

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING**COUNCILLOR TONY HUMPHRYS****PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
CHIEF OFFICER: SAYYED OSMAN****DATE: 22 MARCH 2012****STRATEGIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS****Griffin Regeneration**

Acquisitions & Demolitions – The council has now acquired 142 properties from the 165 properties identified for clearance. There are 23 properties remaining to be purchased in the clearance area.

Demolition contractors are currently on site to demolish the next phase of purchased properties at 1-7 Stansfeld Street and 1-18 Bombay Street. Work to demolish these properties is planned to be completed by the end of March.

Darwen – Orchard Grove – Queen Street Regeneration

The first phase of 30 properties has been completed in January. An event is planned for the 20th April 2012 to promote the scheme and the opening of the show home. Phase two works are now starting on site.

EMPTY HOMES INITIATIVE

Working with Pennine Lancashire (PL) partners we have successfully secured funding under the Governments recently launched empty homes initiative. Around £4.74 million of grant funding has been secured by PL to bring 474 empty homes back into use across the five boroughs. Blackburn with Darwen will be working to bring a large number of these empty homes back into use during 2012-2015.

COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE

Groundwork Pennine Lancashire has completed security enhancements to 36 properties in the Griffin regeneration area. Further works are planned over the next few months.

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

HMO STANDARDS

Updated HMO standards were adopted by the Council last month. These have now been printed and a copy was sent out to all known landlords of houses in multiple occupation on 22 March. They have been advised to identify and carry out any work needed to bring their houses up to these standards and given a number to contact for any advice.

SELECTIVE LICENSING

The consultation for a proposed selective licensing area in Griffin has started with a newsletter delivered during the week ending 31 March. Drop in sessions are to be held on Tuesday 17 April and 24 April in the area. There is also further information and questionnaires on the website. The consultation period ends on 18 June 2012 following which a report will be put before Executive Board.