

Report of:	To:	Date of Publication	Item No.
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Portfolio Holder	Council	26 July 2012	10(e)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: NEIGHBOURHOOD PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Council of the current position on a number of issues within the Neighbourhood Services Portfolio.

2. Current and Future Issues

(a) Climate Change

- 2.1 The council will shortly start publishing greenhouse gas emission figures for buildings on our estate. This is something that the Department of Energy and Climate Change has requested of all local authorities and we are in a good position to report on this.

(b) Housing

- 2.2 Funding has been secured to provide emergency heating and energy efficiency measures in the homes of vulnerable residents ready for the winter. Money will also be available for projects addressing cold privately rented homes in order to reduce ill health and hospital admissions. The funding has come via North Lancashire PCT following the successful Keep Warm Keep Safe Stay Well partnership last winter.
- 2.3 Disabled Facilities Grants to the tune of £168,174 have already been completed in the first quarter of 2012/13, helping 36 vulnerable residents stay independent at home.
- 2.4 A new modelling tool is being developed to assess the supported housing needs of people funded via the current Supporting People programme. The needs model has been proposed across Lancashire to assess individual district needs (and potentially funding) across the following groups:

- older people
- people with learning disabilities
- people with physical and sensory disabilities
- mental health
- homeless households
- substance misusers
- offenders
- young people
- domestic abuse
- refugees and travellers.

The model has been presented to the Districts and is being evaluated by the Supporting People Team at Lancashire County Council and representatives from the Supporting People Commissioning Board.

(c) Bathing water update

- 2.5** Our bathing water is tested weekly by the Environment Agency between May and September and on two occasions Cleveleys has failed to meet mandatory standards. With only one failure permitted, this means that the bathing water at Cleveleys has automatically failed for the 2012 season under the current Bathing Water Directive.
- 2.6** Likely reasons are the heavy rainfall before and on both testing days which will have released bacteria into the waters, either from sewers discharging or run-off from roads or fields. The source of this bacteria is currently being investigated by the Environment Agency.
- 2.7** The Fylde Peninsula Water Management Group, of which Wyre Council is a partner, is working together to provide a sustainable and integrated approach to the management of:
- coastal protection
 - water quality including bathing waters
 - surface water drainage, including flooding and development.
- 2.8** One current project taking place in Wyre is the identification of wrong connections in domestic and business properties where sewerage is finding its way into the surface water drainage system and consequently our rivers and sea.

(c) Car parks and other public spaces

- 2.9** The refurbishment of Marine Hall car park is now complete, with the quality more in keeping with the adjacent new Marine Gardens. A continuation of the pavement surfacing tie the two together better and bollards improve traffic flow. The project was completed to a tight deadline by Birse Civils Ltd to ensure the car

park could be used for the Olympic Torch Relay.

2.10 Work has now started on the new car park at Jubilee Gardens, which also includes hard standing facilities for community events. This should be complete by the end of August and will provide 104 pay and display spaces chargeable between 8am and 6pm.

2.11 Work is due to start on major improvements to Cleveleys bus station making it safer and more accessible. Measures include raised platforms, better surfacing and lighting, safety railings and better bus station facilities. The project is jointly funded by Wyre Council and Lancashire County Council.

3. Comments and Questions

3.1 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.