

PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL

Day: Tuesday
Date: 10 November 2020
Time: 6.00 pm
Place: Zoom Meeting

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	MINUTES	1-4
	To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 15 September 2020.	
3.	COMMUNITY SAFETY	5-12
	The Panel to meet John Gregory, Head of Community Safety and Homelessness, to receive an update on local partnerships, strategy development and consultation related to community safety.	
4.	SCRUTINY MID-YEAR BUDGET UPDATE	13-16
	To receive for information, a letter from Scrutiny Chairs to Councillor Oliver Ryan, Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth, in response to the mid-year budget update meetings held on 22 September 2020.	
5.	GREATER MANCHESTER SCRUTINY	
	The Chair to discuss priorities and recent activity of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Scrutiny Committees.	
6.	CHAIR'S UPDATE	
	The Chair to provide a verbal update on recent activity and future priorities for the Panel.	
7.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 12 January 2021.	
8.	URGENT ITEMS	
	To consider any additional items the Chair is of the opinion shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency.	

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Paul Radcliffe, Policy and Strategy Lead, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

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Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel 15 September 2020

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.10pm

Present: Councillors Glover (Chair), Mills (Deputy Chair), Alam, Billington, Bowden, Bowerman, Chadwick, Choksi, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, A Holland, Hollinshead, Jones, Lewis, Naylor, Pearce, Robinson, Sharif, Sweeton.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 28 July 2020 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment.

That under Item 3, Impact of Covid-19 and Lockdown on the Local Economy, it be noted that discussion took place regarding the impact on local businesses and options going forward for the Council and wider partnerships to consider future support and nurturing facilities for business and enterprise in Tameside.

15. WALKING AND CYCLING

The Panel welcomed Councillor Warren Bray, Executive Member, Strategic Development and Transport; and Lee Holland, Head of Engineering Services, to provide information on consultation and project developments for walking and cycling in Tameside.

Members received a presentation on delivering the Bee Network in Tameside, with specific reference made to the local projects and timescales aimed to deliver sustainable improvements to walking and cycling. Projects of this nature require a long-term strategy and cooperation of partnerships and stakeholders to address key challenges, barriers and a need to transform the existing networks.

Developments in walking and cycling across Greater Manchester remain closely linked with initiatives to improve air quality and to address the inactivity of residents. It is estimated that Tameside currently generates approximately £26 million in what are considered to be avoidable costs to the NHS, specifically associated the inactivity of residents. It was reported that around 30% of all car journeys are less than 1km, the equivalent of a 10 to 15 minute walk, which contribute to traffic congestion and poor air quality.

During recent months, and as a direct result of Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown, there has been a significant reduction in vehicular traffic at a national, regional and local level. The number of walking and cycling journeys has increased exponentially and it is important to identify future opportunities to build on this. Projected benefits for residents include:

- Improvements in air quality
- Reduction in traffic / congestion
- Health improvements (physical and mental health)
- Innovative design and solutions
- Improving the local environment
- Putting people first

In responding to the pandemic, a regional ambition for recovery is to Build Back Better. This will also link closely with measures under development to ensure Greater Manchester is carbon

neutral by 2032. A map of the Bee Network shows 1800 miles of protected walking and cycling across GM. Mr Holland advised members that the Council is also working closely with neighbouring authorities when planning ways to improve access and connectivity of networks.

It was reported that the Council has submitted bids to the Mayor's Challenge Fund and to date has secured funding for 11 schemes, which equates to around £11.5 million. Local schemes are currently at the programme entry stage, with a two-year delivery plan ahead. In addition, the Council has secured £1.5 million of funding from Highways England to deliver a new cycling route from Hyde to Hollingworth. The options appraisal is under review and future consultation is planned later in the year. The Council has received additional grants as part of the Emergency Active Travel Fund.

A community-led approach to engagement, design and build will aim to improve community involvement in delivering the desired outcomes at a local level. A range of consultation projects took place in February and March in relation to parts of the Mayor's Challenge Fund. A second stage of consultation was developed on Safe Streets.

