

PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL

Day: Tuesday
Date: 9 January 2024
Time: 6.00 pm
Place: Committee Room 1 - Tameside One

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from members of the Scrutiny Panel.	
3.	MINUTES To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 7 November 2023.	1-4
4.	LOCAL PLAN The Panel to meet Councillor Jan Jackson, Executive Member (Planning, Transport & Connectivity); Julian Jackson, Director of Place; and Graham Holland, Planning Policy Team Manager, to receive an update on developments and arrangements for Tameside.	5-22
5.	SCRUTINY MID-YEAR BUDGET LETTER The Chair to update members on a response letter sent to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation); and the Director of Resources, following a mid-year budget update received on 6 November 2023.	23-26
6.	CHAIR'S UPDATE The Chair to provide a verbal update on activity and future priorities for the Panel.	
7.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 5 March 2024.	
8.	URGENT ITEMS To consider any additional items the Chair is of the opinion shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency.	

This page is intentionally left blank

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

7 November 2023

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.20pm

Present: Councillors Reid (Chair), Alam (Deputy), Chadwick, Ferguson, Glover, Gwynne, Robinson, Roderick

Apologies: Councillors A Holland, McLaren

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by members of the Scrutiny Panel.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel held on 12 September 2023 were approved as a correct record.

25. ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

The Panel welcomed Councillor Jack Naylor, Executive Member (Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment); Julian Jackson, Director of Place; Nicola Elsworth, Assistant Director; and Sarah Jamieson, Head of Economy, Employment & Skills; to receive an update on strategic priorities, work streams, local delivery and support for business and employment.

Councillor Naylor introduced the item and updated members on the breadth of provision specific to business and employment support. An example of how this work can make a real difference was provided by sharing feedback received from a resident supported by the in-work progression team and the positive impacts that employment support and improved confidence has made to their life.

Members received an overview of the primary work streams that sit within the Council's Economy, Employment and Skills Service, that include:

- Business support and networks
- Employment support provision
- Skills provision
- Digital inclusion
- Raising participation age (including NEET)
- Routes to work

It was reported that some of the services provide specific support that aim to improve general attainment levels within the borough. Tameside currently has the lowest attainment of NVQ Level 4 or equivalent in Greater Manchester and the highest percentage of residents paid below the living wage.

Responses from a recently commissioned survey of 1200 residents has provided useful insight on the experiences, challenges and barriers for residents that find it difficult to access employment opportunities locally. The majority of people lacking the skills to access better employment have not accessed any related support services.

The Panel heard that employment support for residents is wide ranging and delivered by a variety of providers. It is also funded in different ways but is primarily under the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) national provision, or GMCA devolved monies such as the Adult Education Budget and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Routes to Work supports employment for residents living with disabilities who want to work, with Tameside In Work providing support for employed residents. Funded by DWP as a proof of Concept and running since January 2022, a total of 315 residents supported to date, with 206 interviews and 124 job offers. Funding for the 2 year project does end in January 2024 and challenges have presented with waiting lists in place due to capacity in support.

Local learning as part of Tameside In Work programme has allowed the DWP perception of skills gaps to be challenged by direct feedback, which has shown that an under-utilisation of existing skills is more common than a lack of skills for individuals

A range of examples and case studies provided members with detail on specific projects across local business support and networks; Employment and Skills support; and digital inclusion. It was reported that Tameside Work and Skills Integration Board meets monthly and has 130 members. Events supporting residents to access employment include:

- Bi-annual jobs fair (Spring and Autumn)
 - Autumn 2023 attracted over 300 jobseekers and 60 local employers and providers.
- Employer lead and joint events

The Council's statutory duty relating to the support and tracking of young people aged 16 and 17 or up to 24 with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), not in education, employment or training (NEET), is currently externally commissioned to Positive Steps. They also provide careers advice in schools and to our priority cohorts including care experienced young people.

It was reported that in summary, too many residents find it hard to navigate the support available and efforts will focus to raise awareness of support and events. This includes the ongoing responsiveness and flexibility of services to accommodate individuals and businesses.

Councillor Naylor and officers responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- The sustainability of funding and projects in Tameside, specifically DWP in-work progression and the opportunity of new or extended funding.
- Wider strategic priorities and aspirations – identifying gaps and opportunities for the borough relating to business growth, employment and investment.
- Community engagement and digital inclusion – outreach and awareness of support available to businesses and residents.
- Emerging opportunities in areas such as new technologies and jobs for the future.
- The effectiveness of links between local businesses and education providers, identifying gaps and opportunities. Informing the offer in educational and technical provision.
- The continued commitment to support and encourage local networks and partnerships for business and employment support.
- The challenges faced by residents that have been economically inactive for long periods, the awareness of support and navigating what is available to them.

26. RESPONSE TO LGSCO FOCUS REPORT

The Panel welcomed Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member (Towns & Communities); and Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods; to receive a response to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Focus Report, Out of Order – learning lessons from complaints about antisocial behaviour, published August 2023.

27. RESPONSE TO ASB POLICY

The Panel received a formal response of the Scrutiny Panel, submitted to the Executive Member (Towns & Communities) on 10 October 2023 regarding the draft Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy.

The Chair reported that an updated version of the policy had been shared at a recent working group meeting, with a number of comments and points raised included within the final document.

28. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair advised members of upcoming Scrutiny reports to be tabled at the meeting of Overview Panel on 21 November 2023.

The next working group meeting of the Community Safety review to consider strategic arrangements of the CSP, with a date and time to be confirmed and circulated to members by email.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel will take place on Tuesday 9 January 2024.

30. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank

Homes, Spaces, Places,

January 2024

Page 5

Agenda Item 4



HOMES SPACES PLACES

Page 6

- Background & Context
- Local Development Scheme
- Places for Everyone
- Homes, Spaces, Places
- Scoping
- Risks
- Questions

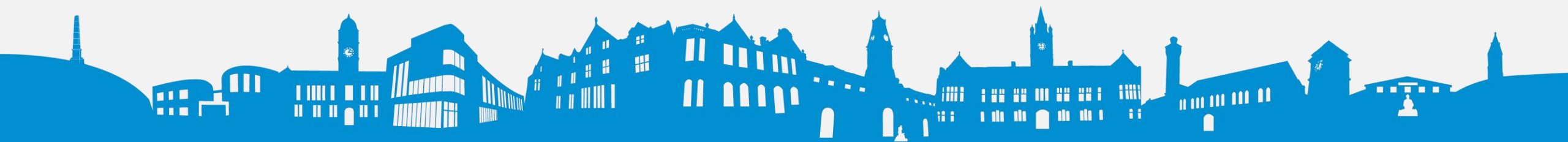
**BACKGROUND &
CONTEXT TO
PLAN MAKING**

Legal
requirement

Plan Led System

Up-to-Date
Evidence

Sound



LOCAL PLAN



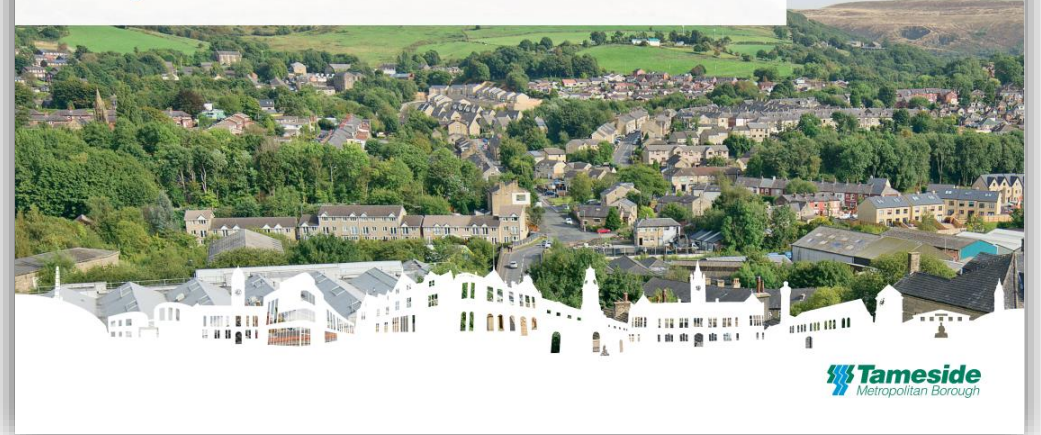
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Published
July 2023

