

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Council
Date: 3 July 2019
Report for: Information
Report of: Chair – Scrutiny Committee, Health Scrutiny Committee, and the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee

Report Title

Annual Scrutiny Report 2018/19

Summary

The Scrutiny Committees are required to present an annual report to the Council on the previous year’s work and their work programme for the year ahead. This report covers the following:

- Scrutiny Committee
- Health Scrutiny Committee
- Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation(s)

That the report be noted.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Background Papers

None

Background Information

Relationship to Corporate Priorities	The Scrutiny Committees consider issues in accordance with the Corporate priorities
Financial	None
Legal Implications	The report is in accordance with the Council’s constitutional requirement for Scrutiny Committees to submit an annual report to Council.
Equality/Diversity Implications	None
Sustainability Implications	None
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	None

Risk Management Implications	None
Health and Safety Implications	None

1. Scrutiny Committee – Chairman Councillor David Acton

- 1.1 During 2018/19, the Scrutiny Committee met on six separate occasions. Many topics were discussed at these meetings, including: Reducing Single Use Plastic within Trafford, High Rise Cladding, and Trafford Regulation Orders.
- 1.2 One of the six meetings was a special meeting held to consider draft report of the Committee's Task and finish group on the One Trafford Partnership. This report has subsequently been presented to the Executive and the Committee will receive a formal response in the 2019/20 municipal year.
- 1.3 The Budget Scrutiny process took up a significant amount of the Committee's attention during the year. The Committee received an update on the process at the meeting on 3 October 2018, followed by a presentation on the Budget by the Leader at the meeting 7 November 2018. Following detailed Budget Scrutiny sessions held in early December 2018, the Committee submitted a report to the Executive that was agreed by the Committee at their meeting on 9 January 2019. The Executive provided their formal response to this report at their meeting on 13 March 2019.
- 1.4 Amongst other things, the 2018/19 Budget Scrutiny report highlighted the following areas for follow up as part of the three Scrutiny Committee's Work Programmes for 2019/20:
- Delayed Transfers of Care
 - Demand Led Services
 - Adults and Children's Social Care Budget Saving Proposals
 - Budget Reserves and Provisions
 - Budget Monitoring
- 1.5 The review of Trafford's Scrutiny Function in 2017/18 culminated in a report which was presented to the Executive at the end of 2017/18. The Committee received a response at their meeting 4 July 2018. Out of the 13 recommendations that were made 11 were accepted with one being accepted conditionally, dependent on sufficient funding being available. The accepted recommendations were put into an action plan and by the end of the municipal year the majority had been implemented. The exceptions to this were that an annual review of the Council's Scrutiny process be conducted, that an annual review of the resources required to support Scrutiny be conducted, and that Training on the Budget Scrutiny Process be provided to all Scrutiny Members.
- 1.6 Budget Scrutiny Training Sessions have been agreed with North West Employers. This will be the third training session provided by North West Employers following on from the overview training for Scrutiny Members on the 18th and 26th June 2019 which was well attended and received excellent feedback from Members as to its clarity, relevance, and applicability.
- 1.7 The annual review of the Council's Scrutiny process and of the resources required to support scrutiny will not be completed this year. This is due to the significant change within the Council's Democratic Services during the 2018/19 Municipal Year. The Council's Head of Governance left the Council in February 2019 and one of the Council's two Officers who supported the Scrutiny function left at the

end of December 2018. Following these two positions being vacated interim arrangements were put in place. However, these arrangements did not reflect the Council's standard scrutiny process and the vacancies meant that there was an inevitable lack of resources. Given that a review of this period would not provide an accurate depiction of the effectiveness of the Council's Standard Scrutiny Process or the adequacy of the standard level of resource it has been decided that the review not be conducted until the following year.

1.8 At the beginning of the municipal year the Committee agreed to complete a review of the One Trafford Partnership. This task and finish group met on several occasions with officers from the Council, Amey, and Trade Union representatives. The outcomes of these meetings fed into a report which was presented to the Committee at an extraordinary meeting 12 February 2019. Following the amendments agreed at that meeting the report was presented to the Executive and a formal response will be delivered to the Committee at their meeting 2 October 2019.

1.9 Following the completion of the One Trafford Partnership task and finish group the Committee agreed to set up a second group to look at affordable housing within the borough. This group met twice in the 2018/19 municipal year and will be continuing into the 2019/20 municipal year.

1.10 Another task and finish group was created during the year following a motion to Council in November 2018 which declared a Climate Emergency. This group has met on four occasions so far with officers of the Council, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and an officer who leads on community energy schemes for Oldham Council. Officers are looking into procuring experts in order to support the work of this group which will continue into the 2019/20 municipal year.

1.11 A draft work programme has been drawn up for the municipal year based upon the items during the 2018/19 municipal year which required follow up or were not able to be scheduled during the year. Further development of the work programme will be done following the second Scrutiny Training Session which will cover work programming. Due to the timing of the training the draft work programme will not be able to be updated prior to it being circulated as part of the first meeting agenda. Scrutiny members will have the opportunity to suggest items to be added to it at the meeting and any suggestions made at the training will also be taken on Board.

