



Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder	Council	26 January, 2012	9(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:

- Reducing carbon emissions and well prepared for the effects of climate change
- Community Safety
- Helping vulnerable people to live independently in their own homes

3. 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.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE – January 2012

1. Reducing carbon emissions and well prepared for the effects of climate change

1.1 Free loft and cavity wall insulation available for all Wyre homes

Following some great news just before Christmas we are able to present the residents of Wyre with a fantastic opportunity – free loft and cavity wall insulation. Working in partnership with eight other District Councils in Lancashire, Lancashire County Council and HIS Energy Ltd we have been able to secure considerable funding from energy providers for the installation of free loft and cavity wall insulation for residents. This is a fantastic opportunity that will help our residents save money on their energy bills, improve health, cut carbon emissions and safeguard local jobs in the insulation industry. A marketing campaign is being coordinated to ensure that we maximise the number of residents that benefit from the offer. The offer is subject to property survey. No ceiling for the number of installations to be installed under this initiative has currently been set by the energy providers, but we consider it wise to encourage interested residents to apply as soon as possible. Residents should be referred directly to Home Insulation Services on 0800 012 1804.

2. Community Safety

2.1 From January, 2012 the Home Office is arranging a series of 17 events across England and Wales with the intention of aiding local discussions and preparations for the arrival of Police and Crime Commissioners in November 2012. The event for Cumbria and Lancashire will be held in Lancaster on 24 January. The session will provide the opportunity for partners to consider how they can work together to prepare for the incoming Commissioner.

3. Help vulnerable people to live independently in their own homes.

3.1 Warm Homes Healthy People Fund – Bid Success

Working with Fylde Council we submitted a bid to the Department of Health's Warm Homes Healthy People Fund and just before Christmas we found out the bid was successful. The bid will enable us to deliver coordinated advice, information and support to help keep vulnerable households safe, warm and well during the winter months. The initiative will coordinate activity across health, social care and the third and voluntary sectors amongst others. The level of funding has yet to be confirmed but we expect it to be in the region of £50,000. The success of the bid serves as important recognition from the Department of Health, of the importance of warmer homes and activity on addressing fuel poverty in reducing cold related winter deaths, hospital admissions and illness.

Disabled Facilities Grants

- 3.2** Up to the end of December we have delivered 100 Disabled Facilities Grants and our programme is ahead of schedule for the delivery of our 2011/12 funding allocation.

- 3.3** With our ageing population, demand for Disabled Facilities Grants continues to increase in Wyre and we are currently waiting to hear if we will be awarded an additional funding allocation from Government following an announcement on 3 January 2012 that nationally an additional £20m is to be allocated for DFGs by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

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