

Hyde and Longdendale Community Forum

24 June 2026

Commenced: 6.30pm

Terminated: 8.24pm

Present: Councillors Chadwick (Chair), Bowden, Colbourne, Hopwood, Halligan, Mooney, Owen, Roderick and Stones

In Attendance: Jill Colbert Strategic Director of Childrens
Amy Foots Assistant Director of Policy, Strategy and Change
James Mallion Director of Public Health

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Kitchen, Beese and McNally

1 Introductory Remarks and Housekeeping

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined the housekeeping arrangements. The Chair then emphasised that the Community Forums would provide a valuable opportunity for councillors, residents and partner organisations to discuss local issues and work together constructively to deliver positive outcomes for Hyde and Longdendale. The Chair encouraged residents to put forward their comments, concerns and suggestions on how the Council could further improve the local area.

2 Welcome to Your Community Forum

The Assistant Director of Policy, Strategy and Change attended the meeting and delivered a presentation introducing the new Community Forum model and outlined the Council's approach to community engagement.

The Chair advised that the previous Neighbourhood Forums had largely focused on sharing information, with relatively few opportunities for residents to engage in meaningful discussion. Feedback received through the Cabinet in the Community programme indicated that residents wanted more accessible local engagement, information that reflected the priorities of their communities, greater opportunities to ask questions, and ongoing involvement that would lead to visible improvements and positive 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 reported that Community Forums would be held three times a year, in June, November and March, with venues rotating across the borough to improve accessibility and encourage wider participation. Attendees were advised that future agendas would be structured around three key themes: borough-wide strategic matters, local community issues and updates, and a dedicated question-and-answer session. Community groups and partner organisations would have the opportunity to suggest items for future agendas through Democratic Services, helping to ensure that discussions reflected local priorities and concerns.

The Chair then asked both Members of the Forum and residents in attendance to propose items for future agendas.

Residents in attendance discussed various local concerns, including traffic in Hollingworth and plans in place for heavy good traffic in the village. The Chair advised that National Highways would be invited to a future meeting of the forum to discuss traffic measures and proposals.

Residents expressed concern that Hyde was experiencing a decline and felt that there had been insufficient investment in the town. Comments were made regarding the condition of the town centre, including the appearance of vacant and boarded-up premises, buildings in need of repair, and issues relating to litter and environmental cleanliness. Residents also expressed concern with the number of takeaways and vape shops opened on the high street. The Chair agreed with this, however outlined the Council's position with the 2004 Unitary Development Plan and the need for a Local Plan. Members of the Forum and residents in attendance therefore felt that an update on the Hyde Masterplan be included as a future agenda item.

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

3 Pride in Place Impact Fund

The Assistant Director of Policy, Strategy and Change attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the Pride in Place Impact Fund. Attendees were informed that the Fund provided £1.5 million in capital funding to support projects that would deliver improvements within local communities and help foster a greater

sense of pride in place. It was noted that the funding would be available across the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

Attendees were advised that the programme would be implemented across three funding rounds. Details of the application process, including the key submission dates and the timetable for consideration of proposals by the Executive Cabinet, were outlined.

It was reported that residents and community groups would be eligible to apply for funding through the programme. Eligible schemes could include projects to improve community and public spaces, along with initiatives to enhance high streets and town centres. The Forum also received details of the application process. Individuals and organisations interested in applying were encouraged to contact the Council's Policy Team to discuss their proposals and obtain advice on the application requirements and next steps.

The Forum received details of the application process and associated timescales. It was emphasised that the Fund could only be used to support capital expenditure and therefore the funding could not be used to cover the ongoing revenue costs or day-to-day operational expenses.

The Independent Chair of the Pride in Place Hattersley Board attended the meeting and provided an overview of the Board, which aimed to shape plans and projects over the next ten years and champion Hattersley and its future. Residents were reminded that Pride in Place was a Government funded programme, in which Hattersley was selected to receive £20million over the next 10 years. The Chair highlighted the value of resident engagement and explained that community involvement would play a key role in informing the Board's priorities, decision-making and future activity.

Detailed discussion ensued amongst Members of the Forum and residents, regarding local community groups which would be eligible for funding. Various residents highlighted the work they had undertaken within their local communities and outlined how additional funding could support and enhance these efforts. Residents spoke about a range of community initiatives and explained that access to funding would help them develop existing projects, deliver further improvements, and increase the positive impact of their work within the local area.

The Chair thanked the Chair of Hattersley Pride in Place for attending the meeting and for providing an overview of the Board's work and priorities. The Chair also encouraged local residents, community groups and partner organisations to consider applying for available funding opportunities

RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

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

The Chair of the Community Forum addressed attendees and provided some details of recent successes around Hyde and Longdendale, including preventative measures taken to prevent fly tipping and recent fly tipping prosecutions.

Attendees were then invited to share their thoughts and concerns about their local area.

Residents raised issues such as businesses storing their commercial bins on pavements, which encouraged fly-tipping and littering. Comprehensive discussion ensued with regards to the potential closure of Glossop Recycling Centre and the implications this would have. Councillors Owen and Hopwood advised that they were in communication with Derbyshire County Council regarding this.

Residents in attendance also raised concerns regarding the planning permission granted for the McDonald's development in Hyde. Concerns were expressed about the potential impact of the development on the local area.

RESOLVED

That the updates be noted.

5 Question Time

The following question was submitted in advance of the meeting:

"What contingencies, safeguards or fallback arrangements have been set aside to prevent a repeat of previous regeneration programme failures specifically the loss of Mottram & Hattersley ABC, which closed during earlier regeneration cycles? How will the new Pride in Place and Community Forum structures ensure that community-led provision, such as boxing, is protected rather than displaced in future regeneration activity?"

In response the Chair advised:

The Pride in Place Programme will be supported by local people and will be led by a Chair that is independent from the Council and local politics. The Chair will establish a group (known as the Hattersley Neighbourhood Board) made up of local people to support the work of the Pride in Place Programme. These people must either live, work or have strong local connections to the Hattersley area and the Board will be responsible for preparing a plan for Hattersley that sets out the

local priorities for how the funding should be spent. In addition, the Board will set out how local people can get involved in the Plan and ensure that their voices are heard. This local engagement will continue over the next 10 years.

The Pride in Place Programme funding lasts for 10 years - this works out £2m per year for 10 years meaning that this funding is not just for the short term but also ensure that residents in Hattersley will benefit in the long term.

The Council are the 'accountable body' for the funding, meaning that the Board must follow all of the rules and regulations for spending the fund that the Council has to follow.

The following questions were then asked in the room:

Q: Now that the Community Forum is established, will the Chair of the Forum be arranging Christmas events in Hyde?

A: Hyde Together CIC responded and advised that they would be delivering the Hyde Christmas Lights Switch On event in partnership with Tameside Council.

Q: Flowery Fields and Hyde Newton Train Stations are not accessible and need to be more community focused. Residents have concerns around anti-social behaviour. Are the Council working with TfGM to improve the stations?

A: Cllr Owen advised that as a member of the Bee Network Committee of the GMCA, accessibility of public transport is always on the agenda. As a Forum we can ask that TfGM attend a future meeting to provide an update on their plans for transport development in the area.

Q: There is a lack of activities for young people in Hyde, resulting in high numbers of children hanging around in the town centre where they are at risk of exploitation. How are you improving Children's Services to stop children out on the street and to protect young people from child sexual exploitation.

A: response to be provided following the meeting, however the Director of Children's Services advised that if residents have immediate concerns about a young person or have information regarding exploitation, residents should contact Greater Manchester Police directly.

Q: What update can you provide on how you're improving services and how you're going to safeguard our children?

A: The Director of Children's Services advised that Ofsted had published an update on Children's Services improvement journey and was available to be viewed online.

Q: Why are Greater Manchester Police and other strategic partners not represented at the meeting?

A: The Chair advised that partner organisations were encouraged to attend future meetings of the Community Forum.