

WEST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

12 October 2023

Commenced: 6.30 pm

Terminated: 7:55pm

Present: Councillors Quinn (Chair), Axford, Cooney, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Jones, Martin, Mills, Naylor, Ricci, Reid, M Smith, T Smith, Ward

In Attendance:

Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods
James Mallion	Assistant Director of Public Health
Sharon Smith	Head of Public Protection
Lee Holland	Head of Engineering Services
Damien Cutting	Economic Growth Lead
Bev Hursthouse	Regulatory Services Manager

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Boyle, Newton and Warrington.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 27 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

8. VACCINATIONS

The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director of Population Health, who attended the Forum to deliver a presentation on flu and covid-19 vaccinations for autumn-winter 2023/24.

It was explained that the flu and covid-19 vaccinations were available for those aged 65 and over as well as those who were considered to be clinically vulnerable. The flu vaccine offered varied slightly from year to year and was designed to protect against the type of virus that was likely to be circulating. Covid-19 booster vaccinations were being offered to those eligible to coincide with the flu vaccination programme.

The Forum was informed that NHS England set out the criteria for those who were eligible to be vaccinated and how the programme would work. The Population Health team at the Council then worked together to deliver the vaccines according to this

Members were advised that vaccinations not only provided individual protection but also made it harder for viruses to spread between people, including those who were more vulnerable and/or were unable to be vaccinated.

An overview of the seasonal flu vaccination uptake for 2022/23 was provided to Members and it was further explained that uptake had been lower among pregnant women and toddlers. The Assistant Director for Population Health advised that this was related to issues around access and a perception that the risk from flu was not as great among these groups.

To increase uptake among those groups where it had been lower, special sessions would be held for two and three year olds, and free soft play vouchers would be available in some areas. Pregnant women would be offered the flu vaccine at antenatal clinics and a flyer on covid-19 vaccine availability would be provided. A school and TMBC programme would also be available.

Members of the Forum were presented with plans for the 2023/24 autumn-winter vaccination and it was reported that the vaccines would be available in all four neighbourhoods. Primary care networks were leading on the covid-19 vaccine delivery and the flu vaccine could be obtained from practices and community pharmacies. Co-delivery of both vaccines was available for eligible groups.

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The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for Population Health for an interesting presentation.

9. JOINT HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY AND LOCALITY PLAN

The Forum received a presentation from the Assistant Director of Population Health in relation to the Tameside Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Locality Plan.

An overview of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Locality Plan was provided and Members were informed that this aimed to improve the health of residents and reduce the many inequalities that some communities in the borough faced. It also explained how these ambitions would be achieved by making commitments across the life course, including a focus on mental health & wellbeing, and then building back fairer, stronger and together to achieve these.

The Forum were informed that each local authority area was required to have a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and this had the responsibility for building a strong and effective partnership for Tameside, including the local authority, NHS and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector.

The Locality Plan for Tameside provided the vision for health and care services across the borough, aligned to the priorities in the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Strategy and Joint Forward Plan.

The Assistant Director for Population Health outlined the various aims for Tameside which included:

- Giving children the best start in life;
- Helping people stay well across the life course and detect illness earlier;
- Enabling all residents to grow old with dignity and independence;
- Helping people get into, and stay in good work;
- Strengthening communities; and
- Delivering healthy places with accessible and inclusive services.

A copy of the Strategy was available for both Members and the public to read.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director of Population Health for the thought provoking presentation

10. HIGHWAYS AND POTHoles

The Chair welcomed the Head of Engineering Services, who attended the Forum to deliver a presentation on Highways maintenance.

Members provided with an overview of Tameside's highway network and hierarchy. It was reported that the Council was responsible for a variety of infrastructure on Tameside's highway network and this included 73km of principal roads, 70km of classified roads, 615km of unclassified roads and 1,155km of footways. The Head of Engineering Services explained that the Council was also responsible for 48,126 gullies, 25,341 street lighting columns, 4,000 signs, 159 bridges and 304 retaining walls/structures.

The Head of Engineering Services explained the borough's road hierarchy and emphasised the importance of the hierarchy in terms of maintenance as this helped to establish where demand was and where resources could be best distributed.

It was explained that highway network was the Council's largest single asset and a valuation of the network was conducted each year which determined whether the network had improved or deteriorated and where money should be spent. Members were advised that the Council's highway network was currently valued at £1.4 billion due to depreciation of assets. The Head of Engineering Services emphasised the importance of the efficient use of resources used on asset maintenance.

The Head of Engineering Services explained the different areas of highway asset groups and how the Councils determined the condition of networks around the borough. Members were presented with an overview of the highway structures condition and it was explained 41.47% of structures were in a fair condition and the Head of Engineering Services assured Members the conditions of structures was regularly monitored.

In terms of street lighting, it was explained that the Council held an inventory of all assets with an electrical supply which assessed street lighting maintenance. Members were informed that the age profile on columns dictated the strategy for maintenance and structural testing was undertaken on a percentage of columns. Visual inspections and electrical testing were also regularly undertaken which assisted with the efficient use of resources within Highways.

