

# **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**