

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

8 March 2022

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.50pm

Present: Councillors Glover (Chair), Mills (Deputy Chair), Billington, Bowerman, Chadwick, Choksi, A Holland, Jones, Lewis, North, Robinson, T Sharif

Apologies: Councillors Cartey, J Homer, Patel

35. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 11 January 2022 were approved as a correct record.

36. CRIME AND DISORDER

The Panel welcomed Councillor Allison Gwynne, Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment); Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods; and Chief Superintendent Rob Cousen, Greater Manchester Police, to follow-up on the HMICFRS inspection of Greater Manchester Police and to receive an update on strategic developments for community safety, crime and disorder.

Members received a summary of GMP's current position on key findings from the HMICFRS report and the required improvements to the services for victims. This included a response to a question on how partners harness local resource and intelligence to inform interventions specific to crime prevention and reduction.

Chief Superintendent Cousen presented the GMP 'Plan on a Page', with a reintroduced purpose to focus on the basics and bringing strategic priorities, values and delivery together in a more simplified and user friendly document. Making progress across a wide range of areas has required greater intelligence led policing, with better detection opportunities and methods to deter crime. Detail was also provided on neighbourhood crime data specific to Tameside.

In order to gain a greater understanding of the strategic and operational relationship of partners involved in the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Mr Gregory revisited the key stakeholders and authorities that continue to work together to make Tameside a safer place.

It was reported that the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25 was approved in February 2022. The following five priorities underpin the strategy:

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

The Panel received examples of the strategy in action, highlighting campaigns such as the delivery of hate crime awareness sessions and wider community engagement. The success and resurgence of neighbourhood watch schemes was also reported, with over 7,300 households in the borough currently supported.

The CSP has funded numerous projects over the past 12 months for delivery in schools covering the following themes;

- Building resilience to extremism
- Personal and online safety
- Child Criminal Exploitation
- Knife Crime
- Road safety

Cllr Gwynne, Chief Superintendent Cousen and officers responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- The findings, outcomes and concerns identified in the recent HMICFRS inspection, published on 3 March 2022.
- The ability of the Police and other agencies to work collaboratively, when presented with a variety of contributing factors to crime and disorder. This included the involvement of health services where a mental health need assessment may be required.
- Methods available to improve public confidence and opportunities to progress Police engagement with community leaders, helping to build local intelligence of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Resolved: That Cllr Gwynne, Chief Superintendent Cousen and officers be thanked for attending the meeting.

37. SCRUTINY BUDGET LETTER

The Panel received for information, a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to Councillor Oliver Ryan, Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth, in response to annual budget update sessions held on 17 January 2022.

The Chair advised members that the letter was presented at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022.

38. SCRUTINY ACTIVITY 2021/22

The Chair advised that a report presented at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022 included a summary of the Scrutiny Panel's activity during the year. Work undertaken on:

- HMIC inspection of GMP
- Climate change and improving the local environment
- Economic impacts of Covid-19
- Tameside Cultural Offer and Strategy
- Homelessness and Housing
- Digital Offer and Delivery
- Response to Community Safety Strategy consultation
- Corporate Performance Scorecard
- Ombudsman complaints monitoring
- Budget updates

39. CORPORATE PLAN SCORECARD

The Panel received the Corporate Plan Scorecard for information.

40. GREATER MANCHESTER SCRUTINY

The Chair provided a verbal update on known activity of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

41. CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair thanked all members for their participation and contribution throughout the 2021/22 municipal year. Scrutiny has adapted well, with the reintroduction of face-to-face meetings and efforts to deliver the work programme. Next step is to inform the work programme for June 2022 onwards with updated priority issues and topics.

The Chair advised members of Scrutiny reports tabled at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022. Items specific to the panel include:

- Scrutiny Update (summary of activity for 2021/22)
- Final report and Executive Response to conclude activity on Housing and Homelessness

42. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that this is the last formal meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel for the 2021/22 municipal year.

43. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR