

Report of:	To:	Date	Item no.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	1 December 2016	8(e)

<b>Executive Report: Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder</b>
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## 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. Domestic Violence White Ribbon Campaign

- 2.1 Together with community safety partners we are currently supporting sixteen days of action against domestic violence via the national White Ribbon Campaign. The awareness raising campaign started on 25 November 2016 and we are supporting the initiative in various ways.
- 2.2 The Environmental Health Team have appointed a new Health and Safety Officer who will be taking part in a collaborative project to raise awareness about domestic violence and its impact within the workplace. During the project he will be visiting twenty of the largest employers in the Borough to highlight the important role of employers in tackling the issue. 75% of those who endure domestic violence suffer from it at their place of work. Whilst it is often possible for victims to move home and for children to switch school it is usually the case that victims must keep working at the same place. The perpetrator is therefore able to find them. We will be asking employers to pledge support to "The Public Health Responsibility Deal" which is a great way for an organisation to corporately demonstrate its commitment to the fight against domestic violence. This commitment, by a company and its staff, recognises domestic violence and will raise further awareness of the issue across the Borough.

## 3. Prevent Strategy

- 3.1 We are currently training up our visiting officers to spot any signs of radicalisation exhibited by the clients they visit. The aim of the training being to identify any individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation at a pre-criminal stage and to refer them for intervention with appropriate partners.

#### **4. Police and Crime Commissioner Grant Support**

**4.1** We applied for grant support from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire for a project to provide intensive support for clients with complex needs that include those with substance misuse issues, a history of offending and mental health issues. The project is intended to build upon a successful pilot overseen by the Housing Options Team and funded by the Government's single homeless initiative that has already seen seventy two clients supported to maintain crime free lives in the community. The Police and Crime Commissioner has awarded £10,000 towards the continuation project and we will now be working to secure a further £20,000 to fund the project for a further year.

#### **5. Flooding Events Resilience**

**5.1** In October I reported on the progress made and the assistance provided to the flood victims by the council and its partners following the recent flooding events.

**5.2** Key areas that the council has been leading on include:

- Promotion of household resilience measures supported by a Government grant of £5,000 for properties flooded during the December events. Officers have been working hard to raise the profile of the grants and ensure the resilience measures proposed will function correctly. Where individuals are not taking up the grant offer the potential for community resilience schemes is being pursued. The grant applications process will close this month.
- Supporting flood action groups, officers continue to assist with the setting up of the groups and improving communication and updating Wyre's emergency flood plans based on local knowledge. Issues can then be resolved through the Wyre Flood Forum which is seen as national best practice but still remains the only one in Lancashire.
- The Leader and I recently attended a meeting of the Churchtown Flood Action Group along with the Council's Head of Engineering.

#### **6. Rossall Coastal Defence Improvement Scheme**

**6.1** Cabinet members and Senior Officers visited the site on 16th November and I am pleased to report that excellent progress continues to be made on the UK's largest coastal defence scheme.

#### **7. Bathing Water Quality and Water Management**

**7.1** In the recently published classification of England's bathing waters by DEFRA, Fleetwood and Cleveleys have both been rated good. This is an improvement on the poor result Cleveleys received in 2015/16 and despite a reduced classification for Fleetwood it narrowly missed an excellent result in 2016 with just one poor sample result in July this year affecting the overall result. The council continues to support the Love my Beach campaign, which highlights the role communities and business have in maintaining the quality of our beaches and bathing waters. Recent successes have included organising regular volunteer beach cleans and raising the issue of Wet Wipes as none flushable

items. Many of the none flushable items cause blockages in the sewer system leading to spillages onto the beaches. Additionally, officers continue to work with partner organisations across the Fylde, through the Fylde Peninsular Water Management Group and on the regional Turning Tides Group, to promote and improve the coastal frontage, which is essential to our visitor economy and wellbeing of residents.

## **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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