

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING

### Housing Market Renewal (HMR) update

Residents living within the HMR areas will continue to see an ongoing programme of refurbishments, acquisitions and clearance projects as well as some community and environmental initiatives during the year.

#### Programme Update 2010-11

##### **Refurbishments – Inner South East Area**

Refurbishment schemes continue on Audley Range and Accrington Road and Hall Street in the Infirmary area of Blackburn.

**Inner North West** – Refurbishment schemes in Griffin are continuing on two blocks of properties on Wellington Road and Griffin Street and we are preparing further schemes in line with the Renewals area proposals which we hope to start over the coming months.

**Acquisitions and Demolition** – This year we will continue to purchase properties by agreement in Griffin as part of the wider regeneration proposals for the area.

##### **Other Projects**

Community Confidence Project – Residents within parts of the Infirmary and Griffin regeneration areas of Blackburn and Queen Street regeneration area in Darwen are to be offered a free survey and free security upgrade as part of our Community Confidence Project.

This project is being delivered by Groundwork Pennine Lancashire who will carry out surveys on eligible homes. The scheme offers new door locks, window locks and security lighting (amongst other security items) to help residents feel safe and secure in their own homes and neighbourhoods. Residents in the identified areas wishing to take advantage of this offer can phone Groundwork on 669061 to check eligibility and sign up for the scheme.

**Lock 54** – The development will be completed in July and a launch with partners Places for People is planned to take place soon after.

**Queen Street Development, Darwen** – The acquisition and clearance programme of the area was completed last year and the site has been prepared for development. A planning application is planned to be submitted over the coming month. The development is planned to start on site later this year.

**Highfield Park & Pavilion refurbishment** – The refurbishment to the Pavilion has been completed and work to the park is expected to be completed at the end of June. A launch event is planned for July.

The Council continues to offer Purchase Assistance Loans to residents who are displaced through clearance in the Borough, through the administrators Guinness Northern Counties Housing Association.

***For further information contact: Subhan Ali on (01254) 585768.***