

# Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

10 November 2020

**Commenced:** 6.00pm

**Terminated:** 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors Glover (Chair), Mills (Deputy Chair), Alam, Bowden, Bowerman, Choksi, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, A Holland, Jones, Naylor, Pearce, Robinson, Sharif, Sweeton.

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Chadwick, Hollinshead.

## 21. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 15 September 2020 were approved as a correct record.

## 22. COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Panel welcomed John Gregory, Head of Community Safety and Homelessness, to receive an update on local partnerships, strategy development and consultation related to community safety.

Mr Gregory informed members of the wide range of work undertaken across community safety, homelessness and youth services. Covid-19 directly affects a range of services and presents evolving demand pressures and practical challenges to ensure provision continues in a safe and structured way.

Community safety considers the feeling of safety at a local level and the community based action aimed at sustainably reducing the cause and consequence of criminal and anti-social behaviour. Responding to the pandemic has resulted in some delays to a range of strategic plans.

Community safety issues are broad and far-reaching, therefore requiring a strong partnership approach to tackle a range of matters that include areas such as:

- Crime
- Anti-social behaviour
- Domestic abuse
- Community cohesion
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Homelessness / rough sleeping

At local authority level there is a statutory requirement for a community safety partnership to be in place. In addition to the Council and Police, Tameside Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together representatives from a range of stakeholders across health services, Fire Service, Adults' Services, Children's Services, housing providers and external partners. There is a need to promote safe communities across the borough and to review strategic priorities and direction based on local evidence and need. Since March 2020 the CSP has met every 6 weeks and this will continue over the coming months.

Members heard that a local community safety strategy would incorporate themes set within the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan; priorities and local need of communities; address and respond to emerging issues. The CSP has overseen strategy development and identified five strategic priorities for Tameside.

- Building stronger communities
- Preventing and reducing violent crime, knife crime and domestic abuse
- Preventing and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Preventing and reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol
- Protecting vulnerable people and those at risk of exploitation

Mr Gregory advised members that it is important to note that all partners are already working to achieving the agreed priorities. Subject to decision and approval, the community safety strategy will undergo public consultation and follow the required governance process over the coming months.

Mr Gregory responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- The connection and cooperation across council services
- Communication and engagement with resident groups and VCSE
- Youth services and provision aimed to improve universal and targeted issues
- The cumulative impact of issues and options available to the Council regarding key factors and managing the local environment
- Impact of Covid-19 on strategy engagement methods and participation in advance of a consultation
- Building the confidence of residents and cross-borough collaboration

**Resolved:** That Mr Gregory be thanked for attending the meeting.

## **23. SCRUTINY MID-YEAR BUDGET UPDATE**

The Panel received for information, a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to Councillor Oliver Ryan, Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth, in response to the mid-year budget update meetings held on 22 September 2020.

## **24. GREATER MANCHESTER SCRUTINY**

The Chair provided a verbal update on activity of the Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting that took place on 8 October 2020. Regular Scrutiny update emails will continue to include a link to all public papers for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Scrutiny Committees.

## **25. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair informed members that a working group meeting took place on 9 November 2020, with members receiving information specific to the Inclusive Growth Strategy and planned consultation. A formal response of the working group will be submitted to the Executive for inclusion. The response letter shall be included within papers of the next Scrutiny Panel for information.

## **26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on 12 January 2021.

## **27. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**