

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	12 September 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 I am pleased to advise that the extensive work to upgrade the Town Centre CCTV monitoring system is now complete.
- 2.2 As I have advised previously this work was necessary to prevent the loss of system owing to its ageing technology. All 30 of the original analogue cameras have now been replaced with digital equivalents, and an additional two cameras provided in key locations within Fleetwood. The quality of the images captured by these cameras far exceeds that previously obtained, particularly during the hours of darkness, thereby ensuring that court standard evidence is collected at all times.
- 2.3 Upgrading of the system has also provided the opportunity to increase the resilience of the network by reducing its reliance on wireless connectivity. An additional four fibre connections have therefore been incorporated into the network design, significantly increasing the reliability of the signal from each town and increasing the capacity of the network to enable future expansion if required. Enhancement of the network's fibre connectivity has already been used to support the Cleveleys Together Partnership Board in the acquisition of four additional static cameras within known ASB hot spots within Cleveleys town centre. Works are currently underway to introduce CCTV to Jameson Road, Fleetwood as a means of addressing prolific fly-tipping in the area. Both projects are being delivered by external grant funding.
- 2.4 Upgrade of the system has also resulted in the relocation of the CCTV Control Room to a more spacious location within the Civic Centre, thereby increasing the monitoring capacity of the unit and significantly improving the work environment for the unit's volunteers, upon which operation of the service heavily relies. Enhancement of the technology

within the control room also means that live CCTV images can now be viewed remotely by Lancashire Constabulary thereby increasing their ability to actively monitor and respond to areas and incidents of concern. It is expected therefore that the new system will not only provide reassurance to residents and businesses alike that our town centres are being effectively monitored but will also assist in the effective policing of the borough.

- 2.5** Viewings of the new CCTV Unit can be made on request. An official launch of the new system is scheduled to take place later this month.

3. Jameson Road

- 3.1** The landfill site located on Jameson Road, Fleetwood continues to be closely monitored by a multi-agency group including representatives from the Environment Agency, NHS, United Kingdom Health Surveillance Agency and Wyre Council.
- 3.2** The site, which has been the subject of much odour complaint in recent months has now had extensive capping works completed by its operator Transwaste Recycling and Aggregates Limited. These works have been undertaken in response to a regulatory notice issued by the Environment Agency, who regulate the environmental permit for the site.
- 3.3** Whilst odour complaints associated with the site have reduced significantly since the site was first re-opened, complaints are still being received from residents describing gaseous odours, particularly in the evenings, overnight and in the early mornings. This situation is therefore being closely monitored by the Environment Agency, who have made clear their commitment to maintain an increased level of regulation at the site.
- 3.4** To help provide reassurance to the community in respects to any emissions from the site, a mobile monitoring facility is now in place at the council's Cope Road Depot which continuously monitors for substances such as methane, hydrogen sulphide and particulate matter. Whilst this equipment does not provide instant results, it will provide a robust and reliable measure of the air quality status in the vicinity of landfill over time; the results of which will be shared with the public as soon as they are available. In the meantime, both the Environment Agency and council's officers will continue to undertake regular odour monitoring in the area to inform the multi-agency approach to addressing the issue.
- 3.5** Updates on the Environment Agency's position will continue to be provided to the community via their dedicated webpage <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/cumbria-and-lancashire/information-on-jameson-road-landfill-fleetwood/>

4. Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

- 4.1** At the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire held on 23 July 2024, members considered the Annual Report which reviews the work carried out over the last financial year to deliver the priorities of the previous Commissioner Andrew Snowden, which he launched in 2021. This included reducing anti-social behaviour and the success of Operation Centurion, which has provided over 27,000 additional policing hours in hotspot areas, resulting in a 13% reduction in anti-social behaviour in those areas. Mention was also made to Operation Warrior, introduced to disrupt and dismantle criminal gangs, which has resulted in an average of 23 gang suspects being arrested every week; over £112,000 in cash being seized every month; and an average of 6kg of class A and B drugs taken off the streets every single week. Both interventions have included Fleetwood in their operational areas. It was also reported that from January to March 2024 the Road Policing Units had increased arrests by over 200% for speeding offences on both motorways and 30 mph areas. Arrests for mobile phone and seatbelt offences increased by over 50%.
- 4.2** The new Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, is seeking resident's views through a countywide survey ahead of setting the priorities for his Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire. The survey runs to 30 September and can be accessed on the website www.Lancashire-pcc.gov.uk. The Commissioner has highlighted the need to crack down on shoplifting and scooters and e-bikes ridden in a manner which constitutes anti-social behaviour.

