforcement interventions on health and wider societal outcomes. This is great news and over the next year we will receive up to £130,000 to fund additional housing enforcement officer capacity and other interventions such as communications support to increase the awareness of the health impacts of damp and mould with landlords, additional training and tools to measure damp and mould.

4. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

- 4.1** Phase 2 of the works is ongoing with rock installation will focussing on the northern area between the end of the Rossall scheme and Marine Lakes Fleetwood. A northern satellite compound has been set up and this will be the main focus of activities through the summer period. Rock deliveries have now commenced to this area. Concrete works are focusing on the Cleveleys crossover ramps and will continue until the bathing water season in May.
- 4.2** The Marine Management Organisation undertook a confirmatory visit on 26 February and they requested evidence of compliance documentation which has been provided.

4.3 A number of school visits and career days have been supported by the project team so far and continued support to community events will be ongoing during delivery of the scheme.

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.