

**PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL**

**Day:** Tuesday  
**Date:** 8 January 2019  
**Time:** 6.00 pm  
**Place:** Lesser Hall 2 - Dukinfield Town Hall

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
2.	<b>MINUTES</b>  To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 6 November 2018.	1 - 4
3.	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>  The Panel to meet John Gregory, Head of Community Safety and Homelessness, to receive an update on community safety priorities and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).	5 - 12
4.	<b>RESPONSE TO STAR PROCUREMENT</b>  The Panel to receive the formal response submitted to the Deputy Executive Leader and the Assistant Director of Finance on 3 December 2018.	13 - 16
5.	<b>CHAIR'S UPDATE</b>  The Chair to provide a verbal update on recent activity and future priorities for the Panel.	
6.	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 12 March 2019.	
7.	<b>URGENT ITEMS</b>  To consider any additional items the Chair is of the opinion shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency.	

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## Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

6 November 2018

**Commenced:** 6.00pm

**Terminated:** 7.50pm

**Present:** Councillors Glover (Chair), Bailey (Deputy Chair), Bowden, Bowerman, Boyle, Chadwick, Choksi, J Fitzpatrick, A Holland, S Homer, Lewis, Patrick, Pearce, Sharif, Sidebottom, Sweeton.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors J Lane, Taylor.

### 21. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 11 September 2018 were approved as a correct record.

### 22. TAMESIDE PROCUREMENT

The Panel welcomed Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader; Tom Wilkinson, Assistant Director of Finance; and Nichola Cooke, Assistant Director of STAR Procurement to provide information on procurement arrangements and delivering value for money.

The Panel heard that the Council spends approximately £300m per annum with third party suppliers. A decision was made in October 2017 to review internal procurement arrangements, with the headline finding that major investment was required and that there had previously been:

- Insufficient analysis and overview of spend.
- Missed opportunities for savings.
- Limited social value and local market spend.
- Risks of non-compliance to public procurement regulations.

Cllr Fairfoull advised that in June 2018 a business case was developed with the inclusion of five future delivery options. A report to conclude this process was presented to Executive Cabinet in July 2018 and sought approval for the Council to move forward with a preferred option to join a shared service known as STAR Procurement. Tameside Council entered the shared service agreement from September 2018.

The Panel heard that STAR Procurement is a shared service between Rochdale, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford Councils. The service is hosted by Trafford Council and has made significant savings for original members of over £20m since 2015/16, equating to more than £1m per year for each authority.

Mr Wilkinson reported that STAR membership would create additional operating costs of £185,000 on top of the existing budget, with all associated costs for procurement to total £435,000 per annum. This was approved as the most viable and positive option for the Council to deliver significant improvements in compliance and achievable savings.

It was reported that strong governance arrangements are in place to ensure all four councils maintain strategic oversight of activity. Cllr Fairfoull holds a position on the STAR Joint Committee and Mr Wilkinson joins senior finance officers on the STAR Board. The shared service has recruited a professional and qualified team, with a key priority for the collaboration to deliver savings and improve value for money.

The Panel heard that some of the immediate priorities for Tameside include the development of a comprehensive contracts register and a related report is to be presented at Executive Cabinet in the near future. To date the service has supported local spend analysis and identified the need to improve business engagement and social value elements within contracts.

Panel members expressed support for the decision to review local procurement arrangements and the need to address some of the identified problems. Concerns were voiced in relation to the rise in procurement operating costs and the dependency placed on STAR Procurement to continually grow the level of delivered savings.

Cllr Fairfoull advised that the decision had been taken based on the proven ability of the shared service to deliver value for money and savings above that of associated costs. The Council has a role to play in supporting this work and to set ambitious targets for in-year savings. This will be closely monitored by the STAR Board and Joint Committee.

Panel members are extremely keen for the Council to achieve improved levels of social value within contracts and for increased levels of local spend to remain a priority. A question was also asked on how the shared service, hosted by Trafford Council, was able to provide the required level of support at a local level.

