

Report of:	To:	Date	Item no.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	20 October 2016	8(e)

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. August Flooding Event

- 2.1** Members will recall the December flooding event that caused significant distress and disruption to residents across the borough. Unfortunately on 22 August a more localised but extreme flooding event occurred on the Wyre River catchment which peaked at Churchtown causing flooding to over 16 properties, some of which had only just been reoccupied.
- 2.2** Council officers worked with the community and partners to limit the effects of the flooding by the provision of sandbags, assistance with moving property and help with road closures. The fire and rescue service should be particularly thanked for their pumping out of flood water throughout the night.
- 2.3** The council has continued to assist residents during these distressing times, made more so by the short period between the two events. A very positive public meeting was held prior to the September flood forum to discuss any outstanding issues and to outline the proposed way forward. This includes:
- Provision of a pumping plan for Churchtown.
 - The Environment Agency (EA) to undertake modelling of the Wyre and to bring forward the Upper Wyre Flood Strategy which includes options for Slowing the Flow, Flood storage, Raising Embankments and Dredging of watercourses.
 - A resident visit has been arranged to the Garstang flood basin and the emergency control room at Bamber Bridge.
 - We are working to set up and support flood groups at Churchtown, Garstang, St Michaels, Thornton Cleveleys, Stalmine and Hambleton.

- Funding is available for “quick wins” for small projects to improve flood protection within communities, through Lancashire CC. Officers are to meet with LCC and the EA to identify suitable projects.

3. Rossall Coastal Defence Improvement Scheme

- 3.1** Rossall Coastal defence scheme is the largest coastal defence scheme in the UK and, to date, 1,750m of rock revetment and 12 of the 18 groynes have been completed. The beaches have continued to rise with sand being trapped between the rock groynes with great success.
- 3.2** Very good progress is being made on the concrete stepped revetments with 85% now in place. 60% of the new rear wall is also in place and a hydraulic crushing technique will be used to remove the rear wall, cutting down on disturbance to neighbouring properties. The whole area is really taking shape and the level of increased protection to the 7,500 homes protected by the new defences is evident.
- 3.3** The final landscaping designs have been accepted and works to the rear wall should commence imminently. The design for the ecology area has been significantly shaped through public consultation. The landscape works will continue beyond the construction completion date of November 2017 due to planting seasons, with an end date to these works of Spring 2018.

4. Bathing Water Quality and Water Management

- 4.2** In 2015 Fleetwood was rated excellent, following significant works undertaken at the treatment works and at Skippool, which allowed a step change application to be approved. Indications are that this rating will continue into 2016/17 season.
- 4.3** In 2015 Cleveleys bathing water narrowly missed receiving a satisfactory standard due to three poor samples in 2012 and one in 2013, including the very first sample taken in 2012, which recorded very high levels of pollution indicators skewing the results. 79 samples have been taken over a four year period, which have indicated that bathing water quality has been improving year on year. Good standards were achieved in 2014 and 2015 and are indicated for 2016. Following the publication of this year's results, the 2012 set of data will be replaced by the 2016 results. First indications are that the bathing water will meet the new bathing water standards in 2016, although this needs to be confirmed by DEFRA.
- 4.4** The council continues to support the Love my Beach campaign, which highlights the role communities and businesses have in maintaining the quality of our beaches and bathing waters. There are some excellent examples along our coast of community beach care groups forming and delivering positive improvements to the beach and water quality.

5. Environmental health

- 5.1** Every financial year we are required to provide the Food Standard Agency with detailed statistics on the performance of the Authority in conducting food safety inspections. Our figures this year indicate that we conducted 641 interventions and of the 1,138 establishments operating in Wyre on 31 March 2016, 89% were considered to be broadly compliant (achieving a national food hygiene rating of three or higher). During 2015/16 we issued five Simple Cautions, three Voluntary Closures, ten Improvement Notices, one Remedial Action Notice and 180 written warnings. 21 food complaint investigations and 21 food premises investigations were undertaken.
- 5.2** During 2015/16 we conducted the following Health and Safety inspections:

Type of Intervention	Number of Interventions completed
Face to Face visits	24
General Inspections	18
Gas Safety inspections	10
Tattoo Parlour inspections	16
Revisits	6
Prohibition Notice Served	1
Accident Investigations Undertaken	33
Number of Complaints investigated	12
Animal Petting Farm Inspections	4
Private Water Supply Risk Assessments	10

6. Community safety

- 6.1** We are playing our part in a project that aims to disrupt organised crime across Lancashire. The project allows partner agencies to share information on individuals or businesses suspected of being involved in organised crime.
- 6.2** Our CCTV Team have recently assisted the police in producing evidence towards a number of serious criminal cases in Wyre and Fylde, one of which resulted in a recent crown court appearance. Our CCTV volunteers have been pivotal in providing monitored footage of the incidents referred to in these cases and should be commended for their contribution to public safety. Lancashire police have stated how important CCTV footage has been in many cases that would otherwise have gone undetected.

7. Housing

- 7.1** A campaign is underway to encourage fuel poor households across Lancashire that have no central heating system to apply to the Lancashire Central Heating Fund secured by the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) partnership. The fund is managed by Blackburn with Darwen Council and residents should call 0336061488, email info@chil.uk.com or visit www.chil.uk.com to see if they qualify.

8. Comments and questions

- 8.1** 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.

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