

Denton Community Forum

17 June 2026

Commenced: 6.30pm

Terminated: 8.10pm

Present: Councillors Newton (Chair), M Smith, Murray, Gwynne, Bennett, Jones, Naylor, Ricci

In Attendance:

Sarah Bullock	Strategic Director of Corporate Services
Amy Foots	Assistant Director of Policy, Strategy and Change
Mark Bamford	Senior Regeneration Manager of Strategic Growth
Holly Taylor	Denton Town Twinning Representative

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Webb

1 Introductory Remarks and Housekeeping

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined the housekeeping arrangements. It was highlighted to attendees that the Community Forum provided a valuable opportunity for councillors, residents and partner organisations to engage constructively and respectfully, working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for Denton.

2 Welcome to Your Community Forum

The Director of Corporate Services attended the meeting and presented an introduction to the new Community Forum model and the Council's approach to community engagement.

Attendees of the meeting were informed that the previous Neighbourhood Forums had primarily been information-sharing meetings, with limited opportunities for residents to participate in discussions. The presentation outlined feedback received through the Cabinet in the Community programme, which had involved meetings across Tameside's nine towns. Residents had expressed a desire for greater local access, information relevant to their communities, opportunities to ask questions, and ongoing engagement that resulted in visible change.

Residents were advised of the implications of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act and were informed that forthcoming guidance would provide further detail on the devolution of certain Council powers to local

communities. It was noted that Community Forums would continue to evolve in response to future legislative developments.

It was advised that Community Forums would meet three times annually, in June, November and March, with meetings rotating between venues across the borough to maximise accessibility. Attendees were informed that future agendas would comprise three sections: borough-wide strategic issues, community-focused local matters and updates, and a dedicated question-and-answer session. It was also noted that community groups and partner organisations would be able to propose agenda items for future meetings through Democratic Services.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

3 Levelling Up Fund Update

The Senior Regeneration Manager of Strategic Growth attended the meeting and provided an update on the Destination Denton project and progress associated with the Levelling Up Fund programme.

Attendees were informed of ongoing work to deliver the project and the investment being made to support the regeneration of Denton. The presentation outlined progress achieved to date, key milestones reached, and the next stages of delivery. Information was provided on the various elements of the programme and the anticipated benefits for the town centre, local businesses, residents and visitors.

The Forum heard that the project formed part of wider regeneration ambitions for Denton and was intended to improve the attractiveness, accessibility and vibrancy of the town. Details were also provided regarding partnership working, project governance and engagement undertaken with stakeholders throughout the development and delivery of the scheme.

Following the presentation, questions were raised by attendees as follows:

Q. Will access to the library be affected by works on the Town Hall?

A. Steps will be taken to minimise disruption; however, there may be occasions when certain areas of the library are temporarily closed.

Q. What are the implications of the LUF on the Mayors challenge fund scheme?

A. This will have to be followed up with the relevant teams. A Significant amount of money was earmarked for Denton from the Mayors challenge fund scheme, so this could be suggested as a future agenda item to establish what it was spent on.

Q. It was indicated that the building work being undertaken by New Charter would not encroach on Victoria Park, but there are holdings are within the boundaries of the park. Was this included in the planning permission?

A. The building work will not be taking place within the boundaries of the park. The holdings have likely been placed there temporarily to facilitate the building work.

Q. I was glad to see the work done to the Cenotaph, but the gates to the garden were locked on remembrance Sunday.

A. Will be followed up outside of the meeting.

Q. Irwell Valley has 2 brownfield sites, why is building work not being done on them?

A. In addition to Denton baths, other brownfield sites are being looked at to build on.

Q. How were the Festival Hall and Town Hall decided on as the focus of the project?

A. The central government criteria for the funding required the focus on Town Centre connectivity and enhancing civic spaces.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

4 Pride in Place Impact Fund

The Assistant Director of Policy, Strategy and Change attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the Pride in Place Impact Fund. Meeting attendees were informed that the Fund comprised £1.5 million of capital funding to deliver visible improvements aimed at rebuilding community pride over the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years. It was noted that, as separate Pride in Place funding had been secured for Hattersley and Ashton, applications to the Impact Fund would be prioritised for the remaining seven towns and surrounding neighbourhoods not covered by those programmes.

The attendees were advised that the programme would be delivered through three funding rounds. Details of the timetable for applications and consideration by the Executive Cabinet were outlined.

It was noted that residents and community groups were eligible to apply for funding. Eligible projects included improvements to community spaces, public spaces, and high streets and town centres, such as enhancements to local facilities, restoration of underused areas, upgrades to parks and play areas,

improvements to lighting and street furniture, and measures to support town centre regeneration.

The Forum was informed of the application process, and prospective applicants were encouraged to register their interest with the Council's Policy Team to discuss proposals and the next steps in the application process.

In response to Member queries, the Assistant Director of Policy, Strategy and Change provided a summary of the proposals that had been successful so far. It was explained that 15 applications had been assessed, and of those 12 had received funding. In terms of applications specific to Denton, funding had been received for improvements to Denton Cricket Club, green space within Dane Bank and public realm improvements in Haughton Green.

A lengthy discussion ensued between Members and attendees on the possibility of the Pride in Place Impact fund being accessible to an ADHD and Autism family Support Group. In addition to advice provided in relation to the Fund, Members also offered suggestions for alternative sources of support and assistance

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

5 Civic Pride, Clean Streets, Local Heritage and Leisure Provision

The Chair of the Community Forum addressed attendees and provided some details about recent successes around Denton including the Town Centre Improvements, planting around the Town Hall and Victoria Park and the recent planting of 31 highway trees. Attendees also heard about upcoming Cultural events taking place locally such as Armed Forces Day and the Brass Band Contest.

The Chair of the Community Forum explained that the Civic Pride, Clean Streets, Local Heritage and Leisure Provision was a standing agenda item and in addition to local updates, it was an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts and concerns on issues around Denton.

A lengthy discussion took place between residents, Members and officers regarding ongoing issues relating to rats, during which the appropriate reporting procedures were outlined and explained.

Details were provided to officers regarding an overgrown walkway in Haughton Green that had limited accessibility and required clearing.

Comprehensive discussions took place regarding the transport links within Denton and the potential for a tramline. It was suggested that Transport for

Greater Manchester (TFGM) were invited to a future meeting to provide a thorough update.

RESOLVED

That the updates be noted.

6 Community Group Spotlight: Denton Town Twinning

Meeting attendees received a presentation from a representative of the Denton Town Twinning Group, which highlighted the long-standing links between Denton and its twin towns of Montigny-le-Bretonneux in France and Kierspe in Germany. It was explained that the volunteer-led initiative aimed to foster friendship, cultural understanding and exchanges between residents, community groups, schools and sports organisations, with a particular focus on providing opportunities for young people to broaden their experiences and develop confidence. It was explained that thousands of people had benefited from town twinning activities over the years and that the organisation remained committed to ensuring these valuable international links continued for future generations.

Attendees were encouraged to promote the initiative within the local community and were invited to become involved by volunteering with the organisation.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

7 Question Time

Q. Why do Tameside no reply to FOI's?

A. Policy Team to follow up outside of the meeting.

Q. Are you aware of businesses opening without the appropriate permissions in place?

A. Written response to be provided

Q. In 2025 £16.8 million was given to improve Denton. £3 million was earmarked for improvement to the Festival Hall and Town Hall. Please could the committee say more about this funding and plans to spend it?

A. Full response written response to be published online

8 AOB

There were no areas of other business to consider.