Mr Wilkinson advised the Panel that while the service is hosted by Trafford Council procurement officers are located within the Council's finance teams, which allows them to gain knowledge of local practice and the ability to advise and support services. The agreement will provide opportunities to increase the amount of collaborative procurement that is undertaken and a priority is to increase social value, local spend and to better engage local businesses. The service welcomes the support of the scrutiny panel and will seek to routinely share reports and monitoring information.

**Resolved:** That Councillor Fairfoull, Mr Wilkinson and Ms Cooke be thanked for attending the meeting.

## 23. IMPACTS OF WELFARE REFORM

The Chair advised members that the Impacts of Welfare Reform is a topic included within the Panel's current work programme and that work will now start to plan future activity. The Scrutiny Manager was invited to present information and insight on a number of specific and concentrated impacts to inform future lines of enquiry for the Panel. The Chair confirmed that an agreement had been reached with the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel for a joint working group to be established to progress this work early in 2019.

A concern was raised by a panel member in relation to the short notice of information being presented on the Impacts of Welfare Reform and that the statutory notice period for meeting papers to be circulated had not been met.

The Chair advised the Panel that the item was to be received as a supportive tool to both inform and direct future activity. As such, the presenter and content of the presentation was not, by nature, official scrutiny business and the decision to prevent any delay to receive this information was viewed in the best interest of the Panel.

The Chair sought agreement from the Panel for the item to be delivered in the way it was intended. A general consensus was reached to proceed as planned.

**Resolved:** That members are to be contacted by email outside of the meeting to express an interest in becoming a member of the joint working group.

## **24. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair provided a verbal update on recent activity and future priorities for the Panel. The Panel confirmed future work priorities to include:

- Air Quality – a commitment to progress this work, with the aim to complement work of Greater Manchester and Green Summit.
- Economic Strategy – a future role for the Panel to be involved in strategy development. In addition to this, there is currently an open consultation on Greater Manchester's Local Industrial Strategy which closes on 25 November. Details to be circulated by email to all members outside of this meeting.
- Welfare Reform – information presented to inform future work and focus.
- Monthly update emails - all scrutiny members are now receiving a monthly update email to raise awareness and participation in a range of open consultations and engagement exercises, including resources to support members in their scrutiny role.

## **25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on 8 January 2019.

## **26. URGENT ITEMS**

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

**CHAIR**

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# Tameside Community Safety Partnership

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John Gregory  
Head of Community Safety &  
Homelessness

Agenda Item 3

# The Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

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Is a statutory function under 2 pieces of legislation:

- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and;
- The Police and Justice Act 2006

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And is referenced and strengthened in a 3<sup>rd</sup>:

- The Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011

# Statutory Responsibilities of the CSP

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- To produce an annual strategy and action plan for reducing crime and disorder and substance misuse
- To implement information sharing governance and processes
- To produce a Strategic Assessment
- To direct Community engagement to drive priorities and activities
- To undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews.

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# Members of Tameside CSP

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Representatives from a wide range of partner organisations attend the CSP meetings, including:

- Police
- Probation Service
- Youth Offending Team
- INS
- Adult Services
- Victim Support
- Fire Service
- Childrens Services
- Public Health
- Social Landlords
- Regulatory Services
- Community Safety

# The CSP oversees the delivery of the Community Safety Strategy

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The Council's Community Safety Strategy must incorporate, as a minimum, the following areas:

- Reducing reoffending
- Tackling crime and disorder
- Tackling antisocial behaviour
- Tackling alcohol and substance misuse
- Tackling any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment.

# Further Statutory Duty

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The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 created a further statutory duty:

The PCC and the responsible authorities on a CSP must cooperate and take account of one another's priorities.

# Questions?

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John Gregory

Head of Community Safety & Homelessness

[john.gregory@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:john.gregory@tameside.gov.uk)

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**Place and External Relations  
Scrutiny Panel**

**Councillor Bill Fairfoull**  
Deputy Executive Leader

**Tom Wilkinson**  
Assistant Director of Finance

**Councillor Mike Glover**

Dukinfield Town Hall  
King Street  
Dukinfield  
SK16 4LA

Email: [mike.glover@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:mike.glover@tameside.gov.uk)  
Phone: 0161 342 2199  
Ask for: Paul Radcliffe  
Date: 3 December 2018

Dear Cllr Fairfoull and Mr Wilkinson,

**STAR Procurement**

I write on behalf of the Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel. Members would like to thank you both for attending the meeting of 6 November 2018, at which information was provided on procurement arrangements and delivering value for money.

