

## **Scrutiny Topic**

### **“Engaging the disaffected”**

#### **Introduction**

This is a topic that could be applied to any one of a number of areas, but the scope would likely end up far too large. Therefore I would suggest this topic is applied to the Tang Hall estate which forms part of both Heworth and Hull Road wards.

Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick and myself have spent a large amount of time on the Tang Hall estate where residents clearly feel disengaged from initiatives that have proven a success elsewhere. They feel that many aspects of the council’s work simply passes them by and also perhaps have no idea how the council can assist them in day-to-day life.

Put simply – they feel forgotten by the local authority.

So this topic seeks to identify where these concerns really are and looks to find ways we can address these and reduce the feeling of disaffection and disengagement.

#### **Why Tang Hall? Setting the scope**

Tang Hall is an area of the city that frequently grabs the headlines – particularly with two recent high profile events that were front page stories in The Press.

I believe this makes the Tang Hall estate an ideal place to begin as it would garner public interest and provide a solid grounding for gaining support from partner bodies.

If successful, the outcomes from this scrutiny topic can be used for similar areas of deprivation across the city.

## **Timescales**

No one should be under any illusions that this is a quick topic and easily solved. A large amount of time will be needed to draw together a consultation and conclusions before the main activity can be decided upon.

Therefore this should be considered an ongoing topic with at least two years of activity. This topic should be considered a longer-term project, but is one with even longer term outcomes.

## **Activity**

1. We would need to identify the exact aspects of community life that causes most concerns and leads to the most disengagement and disaffection.
  - a. This involves a research project encompassing all residents in the Tang Hall area with both qualitative and quantitative research methods
  - b. Research will range from use of council services through impact of policing and to the use of local community amenities
  - c. Research would also look at what services are available locally to Tang Hall and how successful these services are
2. Overview and Scrutiny would then begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> step by analysing the research and drawing conclusions which lead to key objectives that the relevant committee wishes to address (e.g. Tang Hall Community Centre needs to have an outreach CAB centre)
3. These objectives would then be addressed by the relevant services – reporting back to the Overview and Scrutiny function

## **Outcomes and further activity**

Following this pilot project in Tang Hall, it can then be decided if roll-out would be appropriate for further areas in the city – but again, these should be quite specific and localised (e.g. parts of a ward).

This is the kind of project that wins awards (e.g. MJ Local Government Awards) because it demonstrates ambition, addresses an area that is frequently sidelined and provides example of ‘best practice’ which other councils can look to use.

But most of all – the council would be seen as actively seeking to engage all our residents, in particular the ‘hard to reach’ elements of the community. Those who are perhaps the most in need of our services as a council.

**Cllr. Neil Barnes**

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