

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

25 July 2023

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.35pm

Present: Councillors Reid (Chair), Chadwick, Ferguson, Glover, Gwynne, McLaren

Apologies: Councillors Alam, A Holland, Robinson, Roderick

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 6 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD ENFORCEMENT

The Panel welcomed Councillor Denise Ward, Executive Member (Climate Emergency & Environmental Services); Councillor Vincent Ricci, Assistant Executive Member (Armed Forces & Enforcement); Julian Jackson, Director of Place; Emma Varnam, Assistant Director; Nick Sayers, Head of Operations and Greenspace; Mike Robinson, Regulatory Services Manager; and Dave Smith, Partnership Manager, to inform a review of the place-based approach to Neighbourhood enforcement, with links to street scene and cleanliness.

Members received an update specific to key challenges and issues related to fly tipping, service improvements and planned actions. It was reported that challenges and issues related to fly tipping include:

- Resident behaviour and awareness about proper waste disposal ('Duty of Care')
- Issues with property type and those with little or no space for bin storage or recycling
- Over production of business waste
- Deliberate fly tipping – on private and public land
- Enforcement options and legal processes (e.g, identification of the offender and sufficiency of evidence)

Panel members heard that improvements have contributed to:

- Greater collaboration between services partners
- The fly tipping removal function transferring to the street cleansing service
- A service review and the addition of 3.5 enforcement officers
- Improved customer journey – developed the 'Tell Tameside' App to report fly tipping and better process for triaging complaints
- Training for operational staff
- Greater policy oversight and enforcement monitoring undertaken by the Enforcement Panel, chaired by the Assistant Executive Member

Panel members received information on the Council's Litter Hub Networks that enable residents and community groups to book free litter picking equipment. Tameside currently has 14 live litter hubs that are starting to link together and expand across the borough.

Members received an update on the 'Days of Action' launched together with 'Our Streets' campaign in August 2022. The work initially focussed in the town centres and concentrated hotspot areas, which excellent results to date.

The presentation also provided an update on the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team and structure, with detail provided on the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Ashton town centre, since the inception in November 2022. To date 20 fixed penalty notices have been issued for PSPO breaches.

Data specific to ASB in the borough was reported on local incidents, responses of the Council and partners. In terms of the ASB reports received, the vast majority have an overarching element of a neighbour dispute. The ASB service also submits intelligence to the Greater Manchester Police Force Intelligence Hub through partnership arrangements.

In terms of general ASB prevention, services are working with Neighbourhood Watch; promoting safer communities / 'Litter Hubs'- love where you live "Active Citizenship" / work with the Prevention Hub ensuring right agency support for dealing with repeat and high demand issues.

Councillors and officers responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- The breadth of fly tipping issues and impacts
- Repeat offenders of fly tipping
- Communications, behaviour change and enforcement options
- Connection and correlation between planning and street scene
- Having the right infrastructure in know hot spots for fly tipping
- FPN data published to the Council's website relating to litter and dog fouling

Resolved: That Councillors and officers be thanked for attending the meeting.

11. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES

The Chair presented the agreed Scrutiny Annual Work Programmes for 2023/24.

12. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair advised members that a meeting of the Executive with Scrutiny Chairs and the Chair of Overview took place on 22 June 2023, to discuss activity and plans for the year ahead.

The Scrutiny Annual Work Programme report is to be tabled at the next meeting of Overview Panel on 1 August 2023.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 12 September 2023.

14. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR