

PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL

Day: Tuesday
Date: 10 January 2023
Time: 6.00 pm
Place: Committee Room 1 - Tameside One

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from members of the Scrutiny Panel.	
3.	MINUTES To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 1 November 2022.	1-4
4.	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE The Panel to meet Councillor Denise Ward, Executive Member (Climate Emergency & Environmental Services); and Lindsay Johnson, Interim Assistant Director, to receive a progress update on the delivery of identified environment and climate change projects.	5-18
5.	RESPONSE TO ASHTON MARKET SQUARE CONSULTATION The Panel to receive the formal response submitted to the consultation on Ashton Market Square.	19-22
6.	CHAIR'S UPDATE The Chair to provide a verbal update on activity and future priorities for the Panel.	
7.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 7 March 2023.	
8.	URGENT ITEMS 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

1 November 2022

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.15pm

Present: Councillors Cartey (Chair), Chadwick, Glover, Gwynne, Robinson, Roderick

Apologies: Councillor A Holland

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by members of the Scrutiny Panel.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 20 September 2022 were approved as a correct record.

17. FOLLOW UP ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

The Panel welcomed Councillor John Taylor, Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity); and Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, to receive an update on past scrutiny activity and recommendations on homelessness and housing.

Members received an update and current position statement for each of the eight recommendations and responses detailed in the previous review of homelessness and housing.

With the council and many organisations facing an increasingly difficult financial environment, this can affect the strategic and operational approaches to meeting statutory responsibilities to homelessness prevention and support. A series of new and emerging pressures are facing homelessness services in Tameside, these include:

- Increases in the numbers of people presenting as homeless
- Availability of suitable move-on accommodation
- The complexity of need for individuals and families
- Lasting impacts of the pandemic and developing pressures in the cost of living
- Ongoing challenges and access to mental health and associated services
- Increased service demands arising due to conflict abroad

Detail on recent progress and achievements included the transfer of homelessness and housing advice services back to the council in June 2022. A renewed focus placed on improving partnerships and collaborative arrangements with housing providers and the private rented sector. Ms Varnam advised members of a successful application for funding from the DLUHC to support various initiatives such as Next Steps.

Since June 2022, managers have routinely evaluated the effectiveness of interventions via key performance indicators (KPI). A series of weekly KPIs help to highlight areas of pressure and success. A comprehensive review and redesign of the service is underway and due to complete in April 2023.

At 1 June 2022, more than 230 households were supported in temporary accommodation (TA), this reduced to 198 in October 2022. The next potential pressure is the predicted cost-of-living crisis, which may bring additional demand to the service.

Councillor Taylor advised that the service recognise that temporary accommodation is not ideal, especially for families, and brings significant financial pressures. Work to address this has taken place in the following areas:

- Preventing people from being placed in TA in the first place
- Reducing the cost of TA
- Moving households on to permanent accommodation more effectively.

A draft homelessness strategy for 2023-2028 is ready for public consultation prior to formal adoption by the council. The updated version reflects new working practices and changes to both the service and legislation. The strategy will include three key priorities:

- To further develop housing options to ensure early prevention and relief of homelessness
- To improve availability of a range of sustainable housing options for households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- To end Rough Sleeping and Promote Recovery

Options include a policy that would allow the discharge of a homelessness duty into the private rented sector (PRS). This would allow more people in TA to be accommodated and the service has had considerable success in moving rough sleepers into the PRS, with improved relationships.

Councillor Taylor and Ms Varnam responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- Reviewing the overall success, impact and effectiveness of homeless interventions, with learning available to improve services.
- Establishing a local allocations and nominations policy with RSLs.
- Emerging pressures, including cost of living and lack of suitable accommodation
- Numbers in temporary accommodation.

Councillor Taylor and Ms Varnam thanked for attending the meeting.

18. RESPONSE TO MID-YEAR BUDGET UPDATE

The Panel received for information, a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation), in response to the mid-year budget update sessions held on 3 October 2022.

19. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair updated members on plans for a working group of panel to undertake more focused activity on Town Centres for the remainder of the municipal year. This will include oversight of delivery phases and input to consultation. The Chair and Deputy Chair to join the group along with Councillors Chadwick, Glover, Robinson and Roderick.

A meeting will take place in the coming weeks, with formal consultation opening on Phase 1 – Ashton public Realm and Market Square.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 10 January 2023.

21. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR

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Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021 - 2026

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Agenda Item 4

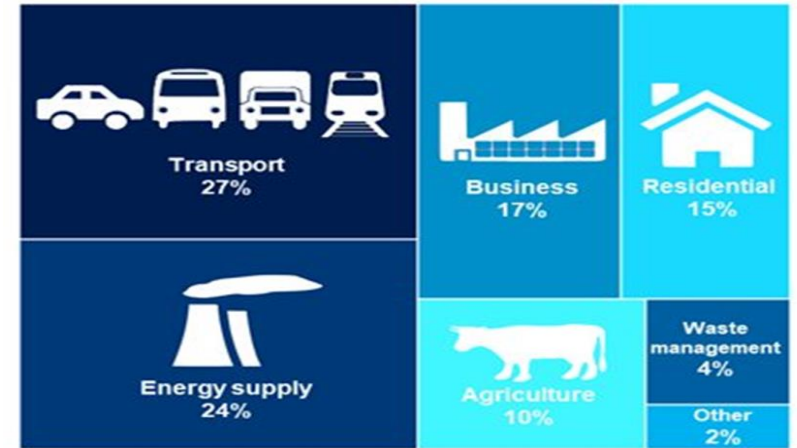


What is the issue?

All of our activities produce greenhouse gases:

- Social working staff driving between clients
- Office Staff powering computers / printers
- Powering the bin lorries
- Lighting and heating our homes and work buildings
- Powering machinery used in road building
- Items we procure
- Recycling and disposing of waste

Where UK greenhouse gas emissions came from in 2017



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As greenhouse gas emissions blanket the Earth, they trap the sun's heat. This leads to global warming and climate change. The world is now warming faster than at any point in recorded history. Warmer temperatures over time are changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of nature. This poses many risks to human beings and all other forms of life on Earth.

In 2020 Tameside declared a climate emergency – committing us to reducing emissions both from Council activities and those emitted by residents and businesses across the borough



- Since the last scrutiny panel the Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021 – 2026 has been adopted
- The strategy has an ambition to be carbon neutral by 2038 (12 years ahead of the UK target). This target means we need to reduce corporate emissions year on year by approximately 14% (currently achieving approximately 5% reduction per annum)
- Alongside the Strategy, are a number of working action plans that detail projects and actions that need delivering corporately and across our neighbourhoods to meet these challenging targets.
- Delivery of the action plans are monitored by the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group (ECEWG). Chaired by Councillor Laura Boyle.



Actions: Homes, Buildings and Workplaces

- Procure renewable energy across the corporate estate
 - When replacing heating systems or other technologies such as lighting in Council owned buildings install low carbon alternatives where viable, seeking to avoid carbon intensive technologies (coal, oil, gas)
 - Complete full assessment of Council owned land and buildings for viability for development of renewable energy and develop where viable (solar thermal / heat pumps / photovoltaic). Invest in the development of renewable energy and energy storage where appropriate
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- Obtain an average rating of D or better by 2024 and C by 2030 for our public buildings where economically viable
 - Complete street lighting rollout to LED
 - Undertake detailed survey of buildings to determine current condition with emphasis on those elements contributing to energy usage and potential energy loss e.g. Upgrade insulation of Council buildings
 - All new homes and commercial / industrial buildings to achieve net zero carbon by 2028. Support progression of Places for Everyone and proposed policy JP-S 2 in relation to Carbon and Energy

Actions: Travel and Transport

- Deliver a transition of the Council's own fleet to electric.
- Workplace Green Travel Programme
- Encourage walking and cycling across the borough
- Enable the rapid shift to electric vehicles by facilitating the installation of EV charging points across the borough
- Require all taxi's to be electric through licensing
- Implement an anti-idling campaign across the borough



Actions: Greenspace and Biodiversity

- Build natural capital into new and existing development to maximise the value that the environment brings. Plan for and build in green and natural areas.
- Ensure that greenspaces are maintained around Tameside in a way that maximises opportunities for increasing and enhancing biodiversity.
- Encourage sustainable allotment sites and more growing of produce within the community.
- Ensure that flood risk in Tameside is managed effectively
- Development of Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Actions: Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Embed environmental sustainability criteria in social value procurement mechanisms and ensure the Council's supply chain is minimising carbon emissions.
- The Tameside Food Partnership will continue to engage local partners on the development of a healthy and sustainable food strategy
- Work to reduce single use plastics across the borough.
- Reduce consumption of water across our own estate
- Minimise waste and recycle as much as possible.



Actions: Influencing Others

This action plan ties up all the other pieces of work and actions across the other areas to ensure that

- Embed Sustainability across the whole workforce / borough
- Encourage / enable retrofit of all existing owner occupied housing stock to level C or above. Encourage residents to get the basics right such as LED lighting and draught proofing, home insulation
- Encourage sustainable travel and communicate the aims of air quality management plan
- Assist businesses to access energy related support from the Growth Hub
- Encourage and communicate waste hierarchy refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and purchase sustainable products
- Encourage and communicate the benefits of managing land for biodiversity

What we have done



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- Climate Change and Environment Strategy has been adopted 2021-2025
- Circa £2.5 million funding was awarded to Tameside to improve the energy efficiency / decarbonise 14 Council buildings (11 corporate / 3 schools) under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. All projects under this funding round have been successfully delivered in a very short timescale. Measures installed include insulation, draught proofing, improvements to Building Management System (BMS), solar PV, solar thermal, ASHP, window replacements. This will reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 355.86 tonnes CO₂e per annum.
- Rolled out the LED street lighting programme - The lantern installation continues to progress with 5,564 installed to date out of 7,240
- Embedded Walking and Cycling programme via the Mayor's Challenge fund
- Flood Prevention – improving infrastructure, Micklehurst, Demesne Drive, Broadacre, Mottram Old Road, Stalybridge Country Park
- Replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities
- Bin round reviews / frequency of collections – to improve efficiencies.
- Greening the Fleet - New fleet replacement strategy has now been adopted – ULEV options available for all services - All of the fleet CAZ compliant by May 2022 – Provision of electrical tools as well as vehicles.
- 54,402 trees across the Borough greenspace and have planted 666 highway trees over the past 6 years. Working with City of trees to determine further planting opportunity with volunteer support possibly on scrubland

What we have done



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- Local plan (Places for Everyone) is driving opportunities to secure “biodiversity net gain” (BNG).
- Climate working groups to move forward progress against the action plans.
- TMBC partnered with TfGM to secure a number of EV Charging Points for Tameside Car Parks, specifically for Taxis (installation late summer – three sites with spaces for charging eleven taxis in total)
- Public Health team (Food Partnership Steering Group) working towards a Strategy that incorporates sustainable food and healthy choices.
- Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Funding bid for and won in partnership with other Greater Manchester Authorities – delivering low carbon improvements such as air source heat pumps, solar PV, insulation and double glazing to homes most in need across the borough.

What we will be doing in the next 12 months

Further funding has been secured

- Further funding has been secured to deliver further decarbonisation projects under Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant 3a. to deliver projects on a further four Tameside buildings– two schools, and two leisure facilities before end March 2023.
- Carbon Literacy online training will be rolled out across all Council teams to help embed messages.
- Key requirements to adopt green infrastructure within our future developments will be included both within the public realm and planning conditions.
- Continue to work alongside colleagues in GMCA to realise any further potential collaborative projects to reduce carbon when the opportunities arise.
- Working with GMCA on the introduction of air source heat pump offer to residents utilising the government’s boiler upgrade scheme grant to part fund.

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What we will be doing in the next 12 months

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GM grant from DEFRA - £574k to monitor particulate matter concentrations and to develop a communication campaign

Continue to deliver Active Travel schemes within the borough – increase the use of walking and cycling as a safe and preferred way to travel

The introduction of the Environment Act 2021 - powers to enforce smoke control orders in relation to domestic properties emitting smoke from chimneys, including the use of FPNs (up to £300).

Continue to deliver a Greening the Borough agenda – including the sustainable planting programme, City of Trees planting.

Highways street planting programme to be undertaken following successful bid for £38,000 from City of Trees.

Continue a roll out of Environmental Cultural programme – a key arm of Town of Culture – Slow Food – Slow Growing.

Continue to deliver Green Arts Award



Questions and comments?



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Councillor Vimal Choksi
Executive Member
Towns & Communities

Julian Jackson
Director of Place

Chair of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Yvonne Cartey

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Ashton-under-Lyne
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Email: Yvonne.cartey@tameside.gov.uk
Phone: 0161 342 2199
Ask for: Paul Radcliffe
Date: 5 December 2022

Dear Councillor Choksi,

Ashton Market Square Consultation

I write on behalf of the Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel. At a meeting of the full Scrutiny Panel on 20 September 2022, members received an overview of the Tameside Town Centres Framework and wider investment proposals.

