**Lancashire Resilience Forum issues guidance on faith and community events**

The Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) is a group of organisations that work together to prepare and respond to emergencies in Lancashire. The LRF involves the emergency services, local authorities, health agencies, Environment Agency and Maritime Coastguard Agency. Voluntary groups, transport providers, utility providers and local businesses provide help to the Forum.

The Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) has issued guidance on restrictions around upcoming faith and community events for the remainder of 2020 due to coronavirus.

The restrictions relate to upcoming events including: Prophet Muhammad's birthdate (28/29 October), Halloween (31 October), Bonfire celebrations (5 - 7 November), Remembrance Sunday (8 November), Diwali (14 November), Hanukkah (10 – 18 December) and the switching on of Christmas lights.

In line with national restrictions on numbers at events and our strong advice in Lancashire to avoid households mixing, the decision has been taken to prohibit large-scale events to mark these occasions in Lancashire.

Angie Ridgwell, Chair of the Lancashire Resilience Forum, said:

"We know these are important events for everyone in our community and we're sorry that we have to do this. We haven't taken these decisions lightly and really grateful for your support. By following this guidance we will all limit the spread of coronavirus and help keep people safe.

“While Lancashire continues to experience a rapid increase of coronavirus cases that puts the county among the highest level of transmissions in the country, large scale community events create too great a risk for the public.

“It is vital that we all work together to follow these regulations and avoid the temptation to break the rules on visiting other people’s homes or gardens to celebrate these events putting yourself and others at risk.

“We are working with various faith and business groups as well as charitable and community organisations – such as the British Legion – to see whether alternative arrangements can be made to mark these occasions.”

Unfortunately, trick or treating will not be permitted this year as it would increase the risk of household transmissions.

Councillor David Henderson, Leader of Wyre Council comments:

 “This year we would like to encourage our residents to mark these occasions in a different way, to keep our community safe. On Remembrance Sunday the usual commemorative services will not be taking place in Wyre and we suggest that residents instead join us from their homes in a doorstep two minute silence at 11am. Wreaths can also be laid from 1 November to help spread out visitors to our memorial sites.”

If you are planning an event or have any questions relating to events in your area please contact us on 01253 891000.

**ENDS**