

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO COUNCIL – 11<sup>TH</sup> April 2006**

### **AREA FORUM PILOTS – UPDATE REPORT**

The three pilot area forums have all held their first meetings. Feedback from the public at all three sessions was very positive and there was a good attendance overall:

#### **Coppull:**

The Coppull area forum was held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at the Royal British Legion Club, Coppull. Approximately 80 people attended the meeting.

#### **Clayton North:**

The Lostock area forum was held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Youth and Community Centre, Manor Rd. Approximately 25 members of the public attended the meeting.

#### **Lostock:**

The Lostock Area Forum was held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Croston Old School, Church St, Croston. Approximately 35 people attended.

#### **Key Issues from the Public:**

A wide range of issues were raised by members of the public at all three meetings. They included the following:

- Problems with the recycling containers
- Street cleanliness following recycling collections
- Lack of activities for teenagers
- Juvenile nuisance
- Anti-social behaviour
- Motorcyclists using open land
- Traffic speeding and potential traffic calming schemes and more speed cameras
- Problems with people fly-tipping and dumping rubbish
- Lack of a police presence in some areas
- Dog fouling
- Health services in local areas
- Lack of local secondary schools
- Poor public transport in some areas
- Reduced bus services recently
- Funding required for local groups
- More information required on the new concessionary fare scheme
- Insufficient information on the performance of schools
- Bogus officials operating in the area

## **Key Learning Points for the Future.**

Feedback from the public was sought at the end of each area forum on the usefulness of the session. Feedback in all cases was very positive. To continue this we need to:

- Continue the "Listening and Responding" approach we have adopted.
- Ensure people who ask questions are provided with full answers either on the evening or later in writing.
- Work with partner agencies – eg Police, PCT, Lancashire County Council to ensure more collective, integrated solutions to problems the public face in local areas.
- Select venues as central to the whole area as possible.
- Avoid a few individuals dominating the meeting.
- Ensure the new neighbourhood newsletters target the areas where meetings will take place to publicise them.

## **Next Steps:**

Further meetings are planned for:

Coppull – 13<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> September

Clayton North – 21<sup>st</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> October

Lostock – 6<sup>th</sup> July, 28<sup>th</sup> September

Comprehensive evaluation of the pilot will take place following the completion of the first round of the meetings in October 2006.

Recommendations will also be emerging from the Council's Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the most appropriate forms of neighbourhood engagement. These findings should also inform the process of establishing new structures for neighbourhood engagement across the Borough. A report outlining these recommendations will be presented to Council in November/ December 2006.

Donna Hall – Chief Executive  
5<sup>th</sup> April 2006