

Newsline

Tameside Strategic Partnership Newsletter

Issue 1

February 2003



www.tameside.gov.uk

IN DEPTH STUDY

TAMESIDE is one of nine authorities taking part in a government-sponsored national evaluation programme.

This in-depth study into the progress made by Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), was announced by the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott in November.

Tameside's Strategic Partnership is the only one in the North-West invited to take part in the study, which will look at how partnerships and their partners are developing.

The two-year project will see the project organisers visit the borough to interview key stakeholders, collect and analyse documents, observe some processes and in general track the partnership's progress.

Tameside has already taken part in a feasibility study that involved a questionnaire survey of partner opinions – a study that saw Tameside's partners providing more responses than any other area.

Chair of the Strategic Partnership, Cllr Philip Wilkinson said: "We welcome this focus on our

partnership. We have much to feel proud of so far, our partnership work is wide and varied, and will continue to develop as the area's needs develop. Our consultation process is extensive and exemplary. The link with the study will help us to bring the best practises into all we do."

WELCOME TO THIS FIRST EDITION of NEWSLINE **Councillor Philip Wilkinson,** **Partnership Chair.**

We have many challenges to face in creating our community strategy.

If we are to succeed we need to be as well informed as possible about what we are doing and where we are going.

Through this newsletter we aim to keep you informed about our activities.

It will be published regularly and distributed by email through the partnership network. You will also be able to read it on Tameside's website: www.tameside.gov.uk (via the A-Z link to Tameside Strategic Partnership)

We would like you as members of the Strategic Partnership to join in with news and views. Contact our editor or partnership co-ordinator (details on the last page)

TAMESIDE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Who are they?

The wider partnership is made up of a network of thematic partnerships dealing with issues such as Crime and Community Safety. For more information on these themes you can contact a Partnership Link Officer

Tameside's local strategic partnership board has a wide membership, bringing together major employers, key public organisations providing services such as the police, housing and health, and voluntary and community groups.

The key activities of Tameside Strategic Partnership Board are:

- to prepare and implement the Tameside Community Strategy
- to bring together local plans, partnerships and initiatives to ensure that they meet local needs in a complementary and effective way.
- to take forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy for Tameside

What is it all about?

- making Tameside a better place to live and work
- helping improve the quality of people's lives
- building a more healthy and sustainable community
- creating an environment where businesses flourish
- ensuring local people have the right skills for today's economy
- providing effective services that people want and value

Nearly three years ago the first Community Strategy was produced with the aim of trying to make real improvements to the lives of people who live in Tameside.

This sets out the main actions needed to meet the challenges faced for the future. The report 'Two Years On' is available on Tameside's website, or by asking for a copy from Martin Higgins (Partnership Co-ordinator) 0161 342 3938

TAMESIDE COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP LINK OFFICERS:

Local Economy:

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COMMUNITY LINKS:

-Tameside Voice

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- E-tameside

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- Community Legal Services

Alan Franco 0161 342 3100

- Neighbourhood Renewal

Huw Davies 0161 342 3696

TAMESIDE TODAY FOR TOMORROW

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TAMESIDE?
HOW CAN WE MAKE THINGS BETTER?**

COMMUNITY STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS

The recent consultation has been about preparing the plan for the next three years.

Now completed, the wide-ranging consultation sessions began at Ashton Town Hall with members of the Citizens Panel, followed by a special session for young people aged between 14-25, at Tameside College. There were also contact sessions at District Assemblies, in shopping centres, at primary schools, and in focus sessions with hard to reach groups.

Local businesses, local councillors and many other organisations have also been part of the exercise.

One hundred people gave their views at the Ask The Audience session at Ashton Town Hall. This lively session started the consultations off, with the innovative use of hi-tech handsets to record people's answers.

The Tameside Today for Tomorrow questionnaire was also on the council's website to encourage both residents and businesses to respond.

THEIR VISION THEIR FUTURE

Young people from all over Tameside gave their vision for the future of Tameside.

In a special session at Tameside College, one hundred young people used electronic handsets to make their views known.

