

EAST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

24 March 2021

Commenced: 6.30 pm

Terminated: 7.45 pm

Present: Councillors Pearce (Chair), Sharif (Vice-Chair), Sweeton, Billington, Dickinson, Feeley, Gosling, J Homer, S Homer, Jackson, J Lane, Patrick, Taylor, Wild and Wills

11 MINUTES

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 20 January 2021 were approved as a correct record.

12 BIG CONVERSATION

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence detailing ongoing consultation and engagement exercises across the borough. The consultation and engagement exercises covered:

- Active Tameside;
- Covid-19 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.

The results of the consultations would be used to inform the next steps of the respective processes.

The Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence provided a further update on the Census 2021, which had been reported to Members at the last meeting of the Forum on 20 January 2021.

Members were informed that census day was 21 March 2021, but individuals had until the end of April 2021 to complete the mandatory questionnaire. The Council was ensuring that all residents were able to complete the digital census by providing access to a computer at one of six libraries across Tameside. Residents that wished to book a slot for a computer to complete the census could do so by calling 0161 342 2031. Although residents were being encouraged to complete a digital version of the census, paper copies were available by contacting the national helpline on 0800 141 2021.

It was essential that residents completed the census as it assisted the government with allocating funding and resources for public services over the next 10 years.

RESOLVED

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

13 COMMUNITY SAFETY NEIGHBOURHOOD STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a presentation of the Head of Community Safety and Homelessness providing details of the ongoing work to identify and address community safety issues across the borough. Details of the development of a Community Strategy, to build stronger communities, was also presented to the Forum.

Members were informed that community safety covered a wide range of issues, including:

- Crime;
- Anti-social behaviour;
- Domestic abuse;
- Road safety;
- Homelessness & rough sleeping;
- Social isolation;
- Fire safety; and
- Counter terrorism & extremism.

The Head of Community Safety and Homelessness outlined the five key priorities of the Community Safety Strategy:

- 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 explained that the Community Safety Strategy would incorporate the themes of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan; setting priorities around the needs of the local community and addressing emerging issues. It was hoped that the Strategy would build a stronger community making Tameside a safer place to live, work and visit.

Information on the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) was provided to Members and it was explained that the Group had been developed nationally by police forces and police authorities to provide independent advice in understanding the role and impact of the police in diverse communities. Members were informed that the Tameside IAG had been formed in February 2020 and was a group with a diverse membership, including members from all faith groups, the voluntary sector, community groups and charitable organisations. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Group had met online each week and senior police officers had attended each meeting along with guest speakers.

Members were advised that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour complaints during the pandemic, particularly neighbour disputes. The Forum were informed of some of the positive work that had been undertaken in tackling anti-social behaviour over the past 12 months. The Council had recently obtained a Closure Order for an Air BnB premises in Droylsden that had been the source of anti-social behaviour and Covid-related breaches. In addition, the Council had obtained injunctions against two individuals, one who had threatened library staff and another who had been abusive toward his neighbours.

In respect of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, it was reported that there were currently 59 registered schemes within Tameside. It was hoped that as coronavirus restrictions were gradually lifted, the Neighbourhood Watch groups would be able to participate in community speed watch operations. Training would be available to residents once government guidance allowed.

An update was also provided in relation to the Council's youth service provision and it was explained that, despite the closure of youth centres due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the service had remained operational throughout the various lockdowns. In total, there were eight youth clubs in Tameside in those areas with the highest levels of deprivation. Members were informed that detached youth workers had been engaging with young people in those areas where anti-social behaviour was prevalent and around 10,000 contacts had been made during the past year.

A discussion ensued regarding concerns related to begging and graffiti within Stalybridge town centre. Members had received reports from residents that individuals had been begging outside the supermarkets in the town and some people had felt intimidated as a result. The Head of Community Safety and Homelessness advised that concerns about begging in Stalybridge would be shared with the local police. In relation to graffiti, it was explained that the Council responded quickly to any reports of graffiti to ensure it was removed promptly.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

CHAIR