

**MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE
COMMUNITIES & HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Meeting: 14 June 2021
At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Mark Roberts (Chair) in the chair; Councillors Malcolm Allan, Angie Clark, Laura Clingan, Oliver Harrison, Mike Hurleston, Rory Leonard, Kerry Waters and Matt Wynne.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 14 April 2021 were approved a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

The following interests were declared-

Personal Interests

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Malcolm Allan and Matt Wynne	Agenda Item 7 – ‘Governance Arrangements for Stockport Active CIC’ as members of Life leisure.

3. CALL-IN

There were no call-in items to consider.

4. SAFER STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL UPDATE 2020/21

Mark Glynn (Director of Place Management) and Superintendent Marcus Noden (Greater Manchester Police) attended the meeting and made a presentation providing an update on the key achievements of partnership working and across partner organisations against Safer Stockport Partnership’s (SSP) priorities during 2020/21. This was based around the strategic priorities determined in the 2018-21 SSP Plan and priority areas for action in the associated delivery plan, refreshed in October 2019.

The Cabinet Member for Inclusive Neighbourhoods (Amanda Peers) attended the meeting to respond to councillors’ questions.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- It was stated that there was now a high level of confidence in the data that was being recorded and the performance data subsequently presented to the committee by Greater Manchester Police.
- Restorative justice programmes had been developed in a piecemeal fashion across Greater Manchester in the past with varying degrees of success. It was stated that the hope was that this would be rolled out in a standardised fashion in the future.
- There had been a concern that during the lockdown measures imposed as part of the response to the coronavirus pandemic that there would be a consequent underreporting of hidden crimes and domestic abuse. Following the lifting of restrictions there had been an increase in reports being made and safeguarding activity then being undertaken.
- A significant amount of work had taken place to build up intelligence structures around anti-social behaviour to try and prevent the rapid escalation of issues in the borough.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the use of off-road motorcycles and the impact that this can have on communities. It was further stated that there was an issue of underreporting as residents were still having issues getting through to an operator on the non-emergency 101 telephone number. It was further stated that while Greater Manchester Police did have officers trained in the use of off-road motorcycles and the pursuit of offenders and associated enforcement activity, these officers were part of the GM-wide safer roads unit and as such demand on time and resources was very high.
- Residents were encouraged to use the online facility on Greater Manchester Police's website for the reporting of non-emergency incidents.
- The Council had provided funding for additional youth outreach workers.
- It was important that the police continued to communicate with elected members on their activities and local successes as this information could then be cascaded to residents.
- There has been a very high level of compliance amongst local businesses with the covid restrictions and as a consequence there had not been a significant level of enforcement activity.
- It was suggested that it would be useful to provide dedicated training for elected members around Prevent programme and the Channel Panel.

RESOLVED – (1) That Mark Glynn and Superintendent Marcus Noden be thanked for their attendance and presentation.

(2) That the thanks of the Scrutiny Committee be extended to Greater Manchester Police and those council officers involved in community safety activities.

5. PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES - ANNUAL REPORTS 2020/21

The Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing a summary of progress in delivering the portfolio priorities, reform programme and other key projects since the final update report, with a focus on the fourth quarter of the year (January to March). The report included out-turn performance and financial data (where this was available) for the Portfolio, along with updates on the portfolio savings programme.

The Cabinet Members for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) and Inclusive Communities (Councillor Amanda Peers) attended the meeting to respond to questions from the Scrutiny Committee.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

Inclusive Communities Portfolio

- The council was working with Sector 3 to deliver some of the work with the various mutual aid groups working in the borough.
- It was noted that there was an ongoing initiative to encourage residents to 'shop local' but more needed to be to encourage this over and above the existing banners that had been erected in certain locations.
- Work was taking place with third sector organisations to co-design the community champions programme. It was stated that once funding had been rolled form the government, members should see further activity in this area.
- There remained concern in relation to the implementation of iOPS by Greater Manchester Police and the availability and robustness of the data obtained as a result.

