

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

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**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN
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Roe Lee Redevelopment

Emerging proposals show capacity for the site to provide executive family housing and an extra care scheme. A timeline is being developed to carry out a public consultation event over the next few months. The event will outline the emerging options for the wider Roe Lee area which also includes sites belonging to private sector stakeholders. Options are also being assessed on the most appropriate method of taking the site to the market whilst maximising the development opportunities for the Borough.

Griffin Area Regeneration

A total of 160 properties have been purchased from the 165 properties identified for clearance. A newsletter detailing progress on the project and advising on next steps to redevelop the site for new family housing was prepared and hand delivered to Griffin residents during April. A project team has been set up to start preparing the procurement documentation in readiness to redevelop the site.

Empty Properties / Clusters Project

13 properties purchased and 1 leased, all 14 have been fully refurbished by TVH and offered as homes for affordable rent. 11 of these are in Blackburn and 3 are in Darwen.

A further 51 properties have taken up the private sector lease, 35 of which have been refurbished and let. The remainder are undergoing refurbishment. 29 of these properties are in Darwen and 22 are in Blackburn.

An additional 30 empty properties have been brought back into use in central Darwen through the Clusters Project.

Both these projects have now been completed.

Empty properties CPO

40 Gillibrand Street, Darwen, 12 Westwell Street, Darwen, 16/17 Green Street East, Darwen and 44 Shadsworth Road have all been Compulsory Purchased Order and vested to the Council. A price has been agreed to sell three of the properties and we are now finalising legal contracts to transfer to the purchaser over the next few weeks.

Community Learning Mental Health project – successful bid outcome

Work has begun in the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Service on a new Community Learning Mental Health project. Almost £80,000 of funding was secured from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and distributed via the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to the service as an existing learning provider in receipt of Community Learning and Skills (CLS) funding. The contract runs from April 2015 to

March 2016 and the project will pilot non-formal learning opportunities for individuals with mild to moderate mental health needs by:

- Developing and delivering educational approaches embracing non-formal courses to support adults aged 19+ to aid recovery from mental health problems;
- Developing and delivering workforce development to ensure the teachers, managers and volunteers involved in the pilot are trained to use these approaches effectively.

The pilot activity will also include:

- Identifying and testing different approaches to outreach and referral of eligible individuals;
- Working with external evaluators to identify the impact and cost benefits of different types of courses;
- Collecting data and evidence about the impact of using educational approaches to help people manage, and recover from, mild to moderate mental health problems.

A Project Co-ordinator has been appointed and is working closely with Lancashire Mind, Lancashire Women's Centre and other key local health partners to plan and deliver project activities.