ASK THE AUDIENCE

The handsets, similar to those used in TV quiz games, had already proved effective when used in the consultation with community groups held at the Town Hall.

There was a quiz with prizes and workshop sessions on the main themes of the Community Strategy.

Chief Education Officer for Tameside, Ian Smith, whose years of teaching experience has given him a ready wit, compered the evening.

The young people, invited from youth organisations, included Tameside's District Assembly Youth Advisers.

Fifteen-year-old Rob Giblin from Hartshead High School, who is also a District Assembly member, opened the event with a presentation, including photographs taken by students at Tameside College. He raised issues, which the audience of young people were going to consider, and stressed how important their contribution would be for the future plans.

SO FAR SO GOOD – MORI CONSULTATION REPORT

MORI have completed their independent review of the findings from the consultations. The full report is now available on the Tameside website – look in the A-Z on www.tameside.gov.uk

The consultation results give the biggest picture of local people's priorities for the coming years. Here we give a brief summary.

The main aim of the consultation was to find out:

- Are the themes still the right ones?
- Are the ways of tackling the issues the right ones?

There was general agreement that the eight themes in the current strategy are the ones, which should be in the next strategy. But most people think that things need to improve.

People feel that Tameside is a friendly and welcoming place with a strong community spirit. But there are concerns about unsociable behaviour, such as petty crime and litter.

Lack of facilities and activities for children and young people are highlighted. And people of all ages, especially young people, feel that race relations could be better.

PRIORITIES

- Crime and Disorder issues
- Health and Social Care
- Lifelong Learning
- Environmental issues
- Jobs & the local economy

Young people showed concern for the environment and community safety not only for young people – a major issue – but also for older

people. They were sceptical about changes for the better in the future, and their voice being heard.

LATEST NEWS

PFI BID FOR SCHOOLS

Education & Lifelong Learning / Local Jobs & Economy / Transport / Environment / Health & Social Care / Homes / Crime & Disorder / Community

These are the eight themes in the current Community Strategy.

The council has made a further bid for a PFI (Private Finance Initiative) scheme to replace a number of high schools in the borough.

The PFI bid to build five new schools over five years, replacing the high schools that have poorest accommodation and facilities, was submitted to the government on January 3. Details of the bid are as follows: -

- The replacement of Mossley Hollins High School with a new school on the same site or elsewhere.
- The replacement of Two Trees High School within its existing site.
- The replacement of Hyde Technology School on its current site or elsewhere.
- To replace Stamford and Hartshead High Schools with a new Ashton High School on a new site, at the same time building on the achievements and long term plans of both schools.

· To create a new co-educational High School on the Littlemoss site. Droylsden High School and Fairfield High School will continue to provide single sex education for girls.

Initial discussions and consultations have begun with the school communities involved in the bid. The government is likely to announce the successful PFI schemes in late March/ April.

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL GETS GO-AHEAD

Hattersley's Neighbourhood Management Delivery Plan got the government seal of approval in October. They become one of only 20 areas to be awarded Neighbourhood Management status, and will get funding until 2009.

Hazel White, Acting Neighbourhood Manager, will lead the team to bring about the improvements for Hattersley. Their plan was developed with a Steering Group made up of residents, partner agencies, and service providers. The priorities for action are around local environment, housing management, jobs and training and health issues.

Contact Hazel White : 0161 368 2096

Do you have any news about your company or organisation that you would like to share with partnership members?

If so please contact the editor:
Lynn Travis 0161 342 3835
Email:
lynn.travis@mail.tameside.gov.uk

Clyde House Business Centre in Ashton has opened its doors to help fledgling businesses and those hoping to set up businesses by giving them access to state-of-the-art facilities and individual help.

Facilities include individual workstations equipped with a computer complete with office software and printer; fast broadband communications including the latest digital telephone technology, with individual own number system; a prestige address; staffed reception providing central office, secretarial and messaging services.

Free business help and advice will be on tap from Stuart Ridgway and Associates Ltd of Hyde.

