

Executive Annual Report 2018/19

Councillor Brendan Hughes

Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Community Safety, Clean and Green and Car Parking

Executive Membership

- Cabinet

Executive Appointments to Outside Bodies etc

- Lancashire Waste Partnership
- Community Safety Partnership

Overview of Portfolio Responsibilities

Responsibility for Community Safety and Clean and Green and car parking

Progress made during 2018/19

It has been another busy year within my portfolio, with lots of the planned initiatives starting to progress to help balance the budget in future years. This year we saw the governments waste strategy finally released. This means the team will be able to start planning for the significant changes that are coming to the district in terms of waste collection.

Again we have achieved some great things in our parks, with a plethora of awards kept and some gained. This is testament to the hard work the various frontline teams do everyday to kept the district clean and green.

We continued to fight the problem of fly tipping that blights the district, and I am happy to say we have had some tangible results in this area, with the number of successful prosecutions on the rise.

We have done some great things with the fleet, introducing more electric fleet vehicles and installing charging points at various council buildings. We have an ambition to introduce more

into the fleet and are working towards the possibility of, introducing hydro fuelled waste collection vehicles. This is a joint initiative with the university and other key partners, this is some years down the line but we feel an achievable aspiration.

The CSP continues to fund local projects to make an impact on its key goals. The most recent of which saw us provide free lights and cycle advice to cyclists around the district. As well as this we have funded some key projects that help tackle the more serious side of community safety.

Our car parks continue to service the district and you will shortly see some electric charging points being installed into them after grant funding was successful. The team are working on a car parking strategy for future years, with some big infrastructure projects on the bill in the district.

The service continues to win awards with Will Griffiths finalist in the LGC rising star award this year, so fingers crossed. We have won APSE awards for our apprentices with some real talent coming through the repairs and maintenance teams.

Our innovative approach and working ways have been recognised by other councils in the country. For the first time in many years we have been invited to speak at various events and seminars, to share best practice.

I wish to put my thanks on record for the work Mark, Susanne and the various teams in the directorate that go above and beyond on a daily basis, to keep Lancaster the district we all love to live and work in.

Officers have prepared bullet points of some of our successes in the past year:

PUBLIC REALM

- North West In Bloom (NWIB) – Silver Gilt Winner in new category – Large Coastal Town
- Seaside Awards for Morecambe North & South Beaches
- 3 x Green Flags for the first time ever, Williamson Park, Happy Mount Park, Ryelands Park
- Williamson Park awarded Visit England accreditation for quality visitor attraction

- Working with Storey Gardens Friends Group – gardens now re-open to the public
- Procurement of new Ice Cream Van used in parks and events generating over £11k in net profit
- Winning tender for a further 20 County Council schools grounds maintenance – contract value £20k
- Hosted the inaugural Highest Point Festival in Williamson Park attracting over 20,000 visitors. Back again for May 2019
- Further implementation of reducing single use plastic – Latte levy introduced at Williamson Park in partnership with Lancaster Uni
- Implementation of the Bay Cottage Play Area Phase 2 improvements
- Implementation of new replacement play area at Barnacre Close, Lancaster
- Implementation of new £55k play area at Beech Avenue, Galgate – delivery April 2019
- Secured over £40k of funding through West End Millions and Government Pocket Parks Fund for Regent Park – delivery in April 2019
- Implementation of new Outdoor Gym at Ryelands Park – delivery in March 2019
- Butterfly House & Zoo received over 50,000 visitors to date, more than any other year, with one month to go. Highest level of ticket sales on record. All helped by previous development of Meerkats and Monkeys
- Achieved support to bring back in house Stone Jetty and West End Gardens Cafés

BUSINESS SUPPORT

- Introduced the Council's first electric vehicles into the fleet – 2 pool cars and 3 panel vans
- Installed 4 EV chargers at White Lund Depot and Lancaster Town Hall to charge up to eight electric fleet vehicles at the same time
- Installed 5 electric vehicle charge points for the public, in five of our car parks (Lancaster and Morecambe)
- Launched MOTs, repairs and servicing to businesses and the general public – income for the year predicted to be £15k with 100% of our private customers saying they received either an “excellent” or “good” level of service
- Transport team nominated for “Most Improved Transport Operation of the Year”
- Achieved a 96% pass rate from the Ministry of Transport for heavy goods vehicles

- Reduced the number of lost days due to Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) in Waste & Recycling, RMS and Public Realm by 77% compared to the previous year (from 304 to 68 days)
- Reviewed the building cleaning schedules for internal buildings and generated an annual saving of £25,000
- Secured funding from Morecambe Town Council and Lancaster & Morecambe Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to contribute towards the running costs of the CCTV system.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

- Reduced the turn-around time for voids to its current figure of 25.55 days and completed repairs to approximately 300 voids.
- Completed approx. 11,000 responsive repairs
- Ensured all tenants with a gas appliance installed in their homes are safe and have benefited from an annual Landlords Gas Safety Check.
- Reduced the reliance on external contractors to undertake major void works (void properties requiring extensive works/component replacements) carrying out these works in-house. This has been achieved without increasing the number of operatives employed or impacting on the overall void performance.
- Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Housing and Building 2018 Apprentice of the year awarded to Fiona Finnigan, 2nd year Joinery apprentice
- Achieved 90% satisfaction for undertaking responsive repairs. Successfully delivered £4m of Capital funded works and £380,000 of revenue funded programme works, including adapting 86 council homes with disabled facilities works totalling £255k and 70k fire precautions work at Brunton's warehouse.
- Commissioned detailed external structural surveys to Mainway High Rise blocks and surrounding buildings. Proposed works to the blocks have not yet been drafted, but will be a model of consultation.