

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR:
SAYYED OSMAN
DATE: 24 APRIL 2014**

Road Network Recovery - The initial proposed list of future schemes for 2014/15 has been compiled, with these schemes having been subject to an independent technical review by officers and the Executive Member for Environment before being presented to members. It is important to note that the focus is on key priority routes for maximum benefit and impact on improving our Borough's road network.

The recommended £2.4m scheme list for inclusion in Network Recovery's second year will be presented for approval to the Executive Board.

LED Street Lighting Retrofit - The European Tender for the new LED lanterns has been completed and the successful lantern supplier Philips Lighting is providing the latest technology with an underwritten 20 year warranty.

Flood/ Drainage Due to ongoing wet weather condition the drainage team are overwhelmed with number of flooding issues across the borough. There have not been any repeat flooding events where we have intervened over last 12 months. Following the summer 2012 flooding, all the identified flood respite works are now complete except Knott St, Darwen junction repair works which are programmed to commence imminently.

Winter Maintenance The winter maintenance season is nearing the end and to date we have not had any substantial snowfall. However, with regular overnight frosts and ice forecasts the gritters have been out many times each month over the 6 month long winter maintenance season. The gritters are now all equipped with trackers as an additional safety feature and we have a new weather forecasting system that is working well. We have invested in snow poles on the Grane Road which will improve safety during heavy snowfall. Members are now advised when there is planned gritting action via email, although further updates can be obtained the BwD Winter Maintenance web site.

BOWLING GREENS The council has been working with a number of self-managed bowling clubs to prepare for the forthcoming season, with Roe Lee Bowling Club undertaking a Your Call activity in March, to cut back and clear some of the shrubbery that abuts their greens. A further example of the success of the self-managed bowling clubs is Edgworth Bowling Club, who were the first club to go self-managed, and have just become one of only 4 clubs nationally to hold the prestigious Club Mark award from April 2014.

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND (HLF) BIDS The council is developing a number of bids to regenerate 2 specific areas of parks and open space within the borough. The first bid centres on the conservatory at Corporation Park, where a stage 1 bid, coordinated with the Corporation Park Supporters Group, is expected to be submitted in May 2014, to enable a complete refurbishment of the conservatory, a listed building. The 2nd site to benefit from HLF bid is the Darwen River Valley Parkway, where work on improving the pathways and infrastructure are planned.

TRANSPORT SERVICES DEPOT Following the purchase of land by Accrol, the current Transport Service Station is to move into a purpose built facility within the boundary of the existing depot at Davyfield Road. The move is expected to take place late April/early May 2014, into a facility that will see the new facility continue to offer MOTs and also LGV testing.

RECIPE 4 HEALTH AWARD The business compliance team in Public Protection Service have been commissioned by the Public Health Service to carry out a project to encourage food businesses to provide healthier food choices to customers.

The award is available to business who look at ways of reducing fat, sugar and salt in the foods they provide; increasing the amount of fruit and vegetables; offering different portion sizes; and promoting healthier options. Levels of salt, fat and sugar in foods have an important impact on health.

The Recipe 4 Health award is available at 3 levels - bronze, silver and gold.

In order to qualify for the award providers must have a Food Standards Agency Food Hygiene Rating of 3 or higher - which is broadly compliant with current standards.

TAXI OPERATIONS In the first quarter of 2014 staff from the Licensing Team in Public Protection Service have been involved in 3 operations to check on taxi safety standards. These operations have been carried out in partnership with the Police and VOSA.

In total 73 taxis were checked; 13 had to be taken off the road straight away because of dangerous faults such as illegal tyres; 2 others were issued with warnings/notices requiring other faults to be rectified within 7 days.