

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

CLLR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN**

DATE: 26 JUNE 2014

WASTE TONNAGE - The amount of waste taken to landfill, for the financial year 2013/4, was 33,412 tonnes, which is some 234 tonnes less than that of the previous year. Efforts to source alternatives to landfill are continuing, with links being forged with other Waste Disposal Authorities to identify opportunities.

YOUR CALL ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UPS & COMMUNITY SKIPS -

Fantastic start to the new financial year for the number of Your Call environmental clean ups. In April we had 17 events attracting 301 volunteers. In May we had 14 events attracting over 324 volunteers.

The successful Your Call community skips have continued until late May/early June, with great participation rates at most sites. On average, the service is removing in excess of 4.5 tonnes each Saturday morning. The Your Call community skip initiative will be restarted prior to Christmas.

TRANSPORT SERVICES DEPOT - Following the purchase of land by Accrol, the Council's Transport Service Station has moved into a purpose built facility, within the boundary of the existing depot at Davyfield Road. The move took place mid-May. The new facility will continue to offer MOTs and also LGV testing, as it is a VOSA Authorised Testing Facility. As a result of this strategic project it has enabled Accrol to create 200 full time jobs in the Borough. We have also received a further major application from Accrol to remodel the original factory, again creating more jobs.

WILDFLOWER MEADOWS – The Council is seeking to identify areas of grass land which could be converted to wildflower meadows. This would have a number of environmental and ecological benefits. Amongst them supporting the sustainability of the bee population which is an important contributor to the agriculture industry. Further information will be shared as we start to consider possible sites which would lend themselves to a flower meadow.

WORLD CUP - The outcome of a government consultation on extension of opening hours for the world cup has led to a relaxation in opening hours to accommodate group games with a late kick off.

SHISHA LOUNGE PROSECUTION - On Wednesday 23rd April 2014 Blackburn Magistrates considered the latest prosecution of a Shisha lounge owner for allowing people to smoke Shisha Pipes inside. The contravention

of the Smoking Ban In Enclosed Public Places was witnessed on 1st February 2013 by officers from the Public Protection Service. A business on Regent Street in Blackburn, pleaded not guilty but was convicted and given a conditional discharge.

The premises did not have planning consent for use as a Shisha lounge and has since closed following an Enforcement Notice served on the premises by the Council in January 2013.

NETWORK RECOVERY- Works to Darwen Street were undertaken in April 2014. Works have now started on five further surfacing schemes, which will be undertaken sequentially commencing with Stopes Brow on 19th May.

The initial proposed list of future schemes for 2014/15 has been approved, but further roads will be added once a full review of recent highway condition surveys has been completed

LED STREET LIGHTING RETROFIT - Council has signed of and entered into contract for delivery of this project. Programming and installation is being phased and will commence from July 2014. More detailed information on programme and phasing will be shared with Members in due course.