Councillor Bray and Mr Holland responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- The permanence of each scheme and long-term impacts on residents and communities
- Outcomes and timescales for the second phase of Emergency Active Travel Funding
- The data source for reported increase in walking and cycling trips, uptake in Tameside
- Existing barriers for residents to change behaviour to walking and cycling
- Staged journeys and access to an integrated transport network for residents, all modes of transport
- Infrastructure and safety for families with children to access major routes where cycling is to be promoted
- Scheme timetables to be circulated to members

Resolved: That Councillor Bray and Mr Holland be thanked for attending the meeting.

16. OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT FOR COMPLAINTS MONITORING

The Panel received the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report, as tabled at the meeting of Overview Panel on 7 September 2020.

17. GREATER MANCHESTER SCRUTINY

The Chair provided a verbal update on recent activity. Regular Scrutiny update emails will continue to include a link to all public papers for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Scrutiny Committees.

18. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair informed members that:

- All scrutiny members should have received a calendar invitation for the mid-year budget update meetings scheduled for 1pm and 6pm on 22 September 2020.
- Panel members will receive an email outside of the meeting, with an invitation to join a working group to progress activity specific to economic growth and recovery.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on 10 November 2020.

20. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR

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Community Safety

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John Gregory
Head of Community Safety &
Homelessness

Agenda Item 3

Community Safety

- Community safety is about feeling safe at home, in the street or at work
- The Local Authority should promote the concept of community based action to prevent & remedy the causes and consequences of criminal and anti-social behaviour
- The Local Authority works to secure sustainable reductions in crime and the fear of crime in Tameside

Community Safety Issues

- Crime
- Anti-social behaviour
- Domestic abuse
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child criminal exploitation
- Community Cohesion
- Violence
- Terrorism/Extremism
- Road safety
- Mental health
- Homelessness & rough sleeping
- Social isolation
- Drug & alcohol misuse
- Modern Slavery
- People trafficking
- Organised crime
- Online safety
- Fire Safety
- Neighbourhood watch

Development of a Community Safety Strategy

The Community Safety Strategy will:

- Incorporate the themes of the GM Police and Crime Plan – Standing Together
- Set priorities around the local needs of the community
- Address emerging issues

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“Standing Together” The GM Police & Crime Plan

Three key priorities:

- Keep people safe
- Reduce harm & reoffending
- Strengthen communities & places

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Community Safety Strategy - Objectives

Make Tameside a safe place to live, study, work and visit by:

- Building stronger communities
- Preventing and reducing violent crime, knife crime & domestic abuse
- Preventing and reducing crime & anti-social behaviour
- Preventing and reducing the harm caused by drugs & alcohol
- Protecting vulnerable people and those at risk of exploitation

Next steps

Draft strategy has been approved by the CSP

Draft strategy to be subject to 12 week public consultation, starting November 2020

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Usual governance process with a view to adopting the new strategy by early 2021

In the meantime, partners are already working towards achieving the strategy's key priorities.

Questions

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Chairs of the Scrutiny Panels

Councillors Teresa Smith and Mike Glover

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Direct Line	0161 342 2199
Date	16 October 2020

Councillor Oliver Ryan
Executive Member
Finance and Economic Growth

Tom Wilkinson
Assistant Director of Finance

Dear Councillor Ryan and Mr Wilkinson,

Scrutiny mid-year Budget update 2020/21

We write in response to the mid-year budget update meetings held on 22 September 2020. Thank you for the time taken to provide all scrutiny members with the opportunity to receive a comprehensive appraisal, which included an overview of financial impacts and projections related to Covid-19.

The budget monitoring information continues to inform future work priorities for the Scrutiny Panels. The regular updates also enable members to seek assurances on the Strategic Commission's approach to managing and mitigating both the direct and indirect impacts that Covid-19 will continue to have on residents, communities and the local economy.