2 Trafford Health Scrutiny Committee – Chairman Councillor Robert Chilton

2.1 The Health Scrutiny Committee met on five separate occasions during the 2018/19 municipal year. A wide number of issues were discussed during these meetings involving representatives of various health partners from across Greater Manchester. Topics included the Trafford Coordination Centre (TCC), Diabetes Services, progress against the CQC Action Plan, Prescriptions, and the Altrincham Hub.

2.2 The Committee also received regular updates from the Greater Manchester Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, the Single Hospital Service Programme, and HealthWatch Trafford. These regular updates will continue over the 2019/20 municipal year as standing items on the agenda. Councillors have again noted the

large number of items on Health Scrutiny Committee meeting agendas which continues to raise concerns as to whether the Committee have the capacity to scrutinise items in sufficient depth. This will be addressed through the Statutory Scrutiny Officers annual review to be undertaken in this municipal year and reported on in next year's annual scrutiny report.

- 2.3 Following a review of the Greater Manchester Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (GMJHSC) the Committee now meets on a monthly basis. The Vice Chairman of the Trafford Health Scrutiny Committee attends these meetings and provides verbal updates to the Committee at each meeting. However, given the increased frequency of the GMJHSC additional reporting mechanisms may need to be considered going forward.
- 2.4 At the Start of the Municipal Year the group agreed to hold two Task and Finish groups to look at Phlebotomy Services and Period Poverty within the area. The period poverty group met on a number of occasions and linked in with the work of Council officers. The group submitted a report to the Committee 7 March 2019 and a formal response from the executive is expected early in the 2019/20 municipal year.
- 2.5 The Phlebotomy task and finish group met once before they were informed that Pennine Care were stopping to deliver all community services, including phlebotomy, within Trafford. As part of the programme of work to replace Pennine Care as a provider Trafford CCG asked whether the remit of the Task and Finish group could be extended to include all community services. The Chairman agreed this change and two meetings were held. As the recommissioning of these services is to continue into the 2019/20 it will be for the new Chairman of the Committee to agree with Trafford CCG how this work will be monitored by the Committee going forward.
- 2.6 The official report on the Altrincham Hub became available towards the end of the 2018/19 Municipal Year. While it was released at a time when it could have been discussed by the Committee in March the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Trafford CCG Officers agreed that it would be better delayed to the 2019/20 Municipal year when it could be covered in sufficient depth. Due to the number of items that the Committee need to consider in their 5 meetings during 2019/20 it has been agreed that an extraordinary meeting be held with the Altrincham Hub being the only item on the agenda.
- 2.7 The Health Scrutiny Committee was involved in the 2018/19 Budget Scrutiny process, attending the dedicated Budget Scrutiny sessions in early December. The Committee's contribution and input helped form the Budget Scrutiny report to the Executive and the Committee will be following up on a number of items identified within those sessions, as detailed above.
- 2.8 As with the Scrutiny Committee a Draft Work programme has been drawn up for the 2019/20 Municipal year and will go to the Committee meeting 27 June 2019. At the meeting Members will have the opportunity to suggest new items to be added to the work programme and possible areas for consideration by task and finish groups.

3 Trafford Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee – Chairman Councillor Denise Western

- 3.1 This Committee was established in the 2018/19 municipal year following the change of Leadership after the elections in May 2018. The new administration felt that Children's services were of a priority for the authority and as a reflection of this required a Scrutiny Committee focused upon these services. It was agreed that the Committee would have four meetings during the year as well as Task and Finish work and that the Committee would retain the education co-opted members of the main Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 As this was a new Committee no work programme existed and so the Chair and Vice Chair held meetings with officers across Children's services in order to gain an understanding of the services and what the Committee should focus on. Following these meetings the Chair and Vice Chair agreed upon a structure of having four items on each agenda; one item on education, one item on social care, one item on health services, and one item on partnership working.
- 3.3 In order to keep the Committee updated on work going on across the Council it was agreed by the Committee that a Member should sit on both the Council's Corporate Parenting Board and Start Well Board (which is a sub board of the Health and Wellbeing Board). In the upcoming year items will be scheduled to allow these members to update the Committee on the work that these Boards are undertaking and of anything that they have noted at these meetings which they feel would be of interest for the Board.
- 3.4 Over the Course of the year the Committee covered a wide range of issues including Child Protection Plans, Healthy Young Minds, SEN Attainment, and the Commissioned Services for Children. Many of the items brought to the Committee were overviews of the topics which resulted in a number of resolutions for follow ups to be delivered and for further information to be provided to the Committee.
- 3.5 At the first meeting of the year the Committee agreed that a Task and Finish group should be set up to look at Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Services within Trafford. The group submitted a set of questions to senior officers, met with senior officers, met with parent representatives, and met with members of the Councils Education, Health, and Care Plan team. Following these meetings a draft report was submitted to the Committee's final meeting. Since that meeting amendments have been made to the report which will go back to the Committee in the 2019/20 municipal year. Due to the wide scope of the Task and Finish group the work will continue beyond the delivery of the report as the group identified many areas within SEND Services that they would like to investigate further.
- 3.6 As with the other two Committees a draft work programme has been drawn up for the year but this will be further shaped following on from the scrutiny training sessions and input from Committee Members at meetings.