

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

12 March 2019

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Glover (Chair), Bailey (Deputy Chair), Bowerman, Choksi, J Fitzpatrick, A Holland, S Homer, J Lane, Lewis, Pearce, Sharif, Sidebottom.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Chadwick, Gosling, Patrick, Sweeton, Taylor.

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 8 January 2019 were approved as a correct record.

34. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

The Panel welcomed Councillor Ged Cooney, Executive Member for Economic Growth, Employment & Housing; Jayne Traverse, Director of Growth; David Berry, Head of Employment and Skills; and Matthew Kershaw, Project Manager, to receive information relating to future priorities for economic growth and development.

It was reported that Greater Manchester is one of three national trailblazers working to develop a Local Industrial Strategy. Tameside has already contributed to a draft which ensures greater focus on inclusive growth across the conurbation. Some of the issues for GM to consider are industries for the future and strengthening economic foundations.

A report from the Independent Prosperity Review recommends that the following areas are the focus for the GM Local Industrial Strategy.

- Advanced Materials
- Health innovation
- Manufacturing
- Digital and Creative Industries
- Professional Services
- Potential of Green Industries

During development stages it is important for Tameside to fully consider strategy implications and to submit a formal response where required. As a borough there is a requirement to review future objectives on how best to utilise local economic strengths to deliver growth. Cllr Cooney advised members that there is a need to upgrade physical and social infrastructure, to promote innovation and to establish strong connections with initiatives aimed at growing skill levels and pay.

It was reported that there is a local priority to increase the scale of programmes aimed at supporting links between health, access to employment and general productivity. There is also a wider opportunity to further develop advanced manufacturing to create future industry.

Panel members asked about future opportunities for Scrutiny to remain informed of strategy development and options to respond and inform local and regional consultation and engagement activity linked to economic growth and development incentives.

Ms Traverse advised members that there is a need to utilise local economic strengths to deliver growth and also consider the range of strategies currently open and in development. It is important for Tameside to deliver core documents and ensure strategies are aligned to deliver improvements in social and economic outcomes for residents and business, with a strategic ambition to deliver 'grow on' space and supporting businesses to remain in Tameside.

It will become increasingly important for Scrutiny to contribute to local and regional issues. Options will be explored to ensure all relevant consultation and engagement projects are shared with members to formulate a collective response on behalf of the Panel. Future developments can also inform topics to be considered during 2019/20 and beyond.

Resolved: That Councillor Cooney and officers be thanked for attending the meeting.

35. RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

Members reviewed the Panel's formal response letter on Community Safety, which provides a summary of discussion points and concerns raised at the meeting of 8 January 2019. The Chair confirmed that the letter had been sent to the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services on 23 January 2019.

36. SCRUTINY BUDGET LETTER

The Chair updated members on the Scrutiny Budget Letter submitted to the Deputy Executive Leader and the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) on 30 January 2019. This was the first occasion that the invitation had been extended to all scrutiny members, with briefing sessions held on 28 January 2019. The letter provides a formal response to the consultation and includes a summary of the main discussion points.

37. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update and recap on activity undertaken by the Panel, the improved responsiveness in reporting and links with the Executive. This included:

- Air Quality
- Economic Strategy
- Response to STAR Procurement and Community Safety
- Training for all Scrutiny Members
- Monthly update emails
- Scrutiny budget session for all members

38. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that this is the last meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel for the 2018/19 municipal year.

39. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR