

Report of:	To:	Date	Item no.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Council	21 January 2016	8(e)

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

- 2.1 Wyre Council CCTV control room operated throughout the festive season, with volunteers providing a vital link between the police and the community. This year for the first time the control room provided support to both Wyre and Fylde Councils. The control room was open for 72 hours during the festive period and responded to 59 incidents. I would like to thank the volunteers for their continued hard work it is very much appreciated.
- 2.2 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a variety of measures to protect the public from terrorism including powers to seize documents , exclusion powers , terrorism prevention and investigation measures. Part 5 of the Act places a new duty on specified authorities (which includes Wyre Council) when they are exercising their functions to “have regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.
- 2.3 The process by which people are drawn into terrorism and child sexual exploitation using on-line access is very similar, and is known as grooming. By giving the community the tools to recognise attempted grooming it is hoped that Wyre Council can help disrupt this activity. During 2016, financial resources will be redirected within Environmental Health & Community Safety to improve the Council response to the above concerns.

## 3. Housing Services Update

- 3.1 Lancashire County Council budget cuts announcement – potential impact on housing related support funded by Supporting People.

- 3.2** Lancashire County Council has announced its intention to cease non-statutory Supporting People funding from 1 April 2017. Funding will still be available to meet the statutory duties owed by the County Council to young people who are homeless or care leavers. However funding will be significantly less than is currently available for existing Supporting People funded young people's services.
- 3.3** Supporting People funding in Lancashire currently helps vulnerable people achieve or maintain independent living through the provision of housing-related support services.
- 3.4** Whilst the full extent of the cuts and impacts upon existing housing related support services in Wyre have yet to be determined, current recipients of Supporting People funded services in Wyre include clients from a number of vulnerable groups including: older people, those with mental health and disability related problems and socially excluded groups such as young people leaving care, young people at risk, women at risk of domestic violence, single homeless people with support needs and offenders.
- 3.5** The County Council has committed to work with providers and other stakeholders to explore the options and implications of the cuts and to consult on implementation.
- 3.6** A consultation response to the County Council on the potential impact of the cuts to the Supporting People Programme has been submitted.

#### **4. Rossall Coastal Defence Improvement Scheme**

- 4.1** Good progress continues to be made on the UK's largest coastal defence scheme. To date over 100,000 tonnes of rock, 2,000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete and 940m of piles have been placed. Seven groyne bays are now complete.
- 4.2** Pre cast beach access step units are due to be placed this week and pre cast revetment units will commence placement by March.
- 4.3** The United Utilities outfall passes under the defences at the Chatsworth Avenue entrance. In order to safeguard this important infrastructure permanent bridging over works will commence this month.
- 4.4** There were no issues over the Christmas break despite the strong winds.

#### **5. Comments and questions**

- 5.1** 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.