

## **Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel**

### **12 September 2017**

**Commenced:** 6.00pm

**Terminated:** 7.15pm

**Present:** Councillors K Welsh (Chair), Bailey (Deputy Chair), Affleck, Feeley, Fowler, Glover, Homer, Newton, Patrick, Piddington, Reid, Sharif, Sidebottom, F Travis, Whitehead.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Beeley, Bowden, Bowerman, Newton, Pearce.

The Chair opened the meeting and received apologies.

#### **14. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 1 August 2017 were approved as a correct record.

#### **15. WASTE DISPOSAL UPDATE**

The Panel welcomed Garry Parker, Head of Environmental Services to receive an update on the current arrangements and future developments to the way that waste disposal will operate in Tameside and across Greater Manchester.

It was reported that Tameside's current recycling rate is 56% as an average, with data for August 2017 showing a rate of 58.40%. When compared with other Greater Manchester authorities Tameside has achieved significant progress over recent years with only Trafford and Stockport currently recycling at a higher rate.

To allow members to understand the size and scale of Tameside's collection service, data showed that the service is completing around 47,000 collections per day. It was also reported that the service has recently taken delivery of 22 new bin wagons, providing 20% more efficiency than previous engines.

While the service receives a number of resident contacts each day relating to collection issues, the number of actual complaints on average is 4 per day. The service is working hard to keep residents informed through social media and with further improvements planned for the Tameside Bin App, creating a smarter and more effective system allowing residents to 'Tell Tameside' about any problems or issues.

The Panel heard that separate to the Council managed collection service, the contract for disposal is managed centrally by Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) for nine of the Greater Manchester Authorities. The current and single contract for all aspects of waste and recycling disposal was awarded to Viridor Laing Greater Manchester (VLGM) in 2009, for a period of 25 years.

Mr Parker informed members that following a comprehensive performance review the collective decision was made by GMWDA to exit the current contract. A settlement figure has now been agreed for the extraction of the Waste PFI contract with VLGM, with a formal termination date of 29 September 2017. The agreement will include an interim period whereby VLGM will continue to provide waste disposal services.

Notice of contract removal has been served to VLGM, with a plan for new suppliers to take over in April 2019. Viridor will continue to deliver disposal services until the new arrangements are in place in 2019. It was reported that Tameside will be well represented during all aspects exit negotiations and will also have an active role in the way new contracts are to be designed, procured, supplied and monitored.

The design of future contracts has changed considerably, taking on board some key learning elements from the previous 8 years. This includes financial elements to ensure a better deal is negotiated, the way waste is streamlined and processed, the removal of certain technology which isn't working and having better control of waste outlets and associated costs.

Rather than one extremely large contract, there will be three separate contracts for different elements of disposal services, each to be awarded for an initial period of 7 years with an option to extend by a further 3 years.

Mr Parker advised members that the planned changes to waste disposal across Greater Manchester will have no impact on the way the Council's refuse and recycling collection service will operate for residents and businesses across Tameside.

The Panel raised concerns about the way the by which future contracts will be designed and the motivation and performance of VLGM to continue delivering effective disposal services until 2019.

Mr Parker informed members that the decision to exit the waste PFI contract has not been taken lightly and has required a lot of shared working with the GMWDA and authorities across Greater Manchester to review the overall performance and effectiveness of the contract to date. This also includes projections going forward with regards to efficiencies and the way by which certain aspects of a 25 year contract will impact on a wide range of associated cost.

The decision to exit the contract will create opportunities for Tameside to receive a more competitive service with regards to recycling performance and greater value for money. The overall waste disposal contract will now be separated into three separate aspects for contracts to be awarded for a shorter 7 year initial period. Mr Parker advised that close monitoring will take place to ensure the Council receives the best possible service until 2019. It was reported that Viridor are able to bid for future contracts which creates a wider incentive with regards to ongoing performance.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Parker be thanked for attending the meeting.

## **16. UPDATE ON CURRENT REVIEW**

Panel members received an update on plans for the review of Business Growth in Tameside. It was confirmed that the working group meeting scheduled for Friday 15 September will be rearranged due to unforeseen circumstances. Once confirmed details of the new meeting date to be circulated to members.

**RESOLVED:** Members of the Business Growth working group to be notified of meetings by email and as a calendar invitation.

## **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Thursday 7 November 2017.

## **18. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**