

**Tameside Council
Elected Member
Annual Report of Activities 2023/24**

Councillor Name: Hugh Roderick

Ward Name: Hyde Newton

Participation at Council Meetings and Panels

I have attended all meetings of Full Council and have spoken as a seconder of Cllr Affleck as the Deputy Mayor and to propose a motion condemning the plans to close rail ticket offices as well as comments relating to Children's Services Scrutiny at several meetings.

I chaired the Children's Services Scrutiny panel this year. As a first time Scrutiny Chair and on a panel that was only in it's second year, I have concentrated on building capacity and ability of the panel to hold the Executive member for Children's Services and Officer's to account. This has been through engagement with CS Scrutiny panels in neighbouring authorities and the LGA, who provided me with a mentor and a program of training for all panel members. As well as chairing all meetings of CS Scrutiny, I have attended all meetings of the Education Attainment Improvement Board, Corporate Parenting Board, and Children's Improvement Board. I have also sought to engage parents and children with experience of the Council's CS.

I have also been a member of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel, reviewing the work of the council and partners in a wide range of the Council's activities. Many issues have been considered this year, most significantly examining the Council's efforts to regenerate towns in the Borough and to improve support for businesses of all sizes.

I have attended all but one South Strategic Neighbourhood Forum Meetings, where we are updated on all aspects of council work that impact Hyde, and all meetings of the Hyde Delivery Group (now the Hyde Accelerator Group), formed this year to provide direction and oversight of the regeneration plans for Hyde. The Accelerator Group has seed money from central government and has a program of work for the coming year to improve street scene and cultural aspects of Hyde town centre. Work has already been undertaken to deep clean the marketplace.

Participation on Outside Bodies and Partnerships

I am a member of Hyde Together CIC, a body founded from the Hyde Town Team that has very successfully brought together residents, businesses and interested parties and provided a conduit for Council officers to report on and take feedback on Hyde's regeneration plans from those the plan will impact most.

I have also attended Board meetings of Tameside Citizens Advice as a trustee.

Constituency Work and Local Issues

I have dealt with a range of casework from residents. This has ranged from housing, planning

permission and development, flooding, street furniture, on street parking, fly tipping, green services, potholes, ASB and crime, bins and recycling and much more.

The major issues in particular this year have been regular opening of the toilets in Hyde Park that all three Newton councillors have been working with residents to investigate an asset transfer of the block. I have met with officers to discuss the issues. Unfortunately, we were unable to identify a large enough group of residents to take on the upkeep of the toilet block were they to be transferred. We remain open to the possibility, if further residents come forward to form a group to maintain the toilets.

All three Newton Councillors have also been working to bring the changing rooms off Victoria Street back into use through a Community Asset Transfer to provide facilities for sport and exercise on the adjacent fields. We are still currently waiting for the disposal of the adjacent field so that we can make a new submission for the transfer through a local cricket team that is currently without a home.

We have also undertaken surveys of street lighting across the ward and reported any lights that were not working.

Members Advice Surgeries

As a ward councillors, we advertise our attendance at the weekly Sing and Chat Cafe at St Mary's Church and the monthly GMP Newton surgeries, where we have met resident's and taken on case work associated with ASB, bins and lighting. We will also be initiating a program of roving surgeries that we will advertise to residents.

Training and Development

Tameside Council provides for in house training. I have attended all but one Member Development Sessions this year, which have included Corporate Parenting.

I have attended all training session provided by the LGA to support the CS Scrutiny Panel and met with my LGA Scrutiny Chair Mentor. Paul Watling, on 10 occasions.

Achievements during the Year

Most casework has been successfully addressed across the year, though I am most proud of the work to ensure a housing association removed a tree that was obstructing the redevelopment of a resident's garden.

Any other comments

This has been an intense first two years as a councillor that has been spent learning the most effective ways to get good outcomes for residents and how the work that the council does is initiated and scrutinised. I am proud of the support I have also been able to give to residents over these 2 years.

I have had helping push forward regeneration plans for Hyde particularly rewarding and I am eager to

see the benefits that residents and businesses in Newton will accrue from the improvements that are proposed for Hyde Town Centre.

I am particularly grateful that residents have given me the opportunity to continue this work after the third election in as many years and I hope to be able to retain support as I begin my first full term as a councillor.

I am grateful to my fellow ward councillors, Cllr Bowden and Robinson, who have supported me throughout my first two years as a councillor. We are very much 'Team Newton'.

I look forward to the challenges ahead as I take on the role as Assistant Executive for Enforcement and Armed Forces and embark on a full 4-year term as a councillor.