

Report of:	To:	Date	Item no.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	6 September 2018	7(e)

<p>Executive Report: Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder</p>
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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. Community Safety

Funding bid to support the victims of domestic violence

- 2.1** Almost £19 million of funding to expand support for survivors of domestic abuse services across England was launched in July by the Secretary of State for Communities. Councils working in partnership with charities and other organisations are able to bid for a share of funding to support survivors of domestic abuse. Funding is available for a wide range of services to help survivors rebuild their lives; including the provision of refuge beds, education, and employment and life skills training. This funding builds on £20 million allocated in 2016 to 2018 which has helped provide more than 2,200 new bed spaces in refuges and other specialist accommodation, supporting more than 19,000 survivors with a safe space to rebuild their lives.
- 2.2** A joint bid is being pulled together between Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Councils with the priority for Wyre being the continuation of support to Fylde Coast Women's Aid to provide counselling resources and extra refuge hours to enable the refuge to support complex needs victims. In addition the bid will request additional funding for a Children and Family Safeguarding Worker to be based within the refuge to work with eligible victims both within the refuge and in the wider community.

Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

- 2.3** In his report at a recent meeting of the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire the Police and Crime Commissioner indicated that the All Crime figure for Lancashire has increased by 18% over the last 12 months which is above the national figure of 13% but below the NW region figure of 23%. Some of this increase is attributable to increased crime reporting but there have been increases in non-injury assaults, less serious injury assaults, harassment and public order offences. Domestic abuse crime continues to increase but Anti-Social Behaviour is down. These trends are also evident in Wyre.
- 2.4** HM Inspector of Constabulary have carried out an inspection report on vulnerability (mental health and domestic abuse) and strategic capabilities and rated the Lancashire Force with an overall grade of good.
- 2.5** The Commissioner has promised to present to the Panel reports on the management of the policing of the Fylde fracking site, victim user satisfaction rates with the Police (which are decreasing) and the HM Inspector of Constabulary's Inspection Report on child protection where significant improvements have been made to address earlier adverse comments.
- 2.6** The Panel unanimously rejected the Commissioners justification to appoint a deputy, which is a political appointment. They did not consider such an appointment was appropriate at this time especially in the climate of pressures on policing in Lancashire. Despite this the Commissioner has indicated he will still go ahead with the appointment. The successful candidate will be subject to a confirmation hearing before the Panel.
- 2.7** A draft business plan was presented to the Panel on behalf of the Commissioner relating to options for future police and fire service governance in Lancashire. On hearing the views of the Panel the Commissioner indicated that in his talks with Lancashire Fire and Rescue he would now concentrate on ways the two services could collaborate together rather than issues of governance.

3. Private Sector Housing

Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation - update

- 3.1** Following recent changes to legislation regarding the licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO), mandatory HMO licensing has been extended to include properties of one and two stories; previously properties were only licensable if they were three stories or more. Relevant properties need to apply for a licence from 1 October 2018.
- 3.2** In preparation for this implementation date the Housing Team was written to over 30 local letting agents and over 40 known landlords to advise them of these changes and to identify any properties that will require a licence from October 2018. A database is being collated of all additional properties that require licensing to ensure an efficient transition when the new arrangements begin.

4. Wyre Beach Management

- 4.1** Approval has been given to undertake studies to the value of £412,000 to develop a business case for the first phase of the proposed beach management scheme between the Cleveleys boundary and Fleetwood Ferry Dock. The studies will:
- provide an understanding of the existing ground conditions
 - identify any environmental constraints and opportunities.
 - update existing bathymetric (the shape and profile of the seabed) and sediment modelling.
 - review and update coastal process information.
 - determine the shoreline evolution over a period of 30 years and to determine the associated wave and tide conditions.
 - determine a sediment budget along the frontage over the next 30 years. The latest anticipated sea level rise will be taken into account.
- 4.2** The studies will be supplemented by additional monitoring data including Radar data capture and the development of a community based consultation and evidence platform.
- 4.3** The approved 2013 Wyre Urban Core Strategy estimates the first phase of works at £22 million and identifies over 11,000 properties reliant on the beach defences to sustain their level of protection. The Strategy recommends that the best value for money option is concrete repairs to the promenade, seawall and revetments with beach management (groynes and recharge). Funding opportunities towards improvements to the promenade open space will also be sought but it should be recognised that Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) is directed at protection to properties only.

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.