

## EAST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

24 January 2024

Commenced: 6.40 pm

Terminated: 8:20pm

**Present:** Councillors Pearce (Chair), J. Homer (Vice-Chair) Beardmore, Billington, Dickinson, Jackson, T. Sharif, Sweeton, Taylor, Tilbrook, and Wills

**In Attendance:**

Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources
Alison White	Head of Service, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health
James Mallion	Assistant Director of Public Health
Meena Kumar	Social Work Consultant
Graham Holland	Planning Policy Team Manager

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors S. Homer and Lane

### 14. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 11 October 2023 were approved as a correct record.

### 15. TORNADO UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods provided an update in relation to the response to the tornado that struck Stalybridge late in the evening on 27 December 2023.

It was explained that the tornado was of short duration and an unexpected incident that caused significant damage to properties and also brought down trees resulting in further damage to properties, vehicles and roads in the area.

Following the tornado, a major incident was declared in line with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and a significant multi-agency response was mobilised throughout the night and the following days. It was reported that a rest centre was established at Dukinfield town hall on the night of the event and the following day for any displaced residents.

The Assistant Director advised that thankfully there had been no casualties, and the major incident was stood down the following morning.

During the course of the incident, Members were informed that the Council's emergency call centre received 1,050 calls during the 24 hours following the incident. Normally the call centre would receive around 200 calls for a similar period.

An overview of the Council's response was provided and it was explained that the authority brought in around 75 staff over the Christmas period. Street teams prioritised debris and fallen trees along public highways ensuring that they were safe and accessible before dealing with debris with fenced off areas.

Of the 135 properties affected, only 23 remained uninhabitable as of 23 January 2024. The Council would continue to connect with residents as their homes were repaired.

Of those properties that had been issued with Section 77 or Section 78 Notices, an application could be made to the Forever Manchester Fund for support. Communication would be sent to residents in the next 10 days.

Members thanked officers for their dedication and support during the incident and requested a briefing on the Council's emergency guide.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

## **16. BUDGET CONSULTATION**

The Chair welcomed the Director of Resources, who attended the Forum to deliver a presentation with regards to the Budget Consultation for 2024/25.

The Director of Resources provided Members with an overview of the national local government funding landscape and key challenges faced within Tameside which included;

- Additional demand for services across the front line;
- Fragile markets for social care and housing supply;
- Increases in complexity of care needs in Social Care;
- Increased number of young people with Educational, Health and Care Plans;
- Increased contacts due to the economic environment; and
- Digital Transformation.

An overview of the budget reductions and the revised budget gap was presented to Members. It was explained that the budget consultation went live on 19 December 2023 and 193 responses had been received. The Director of Resources emphasised the importance of residential engagement in the consultation process in order to help shape the priorities for the 2024/25 budget.

Members were further advised on the next steps for the period 2024-29 and the Director of Resources explained that there would be a greater use of Neighbourhood Forum meetings to feed into the budget consultation in order to gain greater Member engagement on priorities within each locality.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for Resources for the informative presentation.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

## **17. CARER STRATEGY**

The Chair welcomed Alison White, Head of Service, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health, who gave a presentation in respect of the Tameside Carer's Strategy.

Members were informed that a carer was a person who provided informal and/or unpaid support to a partner, family member, friend or neighbour who was ill, struggling or disabled and could not manage without assistance. It was explained that throughout 2022/23, carers across Tameside were consulted with to understand what was most important to them and how they could be best supported.

Members were advised that officers continued to work with partners across Social Care, Health and VCSF in order to develop a delivery plan for the implementation of the strategy. It was explained that the Carer's Strategy was expected to launch in March 2024 and feedback would be obtained from carers annually on the progress of the strategy.

It was explained that the Tameside Carer's Centre provided emotional support, advocacy, advice and guidance for carers, along with carer's courses and activities to support carers. With regards to the Carer's Offer in Tameside, Members were informed that carers could ask for a carer's needs assessment in their own right or a joint assessment with the person they cared for. Members were provided with information on the services that supported carers within Tameside.

The Chair thanked Ms White for the thought provoking presentation.

**RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

**18. HOW TO BECOME A FOSTER CARER**

The Chair welcomed Meena Kumar, Social Work Consultant who gave a presentation in respect of the Fostering Service.

It was explained that fostering was the support and care for a child when they could not live at home; providing a stable and caring environment; working closely with others involved in the welfare of the children being cared for; attendance at meetings – reviews and education; and to undertake training to develop fostering skills. It was further explained that there was no upper age limit and anyone could foster whether they were married, co-habiting, single, straight or gay. All ethnic and religious backgrounds were welcomed and there was no specific qualifications required to become a foster carer.

The various types of fostering were outlined and the approval process was explained to the Forum. Ongoing fostering support was provided via social workers and support workers with social workers assigned to the children. Support was also available through the Fostering Network and there was a buddy scheme, a training programme, support groups and allowances and fees.

Discussion ensued with regards to the presentation and it was explained that further details could be found at [fosteringenquiries@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringenquiries@tameside.gov.uk).

The Chair thanked Ms Kumar for the very interesting presentation.

**RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

**19. LOCAL PLAN**

The Forum received a presentation from the Senior Planning Policy Officer, who provided Members with an overview of the Local Plan and outlined the opportunities for engagement and the activities that were intended to be undertaken in the short, medium and long term.

Members were advised that the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required each Local Planning Authority prepared and maintained a Local Development Scheme, which was based on up-to-date evidence and examined by independently appointed inspectors. It was explained that the Local Development Scheme set out key milestones for plan making which the Council proposed to deliver, and identified the nature and scope for the delivery of Development Plan Documents that were the local planning framework for Tameside. The Senior Planning Policy Officer summarised the key subject areas within the plan which included the location of development, protection of assets and meeting needs.

It was explained that the Council's Local Development Scheme was published in July 2023 and provided details of the current and intended planning frameworks for the borough, and provided

clarity to the associated documents that were collectively included within the borough's Local Plan. It was further explained that in Tameside, the Local Plan consisted of a number of documents which formed the policy framework within Greater Manchester.

The Senior Planning Policy Officer provided a summary of the plans which were currently undergoing consultation. With regards to Places for Everyone, it was explained that 177 consultation responses had been received which were to be considered and included within the inspectors report. It was reported that adoption was to be considered in early 2024.

Members were provided with an update on Homes Spaces Places which replaced any remaining elements of the Unitary Development Plan. It was explained that officers consulted on an integrated assessment in July 2023 and this was currently in the Plan Scoping stage.

A discussion ensued regarding enhancing Member engagement with Homes Spaces Places. The importance of engagement throughout the process was emphasised by the Forum.

**RESOLVED**

**That the content of the presentation be noted.**

**20. SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY**

**RESOLVED**

**The Chair requested that the item be deferred to a future meeting of the Forum.**

**21. FLU IMPACT & IMPACT OF DOCTORS STRIKES**

**RESOLVED**

**The Chair requested that the item be deferred to a future meeting of the Forum.**

**22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

**That the next meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum is scheduled to take place on 20 March 2024, be noted.**

**CHAIR**