

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Pandemic Scrutiny Committee
Date: 29 July 2020
Report for: Information
Report of: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Report Title

Trafford Pandemic Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Report

Summary

This report lays out the progress that the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee has made to date and details the areas that the Committee will look to scrutinize in their scheduled meetings.

Recommendation(s)

The Pandemic Scrutiny Committee are asked to;

- Note the content of the report
- To agree the recommendation that the Executive provide any recovery plans under development to the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee on the 19th August 2020.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Alexander Murray – Governance Officer
Extension: 4250

Background

1. The Pandemic Scrutiny Committee was created on the 15th May by Council to fulfil the Council's Scrutiny function during the COVID 19 pandemic following the suspension of the Council's three Scrutiny Committees. Since the 15th May the Committee has held three meetings.
- 1.2 The first meeting was to discuss how the Committee would function during the pandemic and to suggest topics that the group would consider. At the second meeting the Committee covered Public Health, Adult Social Care and Schools and Education during the COVID 19 Pandemic. The Third meeting covered the Council's financial position.

Meeting 1st July

- 2.1 The Committee were provided with reports on the Council's financial position in advance and were asked to provide questions in advance of the meeting. The Leader, the Executive Member for Finance and Investment, the Corporate Director of Place, and the Deputy Director of Finance attended the meeting to provide an overview of the financial position and answer the Committee's questions. During the meeting a wide variety of topics were discussed with the following items being of particular interest.

- The position of Council tax collection
- The impact of COVID 19 on Trafford's self-employed residents
- Intu going into administration
- The possibility that the Chief Finance Officer would submit a Section 114 notice
- The Council's budget deficit
- The Council's reserve position
- The impact of COVID 19 on planning and development
- The use of Council estates and assets going forward
- The impact of COVID 19 on the investment fund
- Burden sharing
- The Council's plans for recovery
- The considerable reduction of income from Council Services, for example leisure centres, parking income etc.

- 2.2 The Committee noted that there were a lot of unknowns regarding both the local and national position in relation to local authority finance. The Committee also noted a lot of work was ongoing in all areas and that the picture was developing on a weekly basis as more information became available. The Committee were informed at the meeting that the financial report that was due to be given to the Executive on the 20th July would form the basis of the Council's budgetary expectations for the year and that plans for the Council's response would have a more solid foundation from there onwards.

2.3 Given the importance of the report the Committee requests that it be the main item on the Agenda for the meeting on the 19th August. The Chair invites the Executive Member of Finance and Investment to attend the meeting to present the report and answer the Committee's questions. It is also hoped that by the 19th August some of the unknown variables which had been a barrier to the development of concrete recovery plans will be known. The Committee request that any such plans under development as of the 19th August be brought to the committee so that they can support the Executive in the shaping of those plans.

Recommendations

The Pandemic Scrutiny Committee are asked to;

- Note the content of the report
- To agree the recommendation that the Executive provide any recovery plans under development to the Pandemic Scrutiny Committee on the 19th August 2020.

Annex 1 – Work Programme

Dates and Topics for upcoming meetings

Date of Meeting	Area of focus
Wednesday 29 th July 2020	Schools and Education and Health and Social care
Wednesday 19 th August 2020	The impact of COVID 19 on the Council's Budget, Investment, and Economy
Wednesday 9 th September 2020	To be decided

Topics suggested by Councillors

Below is a log of topics suggested by Committee Members

Area	Topics
School and Education	Impact on Children with SEND including support in place, use of easements, and EHCP performance including level of referrals.
	Number of Children returning to school by location
	Childminders and Child care and how the Council is working with this sector
	Impact on Young people finishing school, further education, and university
	Remote learning
Children and Young People's Health and Social Care	Impact upon disadvantaged and vulnerable school children
	Impact upon Children in Care
	Young people's Mental Health. Performance of Healthy Young minds and level of referrals.
Public Health, Wellbeing, and Social Care	Performance of Track, Trace, and Isolate
	Adult Mental health during COVID 19
	Active Transport
	Community Hubs and lessons learned
	Use of easements of the Care Act
	Impact Upon BAME Community
	CQC Report Regarding Learning Difficulty and Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Budget, Investment, and Economy	Council's financial recovery plans
	How to ensure Trafford is open for Business
	The position of Council tax collection
	The impact of COVID 19 on Trafford's self-employed residents
	Intu going into administration
	The possibility that the Chief Finance Officer would submit a Section 114 notice
	The Councils budget deficit
	The Council's reserve position
	The impact of COVID 19 on planning and development

	The use of Council estates and assets going forward
	The impact of COVID 19 on the investment fund
	Burden sharing
	The Council's plans for recovery
	The considerate reduction of income from Council Services, for example leisure centres, parking income etc.