Existing
planning
policy

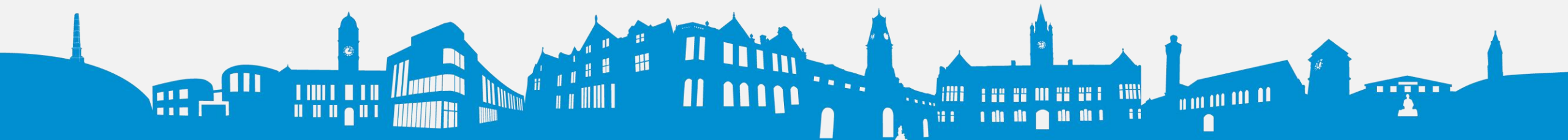
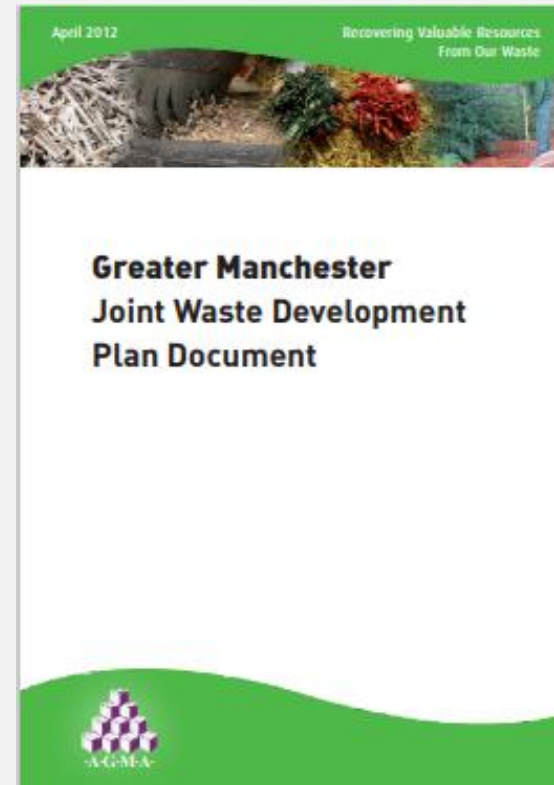
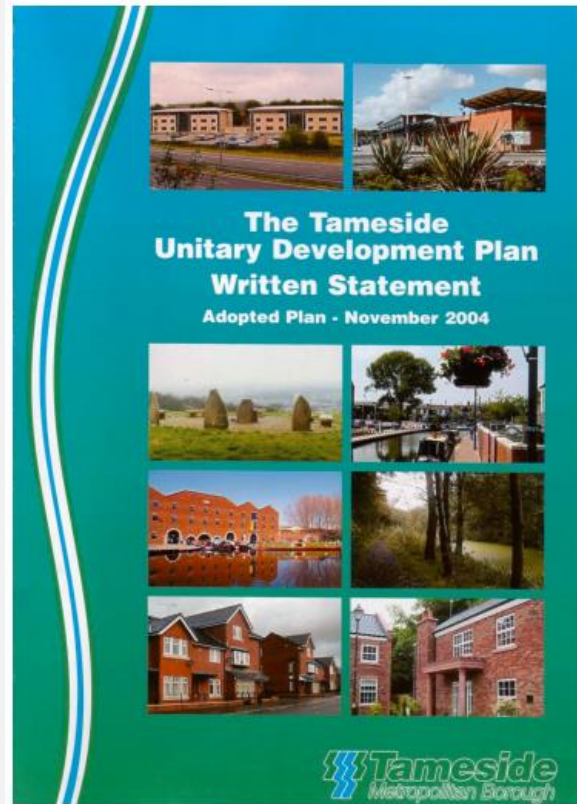
Timescale
for new
policy

