



Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Leader of the Council	Council	1 December 2011	9(a)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To bring Members up to date on several issues.

2. Current and Future Issues

2.1 I wish to draw the following items to your attention:

- Neighbourhood Engagement in Wyre
- Wyreside Bi-election
- Business Plan

3. Neighbourhood Engagement in Wyre

3.1 On the 7 December 2011 Cabinet will consider a report on Neighbourhood Engagement in Wyre. The purpose of the report will be to agree the approach to neighbourhood engagement, which builds on the existing relationships with Parish and Town Councils, community groups and recognises the potential of PACT meetings. The proposed approach will utilise Parish and Town Councils, where they exist as agents for engaging with our neighbourhoods. They play an important role and are in touch with the neighbourhoods they represent, have a good understanding of local priorities and can reach residents that do not attend traditional meetings. In areas where Parish and Town Councils do not exist we will use existing residents groups or community groups, such as Rossall Beach Residents Association, CROP (Concerned Residents of Poulton) and TAG (Thornton Action Group). It is hoped that any crime and anti-social behaviour issues can be discussed at PACT meetings which cover the whole of the borough, based on wards and are readily accessible to both residents and Elected Members alike. The Police have already indicated that they are committed to continuing to support these meetings and are keen to share engagement mechanisms.

3.2 The roles of the Elected Members are key to providing the link between the community and the Council. Their role will be:

- Championing the needs of their community
- Flagging up local priority issues
- Addressing and resolving community issues
- Ensuring that the services provided by the Council meet the needs of residents.

3.3 The involvement of elected Members will promote the valuable role that they play as backbench councillors and allow them to develop stronger relationships with their constituents. Involving residents in decision-making will enhance the whole democratic process. The accountability and credibility of all councillors will be strengthened through their work with local communities.

4. Wyreside Bi-election

4.1 The Wyreside Bi-election took place Thursday 27 October 2011 and I am delighted to announce that Cllr Vivien Taylor was elected as the County Councillor for Wyreside. I wish her well in her new role and am confident that she will represent the electorate in an honourable and professional manner.

5. Business Plan

5.1 How we report performance has changed. The previous process was cumbersome and because of deadlines and sequence of meetings that often resulted in out of date information being presented to Members. In addition, Cabinet Members need to be held to account specifically in respect of performance and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the appropriate committee to challenge and question Cabinet Members on performance. The quarterly report on progress of the Business Plan was considered by Management Board at their meeting on the 9 November and Overview and Scrutiny Members received the report on the 24 November in readiness for their meeting on the 12 December. I am sure Members of Overview and Scrutiny will welcome the opportunity to challenge Members of Cabinet on this matter.