



Partnership Engagement Network Newsletter

January 2023

Our regular updates keep you informed of upcoming engagement activity, including PEN events and consultations, across Tameside which may be of interest to you.

We want to invite as many people as possible from across Tameside to join PEN. If you know others who would be interested in receiving updates, please encourage them to register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/penandbigconversation>

Upcoming Events

PEN Conference

Wednesday 15th February 2023

We are excited to invite you to our first evening Partnership Engagement Network Conference. It is an excellent opportunity for you to hear about and have your say on health and other important topics relating to Tameside.

The next PEN Conference will be held on **Wednesday 15th February, 6:30pm-8:30pm and will be held virtually.**

We will discuss NHS waiting list backlogs. In Greater Manchester there are approximately 535,000 people waiting for planned hospital care, also known as elective care. NHS organisations across the region are working together to reduce the backlogs and get people seen and treated as soon as possible. We will ask for your thoughts and input on how we can best support people while they wait.

You will be informed of other topics to be discussed in due course.

In the meantime, please register to attend the event [here](#). A meeting link will be sent to registered attendees closer to the meeting date.

PEN Engagement Strategy Sessions

TBC

We will be discussing Tameside Council's Engagement Strategy in two face-to-face engagement sessions.

In July 2022, we conducted a public consultation on our approach to engaging with the public asking you how we currently do and how we could improve. We have listened to your feedback and have drafted our Engagement Strategy for 2023-2027.

In these two sessions, we would like to present the feedback we received and hear your views on the objectives we developed based on this feedback.

The venue, dates, and times will be communicated in due course.



Consultations and Surveys

Local

- ***NEW* Poverty Strategy Recommendations**

Deadline: 31/01/2023

Throughout June and July 2022, we asked your opinions on how we could address Poverty in Tameside.

Using that information we have developed a series of recommendations. We would like your views on whether they are right things and whether there is anything missing.

To complete the consultation, please click [here](#).

- **Homelessness – Private Rented Sector Offer Policy**

Deadline: 30/01/2023

Tameside Council is consulting members of the public, key stakeholders and homelessness partners on the above draft policy, which aims to increase the range of suitable accommodation that can be used to discharge the main housing duty.

This draft policy would provide Tameside Council with the additional option of discharging the main homelessness duty towards a household by the offer of a suitable Private Rented Sector accommodation, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

Currently, Tameside Council can only discharge its duty to those in temporary accommodation by offering them a tenancy with a registered social landlord. This limits the number of available properties and results in many households and individuals remaining in temporary accommodation for extended periods of time.

It is anticipated that the introduction of this additional policy will result in a greater choice of appropriate properties for those people in temporary accommodation, and better opportunities for the Council to place households and individuals in more appropriate accommodation within a shorter timeframe.

This consultation will run until 30 January 2023. [Further information about the Private](#)



[Rented Sector Offer policy can be found here](#). To complete the survey, please click [here](#).

- **Healthwatch Care and Experiences Survey**

Deadline: Ongoing

This survey asks about your use of any health and care services. This could be GPs, hospitals, NHS dentists, pharmacies, ambulance services, social care, and so on.

Please help us by telling us about any services you have used recently.

What went well? What could be improved?

To fill in the survey, please click [here](#).

Regional

- ***NEW* LGBTQ+ Groups Engagement Survey**

Deadline: 27/01/23

LGBT Foundation is proud to be the management organisation for the Greater Manchester LGBTQ+ Equality Panel. As part of this work, they are working with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to set up an LGBTQ+ organisations engagement group to better understand the needs of LGBTQ+ communities.

The Equality Panel is made up of individuals who use their lived experiences to help influence policy making in Greater Manchester. While this is a vital role, they recognise that there are also many LGBTQ+ groups who can bring community-led expertise to these conversations as well. This helps make sure that LGBTQ+ needs are being met by the GMCA.

With that goal in mind, they would like to invite you to respond to this initial survey to help them set up this group.

If you have any questions, please email lgbtequalitypanel@lgbt.foundation

To fill in the survey, please click [here](#).

- ***NEW* Police Funding 2023/24**

Deadline: 25/01/23

A consultation has been launched on the funding for Greater Manchester Police (GMP) in 2023/24.



Funding for the police comes both directly from a central Government grant (74%) and from the police precept (26%).

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary announced that he released GMP from special measures because of the rapid progress made. Under the leadership of Chief Constable Stephen Watson, GMP has significantly improved and delivered efficiencies some of which are outlined below:

- 999 call answering times are now the fastest they have been for over 2 years.
- Attendance times for the most serious of incidents (grade 1 where there is a target to attend within 15 minutes) has improved from a peak of 13 minutes and 35 seconds in September 2021 to an average of 10 minutes
- Officers attended 94% of all burglaries (73% the previous year)
- There are now more than 1,253 officers in Greater Manchester Police than there were in 2017

Funding has been directed into:

- The transformation of police call handling and response– increasing staffing levels and flexibility to ensure calls are answered quickly and police officers are sent to those in need immediately.
- 438 additional police officers including a doubling of the size of the roads policing function with an additional 60 officers, 50 neighbourhood beat officers, an increase of 32 posts in the Sex Offender Management Unit and a force wide team to tackle the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Road safety initiatives including the piloting of community led Speedwatch schemes and targeted roads and travel safe operations to crackdown on offenders.
- A new city centre team concentrating on violence reduction and improving the safety of the city centre including tackling predatory behaviour.
- Continued mentoring for young people involved with/at risk of becoming involved in gang activity.
- Continuation of mental health tactical advice service in control rooms that ensures those in mental health crisis receive the best possible care.
- Transformation in the response to and support for victims of domestic violence.

The police precept, which funds GMP, is one of the lowest in the country, but it also means we are heavily reliant on Government funding to help keep our communities safe. Our priorities for policing for the next financial year must be met from the funding we will receive.

The 2023/24 provisional settlement from central Government for police includes an increase in the Police Core Grant of £9.8 Million or 1.8% and assumes that GMP will receive the maximum precept from local council tax payers. However, while this funding is welcome, it will not make up for the hollowing out of GMP's police force in the past nor cover the inflationary pressures faced by us all. This is why we still need to raise some



funds locally to ensure we can continue to provide the policing you want and deserve. For the 3 years 2021/22- 2023/24 Government funding has increased to fund the national Police Uplift Programme, however for the period 2010-23, this is only an overall increase of 5.7%, which does not cover inflation. It is imperative that GMP have the level of funding required to sustain the impressive improvements made to date and continue to strengthen public safety.

The Government has given the ability to raise the precept by up to £1.25 a month (£15 a year) for an average Band D property and 83 pence a month (£10 a year) for an average Band A property. The current police precept for a Band D property is £228.30 per year and a Band A property is £152.19 per year. Band A contains the most number of households out of all council tax bands in Greater Manchester (44.7%)

A £15 precept increase would provide Greater Manchester Police with a further £13.7 Million and taken together with the Government grant, increase overall funding by £23.5 Million (3.3%). Even with a £15 precept increase the 2023/24 police budget will require the delivery of significant efficiencies to manage inflationary pressures, whilst continuing to deliver improvements. If funding is below that level, those efficiencies risk becoming service cuts and threaten the progress that GMP is making.

As well as maintaining previous improvements, the funding also seeks to deliver:

- The establishment of dedicated Neighbourhood Crime Teams on each district to more effectively and proactively tackle the issues that the public told us are important to them, in the consultation undertaken by GMP last year. Their priorities will include burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and other issues set in each local area.
- The workforce level required to ensure that the significant improvements in 999 and 101 waiting times are maintained and further improved, particularly in respect of 101.
- Increased capacity and capability of crime scene investigators and digital investigators strengthening opportunities to detect neighbourhood crime and sex offending, including such offences against children in particular.
- Increased numbers of investigators who conduct initial investigations when a crime is first reported, to ensure more timely and effective investigations into offences that have a big impact on our communities like criminal damage and hate crime.

For more information and to complete the survey, please click [here](#).

National

- ***NEW*** Introducing further advertising restrictions on TV and online for products high in fat, salt or sugar: secondary legislation
Deadline: 31/03/23

In response to previous consultations (an [initial consultation in 2019](#) and a [second consultation in 2020](#)), government published a [formal consultation response](#) on



advertising restrictions for high in fat, salt or sugar (HFSS) products.

This response announced the UK wide policy will:

- introduce simultaneously a 9pm TV watershed for HFSS products and a restriction of paid-for HFSS advertising online
- include all on-demand programme services (ODPS) under the jurisdiction of the UK, and therefore regulated by Ofcom, in the TV watershed for HFSS advertising
- include non-UK regulated ODPS in the restriction of paid-for HFSS advertising online because they are outside UK jurisdiction

As outlined in the consultation response, certain elements of the policy will be taken forward in secondary legislation. These regulations will be made under new powers in the Communications Act 2003, which was amended by the Health and Care Act 2022.

Government is now seeking feedback on our draft regulations from those with an interest in these regulations and who will have to comply with them. The aim of this consultation is to gather views on the specific text in the regulations to ensure these are fit for purpose.

To complete the consultation, please click [here](#).

- ***NEW* Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to National Planning Policy**

Deadline: 02/03/23

This consultation seeks views on the Government's proposed approach to updating to the National Planning Policy Framework. They are also seeking views on their proposed approach to preparing National Development Management Policies, how they might develop policy to support levelling up, and how national planning policy is currently accessed by users.

To complete the consultation, please click [here](#).

- **Veterans' Survey**

Deadline: 10/02/23

The Office for Veterans' Affairs (OVA) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are carrying out this important survey. It covers a range of topics related to the circumstances and lifestyles of people who have left the UK Armed Forces. These people are commonly known as veterans.

The UK Government wants to make the UK the best place for veterans to live by 2028. Change has already started. For the first time, the Census counted UK Armed Forces veterans. We need to find out more.



By taking part in this survey, you will help us to produce statistics about the lives of the UK Armed Forces community, veterans, and their families. Government departments, public bodies and charities will use the anonymous findings from this survey to make plans.

This is your unique opportunity to tell us about your experiences. Your responses will provide information not available from any other sources. Do not miss your chance to have your say.

To complete the survey, please click here: [Veterans' Survey - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/surveys/veterans)

- **The Building Safety Levy: Consultation**

Deadline: 07/02/23

This consultation seeks views on the design and implementation of the Building Safety Levy. The Levy will be paid by developers and charged on new residential buildings requiring building control approval in England, for the purpose of meeting building safety expenditure.

The levy was announced in February 2021 and will ensure the taxpayer and leaseholders do not pay for the necessary remediation of building safety defects.

The consultation covers the following areas

- Overview and update
- Exclusions
- Supportive measures
- Impact on industry
- Sanctions and incentives
- Appeals

To complete the consultation and view the Building Safety Levy document, please click [here](#).

Grant Funding for VCSE Organisations

- ***NEW* Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund Round 2**

Deadline: 27/01/23

Following its successful first applications round earlier this year, round 2 of the £2.6m Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund is now open to applications, seeking community projects that will make a real difference to their local area.

The fund makes small and large grants available for community groups wanting to create



new accessible spaces or improve existing ones in their local area, particularly where there is currently poor local access to good quality green space.

Projects should improve publicly accessible spaces through physical improvements to make them better for nature and people.

These projects could take place in parks, community gardens, streets, schools, housing estates, canals, streams, rivers and existing nature reserves.

If you have any questions about the application process please email: GSFAdvisors@groundwork.org.uk

- For funding opportunities, please visit Action Together's funding directory: [Find Funding | Action Together](#)