

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

9 June 2020

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Glover (Chair), Mills (Deputy Chair), Alam, Billington, Bowden, Bowerman, Chadwick, Choksi, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, A Holland, Hollinshead, Jones, Lewis, Naylor, Pearce, Robinson, Shari, Sweeton.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 10 March 2020 were approved as a correct record.

2. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair presented a work programme document that included an overview of national guidance on the role of scrutiny during Covid-19 and a list of topics for consideration. Panel members agreed that scrutiny must adapt accordingly to consider appropriate matters with a keen eye on recovery, as well as community and economic resilience.

The draft work programme presented a range of topics that Covid-19 has thought to have a direct or indirect impact on service delivery and outcomes for residents. The Chair confirmed that all planned activity would include:

- Service and performance updates
- Areas in need of more in-depth review
- Research and insight on a particular issue
- Review of decisions and recommendations
- Engagement and consultation – responding to pre-decision activity
- Consideration of decisions and reports of the Ombudsman

Scrutiny activity will continue to be undertaken outside of the formal meetings, with all findings and recommendations presented to the full panel for comment and approval. The improved flexibility allows speedier and timelier work to be undertaken, creating an enhanced opportunity to both influence and inform the impact of decisions made.

The Chair introduced topics listed within the draft work programme and provided all panel member with the opportunity to add individual comments and suggestions to inform the final document. Consensus was reached for the panel to receive an overview of the 'Impact of Covid-19 and Lockdown on the Economy', at the next meeting on 28 July 2020. Additional points for inclusion in the final work programme document included:

- Small business and employment support
- Covid-19 safety measures including workplaces
- The importance of long-term and sustainable networks and projects to will build on clean air initiatives
- Maximising the social, economic and environmental impact of future projects and developments
- Future impacts related to housing, domestic abuse and homelessness support
- Feedback and learning related to the impact and response to Covid-19
- Considering the role of scrutiny, in supporting the Executive, with regards to engagement and consultation for future projects and developments

The Annual Work Programme is to be presented at Overview Panel on 27 July 2020 and it was agreed that the final document will be shared outside of the meeting.

In addition, the Chair invited all members to take time outside of the meeting to consider any feedback and learning received from communities on Covid-19, with a deadline of 16 June for email responses. Feedback points will inform a future report that ensures learning is shared with the Executive.

Resolved: That the Annual Work Programme be circulated by email to all panel members outside of the meeting.

3. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair provided a verbal update that the scrutiny monthly update emails will start again from the end of June. They will continue to provide members with information and resources relevant to the role.

Work would continue outside of the formal meetings to review open consultations and to seek assurances against relevant decisions and recommendations of the Ombudsman.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on 28 July 2020.

5. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR