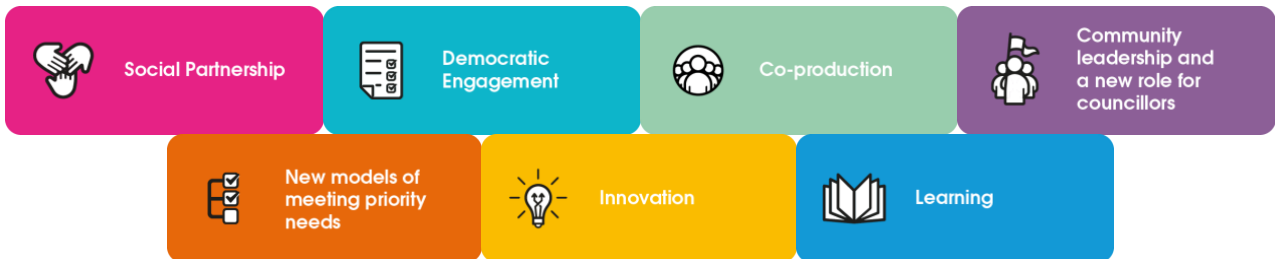


COMMUNITY



Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Cabinet in the Community

Putting our Communities at the heart of our decisions

Tameside is a varied and diverse borough, not just as the link between Greater Manchester and the Peak District, but because it's made up of nine unique and culturally independent towns. There is no single Tameside town centre, and although our civic centre is situated in our largest town, each of the borough's communities has important voices and significant roles to play as we work towards our shared future.

Following recent challenges, the Council started to rebuild, with changes to senior leadership and the appointment of a new Executive Leader and Cabinet bringing an opportunity to fundamentally reset our relationship with residents, rethink our neighbourhood working arrangements, and set a strategic direction for growth across Tameside.

A new way of working and a new way forward

Tameside Council is an ambitious organisation, and as we emerge from austerity, we are committed to using our resources to promote inclusive economic growth, regenerate town centres, and empower communities to contribute meaningfully to decision-making that impacts them. These ambitions have resulted in three clear objectives:

- Rebuild our relationship with residents to foster trust and enable meaningful collaboration.
- Redesign our Neighbourhood Forums into effective and empowered committees that encourage residents to participate.
- Establish a long-term vision for Tameside's future through a partnership-led Borough Strategy.

It was clear to all of us that we couldn't achieve any one of these objectives without achieving all three, presenting a unique opportunity to do things differently and co-operate with our residents in their communities to help them shape the future of their towns.

To this end, and driven by the Council's new political leadership, we created Cabinet in the Community, a series of open and honest Member-led conversations in each of the borough's nine towns, where the whole Cabinet made themselves available to discuss issues and answer questions.

Setting out the stall

Cabinet in the Community meetings took place in all nine of Tameside's civic townships over a five-week period in September and October 2025. The agendas focused on open discussions led by executive members and supported by officers. Each meeting was customised for the specific town, with time set aside at the start to update residents on the Council's work and upcoming developments.



Town events with public and members

The main feature of the meetings was making ourselves available to residents and having honest conversations about important issues in our communities. The meetings were attended by the Council's Executive Cabinet, each town's ward Members, and senior officers, all of whom participated in workshop discussions about the future of the borough, ending with an open floor

question and answer session where residents were encouraged to speak to the Council's leadership about their concerns.

The key points on each agenda were:

- Introductions from the Leader and Executive Cabinet.
- Update on the Council's plans for the town.
- Borough strategy: asking residents about their town and what they'd like to see in the future.
- Neighbourhood working: talking about our Neighbourhood Forums and how we can work with residents better.
- Questions and answers.

The meetings took place in public buildings within each of our towns, including town halls and community venues such as libraries, leisure centres, and housing association hubs. They were intended to be welcoming, informal, and inclusive environments where residents felt comfortable. This approach aimed to build strong new relationships with local residents and recognise that to improve conditions, we first needed to understand their true opinions and identify where we might be going wrong.

Moving forwards together

The meetings served as an important first step in rebuilding our relationship with the communities we exist to serve, but we recognise that the first step cannot also be the last.

All the feedback we received from our towns was included in a wider consultation on our emerging Borough Strategy and has also shaped all our work in the towns, such as our ambitions for growth, regeneration, and the allocation of funding from grants like Pride in Place. When one town explained the impact of closing their community centre, we responded by working to transfer the building to local groups through a community asset transfer. Themes from each town's feedback were published on our website so our partners can benefit from this insight too.

Work is ongoing to redefine local engagement: a tailored approach to collaborating with each of our nine towns, involving residents as partners to address a broader range of issues, and empowering them to make their own decisions and invest in the things that matter to them.

Alongside our new Tameside Strategic Partnership of stakeholders from across our community, we've learned from this experience to develop our draft Borough Strategy to guide our work until 2030. This enables us to collaborate with our partners to deliver on the priorities of the people who live and work in Tameside, and to address the issues they trusted us enough to share.

For further information contact:

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