Sustainable Stockport Portfolio

- During the coronavirus pandemic, a decision had been taken that officers should not routinely inspect fly-tipping to obtain evidence to protect the safety of staff. However, in certain instances, this work was now taking place.
- The rapid response of council staff to reports of fly-tipping was welcomed.
- The Council continued to pursue prosecutions of those responsible for fly-tipping.
- The Council had an excellent record on working with those who were sleeping rough and to facilitate alternative accommodation. However, there were a number of people who refuse assistance, but outreach workers would continue to offer support.
- There remained a number of unfilled vacancies in the waste collection service which was having a detrimental impact on the service. It was stated that further information would be provided to councillors on this issue.
- It was noted that the number of people visiting the natural environment had risen significantly which demonstrated the value of such spaces to residents. However, concern was expressed that it had recently been confirmed that Chadkirk Chapel would remain closed to the public until at least January. In response, it was stated that further details in relation to the circumstances at this specific location would sent to members separately.
- Work was taking place to improve the resilience at TLC to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of the issues that had been experienced with the green waste collection service.
- It was noted that cleansing assessments were not currently being undertaken due to the diversion of staff to respond to the ongoing impact of the pandemic which made it impossible to measure whether the trajectory was going in the right direction.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES - DRAFT AGREEMENTS 2021/22

The Corporate Director for Place Management & Regeneration submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the draft 2020/21 agreements for the Sustainable Stockport and Inclusive Neighbourhoods portfolios for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

The agreements articulated the policy priorities for 2021/22 that were set out within the adopted Council Plan, incorporating the shared outcomes from the Borough Plan alongside specific priorities of the Cabinet. These priorities, re-shaped to take account of One Stockport and Building Back Better (building on Covid19), are articulated within the Portfolio Agreements, which form the basis for regular in-year reporting.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) and the Cabinet Member for Inclusive Neighbourhoods (Councillor Amanda Peers) attended the meeting to respond to questions from the Scrutiny Committee.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

Sustainable Stockport

- It was stated that it would be useful to include the previous years' target within future such reports to more fully understand the standards against which performance was being measured.
- Members expressed their continued support for the Stockport CAN strategy and the pressure to expedite the implementation of its aims and objectives.
- The targets associated with the implementation of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone would be reported through the portfolio performance and resources reports.
- It was suggested that any reduction in carbon emissions from within the civic complex as a result of an increase in staff working from home may be offset by a consequent increase in carbon usage at residential properties.

Inclusive Neighbourhoods

- Further clarity was needed on what was meant by reducing inequalities and whether this related to economic or health inequalities or both.
- Large section of society did not have the same access to opportunities as others.
- Work was taking place to make the Council more inclusive as an organisation and how employees were supported and the availability of progression routes.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR STOCKPORT ACTIVE CIC

The Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an outline of the specification and contractual arrangements for Stockport Active Community Interest Company (CIC), which has been established to operate Council leisure centres and deliver active communities programmes which help the most inactive people in Stockport to become physically active. It was noted

that following finalisation of the transfer agreement with Stockport Sports Trust, the CIC would use the Life Leisure trading name.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport (Councillor Sheila Bailey) attended the meeting to respond to questions from the Scrutiny Committee.

Members welcomed the report and the approach that was being taken with regard to the establishment of the Stockport Active Community Interest Company and confirmed that it remained right and appropriate that the scrutiny committee continued to be appraised of ongoing developments.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted,

8. WORK PROGRAMME AND AGENDA PLANNING

A representative of the Strategic Head of Service & Monitoring Officer (Legal & Democratic Governance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the planned agenda items for the Scrutiny Committee's next meeting and any relevant Forward Plan items.

Concern was expressed that the Scrutiny Committee had not yet received the final report of the 'Scrutiny Review Panel - The Council's Policy for Active Streets, School Streets and Play Streets' and that had represented a missed opportunity as the recommendations made by the Panel could otherwise have been taken advantage of by residents during the Summer.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm