



<b>Report of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Item No.</b>
Cllr. Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Portfolio Holder	Council	18 October 2012	9(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 Portfolio, as set out in paragraph 2 below.

### **2. Current and Future Issues**

(a) Empty Homes – “Bring Out Your Empties”

- 2.1** Following the approval of the Wyre Council Empty Homes Strategy 2012-2015 at Cabinet on 20 June 2012 work is underway to reduce the number of Wyre homes empty for longer than six months.
- 2.2** A corporate Empty Homes Working Group has been established and on-going work includes; the development of a system for prioritising problematic empty homes for coordinated enforcement action; work with Regenda, Fylde Coast YMCA and the Ashley Foundation to deliver against recent allocations of Empty Homes Funding and activity to ensure that our empty home records are up to date.
- 2.3** To help to ensure that our records are up to date and no empty properties have slipped the net, we would like Councillors to assist and “Bring Out Your Empties” that is, to report empty homes that are causing problems within their ward areas. The address details of empty homes should be reported, together with any known background history / ownership details, by email, to Mark Broadhurst.

(b) NHS Public Health Contracts Review – Possible Implications for Care and Repair Funding

**2.4** In April 2013, public health contracts currently held by the Lancashire PCTs will transfer to Lancashire County Council. We are advised that Lancashire PCTs are working with Lancashire County Council (LCC) and partners to ensure contracts are transferred in a planned way, ensuring that services will continue to deliver the maximum public benefit through the transition.

**2.5** The PCTs are currently working to produce a definitive list of costed public health contracts that they hold. The contracts that are destined for LCC are being screened and recommendations will be made against each contract:

- i) If the contract finishes on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> March should it be extended?
- ii) If the contract is extended or if the contract is already ongoing into April, when should a full commissioning review take place?

The recommendations will then go to members of the Lancashire Public Health Steering group for decision.

**2.6** Care and Repair (Wyre and Fylde) currently receives partial funding from North Lancashire PCT and the current contract finishes on 31 March 2013. In acknowledgement of the support that Lancashire Care and Repair agencies provide to older, or otherwise vulnerable clients, a previous review of the provision of Care and Repair Services conducted by Supporting People recommended that public health funding should support Lancashire Care and Repair Agencies as per the Wyre and Fylde model. We await the outcome of the initial screening and the recommendations of the latest contract review.

(c) (Community Safety)

**2.7** A Decision has been made to postpone the Fleetwood Pride event due to be held on the 15th October 2012 to the week beginning 3 December. Unfortunately, the original date fell during the Purdah period for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, which would have severely restricted the activities that could have been undertaken.

**2.8** An invitation has been issued to all Fleetwood Councillors to view the new CCTV control room via the Community Safety Officer Jane Murray. Access to the control room is strictly managed to prevent unauthorised viewing.

(d) (Environmental Protection)

- 2.9** The Turning Tides summit held at the Winter Gardens Blackpool on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 highlighted that bathing water in the North West had improved significantly - using the current microbiological monitoring regime, 82% of bathing water sampled would have failed in 1988, whereas in 2012 82% of bathing water passed. However if the Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC due to come into force in 2015, is used half the current bathing waters would fail.
- 2.10** United Utility have already made significant investment in waste treatment infrastructure and more recently a new treatment plant is being built in the Preston area which will improve waters in the river Ribble estuary and new storage facilities are planned at their plant at Skippool which should improve waters in the Wyre estuary. The Summit recognised that the responsibility for improving bathing water had to be shared throughout the community and should not fall on one company. Concerns raised at the meeting included drainage mis-connections, water run off from farm land and increased rainfall volumes.
- 2.11** A Committee representing the Local Authorities, United Utilities, The Environment Agency, Local Farmers and the Tourist Industry was formed to co-ordinate strategic strategies to comply with the new Directive. More locally the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Group has formed and is adopting a mix of approaches to improve bathing water quality, testing water sponge filters, tackling pipe misconnections and launching a community awareness campaign, and to this end Fylde Beach Care. Fylde Beach Care is working with local communities to keep our beaches clean.

### **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.