

## **Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel**

### **10 September 2019**

**Commenced:** 6.00pm

**Terminated:** 7.35pm

**Present:** Councillors Glover (Chair), Mills (Deputy Chair), Bowerman, Chadwick, Choksi, J Fitzpatrick, A Holland, Hollinshead, Lewis, Naylor, Robinson, Sweeton.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Alam, Billington, Bowden, P Fitzpatrick, Pearce, T Sharif.

### **13. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 30 July 2019 were approved as a correct record.

### **14. BUDGET UPDATE**

The Panel welcomed Councillor Oliver Ryan, Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth); and Tom Wilkinson Assistant Director of Finance, to provide in-year financial monitoring information and a budget update.

Cllr Ryan informed members of the budget process, the work undertaken to project service demand, spending levels and to identify savings. It is important that income and revenue projections are as accurate as possible in order to meet legal requirement of setting a balanced budget. A number of mechanisms are in place to support this process and work is well underway to deliver plans for 2020 and beyond. STAR Chambers provides a good example of the effective challenge to deliver the savings put forward for 2019/20 and to plan for future years.

The Panel received a detailed presentation of the budget position for the period ending 30 June 2019. This included a summary of the integrated economy-wide position for the Council, CCG and ICFT. Mr Wilkinson provided further detail on areas where service demand is likely to have an impact on funding pressures, with a breakdown provided by directorate and service area.

It was reported that financial pressures exist to the extent of around £20m. Members looked more closely at the budget monitoring information for the directorates and service areas that sit within the panel's remit. The Panel asked about the shortfall shown for car park income, as well as income generation across Estates and Planning.

Mr Wilkinson advised that the figure quoted for shortfall of income from car parks is primarily linked to the delay of the Darnton Road car park becoming operational. The figure does not represent a reduction in general income from car parks, with the delay impacting on the income projection made at the start of the financial year. Cllr Ryan advised members that the Darnton Road car park is now busy on a daily basis and generating the expected income.

Mr Wilkinson advised that staffing levels within departments has impacted on the ability of services such as Planning and Estates to realise income forecasts made for 2019/20. While broad, this does include a shortfall in expected rental income and chargeable hours.

The Chair advised members that as part of the 2020/21 budget consultation process a separate meeting will be arranged in early 2020, providing Scrutiny Panels with the opportunity

to review and comment on budget proposals for the next municipal year.

**Resolved:** That Councillor Ryan and Mr Wilkinson be thanked for attending the meeting.

## 15. CORPORATE PLAN AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Panel welcomed Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director, Policy, Performance and Communications, to provide an update on Corporate Plan priorities and the performance scorecard.

Ms Dobson presented the Corporate Plan 'Our People – Our Place – Our Plan'. Detail was provided on the eight corporate priorities positioned around the life course. A total of 56 performance measures have been identified to create a Corporate Plan Scorecard. It has remained important to ensure that each measure is outcome focused and for progress to be monitored over time to show how well the Council and CCG are delivering improvements in each area.

The Panel heard that the Corporate Plan Scorecard will now bring a range of agreed indicators together in a single location. The scorecard shows change against each indicator based on the previous reporting period and links to future targets for 2020, 2025 and 2030.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Corporate Plan Scorecard will be brought to the Scrutiny Panel for review on a quarterly basis

**Resolved:** That Ms Dobson be thanked for attending the meeting.

## 16. CO-OPERATIVE COUNCILS

The Panel welcomed Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director, Policy, Performance and Communications, to update members on the work undertaken in respect of the Council joining the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN).

The Council has outlined its ambitions to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN) in the 2019/20 municipal year. A co-operative council follows a set of principles in the way services are developed and delivered in partnership with service users and the community.

Tameside Council will become part of a growing and influential network of councils committed to a new relationship with citizens. Ms Dobson informed members that Tameside has a long standing tradition of working in partnership with the local community in a way that fits well with the expected co-operative values. Tameside Council's application for membership will be reviewed by the Executive Oversight Committee of the CCIN on 2 October 2019.

The Panel asked about the associated costs of becoming a member of the CCIN and the expected benefits that membership can bring.

Ms Dobson informed the Panel that there is currently an annual cost of £7,900 associated with joining the CCIN. Membership will drive opportunities to access ideas and thinking on putting co-operative principles into practice and provide new opportunities for Tameside to work more closely with authorities and to create a platform for shared learning.

**Resolved:** That Ms Dobson be thanked for attending the meeting.

## **17. RESPONSE TO NEW RENT STANDARD CONSULTATION**

The Chair presented the formal response letter of the panel submitted to the national consultation on a New Rent Standard from 2020, on 30 July 2019.

## **18. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair informed members that the working group to review Quality and Standards in the Private Rented Sector will meet on 24 September 2019 to consider the information received, to review timescales and methods to report findings with the Executive in a timely manner.

**Resolved:** Details and outcomes from working group meetings to be routinely reported to the Scrutiny Panel.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on 5 November 2019.

## **20. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**