

## PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL

**Day:** Tuesday  
**Date:** 12 March 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 8 January 2019.	1 - 2
3.	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH</b>  The Panel to meet Councillor Ged Cooney, Executive Member (Economic Growth, Employment & Housing); Jayne Traverse, Director of Growth; David Berry, Head of Employment and Skills; and Matthew Kershaw, Project Manager, to receive information relating to future priorities for economic growth and development	3 - 14
4.	<b>RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>  The Panel to receive the formal response submitted to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services and the Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods on 23 January 2019.	15 -18
5.	<b>SCRUTINY BUDGET LETTER</b>  The Chair to update members on the annual budget letter presented at the joint meeting of Executive Cabinet and Overview (Audit) Panel on 13 February 2019.	19 -20
6.	<b>CHAIR'S UPDATE</b>  The Chair to provide a verbal update on recent activity and future priorities for the Panel.	
7.	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  To note that this is the last formal meeting of the Panel for the 2018/19 municipal year.	
8.	<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

8 January 2019

**Commenced:** 6.00pm

**Terminated:** 7.20pm

**Present:** Councillors Glover (Chair), Bowerman, Chadwick, Choksi, J Fitzpatrick, S Homer, J Lane, Lewis, Patrick, Pearce, Sharif, Sidebottom, Sweeton.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Bailey, Boyle, Gosling, Taylor.

### 27. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 6 November 2018 were approved as a correct record.

### 28. COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Panel welcomed John Gregory, Head of Community Safety and Homelessness to provide an update on work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and future priorities.

Members were encouraged to hear that there is a renewed commitment from the Council and partners to further develop and strengthen local community safety arrangements. The formal CSP meetings are co-chaired by the Police Superintendent and Council Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, with representation from a wide range of partners and public bodies which further supports the aims to strengthen information sharing and governance processes.

Having made the positive decision to expand membership past the minimum statutory requirement, the Scrutiny Panel would like the CSP to consider benefits to appoint an elected member representative to meetings and/or sub-groups. Mr Gregory noted the request and advised that this is something the CSP can make a decision to review going forward.

With no current strategy in place for community safety, the immediate plans being drawn to address this in the short-term were considered both appropriate and necessary. It remains essential for the partnership to deliver a long-term strategy from 2020 onwards and that all engagement and consultation requirements are met. The Chair made a request that the Scrutiny Panel be considered as a formal consultee in the development stages of future strategy and the methods explored to engage local communities.

Mr Gregory informed members that a number of strategic priorities were agreed at the most recent CSP meeting, these include the following headline themes:

- Reducing violent crime and domestic abuse
- Preventing and dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Reducing harm caused by drugs and alcohol
- Preventing the exploitation of children and vulnerable people
- Improving community confidence and cohesion

The Panel also heard that the partnership is to place significant attention to issues related to extremism and the recent emergence of violent crime.

It was reported that Greater Manchester Police are soon to introduce a new online reporting system. Panel members recognise a need to raise awareness of this tool and the way it will complement existing contact methods such as calls to '999' and '101'.

The Panel heard that there is a growing need to focus efforts to address some of the most challenging behaviour and statistical outliers. With an example being the prevalence of alcohol misuse and related harm. The separation of a combined drug and alcohol service to accommodate this appears appropriate and the Panel wish to be kept informed of the impact on community safety outcomes. A further request was made for information to be routinely shared on the following areas:

- Community safety initiatives
- The consultation and implementation of a short-term Community Safety Strategy
- Methods sought to engage communities and improve local intelligence

**Resolved:** That Mr Gregory be thanked for attending the meeting.

## **29. RESPONSE TO STAR PROCUREMENT**

Members reviewed the Panel's formal response letter on STAR Procurement, which provides a summary of discussion points and concerns raised at the meeting of 6 November 2019. The Chair confirmed that the letter had been sent to the Deputy Executive Leader and Assistant Director of Finance on 3 December 2018.

## **30. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair provided a verbal update on future priorities for the Panel. These include:

- Economic Strategy, Investment and Growth – arrangements to be made for the Panel to receive a progress update from the Director of Growth at the meeting of 12 March 2019. That the GM Spatial Framework is added to the list of topics to keep members routinely updated on progress.
- Air Quality – awareness of GM approach and Clean Air Plan (Spring 2019). Scrutiny members to be made aware of any future public consultation related to this. Future activity of the panel on air quality to be considered separate to that of GM with a focus on local issues, behaviour change, strategic ambitions and future decision making.
- Monthly update emails have proved useful in raising member awareness to scrutiny related information and open consultations and engagement exercises that have potential to impact on the borough and residents. Plans are in place for the update emails to continue.