- New developments which include retail and leisure opportunities are underway **at Ashton Moss and in Denton**, which should help create a more vibrant economy in the next two years.
- And business development initiatives in **Ashton Renewal Area, Droylsden and Hattersley** are geared to help improve local employment.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Partnership Board have welcomed and responded to the North West Regional Development Agency Review. The Tameside response makes specific points relevant to the area.

Michael Greenwood, Tameside's Chief Executive, talked about the Draft Greater Manchester Strategy at their October meeting. This sets out key issues for Greater Manchester, and also gives a regional perspective. He stressed the importance of ensuring that Greater Manchester, as a sub-region, gets a fair share of resources.

Contact : Alison Ashworth 0161 342 3297

FAIRSHARE

Fairshare is a joint initiative between the Lottery, the Community Fund, and New Opportunities Fund (NOF) set up to target deprived areas across the UK. The aim is to make sure that all areas get their fair share of lottery funding. NOF will be working with LSPs throughout the lifetime of the initiative.

Tameside is to get two strands of funding under this initiative:

An annuity fund over 10 years (£818,000) – administered through the Greater Manchester Community Foundation - a report from Tameside LSP was submitted in September with recommendations for target areas. The first year of the Annuity Fund will concentrate on Droylsden, Micklehurst,

SRB5 communities and central Hyde. Through the annuity fund, areas will get help to build community infrastructures and increase community capacity.

Transforming Your Space Programme (£330,000) – for local environmental projects. Neighbourhood renewal groups had already put in 15 bids, some of which were consolidated into more substantial bids. Proposals link with existing plans, and organisations such as New Charter and Groundwork. Initial applications were sent in November to NOF. Detailed proposals are to be agreed and submitted by end of March/June

Contact: Huw Davies 0161 342 3696

COMMUNITY COHESION PARTNERSHIP

This is a multi-agency partnership, chaired by Michael Greenwood Tameside's Chief Executive, which came together in Autumn 2001. The group are developing a community cohesion strategy based on national guidance. (This guidance can be viewed at www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Tameside Strategic Partnership's role will be to encourage and integrate community cohesion into local planning. To address cross cutting issues in the Community Strategy, so that the main themes compliment each other, and help build cohesive communities.

Contact: Tracy Austin 0161 342 3711

COMMUNITY STRATEGY WHERE NEXT?

Members of the TSP board got together on January 17 to explore the creation of the new Tameside Community Strategy.

It was a very successful event, which will inform the draft strategy.

Sandy Ochonja presented feedback on the consultation and MORI results, and Tameside's Chief Executive Michael Greenwood talked about progress against key quality of life measures.

Delegates discussed the important underlying issues relating to the key policy themes – education and lifelong learning, crime etc, following a pinpointing exercise.

It was also an introduction to the new Chief Superintendent of Tameside Police, David Crompton, who joins the Partnership. He gave a thought provoking presentation on crosscutting threads relating to the key themes. In particular he wanted delegates to consider young people, older people, community cohesion, e-tameside and sustainability.

This linked well with the outcomes from the consultation.

From the exercise it was clear that there was considerable consensus amongst the members, at the meeting, around the challenges facing the borough.

milestone in the construction of the new Community Strategy.

A Special Board meeting on March 25 has been arranged to approve the Draft Community Strategy. Following this, there will be a period of consultation prior to the June meeting of the partnership.

The Strategic Partnership Board meets again on February 14.

THE PARTNERSHIP COMMUNICATION PLAN

This was approved at the last Board meeting, and this newsletter is part of the plan. Further developments will be a dedicated Tameside Strategic Partnership website. Currently there is a presence on Tameside website, which will contain all the latest news and reports – www.tameside.gov.uk Tameside Strategic Partnership through the A-Z index.

We will keep you updated on progress.

MARKETING & PR ISSUES

To help carry out all the joint communication aspects relating to the Strategic Partnership how about setting up a Partnership Publicity Group?

Many of you have expertise and PR / Marketing departments, so please consider offering a representative to contribute their skills and ideas. Contact Lynn Travis (Senior Marketing & Communications Officer) Tameside MBC – contact details below

Produced by the Marketing & Communications Unit – Tameside MBC

Any comments, contributions or queries, please contact Lynn Travis (Editor) 0161 342 3835
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