Members were informed with regards to winter maintenance plans and it was explained that the team regularly monitored the weather forecasts during the winter months. There was two dedicated weather stations within Tameside which provided real time weather information and the team used this to determine the measures required. The team regularly undertook a pre-treatment during the winter months which treated 350 kilometres of the network with grit. This was based on a risk assessment which looked at the areas required treatment.

With regards to risk management, it was explained that regular inspections of the network were undertaken and interventions were based on a risk based approach. Members were advised that, 7,516 footway inspections and 7,118 carriageway inspections were undertaken last year.

The Chair thanked the Head of Engineering Services for an informative presentation and the continued work to maintain the borough's highway network in the face of diminishing resources.

RESOLVED

That the update presentation be noted.

11. ENFORCEMENT PANEL ACTIVITY

The Panel received a presentation from the Head of Public Protection in relation to recent enforcement activity by the Council. An overview of the functions undertaken by the Public Protection team was provided, and this included Food Safety and Food Standards; Trading Standards; Housing Enforcement; Environment/Waste Enforcement; Public Health; and Licensing.

Members were informed that the Council was required to have a Corporate Enforcement Policy and a draft of this policy was currently being updated. The Policy outlined how the Council enforced a range of legislation in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. It was intended to protect the public, the environment, consumers, and workers within the borough to meet their legal obligations, and take firm action against those who flouted the law or acted irresponsibly.

Details of the Council's Enforcement Panel were outlined to the Forum and it was explained that the purpose of the Panel, which met quarterly, was to:

- Provide overview, assurance and scrutiny of the wide range of enforcement activity undertaken across the Council by receiving reports from service areas in scope.
- Promote the enforcement activities of the Council's enforcement services throughout the borough.
- Provide cohesion for the Council's enforcement bodies.
- Provide integrated service provision and joined up planning across a range of enforcement activities with wider service providers, such as Greater Manchester Police.
- Deliver on strategic priorities, including increasing enforcement across Tameside.

A wide range of enforcement activity had taken place between March and September 2023 across the remit of Public Protection. A summary was provided to the Forum. Environmental Services had conducted an investigation at the Bake 'n' Butty Café following the installation of a petrol generator in the basement of the premises. A Health and Safety Notice was served and Tameside Magistrates Court imposed 100 hours of unpaid work, 20 rehabilitation days, £130 victim surcharge, £5,000 costs and an 18-week custodial sentence.

Members welcomed the successful prosecution at Tameside Magistrates Court of a Droylsden man for fly tipping. The magistrates imposed a fine of £500, victim surcharge of £50 and costs of £1,269. An Ashton woman had also been successfully prosecuted for waste dumped on Bentinck Street in the town. A fine of £112 plus £200 costs was imposed.

The Council had undertaken a number of successful Waste Enforcement Days of Action in Hyde Werneth on 15 March, St Peter's on 28 June, St Michael's on 12 July and Waterloo on 27 September. A total of 32 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued across these days of action. Members were keen that they were invited to days of enforcement activity.

It was reported that the Council's Licensing Panel had refused two applications for a taxi license as the applicants did not meet the standards of the Council's fit and proper person test.

In relation to anti-social behaviour, it was reported that the Council had received 178 reports between January and August. Twenty-one Public Space Protection Order tickets were issued, as well as four Community Protection Warnings and three Community Protection Notices.

Members and the public were encouraged to contact the Public Protection Team if any matters of concern arose.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

12. DROYLSDEN PLAN CONSULTATION

The Economic Growth Lead presented before Members, providing an overview of the Droylsden Town Centre Masterplan.

Members were informed that Droylsden was strategically well positioned with transport links to the City Centre and the new Co-Op Live Arena and therefore the masterplan looked to capitalise on change within the City Centre. It was explained that given the growth in online shopping, out of town shopping centres, Covid-19 and the Cost of Living, it was important for town centres, such as Droylsden, to rejuvenate and reinvent.

The Economic Growth Lead explained that the Council had secured £100,000 GMCA Evergreen funding which would be used within the masterplan. It was reported that progress had been made in order to appoint a consultant team to prepare the masterplan for Droylsden. The Economic Growth Lead further reported that the masterplan process aimed to commence in November 2023, with a target completion date set for spring 2024.

The Forum were provided with the first stages of the Droylsden Masterplan which included:

- Understanding local priorities and ambitions;
- Issues;
- Opportunities;
- Evidence gathering;
- Consultation and engagement – surveys, website and drop in events

It was explained that the Droylsden Masterplan involved identifying opportunities for development and strategies for movement and connectivity. The Economic Growth Lead emphasised the importance of vacant units being brought back into use which aimed to rejuvenate and reinvent Droylsden. Officers would further look at the Public Realm Strategy and how this could be improved going forward. The Economic Growth Lead highlighted that no funding for delivery had been identified, however it was explained that interest would be gathered from different sectors throughout the masterplan process.

The Chair thanked the Economic Lead for Growth for an informative presentation and looked forward to receiving future updates on the masterplan.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum is scheduled to take place on 25 January 2024, be noted.