

Key Messages

The first part of the Board was held in Public session. The Chair explained the role of the Board and updated the public present on the progress made since the last meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

The Chair then updated the Board that Steven Pleasant, Chief Executive of Tameside, will be joining the Board at Chief Executive Peer.

The Board agreed that given the encouraging progress that has been made in implementing the Improvement Plan that meetings would move to every other month. This will enable Council Officers to better support the desire of the Board to focus on Strategic outcomes in the future.

Cabinet lead for the Improvement Board – Councillor Ann McLachlan reported progress on the following:

- Consultation on the first stage of the Council's budget setting process has closed with an encouraging response. Members were thanked for their involvement in scrutiny workshops. This new way of working will be imbedded in the forthcoming member's engagement plan.
- Investors in People accreditation has been retained with improvements identified by the inspection team
- The Board were also updated on the Council's budget process and the work of the Members Development Group
- The Chief Executive thanked the three group Leaders for their continued support and updated the Board on the recent departure of Senior Officers, the forthcoming Senior Management restructure, and progress on the appointment of Strategic Directors. The Board recorded their congratulations to all three Group Leaders for the progress that had been made.

The Board was provided with an update on progress relating to leadership, elected member development and culture change. Performance appraisal for the Chief Executive and Senior Management team has commenced which includes a more systematic approach to leadership capabilities and values. A programme of member development activity is underway as are plans to implement a culture change programme in 2013.

The Board noted the ambitious nature of the programme and stressed the importance of more joint working between Officers and Members, the vital role Group Leaders will play and asked that to be reflected in plans moving forward. It was restated that Leadership Development should be the number one priority for the Council and that appropriate resources should be put in place.

The Board considered reports relating to progress made to improve the Council's decision making and scrutiny processes. The Board stressed the key objective was not to have it

on paper but improved process in practice that would result in better decision making. The Board believed that this would be a key indicator that the Council is making progress.

The Board welcomed a presentation outlining the Council's investment strategy and the approach taken to Economic Development. The Board recognised this as an area of high achievement that would not require the Boards close attention in the future.