

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 1-10-15**

LED RETROFIT

There are now over 14500 LED units installed, with progress being ahead of schedule. Works have commenced on LED installations on major traffic routes that will see a slowdown in progress, due to network working time restrictions, in order to avoid traffic delays on busy roads.

NETWORK RECOVERY

Surface Dressing:

All surface dressing works have been completed. There have been a number of complaints regarding the amount of chippings on the surface following the works. This is normal and advisory signs are erected before and after the works. All roads have now been swept and the amount of loose chippings should be minimal. Lining works are progressing but are being delayed by the wet weather.

DRAINAGE / FLOOD MANAGEMENT

There is an ongoing programme of gully cleansing, land drainage and network recovery gully cleansing and repairs together with attendance at private drainage works.

Two Capital schemes (Darwen SWMP and Birch Hall Avenue £340,000 in total) funded by the Environment Agency have commenced with desktop works being undertaken currently and delivery on site to be completed by the end of March 2016.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

The salt barn is now fully stocked, all plant serviced and ready for the new season that starts at the end of October. Operational rotas are being produced this week.

FLYTIPPING

Flytipping of waste has increased within the Borough, with the Council working with communities to target hot-spots, with a trial of various activities, being undertaken in the Wensley Fold Ward, over a 5 week period, which saw 5 enforcement officers visit the Ward one day a week, tackling and clearing dumped rubbish, whilst also undertaking a door-knocking campaign to address issues of localised flytipping. The result has been a number of statutory notices issued to residents, tenants and landlords in the area, as well as businesses. This has led to a number of prosecutions being progressed, as well as a wealth of local intelligence being obtained on suspected perpetrators.

YOUR CALL

Volunteer clean-up events continue to be popular, attracting a large number of volunteers in the current financial year, with some 54 events booked in to date between April and July, which attracted some 1,588 volunteers, of which 805 were first time attendees to a Your Call event. The Good Neighbours Awards and Your Call celebratory event at King Georges Hall, held on 15th August saw a number of people in the community recognised for their efforts in making a difference to the lives of others.

TAXI LICENSING

A consultation exercise is being undertaken with the taxi trade, regarding a potential introduction of a points system for the taxi trade that would also include dealing with mechanical safety concerns. The points system is similar to that being used in a number of local authorities, with Preston City Council having used the scheme for some time.

Additionally, following a revision of the rules covering taxi licensing across the country, Blackburn with Darwen BC like other Councils, is reviewing its Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing fees.