

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

8 June 2021

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.20pm

Present: Councillors Glover (Chair), Mills (Deputy Chair), Billington, Bowerman, Cartey, Chadwick, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Gosling, A Holland, J Homer, Jones, Lewis, North, Patel, Robinson, T Sharif.

Apologies: Councillors Choksi, Naylor.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 9 March 2021 were approved as a correct record.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPROVING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

The Panel welcomed Paul Smith, Assistant Director, Strategic Property; Alison Lloyd-Walsh, Head of Facilities, Climate and Energy Management; and Graham Hall, Climate and Energy Manager; to present an update and overview of the Council's future vision, strategic priorities and commitments to climate change and improving the local environment.

Members received an overview of local impacts and challenges related to climate change, the context of policy decisions and targets set at an international, national, regional and local level.

The Council's approach has been led by the Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan, detailing actions that will have the most impact, to mobilise residents and businesses. The aims include:

- Mitigation of Climate Change – city region to become carbon neutral by 2038
- Air Quality – removing key air pollutants and to meet WHO guidelines on air quality by 2030
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Improving the natural environment
- Resilience and adaptation to climate change

There is a wider acknowledgement that no sector alone can combat climate change and this will require continued cooperation and partnership working. At a local and regional level the Council does have a leadership role in working closely with businesses and communities.

The Panel heard that in February 2020 Tameside Council declared a Climate Emergency, committing the Council to make its operations net-zero carbon in line with the GM commitment and to support and work with all relevant agencies towards making the area zero carbon within the same timescale. There is a carbon reduction pathway for Tameside, with reference made to the remit of the Council's Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel, whereby there is a local to drive and ambition in putting climate change at the heart of everything we do.

Resources have been committed to this agenda, which aim to enable the Council to deliver on a range on local projects, with a need for strategic direction, work is currently underway to develop a Tameside action plan. There will be an ongoing role for the Council's Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel to monitor progress and outcomes in this area.

Members received headline results from a recent consultation on climate change and there is a

further commitment to deliver training for member and officers on carbon literacy.

The officers responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- The use of existing energy and greener options going forward to reduce dependency on fossil fuels at a local, regional and national level.
- Existing policies and options going forward with regard to future housing development and the impact on congestion.
- Expected limitations at a local level when working to ensure all parts of the borough become greener, when considering the fixed housing stock, access to resources and options available to individuals and families to reduce carbon emissions.
- The Green City Region Board, including governance and decision-making arrangements.
- Regional policy and future planning controls regarding the environmental impacts of new properties.
- Energy efficiency of recent developments, including Denton Wellness Centre and Hyde Leisure Centre.

Resolved: That Mr Smith, Ms Lloyd-Walsh and Mr Hall be thanked for attending the meeting.

3. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

Tameside Scrutiny Panels are required to publish an Annual Work Programme of planned activity. The programme of work will cover a two-year rolling period that is to be reviewed, updated and agreed on an annual basis.

The Chair presented a list of topics for the 2021/22 municipal year and beyond. Panel members agreed that Scrutiny must continue to adapt accordingly to consider appropriate matters with a keen eye on recovery, community and economic resilience.

The Chair noted comments from members to inform the final document. It was agreed that comprehensive scoping exercises will take place at the start of any in-depth review to determine the aim, objectives and requests for information. Next step is for Overview Panel to receive the Scrutiny Work Programmes on 26 July 2021.

Scrutiny activity will continue to adopt a combination of approaches to review service and performance updates, respond to formal consultations, focus reports of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and areas in need of more in-depth review. This includes a responsibility for:

- Research and insight on a particular issue, including in-depth and desktop reviews
- Review of decisions and recommendations
- Follow-up (from previous review / municipal year)
- Engagement and consultation – to provide responses to pre-decision activity
- Consideration of decisions and reports from the Ombudsman
- Receive updates on key issues as they arise
- Active monitoring of national and regional policy and substantive variation to service change

Scrutiny activity will continue to take place outside of the formal meetings, with all findings and recommendations presented to the full panel for comment and approval. This improved flexibility allows for speedier and timelier work to be undertaken, creating further opportunities to both influence and inform the impact of decisions made.

Resolved: That the annual work programme of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel be agreed.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on 27 July 2021.

5. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR