

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder	Council	28 November 2013	8(e)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER
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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 Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Update on the progression of the Wyre Big Lottery Fulfilling Lives : Ageing Better bid

2.1 The Community Foundation for Lancashire has been selected as the Lead Organisation to progress the Wyre Big Lottery Fulfilling Lives: Ageing Better bid. A Core Partnership has been created to strategically oversee the development of a bid focussing upon our four thematic older people service delivery areas of: Carers, Disability, Mental Health and Rural Communities.

2.2 We have submitted a bid for £20,000 of Partnership Development Funding that, if successful, will be used to develop a vision and strategy to take the bid forward. We expect to hear if the bid for development funding has been successful in early January 2014.

3. Licensing

3.1 The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, is currently in the process of being implemented by the Council's Licensing section. Local Authorities continue to act as the main regulator, but the Act gives more powers, including the power to refuse a license and powers to revoke licenses if a dealer is considered unsuitable. Both the Council and the Police have been given powers to enter and inspect premises. A person cannot carry on business as a scrap metal dealer in Wyre unless authorised by a licence issued by this Council under the Act. Anyone found to be carrying on business as a scrap metal dealer without a licence is in breach of the Act and could be found guilty of an offence and be liable to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standards scale (£5000).

4. Community Safety

4.1 A Taking Pride in Poulton - 14 – 18 October 2013

Wyre Council, Lancashire Police, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards, Care and Repair and other agencies joined forces for a week of action during October. Two reassurance road shows were held in the town, where officers from these agencies and local councillors were on hand to talk to residents about their concerns and offer practical help and advice. The authorities also carried out a range of community safety initiatives including:

- 3500 leaflets were delivered to every home in the wards of Poulton to advise residents on fire safety, anti-social behaviour, cold callers, internet safety, domestic abuse and bulky waste removal.
- 68 neighbourhood perception surveys were carried out with members of the public.
- 22 home fire safety check referrals were generated.
- Wyre Council and Trading Standards officers jointly visited three licensed premises in Poulton. A small number of minor breaches of the Licensing Act were uncovered for which one designated premises supervisor was verbally cautioned and follow up visits are planned.
- Trading Standards gave advice to residents on scams and doorstep crime issues.
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service distributed warning notices on cold calling doorstep traders to residents in High Cross.
- Bike security kits, crime prevention materials and purse dipping prevention packs were handed out to members of the public.
- Local licensees were supported with the re-launch of Poulton Pub Watch, a national scheme that aims to create safer social drinking environments in pubs and clubs.
- Taking Pride in Poulton was supported by community members of Poulton who assisted with public engagement and we thank them for their participation.

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.