

WEST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

21 March 2019

Commenced: 6.30pm

Terminated: 7.35pm

Present: Councillor Ward (Chair)
Councillors: Boyle, Cooney, Fowler, A Holland (Vice-Chair),
B Holland, D Lane, Mills, Newton, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Ryan,
M Smith, T Smith and Warrington

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bailey and Gwynne

12 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 18 October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

13 AGEING WELL

A presentation was delivered by the Director of Adult Services explaining the need to create an environment where older people were respected, recognised and included in the community and the family.

The Director gave information of the various ways that this could be achieved and areas for consideration, including:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings;
- Appropriate and affordable housing;
- Accessible and affordable transportation;
- Social participation;
- Civic participation and employment; and
- Communication and Information.

The Director made reference to www.lifeintamesideandglossop.org web portal and demonstrated the various areas of the website where information and support could be found. The Director added that the 'support' area of the website would be owned and managed by people working across the system in social prescribing roles.

Members gave consideration to the information presented and made reference in particular, to the need for more suitable housing options, access to public transportation and information technology.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

14 EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

The Head of Employment and Skills delivered a presentation on employment initiatives currently being undertaken within the Neighbourhood area and sought Members views on future initiatives.

Members were given an overview of residents currently employed in the area against the national average. The Head of Employment and Skills detailed those who received employment support allowance, the number of those in workless households, those without qualifications and the number of those who claimed disability benefits.

Information was given in respect of the number of Young People Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) as of January 2019. Of the 143 NEET Young people, 38 (26%) came from Tameside West.

Members were informed of the steps taken by the Council to provide support and advice, including commissioning of careers advice, Careers Exhibition, Tameside HACK events as well as other local skills and grants aimed at creating skills and employment.

Members were informed of adult education and employment support available throughout the borough through age friendly work initiatives. Reference was made to the Working Well programme, which operated across Greater Manchester to help long term benefit claimants with health conditions to move into and stay in work. Within Tameside there were 317 referrals to Working Well from Tameside Jobcentre Plus in 2018.

Discussion ensued in respect of the information presented and Members made reference to apprenticeships and discussed the national decline in skilled workers in trades such as plumbing, brick laying etc, and the need to support training in these occupations.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

15 FOOD STRATEGY

The Programme Manager, Population Health, delivered a presentation providing information in respect of the current consultation to develop a healthy and sustainable food strategy for Tameside.

The Programme Manager discussed the need for a balanced diet as essential for health and wellbeing and explored some of the existing barriers to reducing obesity or diet related disease including the impact of the out of home food offer.

She further explored food's carbon footprint and the greenhouse gas emissions produced by growing, rearing, farming, processing, transporting, storing, cooking and disposing of the food we eat.

Details were given of the six key food objectives developed by the Tameside Food Partnership:

- Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public;
- Tackling food poverty and access to affordable healthy food;
- Building community food knowledge, skills and projects;
- Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy;
- Transforming catering and food procurement; and
- Reducing waste and ecological footprint of the food system.

Details of how to access the on-line survey at www.tameside.gov.uk/foodsurvey were also provided.

Discussion ensued and Members raised concerns with regard to excessive packaging of products and the growing trend towards becoming a 'disposable society'. They further commented on the need for further education in schools with regard to healthy food options and the importance of a balanced diet.

The continual growth of take-away food outlets in the area was also discussed and the possibility of limiting outlets within a certain radius of schools and restricting the amount of outlets within a given area.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

CHAIR