

WEST STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

28 October 2021

Commenced: 6.30 pm

Terminated: 7.20 pm

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Martin, Mills, Quinn and Reid

1 MINUTES

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting of the West Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 25 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

2 POLICE/COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Forum received a presentation from the Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, the Partnership Manager, Community Safety and Homelessness and Chief Inspector Broadstock from Greater Manchester Police. The presentation provided details of the Greater Manchester Police Tameside West Neighbourhood Strategy 2021-2023.

The Assistant Director began by outlining 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.

The Chief Inspector 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:

- Response times 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.

It was advised that, Inspector Hussain, would be responsible for community policing in the West neighbourhood and each ward in Audenshaw, Denton and Droylsden had a dedicated beat police officer and PCSO.

As part of the commitment to building a new GMP, it was highlighted that the force would improve response times to 999 and 101 calls and make it easier for the public to report non-emergencies online.

The Chief Inspector reported that two notorious car criminals in Denton had recently been charged and remanded, whilst a cannabis factory at Gartside Farm in Droylsden had been dismantled and thousands of pounds worth of drugs seized. In addition, regular monthly days of action around road safety were being held to tackle speeding and dangerous driving.

The Partnership Manager, 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.

To forge strong links with local communities, the Partnership Manager explained that the Council continued to work closely with local Neighbourhood Watch groups to prevent crime and reduce anti-social behaviour. In the West neighbourhood, there were 22 schemes, incorporating 1,960 households.

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.

The Forum received assurances from the Chief Inspector that police officers were now less constrained by tasks and procedures that had prevented them from having a more visible presence in the community. This would ensure that officers would be able to work more flexibly in dedicated neighbourhood teams going forward.

Members queried if the police were aware of the 'Crimewatchers' group, setup by local residents, that had been operating in the Audenshaw and Droylsden areas. Chief Inspector Broadstock confirmed that there had been a number of meetings between the local police, Council and the group and they had complied with the requirement to register with the Security Industry Authority (SIA). The police confirmed that the group was able to offer services as a private security firm, given that they were registered.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director, Partnership Manager, and Chief Inspector for a very informative presentation.

RESOVLED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

3 GROWTH PRIORITIES

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

Tameside Resilience Business Clinic

- Launched as part of the pandemic 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 are 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 the DWP to run a trial project, offering support to Tameside residents who were in work but wished 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 difficulties 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 wanted 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 the borough's town centres going forward. It was highlighted that the towns within the West neighbourhood had a significant number of heritage assets and the Council hoped to utilise these in order to achieve their full potential.

Improvements and investment in the towns of the West neighbourhood were detailed. In Droylsden, 230 new homes had been delivered at the marina by Watkins Jones and there was the opportunity for further housing delivery on the Lock Keeper's development site and adjacent former Droylsden library site. Members welcomed the recent opening of the new Droylsden library situated in Guardsman Tony Downes House. The new library provided a fully accessible layout with up to date IT facilities, a community room, children's area and space for meetings, work and study.

In terms of housing delivery, it was reported that 62 homes for affordable rent had been delivered by Jigsaw Homes at Fairfield Road in Droylsden and a further 66 homes for affordable rent at the same site had been provided by Irwell Valley Housing Association. In Audenshaw, 34 shared ownership homes had been delivered by Mosscares St Vincent through the Brownfield Homes Fund grant.

Significant other developments included 338 new homes of mixed types and tenures on the site of the former Robertson's Jam Factory in Droylsden. In Denton, £300k had been secured from the Brownfield Homes Fund for 20 new homes on the site of the former swimming baths whilst the former Two Trees High School site would now be cleared following demolition of the buildings earlier in the year.

Members welcomed the capital investment and improvements that were underway or due to begin at a number of local schools, including the extension of Aldwyn Primary School in Audenshaw and the new secure front entrance planned for St Anne's Primary School in Denton.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for the detailed presentation and welcomed the investment in the area's residents and towns.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

4 ACHIEVEMENTS/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 for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment on this matter, going forward.

CHAIR