

EAST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

27 October 2021

Commenced: 6.30pm

Terminated: 8.05pm

Present: **Councillors T Sharif (Chair), Gosling (Vice-Chair), Billington, Dickinson, J Homer, Jackson, Lane, Patrick, Pearce, N Sharif and Sweeton.**

Apologies for absence: **Cllrs Feeley, S Homer, Taylor and Wills**

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting of the East Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 24 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

2. POLICE/COMMUNITY SAFETY

Ms Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, Mr Gregory, Head of Community Safety and Homelessness and Chief Inspector Broadstock, Greater Manchester Police, delivered a presentation giving details of the Greater Manchester Police Tameside South Neighbourhood Strategy 2021 – 2023.

Ms Varnam began by outlining five key priorities of the Community Safety Strategy 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.

Chief Inspector Broadstock then gave details of the new GMP Strategic Plan, which focused on fighting, preventing and reducing crime; keeping people safe and care 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;
- The investigation and solving of crimes;
- Delivering outstanding public service; and
- Building public trust and confidence.

Mr Gregory, Head of Community Safety and Homelessness advised Members of ongoing activity in respect of the promotion of Hate Crime awareness and Road Safety campaigns.

Information was also provided in respect of Community Safety Partnership Grant Funding and the projects funded in 2021/22.

Chief Inspector Broadstock 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.

Members thanked everyone for the presentation and sought further information in respect of resources available to deliver the new GMP Strategic Plan.

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.

Members welcomed the new narrative and stressed the importance of communication and partnership working in order to rebuild trust within communities. Chief Inspector Broadstock concurred and added that Police Officers had received huge support on the joint enforcement day of action, which had taken place across the Borough, the previous day.

Further information was sought in respect of response times to 999/101 telephone numbers. Chief Inspector Broadstock advised that there was a commitment to reducing response times and encouraged everyone who was able to, report on-line, as this was quicker.

A member of the public submitted a question via email and asked what were GMP doing to encourage residents to report crime?

Chief Inspector Broadstock encouraged everyone to report crimes and assured everyone 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.

A further question submitted by a member of the public made reference to the Car Park review, which closed 19 months ago and the Castle Street Car Park, which was pitch black and raised concerns of the safety of users as winter and dark nights approached.

The Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, explained that the Car Park review had ended as Covid had hit and the staff involved were central to the Council's Covid response, therefore it had been reprioritised at that time. Car parks would however now be considered in conjunction with Town Centre reviews.

The Chair thanked Ms Varnam, Mr Gregory and Chief Inspector Broadstock for a very interesting presentation.

RESOVLED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

3. GROWTH PRIORITIES

Mr Stott, Assistant Director, Investment, Development and Housing, presented before Members giving details of the Place Directorate priorities going forward.

Mr Stott 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 to with a Project Manager from Economy Employment & Skills using the bank of Business Community Champions (BCC), GM Business Growth Hub provision and a catalogue of online support including webinars. BCCs 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 project launching in January 2022. It was explained that Tameside had been selected by DWP to run the 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, 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 & Engagement Officers provided one-to-one support from application through to job sustainment.

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. The Service provided retention advice and support to local businesses and 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 also provided and details given of significant stakeholder engagement for Stalybridge Town Centre carried out in recent years through the Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge and of the Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge Action Plan approved by Council in February 2020.

Stalybridge Town Centre challenges and current activity/areas of focus were detailed and discussed.

Reference was also made to the £14.5m Levelling Up Fund bid, which built on stakeholder engagement for Stalybridge Town Centre.

Next steps for Stalybridge Town Centre were detailed and included:

- Continued delivery of the HSHAZ programme with works to the Civic Hall roof being progressed and designs prepared for the Heritage Walk;
- Feasibility work for future uses in vacant buildings on Market Street and the Civic Hall to be completed shortly;
- £80k secured for the Cultural Consortium to fund a programme of activity bringing major benefits to the town;
- Stalybridge Street Fest every second Friday of the month demonstrating demand, appetite and prospects of Stalybridge as a cultural hub; and
- £100k secured from TfGM for Stalybridge Interchange Options Study with initial report due by March 2022.

In terms of housing delivery, the following was reported:

- Sixteen Affordable Rent houses with full planning permission at Rydal Walk, Stalybridge (Jigsaw Homes);
- Twenty four Affordable Rent apartments at the Police Station site and 21 at Grosvenor Street, both in Stalybridge, both in the process of seeking amended planning permission to meet the needs of Adult Services clients provided by Great Places HG; and
- Seventy units Affordable Rent Retirement Living apartments, Egmont Street Mossley, seeking revised permissions, provided by Johnnie Johnston Housing.

With regard to Strategic Property, repairs/improvement work was detailed at a number of schools in the area. Further details were given of surplus assets and decarbonisation projects at: Loxley House; Gorse Hall Primary School; Birch Lane Children's Centre; and George Lawton Hall.

Further to queries from Members, the Assistant Director gave further details in respect of the £80k secured for the Cultural Consortium and added that this was the maximum grant available and it was hoped that this would leverage money from other stakeholders.

Information was also sought on the Levelling Up Fund bid and the announcement in the Budget by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that Ashton-under-Lyne had been successful.

The Director of Place responded that formal confirmation of this was awaited and as soon as this was received, detail would be shared with everyone.

Further to enquiries from Members in respect of the process for disposal of sites within the Council's portfolio, the Assistant Director explained that Members and stakeholders would be consulted through the Strategic Asset Management Plan.

A member of the public raised queries in respect of the following, via email:

- Stalybridge Town Centre Action Plan;
- the Cultural Consortium; and
- the Affordable Rent apartments at the Police Station site and 21 at Grosvenor Street, Stalybridge.

The Director of Place agreed to respond in writing within seven working days.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for a very informative presentation.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR 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.

CHAIR