EXECUTIVE REPORT: STREET SCENE, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Waste & Recycling

2.1 WRAP have appointed the Consultancy firm AMEC to undertake the review of Waste Collection Authorities. All but one district (Ribble Valley) have agreed to take part. Further details will be provided as the project evolves.

2.2 Officers at Lancashire County Council have indicated customer complaints in relation to their new Inert Waste Policy have subsided and as at mid-September they had 15,477 permits registered. It is not known how many of these are Wyre residents and this data will be provided in due course. Wyre have fed back to LCC that there still appears to be an element of customer confusion and they are seeking to address this with additional communication. Unfortunately our domestic waste service is seeing an increase in grey residual bins being contaminated with hardcore materials.

3. Street Scene

3.1 The final weed spray of the year will commence in late October/early November, starting in the rural parishes moving through to the urban areas.

3.2 The programme to rationalise and replace the older street litter bins continues, with new stickers being placed on the bins to reinforce the “Bag the Poo, Any Bin will do” message.

3.3 The service continues to be busy supporting community events and galas. To date this year 46 events have been assisted (loan of bags, litter pickers, bins, removal of waste, mechanical sweeps), equating to over 120 hours of officer time and approximately 65 tonnes of waste collected.
3.4 Officers are continuing to investigate a number of fly tipping incidents, linking in with the Police and neighbouring Authorities.

3.5 Dog fouling and other dog related offences remains high profile for Area Officers and they continue to undertake patrols, erect signage and engage with communities for intelligence in known problem areas. Whilst reports of dog fouling are still being received, they are not for the same areas.

4. Parks & Open Spaces

4.1 Works are now complete on the replacement railings on Church Road Playing Field, Thornton. The scheme also included improved access arrangements, new benches and cycle racks, and was completed using Shaping your Neighbourhood Funding and the Council’s existing revenue budgets. The railings have been recycled from the Memorial park restoration project.

4.2 The installation of a new all-inclusive play facility is now complete at Marine Gardens, Fleetwood. The site has been designed to accommodate play for children with a wide range of disabilities, learning difficulties and developmental impairments. The site will be assessed to ensure it meets the criteria set down by Pipa (plan inclusive play areas) so it is recognized as a Pipa destination play facility, one of nine in the country. A Pipa assessment is recognized as a key resource in “The Accessible Britain Challenge”. The scheme was funded by the LEF (Lancashire Environment fund) and CCF (Coastal Communities fund).

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.