

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

11 June 2019

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Glover (Chair), Mills (Deputy Chair), Alam, Billington, Chadwick, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Hollinshead, Lewis, Naylor, Sidebottom, Sweeton.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bowden, Bowerman, Choksi, A Holland, J Lane, Pearce, Robinson, Sharif.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 12 March 2019 were approved as a correct record.

2. STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Paul Radcliffe, Policy and Strategy Lead, presented a summary of the statutory scrutiny guidance published on 7 May 2019.

A number of positive comparisons were made to the way scrutiny activity is currently planned and delivered in line with the national guidance. Panel members discussed the following points:

- Culture and standards – creating an environment conducive to effective scrutiny.
- Prioritisation – to ensure scrutiny activity concentrates on delivering work that is of genuine value and is relevant to wider priorities of the authority.
- Clear identification of roles and responsibilities.
- Engagement between the Executive and Scrutiny.
- Influence – early involvement in the decision making process.
- Planning and preparation – understanding benefits scrutiny can bring, what's needed, best outcomes, maintaining a flexible approach to research and reviews.

3. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair presented a list of topics for consideration to inform a two year programme of work. It was agreed that topics will be subject to annual review to ensure that work remains relevant and able to react to changing priorities or any urgent matters that may arise.

The topics are a combination of service and performance updates, input to formal consultations and areas for in-depth review. This includes a responsibility for:

- Engagement and consultation – to provide responses to pre-decision activity.
- Research and insight to a particular issue.
- Review of decisions and recommendations.

Scrutiny activity will continue to be undertaken outside of the formal meetings, with all findings and recommendations presented to the full panel for comment and approval. This flexibility can allow for speedier and timelier work to be undertaken, creating an enhanced opportunity to both influence and inform the impact of decisions being made.

It was agreed that the Chair will now look to explore the suitability of topics and progress work in the following areas.

- Housing strategy to improve quality and standards in the private rented sector.
- Economic growth to include capital and asset programme.

In order for the Annual Work Programme to be presented at Overview (Audit) Panel on 29 July 2019 it was agreed that the final document will be shared outside of the meeting.

Resolved: That the Annual Work Programme be circulated by email to all panel members outside of the meeting.

4. GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR PROPOSALS

The Panel welcomed Gary Mongan, Regulatory Services Manager, to receive an update on the Greater Manchester Clean Air Proposals.

It was reported that the proposals include a GM-wide Clean Air Zone (CAZ), to be introduced in two phases from 2021. Initial attention will be placed on non-compliant buses, coaches, taxis, private hire vehicles and HGVs from 2021. This will then extend to a second phase for non-compliant vehicles such as vans and minibuses from 2023. The Panel heard that standard vehicles to include cars and motorbikes will be exempt from charges and penalties imposed by the CAZ.

Research and modelling has shown that a GM-wide CAZ would achieve the required reduction in nitrogen dioxide levels in the shortest possible time, in the most cost effective way and reduce wider impacts to the economy. It is estimated that once the CAZ is in place legal limits for air pollution will be reached by 2024. If no action was taken the estimated date for legal compliance is 2027.

A multi-million pound funding package is required in supporting local businesses to upgrade to cleaner vehicles. It is also expected that the number of electric vehicle public charging points across Greater Manchester needs to increase dramatically. A number of government actions are required to support regional measures, they include:

- Arrangements and funding in place for vehicle upgrades and scrappage.
- Replacement / retrofit of non-complaint buses.
- Instruction to Highways England with regards to the contributing factors and air pollution linked with the strategic highway network across Greater Manchester.

It was reported that the Clean Air Conversation is now open and seeks the views of residents and businesses to inform the development of proposals. Comments are sought in the following areas:

- The proposed boundary.
- The proposed daily penalties and penalty charge notice.
- The proposed timescales for introducing the CAZ.
- The vehicles that should be exempt from paying the daily penalty.

The Chair advised members that the Clean Air Conversation closes on 30 June 2019. All discussion points and concerns raised during the meeting have been noted, with a formal response of the Panel to be drafted for submission. The response letter will aim to provide a summary of individual views under a collective of the main panel.

Resolved:

- (1) That Mr Mongan be thanked for attending the meeting.
- (2) That the response letter be circulated by email for members prior to submission.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on 30 July 2019.

6. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR