

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder	Council	23 January 2014	8(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, as set out below.

2. Flood Events

- 2.1 Tidal flood events occurred on 5 December 2013, 3 and 6 January 2014. The events involved exceptionally high tides caused by a low pressure induced tidal surge on top of a spring tide. The event on 5 December also involved strong westerly winds.

5 December Event

- 2.2 The flood event on 5 December 2013 took place between 11:30 and 13:30. It involved a 1.1m surge on a 10.1m tide at Fleetwood. SW winds of 60mph occurred from 10:00 swinging over the high tide period to the NW. The event is anticipated to be classified in excess of a 1 in 30 year event. Significant overtopping and windblown spray occurred over much of the coastal frontage, with high water levels triggering flood warnings at Skippool and Hambleton.
- 2.3 Cleveleys promenade road was closed, significant flooding occurred to Princess Way road at Blackpool and damage was sustained to much of the dune frontage at Fleetwood. The lagoon area was substantially full at the conclusion of the event and a substantial quantity of water was present on Fairway, although this was passable. Extensive damage occurred to the promenade furniture and lifesaving equipment. Fleetwood leisure centre basement was flooded, causing its closure. Extensive flooding occurred to roads at Knott End, with internal property flooding reported to two properties on St Bernards Road. Sandbags were deployed at Hambleton due to high river levels.
- 2.4 Actions taken during the event were in accordance with the Council's flood plan. These included inspection of defences, installing of flood boards, and closure of flood gates, as required. Due to the warnings given, Engineering team maintenance staff from Copse Road depot

were deployed to Fleetwood Leisure Centre. Roving inspection of the defences was undertaken by engineering officers and sandbags were delivered to drop off areas at Poulton, Thornton and Knott End. Key known vulnerable people were also visited.

3 January Event

- 2.5 The flood event on 3 January 2014 took place between 11:00 and 13:00. Overtopping and windblown spray occurred over much of the coastal frontage, with high water levels triggering flood warnings at Thornton, Skippool and Hambleton.
- 2.6 Cleveleys promenade road was closed, flooding occurred to Fairway in Fleetwood but this was passable. Marine Hall car park had up to 75mm of water on it but there were no reported issues with flooding to shoreline properties. There was minor flooding to roads at Knott End and sandbags were deployed at Hambleton and to vulnerable properties at Skippool, due to high river levels.
- 2.7 Actions taken during the event were in accordance with the Council's flood plan. These included inspection of defences and installing of boards, and closure of flood gates as required. Following the previous flood event improvements to the flood plan had been instigated including deployment of area teams from grounds maintenance and street cleansing to supplement engineering maintenance staff. Roving inspection and monitoring of the situation was undertaken by senior engineering officers. Sandbags were delivered to drop off areas at Poulton, Thornton and Knott End and there was a significant demand for the sandbags driven by media warnings and reports of flooding to the south west earlier in the day. Key known vulnerable people were visited and information was cascaded to partner organisations.

6 January Event

- 2.8 With strong westerly winds and a surge tide on top of a predicted 9.8m tide at 14:40, a waggon with sandbags was deployed to Cleveleys. A flood warning was issued at Hambleton and checks were made immediately prior to the high tide, but no resulting action was required. Checks were also made to Sunnyside Terrace due to significant rainfall although no issues were noted. There were difficulties at Skippool due to a tidal flap to Horsebridge Dyke being kept open by debris. The Environment Agency requested assistance and properties were warned of potential evacuation. The Council supplied men and a wagon with sandbags and informed vulnerable residents in the area. Poulton Community Centre was put on standby but the high tide passed without significant incident. The Environment Agency worked to remove the blockage following the high tide.

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

- 3.1 We have been successful in securing a Big Lottery Development Grant of £20,000 for the next stage of the Wyre Fulfilling Lives Ageing Better Bid. In line with the proposed activities submitted within our application we will now use this money to further develop the partnership and to

develop and submit a clear, ambitious and focused Vision and Strategy document by April 2014.

- 3.2 A strategic planning session with partners from across the four thematic service areas of: Carers, Disability, Mental Health and Rural Communities will be taking place at the Wyre Together event (at Thornton Methodist Church) on 29 January 2014.

4.1 Funding awarded to support a Winter Warmth Initiative for winter 13/14

- 4.1 Following the demise of the Government's Warm Homes Healthy People Fund an opportunity arose for the Council to bid for Lancashire County Council Public Health funding to support a winter programme of support to reduce hospital admissions and reduce winter illnesses / deaths among vulnerable households at risk due to cold weather.
- 4.2 We led on a bid on behalf of Wyre and Fylde Councils and have been notified that we were successful. We have been awarded £92,750. Care and Repair are the designated lead agency acting as a first point of contact and assessing referrals for eligibility. A wide range of interventions including emergency heating repairs, Caring Neighbour support, fuel tariff advice, lifeline pendants and safe and warm packs are now available from across a broad range of third sector partners and Care and Repair.

5. Environmental Health

- 5.1 Wyre Council Food Safety Section have during the last 6 months introduced a variety of initiatives to increase efficiency in dealing with low to medium risk establishment inspections, such as providing immediate hand written reports at the time of the inspection.
- 5.2 At the end of each financial year Wyre Council provide detailed statistics to the Food Standard Agency of all the enforcement activity undertaken within food establishments during the course of the year. The statistics indicate that the trend with regard to identified broadly non-compliant food establishments is fairly consistent at around 15%.
- 5.3 Broadly non-compliant establishments are usually high risk premises and they achieve a food hygiene rating between 0 and 2. The Food Standard Agency has advised that Local Authorities must prioritise work to improve these establishments. Wyre Council plans to target these establishments with increased enforcement action during 2014/15. Enforcement action of any kind is time consuming and therefore resource, currently used for Low to Medium risk inspections will be redirected into this area of work.

6. Community Safety

- 6.1 The Community Safety team continues to develop the "eyes Campaign" – a series of signs featuring a pair of eyes and a key message to the public. These have featured "lock it or lose it" signs in car parks. The Road Safety Group have displayed "Slow Down – If you value your life" signs on Amounderness Way which will soon be transferred to another

road accident hot spot area and be replaced by “Drivers and cyclists are more alike than you think – lets look out for each other” signs.

- 6.2** Operationally the CCTV Control room was open for a substantial time over the festive period being usually manned on the days before Christmas and New Year from 11am to 11pm and on New Year’s Eve until 4am. This shows the commitment to delivering this service for the community by volunteers and the CCTV manager. The service is giving significant assistance to the police in preventing crime and anti social behaviour within town centres both during the day and the evenings and recently monitored the promenade and sea defences at Cleveleys and Fleetwood during the storm conditions.

7. Comments and Questions

- 7.1** 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.