This letter provides an account of discussions captured from the meetings and it is hoped that the collective points will support the wider Budget Conversation for 2021/22. Please pass our thanks to the Director of Finance and we will ensure that the Council's Overview Panel receive a suitable update on this activity at the next meeting on 23 November 2020.

Uncertainty associated with a single year financial settlement for 2020/21 has unfortunately coincided with the emergence of a global pandemic. The circumstance of which has resulted in an unprecedented and unforeseen level of external pressure on national, regional and local budgets. Members appreciate that the current financial impacts are difficult to measure, given the complexities and unknowns that such a public health emergency will continue to have on Tameside.

The strength of local partnerships and cooperative working has allowed the authority to draw on a wealth of information that will ultimately inform a local financial and economic recovery plan. Tameside continues to face significant challenges related to health outcomes, skill levels and employment, with Covid-19 presenting an unparalleled level of pressure on front line services. Our communities continue to show a level of compassion and determination needed to ensure we can get through this together.

The local transformation and integration programme between the Council and health services has resulted in a number of gains, which have enabled the local response to be focused, fast and flexible. An example of this being the Humanitarian Hub. The progress made in this area has benefited Tameside and the collaboration between health and social care has allowed resources to be both targeted and shared.

Future challenges remain and they are likely to be profound and far-reaching on the resilience of households and communities. This includes factors such as the uncertainty of future employment, housing, education and timely access to healthcare and support. Members are conscious of the need to effectively plan for challenges that residents are likely to face going forward, and the impact that will have on the demand for services and budgets.

Additional concerns include the delayed and long-term impacts of Covid-19, with reference made to the viability of local businesses and future employment levels in the borough. Imminent changes to the furlough scheme are likely to present a number of risks and uncertainties, with the addition of a tiered approach that may result in significant curtailments for Greater Manchester if we are to be placed into Tier 3.

It was reassuring to hear that a number of financial monitoring mechanisms are in place to identify, separate and closely monitor covid and non-covid impacts to the budget. It was reported that to date a sufficient level of funding and support has been received to address in-year financial pressures. Members agree with the key risk factors identified and continued pressures placed on statutory services.

While non-discriminatory, the virus has unfortunately had a disproportionate impact on certain sectors of the local economy and their ability to function under current restrictions. There has also been a notable reduction in projected income for the Council and upcoming challenges associated with a second wave.

It was reported that the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates is below expected levels, which in itself reflects the hardship faced and is a reflection of the tough decisions that households and businesses face. Should tighter restrictions come into force, this may require a review of the Council's collection strategy in the short-term to address the range of issues associated with such arrears.

The Scrutiny Panels have continued to review the ability of services to improve outcomes for residents while at the same time deliver value for money. The Council continues to face high levels of demand on statutory services and members are supportive of a short-term need to allocate additional financial resource to Children's Services. However, concerns were raised on the Council's ability to sustain budget increases of this nature in future years. Improving outcomes for children and vulnerable residents remains a pressure and Scrutiny will continue to work with services to review the impact of sustainability projects.

Members felt that the strategic direction for economic growth and recovery has an important role to play going forward. Mr Wilkinson advised that the Growth directorate has received additional investment to progress strategic priorities. The development of separate housing and estate strategies is welcomed and it was viewed that work in related areas needs to deliver inclusive growth across all communities.

The Executive has remained supportive of Scrutiny reporting methods which ensure findings and recommendations are shared in a timely manner and to prevent delay. Scrutiny will continue to seek assurances and identify suitable opportunities to inform local, regional and national decision making.

The Council will undoubtedly achieve a greater level of confidence and assurance if a long-term funding package is to be granted. With a need to plan past 2021, scrutiny members welcome and encourage transparency in budget conversations and request that bi-annual engagement with Scrutiny Panels remain in place going forward. We confirmed that a future budget session with scrutiny members is planned for 18 January 2021, to form part of formal budget procedures for 2021/22.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor T Smith - Chair to Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Councillor M Glover – Chair to Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

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