In line with priorities set within our work programme, a separate working group will carry out activity linked directly to Town Centres. Members will also take account of the delivery timetable and phases to determine the timeliness of such oversight. The working group met for the first time on 23 November 2022, with a session focused on the Ashton Market Square consultation.

The Scrutiny Panel wishes to submit a formal response to the consultation. This letter therefore aims to provide a summary of collective discussion points and to express any issues and concerns raised by panel members both at the meeting and from subsequent conversations. I would be extremely grateful if on receiving this letter you are able to take the appropriate action to record the collective response. I hope that a response of the Scrutiny Panel can be referenced in future reports and may support wider governance in terms of stakeholder engagement and feedback used to inform decision making in this area.

At a national level, town centres are facing a number of significant challenges. Notwithstanding, Tameside's town centres remain a crucial asset and component to the future economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the borough. It is therefore very pleasing to hear that Tameside Council is utilising £10.8 million of the national Levelling Up Fund (LUF) to redevelop Ashton's Market Square as part of the wider Public Realm Strategy.

The overarching Town Centre Framework can act as a strategic umbrella and identify common themes, subtle nuances, bespoke planning and direction for Tameside across all town centres. Creating a clear and tangible link between strategy and delivery is very important and Scrutiny asks that attention is placed on the pace of delivery over the next 2 years.

There is an ongoing and evolving need to understand the complexity of town centres and the potential for generating a diverse local offer for retail, housing, events and leisure. Building on Tameside's heritage and improved connectivity, the investment can act as a catalyst to rebrand Ashton Market Square as a resource to communities and visitors. A vibrant and active town centre can help breathe life into a place and its people.

I have listed some of the main points below, which are to be viewed as individual responses from members, under the collective of Tameside Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel.

- Investment and improvement in Ashton Market Square is welcome. Members are supportive of the consultation process and proposals to improve the outdoor market offer and public realm, including the creation of a flexible town square that will aim to enhance the area as a visitor destination in its own right.
- Creating an environment that is attractive, accessible, inclusive and safe remains of the utmost importance. Consultation responses can allow for greater understanding of what connects people to a place and identify any existing barriers.
- Ashton Market Square needs to be a modern and fit for purpose space that delivers a diverse mix of uses. The extent of adaptations is dependent on the future ambition, commitment and connection between the indoor and outdoor markets.
- While important to maintain local heritage of the site, members are keen to ensure that the Council's ambition for the project remains as bold as possible in supporting a wider pull factor. To create something that differentiates Ashton Market Square within the region.
- Members are keen to ensure that work is undertaken to understand what, in addition to the current offer and mix, will lead to greater use and footfall. Future functionality for parts of the space appear somewhat vague and it is hoped that significant attention can be placed on facilities, lighting and extended use of the square outside of trader and shop opening times.
- Ashton Market Square is a very large space and members feel that while future options for events and general greening of the area is welcome, this may not avoid potential infrequency or underutilisation of space for periods of the year.
- There is currently a large number of access points to the market square, outdoor and indoor markets. Potential to create a more structured approach to entry and exit that supports footfall to traders and businesses, whilst maintaining the ease of movement to wider public services and the college.
- That Ashton Market Square development seeks to maximise the use of environmentally friendly and sustainable methods, actively reducing the carbon footprint and for this to be an exemplar project in Tameside for materials and renewables.
- That continued and progressive methods of dialogue and engagement with key stakeholders is key to the success of the project. Potential option to establish - Ashton Market Square Advisory and Delivery Panel - for the duration. To include representatives of the Council, Elected Members, Market Traders, Businesses and the Town Team. To promote transparency and deliver key messages and updates at agreed intervals.
- The importance of effective costing, delivery timetables and transparency of communication throughout the length of the programme with key stakeholders. In order to work for all, the project needs to be informed by all.

- For future consideration regarding expansion of public realm and accessibility to the market square from all available public transport locations and car parks. To signpost the market square as a destination.
- That a future maintenance strategy and long-term financial commitment is needed for Town Centres, beyond LUF investment and one-off monies.
- Engagement with Scrutiny remains a priority as development phases emerge across Tameside's town centres.

Following completion of the consultation, I am keen to ensure the working group remains suitably updated on key findings. Moving into 2023, Scrutiny will seek assurances on how responses have fed into the final plans, to review progress and the potential for any learning to inform future consultation and delivery phases.

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

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Yvonne Cartey

Chair – Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

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