

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

10 January 2023

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Cartey (Chair), Gwynne, Holland, Robinson, Roderick

Apologies: Councillor Chadwick, Gosling

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by members of the Scrutiny Panel.

23. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 1 November 2022 were approved as a correct record.

24. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Panel welcomed Councillor Denise Ward, Executive Member (Climate Emergency & Environmental Services); Julian Jackson, Director of Place; and Lindsay Johnson, Interim Assistant Director, to receive a progress update on the delivery of identified environment and climate change projects.

Members received a summary of the Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026, including a review of the issues faced and the commitment to reducing emissions from not only council activities, but also to influence and support a reduction in emissions made by individuals, households and businesses across the borough.

The strategy provides context to why action is needed, with a local ambition to be carbon neutral by 2038 (12 years ahead of the UK target). The target does mean that corporate emissions need to be reduced year-on-year by approximately 14%. It was reported that the current annual reduction level stands at 5%.

Alongside the strategy there are a number of working action plans in place that detail projects and actions that need delivering corporately and across neighbourhoods to meet the challenging targets. Delivery of the action plans are monitored by the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group. The action plans are themed across five headline themes of:

- Homes, Buildings and Workplaces
- Travel and Transport
- Greenspace and Biodiversity
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Influencing Others

Members received a breakdown of activity and climate change related programmes in development and through delivery phases. Examples included the funding of £2.5 million awarded to Tameside to decarbonise and improve the energy efficiency of 14 buildings; LED street lighting; Walking and Cycling; greening the fleet vehicles and tree planting.

The Panel heard of the planned action for the next 12 months. Further funding has been secured to deliver decarbonisation projects – to deliver projects on a further four Tameside buildings - two school and two leisure facilities before the end of March 2023. Carbon literacy online training will also be rolled out across all Council teams to embed key messages.

Councillor Ward and officers responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- Ambition, aspirational targets, progress monitoring and delivery of climate change projects.
- Possible budget implications and impacts on future delivery of projects.
- Planning conditions to improve environmental issues.
- The ability to influence areas outside of the Council's direct control.

Councillor Ward and Mr Jackson thanked for attending the meeting.

25. RESPONSE TO ASHTON MARKET SQUARE CONSULTATION

The Chair presented a formal response letter of the Scrutiny Panel, submitted to the Council's Ashton Market Square consultation on 5 December 2022.

26. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair advised members that a number of Scrutiny reports are to be tabled at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 8 February 2023. Items include:

- Scrutiny Update
- Scrutiny Annual Report – Scrutiny Activity 2022/23

All Scrutiny members have received an invitation to attend the Scrutiny annual budget briefing on 16 January 2023.

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 7 March 2023.

28. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR