

NORTH STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

26 October 2021

Commenced: 6.30 pm

Terminated: 8.00 pm

Present: Councillors Bowerman (Chair), Choksi (Vice-Chair), Bray, Costello, Drennan, Glover, Huntbach, Lewis and McNally

In Attendance:

Ian Saxon	Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Paul Smith	Assistant Director of Strategic Property
Gregg Stott	Assistant Director of Investment, Development and Housing
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Dave Smith	Partnership Manager for Community Safety and Homelessness

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cartey, Fairfoull and Patel

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting of the North Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 23 March 2021 were approved as a correct record.

2. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Partnership Manager for Community Safety and Homelessness and Chief Inspector Broadstock, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), delivered a presentation giving details of the Greater Manchester Police Tameside North Neighbourhood Strategy 2021 – 2023.

The Partnership Manager began by outlining the five key priorities of the Community Safety Strategy as follows:-

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

Chief Inspector Broadstock then gave details of the new GMP Strategic Plan, which focused on fighting, preventing and reducing crime; keeping people safe and caring for victims. Information was given in respect of public promises, including:-

- Responses to incidents and emergencies
- Prevention and reduction of crime, harm and anti-social behaviour
- Investigating and solving crimes
- Delivering outstanding public service
- Building public trust and confidence

The Partnership Manager informed Members of ongoing activity in respect of the promotion of Road Safety campaigns and Hate Crime awareness. Information was also provided in respect of Community Safety Partnership Grant Funding and the projects funded in 2021/22. One such project was a vehicle for Ashton United In The Community, which would be used to support the delivery of a series of community engagement projects, along with popup events where the partners involved could promote current community safety awareness messages.

The Partnership Manager concluded by explaining that partnership working continued with the aim of creating a safer, stronger and active community, where crime and anti-social behaviour was less likely to happen through Neighbourhood Watch schemes, of which there were 62 registered schemes within the Borough and 10 schemes in Tameside North.

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods notified the Forum of a multiple agency operation that was undertaken in Ashton town centre today that included Police, Fire, Trading Standards and the Community Safety Team. Early indications showed that the operation had been very successful and communication on the results of the partnership operation would be released in the coming days. She was pleased to announce that a Police post would be based within the Market Hall in Ashton town centre and further partnership operations would be held in the future.

Chief Inspector Broadstock explained that the Market Hall Police post would allow neighbourhood staff to be based in the heart of the area that was causing the most issues and problems. There would be a CCTV link and staff could review incidents and have access to crucial evidence quicker, which would speed up the process.

Members welcomed this information and stressed the importance of partnership working in order to rebuild trust within communities. They commended the improvement in local policing recently and queried if there would be a dedicated burglary patrol.

Chief Inspector Broadstock gave assurances that Police Officers were now less constrained by tasks and procedures, which had prevented them from having a more visible presence in the community and that they would be able to work more flexibly in dedicated neighbourhood teams going forward. There was a firm commitment that victims of burglary would receive a visit from a Police Officer and if there were forensic opportunities, a Scenes of Crime team member would visit to look for lines of inquiry. He was pleased to inform the Forum that Tameside had the best positive outcome rate for charges for burglary in Greater Manchester but this could and would be better.

Chief Inspector Broadstock encouraged everyone to report crimes and provided assurance that reports would be responded to and reinforced GMP's commitment to listen to and work with people and partners with the aim of creating a safer, stronger community. He advised that there was a commitment to reducing response times and encouraged everyone who was able to report on-line as this was quicker.

Chief Inspector Broadstock also responded to Members concerns in respect of road safety, in particular speeding vehicles. There was a strong emphasis on enforcement and a week of action was undertaken during the summer with an ongoing dedicated day each month in areas where there had been reports of speeding. Members were encouraged to report areas of concern to the Neighbourhood Team and they would be targeted to issues speeding tickets, seize uninsured vehicles and in many cases arrest drivers for other offences. It was reported that the Chief Constable was committed to strengthening Tameside's central road traffic policing to a level where it should be. There would be increased visibility through a number of dedicated vehicles on a daily basis around the borough, which further strengthened the commitment and a real impact would soon be seen. In addition, community speed watches would be launched.

Following enquiries from Members, Chief Inspector Broadstock further emphasised the importance of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and the commitment for police officers to attend such meetings and be in a position to share crime data. He also confirmed that Police and Communities Together

(PACT) meetings would now recommence following a pause due to Covid restrictions, which was welcomed by Members.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Broadstock and the Partnership Manager for Community Safety and Homelessness for their reassuring presentation and looked forward to the positive impact that the implementation of the Community Safety Strategy and GMP Strategic Plan would have across Tameside and in particular Ashton.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

3. PLACE PRIORITIES

The Assistant Director of Investment, Development and Housing, delivered a presentation on the priorities of the Place Directorate going forward. He began by giving details of the following ongoing / future projects / initiatives:-

Tameside Resilience Business Clinic

- Launched as part of the Covid response, offering free, bespoke advice and guidance.
- Businesses were matched with a Project Manager from Economy, Employment and Skills using the bank of Business Community Champions, GM Business Growth Hub provision and a catalogue of online support including webinars.
- Business Community Champions were local business experts offering free support across specialisms including finance, social media and business start-up.
- To date 63 businesses had registered and engaged with the Clinic.

In Work Progression - launching in January 2022

- Tameside had been selected by DWP to run a trial project, offering support to Tameside residents who were in work but would like to increase their earnings.
- Experienced staff would offer one-to-one support.
- Support would be tailored to the aims of each person.

Tameside Youth Employment Support

- Created in response to increased challenges for young people following the pandemic, recognising the challenges many faced when trying to find employment.
- Employers were supported to create job opportunities matching the aspirations of a young person by offering reimbursement of first 6 months' salary for apprenticeship or non-apprenticeship roles.
- Partnership and Engagement Officers provided one-to-one support from application through to job sustainment including support with preparation for work, CV writing, understanding employer expectations, preparing for interviews and transition into work.

Routes to Work Supported Employment Service

- A team of specialist advisors offering advice, support and practical assistance for anyone with a disability who would like to find employment.
- On the job training using specialist methods.
- The Service provided retention advice and support to local businesses.
- Created a network of opportunities for residents with disabilities.
- Currently the Service supported 77 Tameside residents - 46 in work and 31 looking for work.

A framework for investment in Town Centres was detailed, which would provide an overarching strategy for the regeneration of town centres going forward. Details were given of significant investment and improvement over recent years through the Vision Tameside programme, such as Tameside One and the Transport Interchange, and the Council were engaging with the owners of

The Arcade and Ladysmith shopping centres to better understand opportunities for further long term change.

Reference was made to the £19.9 million Levelling Up Fund bid that had been submitted, which would accelerate the delivery of the comprehensive transformation of Ashton town centre and would include work on land remediation and enable infrastructure works on the former interchange site, walking / cycling and public realm improvements and supporting the restoration of Ashton Town Hall. Reference was also made to St Petersfield and Ashton Moss that had a number of emerging proposals.

In terms of housing delivery, it was reported that there were dedicated affordable housing developments with 51 rent to buy homes located at The Box, Ashton-Under-Lyne and 50 affordable rent homes at Cavendish Wharf, Ashton-Under-Lyne. There were significant other developments including 42 affordable rent home for over 55 year olds with full permission at Emmanuel Court, Henrietta Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Southway Housing Trust, 195 homes on Hartshead School, Ashton-Under-Lyne, market site with 15% affordable homes agreed and the former Taunton Sunday School site was currently being marketed by the Council.

With regard to Strategic Property, reference was made to the vaccination centre at Oxford Park, the installation of a new boiler at Hurst Knoll school and the decarbonisation project. It was reported that a number of assets were declared as surplus at a recent Executive Cabinet meeting.

Members of the Forum welcomed news of the Levelling Up Fund bid and highlighted two areas of concern; land at the side of the bus station in Ashton and Ashton town centre. The Assistant Director of Investment, Development and Housing confirmed that both areas formed part of the Levelling Up Fund bid and the Council were working with TfGM on the land at the bus station, as the area was a priority for future development.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director of Investment, Development and Housing for an informative presentation and the Forum looked forward to receiving future updates.

RESOVLED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE FORUM

The Director of Place explained that Members views on future items / presentations for Forum meetings were welcomed and that he would be liaising with Members and the Executive Member, Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment on this matter, going forward.

Members of the North Strategic Neighbourhood Forum requested that there be regular updates on the development of Ashton town centre and an update be provided on Ashton Moss.

CHAIR