



Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder	Council	14 July 2011	10 (e)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES 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 Portfolio.

2. Current and Future Issues

- 2.1 Summary information is included in Appendix 1 on the following issues:

- Food safety
- Environmental protection
- Community safety (diversity)
- Rossall Coastal Defence Scheme
- Home energy efficiency
- Disabled Facility Grants
- Fylde Coast Choice Based Lettings Scheme
- Supporting People schemes for residents with complex needs

3. In accordance with Procedure Rule 10.3 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 10.5.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE – July 2011

1. Food Safety.

1.1 The National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is having a positive effect on food establishments. Businesses were initially informed of their rating at the beginning of April prior to the data being formally launched on 1 June. As we had hoped would happen some are now ringing the Commercial Safety Section with a desire to improve their rating and the requests are being dealt with alongside the programmed inspection regime.

Mobile caterers are also included in the scheme and this will enable event organisers to include the ratings as part of their checks on those selling food at their events.

2. Environmental Protection.

2.1 On the 28 June 2011 the Environmental Protection Team will be participating in a County Wide emergency planning exercise testing the Counties emergency procedures to deal with a coastal oil pollution incident. The event will be held at Marine Hall, Fleetwood. The Environmental Protection team have produced a Wyre Council specific plan for dealing with such an incident, which will be tested during the exercise. The exercise will be used to review and improve existing plans and improve the confidence of the participants to deal with a real emergency of this nature. Whilst it has always been known that such incidents can occur the Riverdance ferry emergency, high-lighted how easy such an incident could occur.

3. Community Safety (Diversity issues)

3.1 Lewis Turner (Wyre Community Safety Officer), Nicki Bignell and Aneta Husejko have been nominated by Lancashire Constabulary for the Diversity in Action Award for Jane's Police Review Awards 2011 at the Hilton Park Lane Hotel in London on 3 November.

3.2 Lewis has worked Closely with the Police Team and has on numerous occasions advised the Police in Diversity issues. His work with the Travellers has also been recognised.

3.3 He works closely with PS Nicky Bignall and Aneta at Lancaster within the travellers community. He has previously worked with PS Karen Hall and has been an asset in highlighting Hate Crime issues.

3.4 Lewis has developed sustained relationships with Blackpool and agencies throughout Lancashire on Diversity and Hate Crime issues and has gained the respect of several senior Officers in the field. This includes the recently produced Policy Document for Wyre to advise the Council on the Travelling Community.

4. Rossall Coastal Defence Scheme

- 4.1 Each year Risk Management Authorities (including Wyre) are invited to submit details of proposed flood and coastal erosion flood management works which require funding for the next five years. The proposals are captured in a table known as the Medium Term Plan (MTP). The MTP from each region is combined onto one table to give an indication of investment needs across England.
- 4.2 The yearly allocation of Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) is prioritised to ensure projects provide good value for money and achieve the national targets. For the 2012/13 allocation process, Defra's new funding approach for prioritising funding to capital schemes will be adopted.
- 4.3 The key change is that, from 2012/13 onwards, Government will offer a fixed amount of grant to any project, based on the outcomes it will deliver. Projects whose costs do not qualify for full FDGiA funding will require cost savings to be found and/or local contributions to proceed.
- 4.4 An application for inclusion of the Rossall scheme on the Environment Agency's MTP will be made by the end of June. To this end officers are currently completing the economic business case, which will inform the process. The formal approved MTP will be published in the New Year.

5. Home Energy Efficiency

- 5.1 Officers are currently exploring opportunities that could arise from Governments new 'Green Deal' – a new approach to encouraging householders to make their homes more energy efficient that funds the cost of works associated with improving a homes energy efficiency from future savings on energy bills.

6. Disabled Facilities Grants

- 6.1 To date 17 Disabled Facilities Grants have been completed to a value of £149,000.

7. Fylde Coast Choice Based Lettings Scheme

- 7.1 A considerable amount of work is now underway on the implementation of the Fylde Coast Choice Based Lettings Scheme. The implementation process required in order to introduce a sub regional choice based lettings scheme requires a whole series of tasks to be completed by a range of different partners. A timetable for implementation has been agreed in order to manage the entire implementation process and the related tasks. Working groups have been established to ensure required activity is completed to timescale.

8. Supporting People Schemes for Wyre residents with complex needs

- 8.1** Following successful bids for funding to Lancashire Supporting People two schemes have recently been given the go ahead for delivery (post CSR). The first scheme is to develop supported accommodation for single homeless and couples with complex needs and the second is a non-accommodation based scheme to support single adults and families with complex needs in North Fleetwood. These schemes will both help prevent homelessness, assist people to develop the skills to live independently and address the wider determinants of homelessness such as drug and alcohol misuse, antisocial behaviour etc. Following a tender process officers from the Council and Supporting People will now work with the successful providers, Creative Support Ltd and Fylde Coast YMCA to deliver these schemes.

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