

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**COUNCILLOR FARYAD HUSSAIN****PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING****DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN****DATE: 31st January 2013****RECYCLING**

New recycling calendars were distributed in December to remind residents of the dates for their recycling bin collections. Within the financial year to date kerbside, commingled recycling figures show a slight drop to 9,397 tonnes recycled upto the end of November 2012 compared with tonnage for the comparable period for 2011 showing 9,414 tonnes collected.

Councils two household waste recycling centres are showing improvement, with combined recycling at the Councils two sites increasing for October and November to 65.78% compared with the same period the previous year, which was 63.26%. At the time of writing, the December figures are not available.

YOUR CALL

Environmental clean up events under the Your Call banner are continuing to deliver local improvements, with an average of 12 Your Call environmental events taking place each summer month. In November 2012, there were 8 Your Call environmental clean up events which attracted a combined number of 354 volunteers.

FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME

Blackburn with Darwen is now making use of the national Food Standards Agency food hygiene rating scheme. The scheme allows residents to look before they book and make an informed choice about where they eat and where they don't. Businesses are encouraged to display a distinctive green and black sticker, rating from zero at the bottom ('needs urgent improvement') to a five ('very good').

In Blackburn with Darwen there are 930 premises subject to the scheme. Of these 47% have a 5 star rating with only 1.4% having a zero rating. Almost 90% are 3 star or above – the level at which the business is considered to be broadly complying with law.

TAXI STANDARDS

In 2012, four operations were undertaken by the Public Protection Service together with colleagues from Lancashire Constabulary and VOSA looking at taxi safety. In total 92 vehicles were inspected.

38 vehicles (41%) were taken off the road immediately because the defects found were dangerous. The most common faults found being problems with tyres, suspension and head lights. The faults found on tyres and head lights

are particularly disappointing as these can be identified by the driver with the most simple of checks.

27 received notices requiring them to rectify problems within 7 days. These faults were generally due to inadequate signage, displaying of plates and defective lights (side, number plate, a single brake light being inoperative).

The remainder of the vehicles, 27 in total, were deemed safe and were compliant with all the conditions attached to their licence.