## **31. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on 12 March 2019.

## **32. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**

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# Economic Growth in Tameside

Scrutiny Panel – Business Growth  
12 March 2019

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Cllr Ged Cooney Executive Member (Economic Growth, Employment and Housing)

Jayne Traverse – Director of Growth

David Berry – Head of Employment and Skills

Matthew Kershaw – Project Manager

Agenda Item 3

# Context

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- Scrutiny Panel 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 covering business growth
- Tameside Vibrant Economy discussion 13<sup>th</sup> November Member Development Session
- Independent Prosperity Review launched February 2019
- Local Industrial Strategy submission March 2019
- Tameside Strategic Response in development

# Tameside Summary/Re-cap

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- 88% of businesses Small Medium Enterprises 1-250 employees
- Business density and start ups below key averages
- Retail, Manufacturing, Health biggest employment sectors
- Advanced manufacturing is key strength
- Skills levels below key averages
- Pay below key averages
- Unemployment below key averages

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# Tameside Achievements

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- Vision Tameside Campus, advanced skills centres delivered and new construction skills centre in development
- Ashton Old Baths fully utilised
- Tameside Digital Infrastructure Co-operative
- Integrated health services
- Tameside Employment Fund launched
- Working Well Health pilot launched



# The Local Industrial Strategy

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Greater Manchester (GM) one of three national trailblazers working with Government to develop a local industrial strategy

Final strategy agreed with Government by end March 2019, Tameside has contributed strongly to the drafts to ensure a greater focus on inclusive growth across the conurbation

Key issues for GM to consider

- Industries for the future
- Strengthening our economic foundations

**Core themes for Tameside:**

**How do we respond to the national and local industrial strategies?**

**How do we utilise our economic strengths to deliver growth?**

# The Independent Prosperity Review #1

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Evidence base for the Local Industrial Strategy – launched February 2019  
*'Greater Manchester has world class strengths but is still punching below its weight'*

Key messages for GM

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- There is significant **potential for productivity growth**  
**World class strengths** include Advanced Materials and Health Innovation
- Important strengths include **manufacturing, digital and creative, professional services**
  - Balance of **employment has shifted to lower productivity** sectors
  - **Social and spatial disparities** in GM contribute to productivity challenge
  - **Skills are a key driver** of productivity
  - **Health** conditions correlate to low productivity

# The Independent Prosperity Review #2

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***The report recommends*** that the Greater Manchester city-region:

- Ensures there are programmes to **improve people's health** so they can work and remain economically active
- Maximise benefits of **carbon neutral living** by 2038 for health and quality of life
- Develops a **skills and education** framework to ensure local people are given the skills the city-region needs
- Business advice should focus on **productivity**
- Focuses on improved **employment standards**
- Creates an **integrated transport** network to improve connectivity
- Secures substantial **devolved funding** to improve local infrastructure
- Carries out further work to **commercialise Graphene**.

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# The Independent Prosperity Review #3

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***Report recommends*** the following areas are the focus for the GM Local Industrial Strategy:

- Advanced Materials
  - Health Innovation
  - Manufacturing
  - Digital and creative industries
  - Professional Services
- (potential of green industries)

# The Independent Prosperity Review #4

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Need our economic foundations to be right for GM  
this means:

- Co-ordinated approach to work, skills and health
- Upgrade physical and social infrastructure
- Strong innovation and leadership by business and social enterprises
- Strengthening places across the city region

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# Tameside Emerging Areas

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- Scaling up our programmes (like Working Well) to support those with health conditions to be able to access productive employment
- Growing our digital and creative and health innovation sectors considering the use of our Integrated Care Organisation, Tameside Digital Co-operative Dark fibre network and evolving pipeline of young coders through the Hacks
- Developing advanced manufacturing to create future industry
- Supporting and developing science and technology based businesses to increase productivity
- Building on high quality assets such as the Vision Tameside Advanced Technology Centre in developing Business and Education partnerships

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# Tameside Strategic Response

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## Next steps for Tameside

- Local economic baseline update to build and complement on Independent Prosperity Review
- Development of core documents to drive our economic and social growth and development e.g. Economic Strategy

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**Consultation points for engagement of all stakeholders will be built into the timelines**

# Scrutiny discussion

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Discussion on the key areas of growth and ideas for Tameside

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**How do we respond to the national and local industrial strategies?**

**How do we utilise our economic strengths to deliver growth?**



**Councillor Allison Gwynne**  
**Executive Member**  
**Neighbourhood Services**

**Emma Varnam**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Operations and Neighbourhoods**

**Chair of the Place and External  
Relations Scrutiny Panel**

**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: 23 January 2019

Dear Cllr Gwynne and Ms Varnam,

## **Community Safety**

I write on behalf of the Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel. Members would like to thank Mr Gregory for attending the meeting of 8 January 2019, at which information was presented on local community safety arrangements.

