

WEST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

25 March 2021

Commenced: 6.30pm

Terminated: 7.15pm

Present: Councillors Ward (Chair), Boyle, Cooney, Gwynne, A Holland (Vice-Chair), B Holland, Jones, Martin, Mills, Naylor, Quinn, Ricci, Ryan, M Smith, T Smith and Warrington

Apologies for absence: Councillors Newton and Reid

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 21 January 2021 be approved as a correct record.

12. BIG CONVERSATION

The Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence presented before Members and gave details of current ongoing consultations and engagement exercises as follows:

- Active Tameside;
- Covid Test and Trace;
- Electoral Ward Boundaries and Names;
- Godley Green Garden Village;
- Mental Health Act Reform;
- Health Improvement Service; and
- Dementia Call for Evidence: Black, Caribbean and African Communities in Greater Manchester.

Details of all the above were available on the Tameside website under 'Big Conversation' and everyone was encouraged to take part.

The Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence further updated on the Census 2021, which had been reported on in detail at the last meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum (meeting of 21 January 2021 refers).

It was explained that although the Census day was 21 March 2021, there was still time to complete it until the end of April 2021. Support was available via support centres throughout the Borough and a slot could be booked by telephoning: 0161 342 2031. Although it was a digital first Census, paper copies were available by contacting the National Helpline on 0800 141 2021.

The importance of maximising the response to the census was emphasised, as it had an influence on funding the Council would receive.

Members thanked the Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence for a very informative presentation and it was:

RESOVLED

That the content of the presentation, including ongoing consultations and engagement exercises, be noted.

13. COMMUNITY SAFETY NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY

Mr Smith, Partnership Manager, Community Safety and Homelessness, delivered a presentation giving details of ongoing work to identify and address community safety issues and the development of the Community Safety Strategy.

- Community safety issues were outlined and discussed as follows:
- Crime;
- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Child Criminal Exploitation;
- Community Cohesion;
- Violence;
- Terrorism/Extremism;
- Road Safety;
- Mental Health;
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping;
- Social Isolation;
- Drug and Alcohol Misuse;
- Modern Slavery;
- People Trafficking
- Organised Crime;
- Online Safety;
- Fire Safety; and
- Neighbourhood Watch.

It was explained that the Community Safety Strategy would incorporate the themes of the GM Police and Crime Plan – Standing Together, set priorities around the local needs of the community and address emerging issues.

The five key priorities of the Community Safety Strategy were detailed as follows:

- Building stronger communities;
- Preventing and reducing violent crime, knife crime & domestic abuse;
- Preventing and reducing crime & anti-social behaviour;
- Preventing and reducing the harm caused by drugs & alcohol; and
- Protecting vulnerable people and those at risk of exploitation.

It was further explained that the overarching objective of the Community Safety Strategy was 'Building Stronger Communities' to make Tameside a safer place to live, study, work and visit. To achieve this objective the Local Authority and Greater Manchester Police would work in partnership through a joint Neighbourhood Strategy focussing on local needs/priorities.

Information was also given in respect of Independent Advisory Groups (IAG), developed nationally by police forces and police authorities to provide independent advice in understanding the role and impact of the police in diverse communities. In Tameside, this was being done in a more co-operative way, establishing an IAG for the Community Safety Partnership as a whole. This recognised the way in which a range of partner organisations in the Borough worked together and with local people, to create safer communities and build good community relations. Members were advised that the Tameside IAG was formed in February 2020, just before the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions began. The group was diverse in its membership with members from all faith groups, the voluntary sector, community groups and charitable organisations. The group had been meeting online every week.

Mr Smith commented on the rise of anti-social behaviour complaints since the onset of the Pandemic and the subsequent increase in demand on the service, particularly around neighbour disputes.

Details were given of some of the 321 complaints received since 23 March 2020, including two injunctions served by the courts and a closure order on an AirBNB property in Droylsden.

In respect of Neighbourhood Watch, it was reported that there were currently 59 schemes registered in Tameside across the 9 townships. Neighbourhood Watch provided an excellent route in to Active Citizenship, an ethos that was promoted through the Community Safety Strategy.

With regard to the Youth Service, Members were advised that, despite the closure of Youth Centres due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the youth service had remained operational and continued to deliver in communities. The Youth Service were dynamic in their approach when responding to the pandemic. Moving to street-based and outreach delivery of their service, they were able to continue to engage, support and reassure young people in communities. The outreach work was continuous from March 2020 – November 2020. A feat matched by only one other borough in the Greater Manchester region. As restrictions eased, four of the borough's Youth Centres opened, with outreach work continuing to date.

Members thanked Mr Smith for a very full and informative presentation and sought clarification in respect of anti-social behaviour issues highlighted and asked for further details in respect of any habitual/repeat offenders of instances of noise complaints and how effective the deterrents were. They further commented on the closure order on the AirBNB property.

Members further thanked the Youth Service for their excellent work throughout the pandemic.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

CHAIR