Having read and familiarised myself with the report presented to Executive Cabinet on 20 June 2018, titled Future Provision of Procurement Support, I am aware of the past decision to review operational procurement arrangements and the need to develop effective solutions for the function going forward.

The Panel very much appreciated the honest appraisal of the challenges faced, resource pressures and the need for greater professional and qualified oversight of procurement activity in order to improve compliance and remove associated risks. It was clear that significant change was needed given the position the Council found itself in and the need for improvement.

The Panel are supportive of the decision for Tameside to enter into the STAR procurement collaboration. I am however mindful that future monitoring is required to consider the Council's ability to deliver effective and sustainable procurement solutions, in the way that future spend is planned and savings are achieved in order to account for the recurrent costs of the commitment.

The primary focus throughout all scrutiny activity is that of a 'critical friend', to support continued improvement and effective decision making. As agreed at the meeting, I have taken time to reflect on the presentation, the points raised by members of the panel during the item and also the discussion which ensued.

This letter provides a summary of discussion points and general concerns of the Panel. I hope this is something which you will find useful and can be used to inform and support future decision making.

I have listed some of the main discussion points below, which are to be viewed as individual responses from members, under the collective of the main panel. The Scrutiny Panel acknowledges all work undertaken and improvements to date.

It was encouraging and positive to hear that:

- The Council made a decision to review internal procurement arrangements and consideration was given to five future delivery options. With the final decision to join the shared procurement service with Stockport, Trafford and Rochdale councils (STAR).
- The Council has acknowledged and accepted the failings headlined in the review findings, which included:
  - Insufficient overview of spend
  - An incomplete contracts register and missed savings opportunities
  - Limited social value and local market spend
  - Little early engagement with the market and support for suppliers
  - Officers without the necessary knowledge or professional qualifications undertaking complex procurement methods
  - Collaboration opportunities were not maximised
  - Risks of non-compliance to public procurement regulations
- That STAR procurement had made significant savings for original partners of £20m since 2015/16, with prudent projections for Tameside's achievable savings at £1.25m per annum. The STAR membership would create additional running costs of £185,000 on top of the existing budget and with the total annual cost now standing at £435,000, this a viable and positive 'invest to save' option.

The Panel has identified a number of areas where future monitoring would be deemed appropriate and I have listed the specific concerns of members below.

- On reflection, the Scrutiny Panel would have liked to have been informed of findings from the initial review and for scrutiny to be considered as a consultee in the process to support the decision as to a future delivery option.
- That going forward and when deemed appropriate, the Scrutiny Panel is kept informed of any substantial variations to service delivery.
- That the net savings achieved from STAR is closely monitored, given associated costs and the need to continually identify future collaborative opportunities for the shared service to add value.
- Panel members are extremely keen for the Council to achieve improved levels of social value within contracts and for increased levels of local spend to remain a priority. In particular the desire to increase the number of suppliers required to pay the Living Wage, if not all.
- It feels appropriate for improved mechanisms to be put in place to support local suppliers and to generate improved market engagement. Attention to be placed on the potential barriers local businesses and the voluntary and community sector face when applying for contracts.
- There is a need for greater awareness and understanding of the local contracts register and improved oversight of spend. The Panel would consider it appropriate to undertake

a comprehensive spend analysis and for this to inform an effective forward plan and timetable for contracts.

This hopefully provides you with insight to the views of the Scrutiny Panel to support the work of the service. I do not consider this letter to require a formal response, but would like regular contact to be maintained and for key plans and messages shared on an on-going basis.

It was noted that a further procurement report, with specific attention to the contracts register, will be taken to Executive Cabinet in the near future. I hope that the discussion at scrutiny is something you are able to reflect within the report and that findings can be shared with the panel in due course.

If any further clarity is needed on any of the above points, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Mike Glover**  
**Chair – Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel**

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