

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

31 July 2018

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.50pm

Present: Councillors Glover (Chair), Bailey (Deputy Chair), Chadwick, J Fitzpatrick, S Homer, J Lane, Lewis, Patrick, Pearce, Sharif, Sidebottom.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bowden, Bowerman, Boyle, Choksi, Gosling, A Holland, Sweeton, Taylor, Whitehead.

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 12 June 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Panel members noted actions to take forward. This includes the training material discussed to be circulated to all panel members by email; and the topic of Business Growth to be presented at the next meeting for conclusion.

10. AIR QUALITY

The Panel welcomed Councillor Allison Gwynne, Executive Member, Neighbourhood Services; Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods; Jeanelle De Gruchy, Director of Population Health; Anna Moloney, Consultant in Public Health Medicine; Sharon Smith, Head of Public Protection and Gary Mongan, Regulatory Services Manager, to provide information on local air quality impacts and required actions.

It was reported that poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. It is known to have more severe effects on vulnerable groups, for example the elderly, children and people with pre-existing respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

The Panel heard that emissions from vehicles are the main contributing source to poor air quality, with fine particulates and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) are the main pollutants of concern. In 2017 the government set out the 'UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations', with actions to be delivered at a local level.

A section of the A635 in Ashton-under-Lyne has been identified to be in excess of the health based limit values for NO₂. As a result of this, Tameside is 1 of 22 local authorities across England and 1 of 7 in Greater Manchester mandated to take further action. Each mandated authority is required to develop a Clean Air Plan, to be approved by the Government by 31 December 2018. The plan will set out proposed interventions to reduce nitrogen dioxide, with a final business case deadline of 31 December 2018.

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is leading the sub-regional approach to tackle areas that exceed air quality limits, in the shortest possible time. Developing an outline business case will provide detail and define the measures to achieve compliance within the required timescales. Local authorities are to consider implementing a clean air zone unless other measures can be achieved.

Panel members sought and received further clarification with regards to the funding pressures for the development of such plans and the accuracy of air pollution monitoring for roads across

Tameside. It was noted that TfGM undertake the monitoring work, which is able to track and monitor the number and length of journeys made on the road network.

In addition to the air quality, panel members were provided with an update on the recent moorland fires and reiteration of the public health advice to residents affected. It was noted that wider health advice is to be circulated to councilors in the wards closest to Mossley to share with residents.

Resolved:

(1) That the officers be thanked for attending the meeting.

(2) That a working group be established to look more closely at air quality in Tameside and contribute to the business case and overall plan.

11. SCRUTINY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Simon Brunet, Policy Manager advised members that a variety of training options have been explored, with confirmation that North West Employers have been invited to provide a suitable training programme for all scrutiny members.

It has been arranged for two sessions to be delivered by Dr Stephanie Snape, who is a leading expert on shaping successful scrutiny. Members were advised that they only need to attend one session which will last approximately 3 hours, with options of the afternoon and evening in order to accommodate work commitments.

The aim will be for the first session to take place towards the end of August, with the second early in September. Once confirmed the dates and times will be circulated to all scrutiny members to book their place.

Resolved: That the dates and times of scrutiny training sessions are circulated by email and as a calendar invitation.

12. SCRUTINY ENGAGEMENT

Simon Brunet, Policy Manager provided members with options for methods to raise the public profile of scrutiny activity, as well as possibilities to increase engagement with services and partners to promote insight and service development.

The Panel heard that finding ways to encourage attendance at meetings and promoting the successful work of scrutiny will be explored. There are opportunities to raise resident awareness through a number of channels, including social media and network forums.

It is important for links to be created with communities and to identify individuals to contribute to some of the in-depth working group meetings, as co-opted and non-panel members.

Resolved: That work is undertaken to raise awareness of scrutiny activity through social media, with future updates on non-panel representatives to be invited to working group meetings.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on 11 September 2018.

14. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR