

SOUTH STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

18 March 2019

Present: Councillor Robinson (in the Chair)
Councillors: Affleck, Bell, Bowden, Chadwick, Jim Fitzpatrick,
Philip Fitzpatrick, Kitchen, Peet, Welsh.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Buglass and Cooper

12 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the South Strategic Neighbourhood Forum held on 14 January 2018 be approved as a correct record.

13 EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES

The Strategic Neighbourhood Forum received a presentation from the Head of Employment and Skills detailing employment initiatives currently being undertaken within the Neighbourhood area and sought Members views on future initiatives.

Members were given an overview of residents who are currently employed in the area against the national average. The Head of Employment and Skills detailed those who receive employment support allowance, the number of those in workless households, those without qualifications and the number of those who claim disability benefits.

Members enquired on the number of those who are not currently employment in Tameside and whether there were Jobs available to the residents within the borough. Members specifically sought clarification on the opportunities for developments within Hattersley, specifically for apprenticeships.

The Head of Employment and Skills informed Members of the steps taken by the Council of the opportunities available in Hattersley and in a wider context to provide support and advise, including commissioning of careers advice, Careers Exhibition, Tameside Hack events as well as other local skills and grants aimed at creating skills and employment.

Members were informed of adult education and employment support available throughout the borough through age friendly work initiatives. In relation to the Working Well programme, which operates across Greater Manchester to help long term benefit claimants with health conditions to move into and stay in work. Within Tameside there were 317 referral to Working Well from Tameside Jobcentre plus in 2018

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

13 AGEING WELL

The Strategic Neighbourhood Forum received a presentation by the Director of Adult Services explaining the need to create an environment where older people were respected, recognised and included in the community and the family.

The Director of Adult Services highlighted the work of the Ageing Friendly Tameside: Working Together Partnership, encourages Social Participation, Civic Participation and Employment.

The Director of Adult Services made reference to www.lifeintamesideandglossop.org web portal and demonstrated the various areas of the website where information and support could be found. The Director added that the 'support' area of the website would be owned and managed by people working across the system in social prescribing roles.

The importance of outdoor spaces and buildings, appropriate and affordable housing and accessible and affordable transportation were detailed in providing quality of care for older people.

Members gave consideration to the information presented and made reference in particular, to the need for more suitable housing options, access to public transportation and information technology.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

15 FOOD STRATEGY

The Strategic Neighbourhood Forum were consulted by the Programme Manager for Population health on the sustainable food strategy for Tameside. The forum were informed of the problems created by out of home foods which is high in sugar, salt and calories and low in nutritional value. Low incomes can limit people's choices and cheap food is usually unhealthy food and this is coupled with enormous investment in advertising.

The Programme Manager discussed the need for a balanced diet as essential for health and wellbeing and explored some of the existing barriers to reducing obesity or diet related disease including the impact of the out of home food offer. Members attention was drawn to food's carbon footprint and the greenhouse gas emissions produced by growing, rearing, farming, processing, transporting, storing, cooking and disposing of the food we eat.

Details of how to access the on-line survey at www.tameside.gov.uk/foodsurvey were provided.

Members enquired on the possibility of educating children more at school on the risks of an unbalanced diet and how to prepare and cook healthy but cheap meals. Furthermore, Members considered the impact of food advertising on children. Members discussed the quality and availability of cheap food and the need to consider peoples means when drafting a strategy.

The continual growth of take-away food outlets in the area was also discussed and the possibility of limiting outlets within a certain radius of schools and restricting the amount of outlets within a given area.

A Member from the Grafton Centre volunteered use of the Centre for healthy cooking sessions within the community.

RESOLVED

That the content of the presentation be noted.

16 COUNCILLOR JOHN BELL

Members paid tribute to Councillor Bell on the occasion of his last meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum before standing down as a Councillor in May 2019.

CHAIR