

# **Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel**

## **5 November 2019**

**Commenced:** 6.00pm

**Terminated:** 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors Glover (Chair), Mills (Deputy Chair), Alam, Bowden, Chadwick, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, A Holland, Lewis, Naylor, Pearce, Robinson, Sweeton.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Bowerman, Choksi, Hollinshead, T Sharif.

### **21. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 10 September were approved as a correct record.

### **22. PEER REVIEW OF HEALTHY SPACES**

The Panel welcomed Sarah Exall, Consultant in Public Health, to receive feedback from a recent peer review of healthy spaces in Tameside.

It was reported that poor air quality is the biggest environmental health risk in the UK and can be a contributing factor to chronic illness. The current threat is largely from motor vehicle emissions and associated particulate matter, with an immediate challenge to reduce the emission of nitrogen dioxide in areas that exceed legal limits.

The Panel heard that air pollution is having a significant impact on the health of people in Tameside and contributes to approximately 1,200 deaths each year across Greater Manchester. Ms Exall advised that 1 in 3 journeys made by car are less than 1km, which in itself presents both challenges and opportunities for behavior change. Working to create effective and sustainable healthy spaces will require a collective effort.

The peer review was carried out between 22 and 25 July 2019 and included a range of telephone and face-to-face interviews. A number of identified strengths were discussed on the current approach to local engagement, committed leadership with a mandate for action through the Corporate Plan, strong partnerships and pooled budgets between the Council and CCG. Existing challenges include the lack of a secured funding stream, costs associated with cleaner technology and limited policy levers to drive change at the required pace and scale.

It was reported that a number of recommendations have now been fed back to key service areas and include the need to increase collaboration between teams, to agree a system narrative and vision, with a view to building on existing strategies and opportunities.

Panel members discussed the strategic drivers for change in Tameside and questioned the way data is presented in relation to air pollution contributing to ill health and also where the biggest impacts can be achieved.

Ms Exall advised members that Tameside is making significant progress in a number of areas and it remains important that local plans and efforts focus on Tameside as a place where healthier spaces can be created. The biggest impacts can be achieved by developing a more systematic and collective approach, working with existing assets, leading by example with regards to future procurements methods and the design of services.

The data shown for health impacts relates to air pollution as a contributing factor to a chronic illness such as an existing breathing or heart condition. The numbers do not show air pollution as the primary cause of death and this can be a reason why numbers appear high.

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

## **23. PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Paul Radcliffe, Policy and Strategy Lead, presented the Corporate Plan Performance Scorecard. It was confirmed that the Scrutiny Panel will receive the performance update on a quarterly basis. The range of information and data can therefore be used to inform future work priorities and to develop work programmes, where appropriate.

Panel members discussed the importance of receiving the performance scorecard in its entirety in order to review individual outcomes as well as those areas that can be closely linked to the remit of each panel.

## **24. RESPONSE TO A NEW DEAL FOR RENTING**

The Chair presented the formal response letter of the Panel, submitted on 12 October to the national consultation on a New Deal for Renting.

## **25. GREATER MANCHESTER SCRUTINY**

The Chair advised members that a standing item will be added to all future meetings. This will allow suitable opportunity for a verbal update to be provided by the members that attend Greater Manchester Combined Authority Scrutiny Committees.

## **26. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN**

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) is the final stage for complaints about councils and other organisations responsible for the provision of public services. In addition to current methods used to inform scrutiny work priorities, a consistent and responsive approach is needed to frequently review LGCSO reports and recommendations.

The attention of scrutiny will concentrate primarily on shared learning detailed within the focus reports and key questions for good practice. The focus reports highlight subjects or systemic issues arising from LGSCO case work. The reports draw on learning from complaints and make recommendations on good practice to help other authorities and care providers to review internal process and address areas where improvements can be made.

It remains important that the subject matter is appropriate, proportionate and that scrutiny can add value. The shared learning will allow scrutiny to seek assurances that improvement opportunities are noted and acted upon at a local level.

Decisions will be reviewed on a monthly basis, with the Chair making a judgement on which reports are shared with services to review and respond accordingly. This work will remain flexible and responsive by taking place outside of the formal meetings with information and responses circulated to all panel members by email. Formal responses will be tabled at the next available panel meeting for discussion.

## **27. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair advised members that an interim report had now been produced by the working group with a focus on methods to improve quality and standards within the private rented sector. The Executive has accepted and responded to the recommendations made, with the paper to be tabled at the next meeting of Overview Panel on 18 November 2019.

The working group will remain in place to work in partnership, and as a critical friend to the Executive during future development and consultation stages.

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

## **28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 7 January 2020.

## **29. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**