The initial request for information was made to ensure the Scrutiny Panel is brought up to speed on recent developments; the Council's ability to deliver on statutory responsibilities; the wider partnership; and to gain greater understanding of emerging issues and priorities.

A past review was undertaken in 2017 to explore the 'Approach to Community Safety Partnership Working', with a report presented to Overview (Audit) Panel on 30 July 2018. I am aware of the subsequent organisational and political changes that have taken place since then, which also includes my appointment as Scrutiny Chair at the start of this municipal year.

I would like to thank Cllr Gwynne for the acceptance and support of a past recommendation to ensure activity of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is reported to the Scrutiny Panel on an annual basis. I must also add that panel members were pleased with Mr Gregory's approach to presenting this information and gained reassurances from his personal commitment and ambitions for the partnership.

In order to truly fulfil the 'critical friend' role in supporting the Executive to improve service delivery and outcomes, the work of scrutiny is categorised within two specific areas. These are:

- 'Check and Challenge' undertaken at the formal meetings
- In-depth reviews undertaken by a working group outside of the formal meetings

The 'Check and Challenge' activity is conducted as a decision of the panel, based on the information received, to determine whether a formal response letter is required to communicate positive messages and to raise any concerns with the Executive of the Council.

Having had time to reflect on points raised at the meeting of 8 January 2019, I would now like to share the views of the Panel with you. I do hope this is something which you will find useful and can be used to inform and support future decision making.

It was encouraging and positive to hear that:

- There is a commitment from the Council and partners to further develop and strengthen local community safety arrangements. Promoting the engagement of partners will remain a priority in order for the CSP to effectively provide direction for interventions.
- It was agreed at a recent CSP meeting that Tameside's strategic priorities are to include:
  - Reducing violent crime and domestic abuse
  - Preventing and dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB)
  - Reducing harm caused by drugs and alcohol
  - Preventing the exploitation of children and vulnerable people
  - Improving community confidence and cohesion
- The partnership is to place significant attention to issues that include extremism and the recent emergence of violent crime.
- Greater Manchester Police are soon to introduce a new online reporting system. Panel members recognise a need to raise awareness of this tool and the way it will complement existing contact methods such as calls to '999' and '101'.

I would like to raise your attention to a number of discussion points, which the Panel have deemed appropriate for future monitoring. I have listed the points below.

- There is currently no elected member representation on the CSP. Having made the positive decision to expand membership past the minimum statutory requirement, the Scrutiny Panel would like the partnership to consider benefits to appoint a councillor representative at meetings and/or sub-groups.
- The Panel noted and raised concerns that there is currently no strategy in place for community safety. It was further noted that immediate plans are in place to address this in the short-term. Members commented on the need to deliver a long-term strategy from 2020 onwards and to ensure engagement and consultation requirements are met.
- That the Scrutiny Panel be considered as a formal consultee to support predevelopment stages to the creation of a long-term Community Safety Strategy from 2020 onwards.
- Questions were raised on the partnerships ambitions and ability to increase the engagement that takes place with residents and communities. It was acknowledged that this had reduced over recent years and improvements are required.
- As part of the approach to build greater sustainability and resilience within Tameside communities, the Panel supports a need to reduce the current levels of service reliance. Members are conscious of the resident perception and acceptance of such an approach in asking residents to help themselves and others, and that this will need to be planned and delivered effectively.
- That attention is focused on how to address some of the most challenging behaviour and statistical outliers. An example being the prevalence of alcohol misuse and related harm. The separation of a combined drug and alcohol service to accommodate this

appears appropriate and the Panel wish to be kept informed of the impact on community safety outcomes.

This hopefully provides you with insight to the views of the Scrutiny Panel to support the work of the service and wider partnership. I do not consider this letter to require a formal response but would like to request that information is routinely shared with panel members on the following areas:

- Community safety initiatives
- The consultation and implementation of a short-term Community Safety Strategy
- Methods sought to engage communities and improve local intelligence

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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## **Chairs of the Scrutiny Panels**

**Councillors Gillian Peet and Mike Glover**

Dukinfield Town Hall  
King Street  
SK16 4LA

email:	paul.radcliffe@tameside.gov.uk
Ask for	Paul Radcliffe
Direct Line	0161 342 2199
Date	30 January 2019

**Councillor Bill Fairfoull**  
**Deputy Executive Leader**

**Ms Kathy Roe**  
**Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer**  
**Tameside MBC**

Dear Councillor Fairfoull and Ms Roe,

### **Consultation with Scrutiny Panels on the 2019/20 Budget**

We write in response to the budget consultation meetings held on 28 January 2019, at which an opportunity was provided for all scrutiny members to receive a comprehensive overview of the Council's budget and savings plan for 2019/20.

This letter provides an account of discussions captured from the meetings, with a request that consideration be given towards the points raised prior to a budget report being finalised. We would be grateful if you could share this letter at the joint meeting of Executive Cabinet and Overview (Audit) Panel on 13 February 2019. Please pass our thanks to the Assistant Director of Finance for the helpful summary of both the Council and CCG financial positions and future priorities for the Strategic Commission.

During 2018/19 the Scrutiny Panels have continued to review the ability of services to improve outcomes for residents while at the same time deliver value for money. An example of such activity includes the monitoring of STAR procurement and the aim of this partnership to improve standards and provide financial benefits to the Council.

Panel members recognise the unprecedented challenges that our Children's Services continue to face and scrutiny is supportive of the short-term need to allocate additional financial resource. Improving outcomes for our children must remain a priority, however there is a growing need to establish a medium to long-term strategy for the service to achieve financial sustainability. When considering the number of children looked after, Tameside is currently much higher than statistical neighbours and concerns were raised by members as to the potential impacts this will have on future outcomes for children.

Members discussed the positive impact that preventative services and partnerships can have in promoting the wellbeing of children and families in Tameside. It is accepted that funding for early intervention services have been under pressure, which may be a contributing factor to the rise in demand for statutory interventions. It feels that there is a future need to address this deficit where possible through greater short-term investment to reduce long-term demand.

The Executive has supported a new reporting method to ensure that scrutiny is able to relay the most appropriate concerns without delay. This has proved useful during recent months with the submission of formal response letters for Children's Services improvement, Community Safety and Procurement. This has been further supported by the introduction of a monthly Scrutiny Update email aimed to raise member awareness and participation in a range of open consultations. The

December update included details on the recent Budget Conversation, with members identifying the benefits to this public engagement.

The four year financial settlement agreed in 2016/17 has helped to provide a level of certainty when it comes to funding decisions and saving plans. It was reported that 2019/20 is the final year of this agreement and reassurance was sought in relation to future decision making. Mr Wilkinson advised members that a greater degree of financial oversight had been incorporated, with 2019/20 spending proposals having been subject to a 'Star Chamber' approach.

It was encouraging to hear that all decisions made through the Strategic Commission aim to remove duplication and promote the effective use of a pooled financial resource. With a combined budget of almost £1 billion, it is important for financial plans to remove the need to separate or transfer costs between organisations.

The £26 million reduction in general Government Grants is also accompanied by cost pressures and inflation associated with capital projects. With income from Council Tax only amounting to around 16% of the Council's total expenditure, this does mean that the authority has limited options for ways to increase revenue in real terms. All members are supportive of the need to address this going forward by means the Executive and Senior Officers looking for new and innovative ways to both save money and increase core spending power beyond 2020.

Mr Wilkinson advised that when compared with funding sources of the CCG, the Council's overall budget is subject to greater uncertainty and external pressures. Based on a varied funding stream and associated risks, it has become increasingly important for the Council to make difficult decisions to ensure that a net increase in funding occurs. As an example, members were informed that if a decision was made not to increase Council Tax the financial gap will increase and additional savings would then need to be allocated to services that remain stretched.

Members appreciate that the Council has limited ability to increase revenue when taking account of the relatively low base levels for Council Tax and Business Rates, which is also further exacerbated by the economic and health needs of residents. It is felt that the strategic direction for growth and investment have an important role to play going forward. The Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel are soon to revisit the subject of economic strategy and business growth.

With a need to plan past 2020, scrutiny members are fully supportive of the aim to encourage budget conversations at a much earlier stage during the next financial year and would like to provide the opportunity to consult from September 2019 onwards. The information presented at the meeting will now be used to inform scrutiny work programme priorities.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor G Peet - Chair to Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel**

**Councillor M Glover – Chair to Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel**