

| Report of: | To: | Date | Item No. |
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| Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder | Council | 22 January 2015 | 20(e) |

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| Executive Report January 2015: 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. Sea defences, promenade improvements and marine lakes

- 2.1 Works on the Rossall coastal defences are continuing, with rock deliveries at an accelerated rate. Five rock groynes have been constructed to date, with approximately 60,000 tonnes of rock delivered to site. Piling operations are due to commence in February.
- 2.2 Marine lakes: Works commenced to the Marine Lakes, part of Five for Fleetwood on 12 December. The lakes have been cleared of windblown sand material, increasing the available depth of water when they are refilled in February/ March. Concreting works to replace the existing aprons commenced on 20 December with egress steps installed at 20m intervals. New pathways around the lakes have also been constructed.
- 2.3 Works to the sea defences continue including the replacement of damaged handrailing along the Cleveleys frontage and the replacement of 70 lamps to the rear of the sea wall. The remaining 40 lighting units to the promenade will be undertaken during January.
- 2.4 Rossall beach promenade has also been improved by cleaning of the front sea wall, repointing of the rear wall and resurfacing of the promenade. The drainage system has also been refurbished and a new concrete access ramp installed allowing access to the upper level at 5 bar gate.

3. Environmental health issues

3.1 The Food Information Regulations 2014

From 13 December 2014, all food businesses (e.g. restaurants, takeaways, bakeries and delicatessens) must declare any of 14 identified allergenic ingredients, which are used in non-prepacked or loose foods that are sold or provided.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/multimedia/pdfs/publication/loosefoodsleaflet.pdf>

Food Labelling regulations are usually enforced by county or unitary council's trading standards departments. However, these regulations have been written to enable district councils to enforce them as well. Wyre Council's Environmental Health Team have therefore agreed a revised Memorandum of Understanding with Lancashire County Council. As part of the agreement, Wyre Council will advise businesses located in their area selling loose food, on how to comply with the above Regulations during food hygiene inspections. To assist in this process Lancashire County Council provided training for all Lancashire Environmental Health Officers on the 9 January 2015, at the Civic Centre.

3.2 Food safety - audit

The Food Standards Agency regularly conduct audits of local authority food law enforcement functions, to improve the consistency and effectiveness of enforcement. In November 2014, the Food Standards Agency published an audit programme summary report on Shellfish Traceability and Authenticity. The reason for undertaking this particular Audit was that the Food and Veterinary Office had raised concern over the level and consistency of controls across the UK, in particular, with regards to the traceability and authenticity of product placed on the market. The Food Standard Agency followed 6 audit trails which led to the audit of 11 coastal local authorities, Wyre Council being one of them. The Food Standards Agency have made 10 key recommendations to improve communication between local authorities and harvesters of shellfish, distributors and suppliers to the public and the records each keep, so as to improve the authenticity and traceability of these foods.

3.3 Environmental health

In order to promote consistency across Lancashire, officers working on environmental health functions identified a training gap in practical regulatory / enforcement skills. Tailored courses have been developed and a training programme for all environmental health enforcement officers across the county has been undertaken over the last 12 months. During January Wyre Council hosted 2 of these courses allowing Wyre employees to improve their enforcement skills.

4. Community safety issues

4.1 White Ribbon Campaign

In many cases domestic abuse remains a hidden crime, which the international White Ribbon Campaign aims to change by taking a preventative approach, by encouraging men to promote a change of attitude and to use their voice to raise awareness and make a stand against this form of abuse. Within the UK a national campaign has been operating for a number of years and further information is available on

the following link.

<http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk/node/302>

Lancashire County council was accredited to the campaign in 2013, and this year it is hoped that all the district authorities, including Wyre, will work towards accreditation. As part of the campaign Wyre ran an awareness day in December 2014 at the Civic Centre, where 88 individuals pledged support for the campaign, of which 44 were male. Wyre Council together with Lancashire County Council are currently in the process of drafting an action plan, to progress this important area of work further.

4.2 Fylde and Wyre CCTV collaboration

On 8 January 2015, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, signed an agreement with representatives from Fylde Council to provide a collaborative CCTV monitoring service. The technical work involved in the project to adapt the Wyre Council Control room to enable cameras located at Lytham, St Anne's and Kirkham to be viewed here at Wyre, will then be undertaken. It is estimated that the physical aspect of the project will be completed by May 2015. Volunteers will continue to provide the monitoring service including the busy Christmas period, which is highly valued by local police.

4.3 Cottam Hall, Community Garden

In December 2014, Wyre entered into an agreement with Groundwork to develop the Community Garden at Cottam Hall, Poulton. Groundwork will provide the horticultural experience necessary to assist volunteers develop the garden. One of the aims of the project is for the garden to become self-sustainable. A key partner for the project is the faith based group Comfort Zone, who have particular links to homeless individuals based in Wyre and Blackpool, who they currently provide meals for. The aim would be to involve some of their clients in the activities of the garden.

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.