5. Housing

5.1 Health and Housing Coordination Service - Municipal Journal Awards Finalists – Highly Commended

As one of the first pilot authorities funded by Lancashire County Council (LCC) Adult Social Care to deliver a Health and Housing Coordination Service (via our Care and Repair Team) we supported a submission into the MJ Awards in the Innovation in Housing category. The submission secured a place in the final and we joined LCC officers in presenting examples of how the service has supported patients returning home after a hospital stay. Support provided has included the moving of furniture so a hospital bed can be fitted, moving beds downstairs, fixing broken heating systems, providing emergency heating and fitting key safes. The service was Highly Commended.

5.2 Disabled Facilities Grant Delivery in 2023/24

In 2023/24 we completed 237 Disabled Facilities Grants to a value of £2,965,000. This work continues to support older and disabled residents to maintain their independence living at home.

6. Wyre Beach Management Scheme

- 6.1** I am pleased to report that the recently completed Phase 1 of the Wyre Beach Management Scheme has a National Considerate Constructors Bronze award to go along with the two National awards reported previously.
- 6.2** Delivery of Phase 2 of the works continues with the focus of the work during this period being on the northern area, working out of the Beach Road compound at Fleetwood. The rock works for the beach revetment between Rossall Coast watch tower and the Marine Lakes are scheduled for completion by the end of October 2024.
- 6.3** Concrete works have continued in the Fleetwood area with works focused on completion of crossover ramps and tie-ins to the existing coastal defences.
- 6.4** The first five flood gates on Cleveleys Promenade are complete. Work has commenced on the remaining gates, and they are due to be completed by the end of October.
- 6.5** Navigation markers are now fully installed and the contractor's programme scheduled is to complete the Fleetwood based works by December 2024.
- 6.6** The requirement of the Marine Management Organisation and Planning for a Beach Management Plan has now been completed. Plans for environmental improvements including rock pools have been prepared.

7. Working with Nature to Reduce Flooding and Improve Community Resilience

- 7.1** We are continuing to lead the regional innovation project Our Future Coast. The project formed a major part of the Northwest led national practitioners conference held at Blackpool in May. The project interfaces with a wide range of stakeholders to deliver landscape innovation on the coast, including collaboration, monitoring technology and delivery of nature-based solutions. Working with nine local authorities across 14 sites is allowing for demonstration of adaptation to coastal change driven by climate change.
- 7.2** The Wyre Natural Flood Management scheme is supported by Wyre as a contributor to the services. A scheme open day was held on 30 May 2024, linking beneficiaries, investors and landowners. The scheme has received significant national attention featuring at the Environment Agency Flood and Coast conference in particular.

8. Seaside Awards

- 8.1** In May, Keep Britain Tidy announced the winners of the Seaside Awards for England, celebrating the best beaches in England, excelling in quality, cleanliness, and diversity. Wyre successfully maintained four Seaside Award accredited beaches:

Fleetwood Marine Beach and Jubilee Beach designated as bathing beaches and Fleetwood Ferry Beach and Rossall Beach designated as non-bathing beaches.

- 8.2** To achieve this award the teams from environmental services, engineering services and communications work together to maintain the promenades, sea defences, signage, street cleansing and beaches. The local volunteer beach care groups provide invaluable support litter picking the beaches and sand dunes along coast with a number of visiting volunteer groups joining in the big beach cleans throughout the year.

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.