Local Development Scheme
July 2023



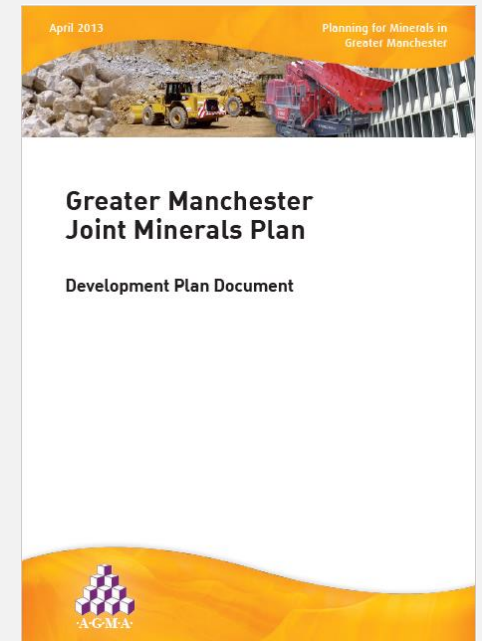
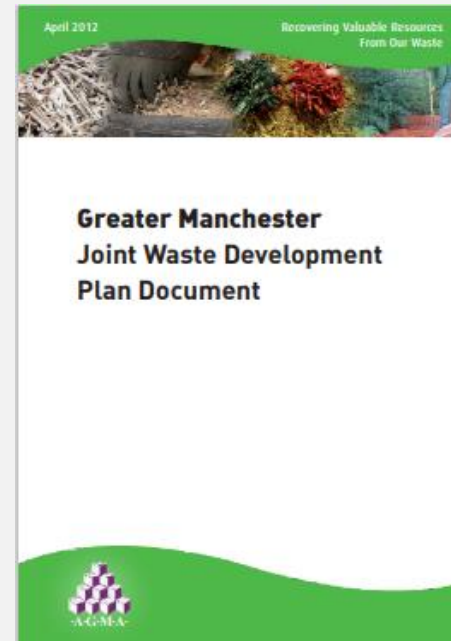
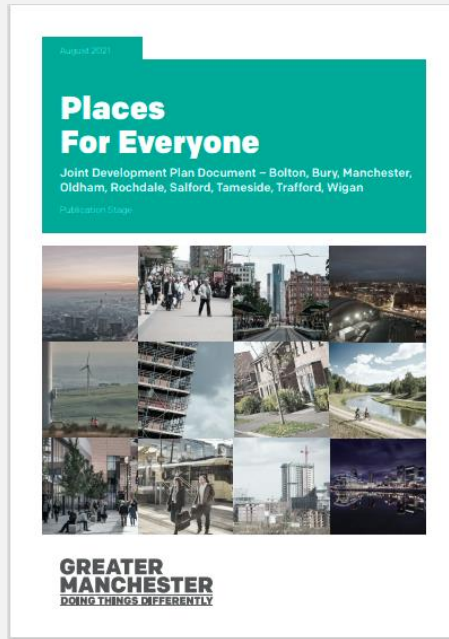
ADOPTED PLAN

Page 10



PROPOSED PLAN

Page 11



PLACES FOR EVERYONE

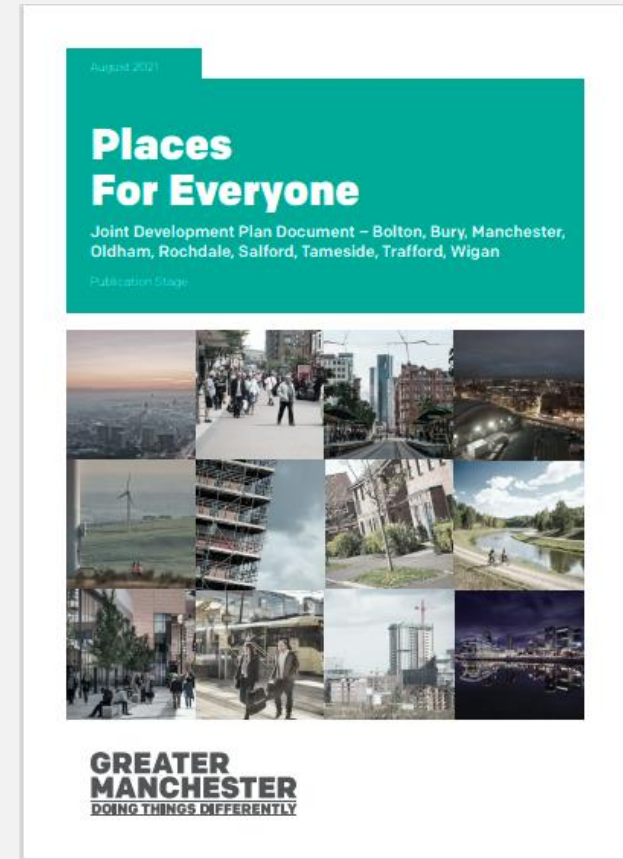
Page 12

Examination

Main
Modifications

Final Report

Adoption



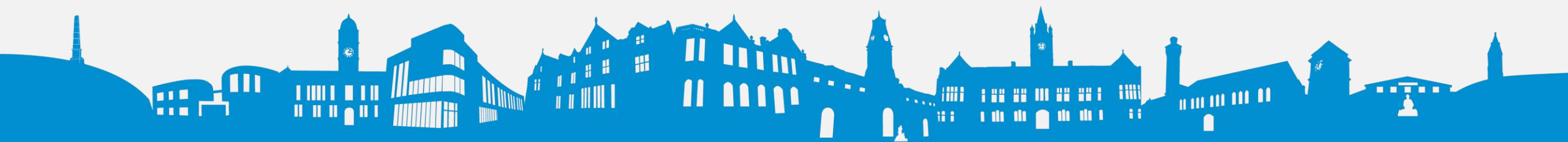
PLACES FOR EVERYONE

174 consultation responses

Allocated between CA and 9 districts

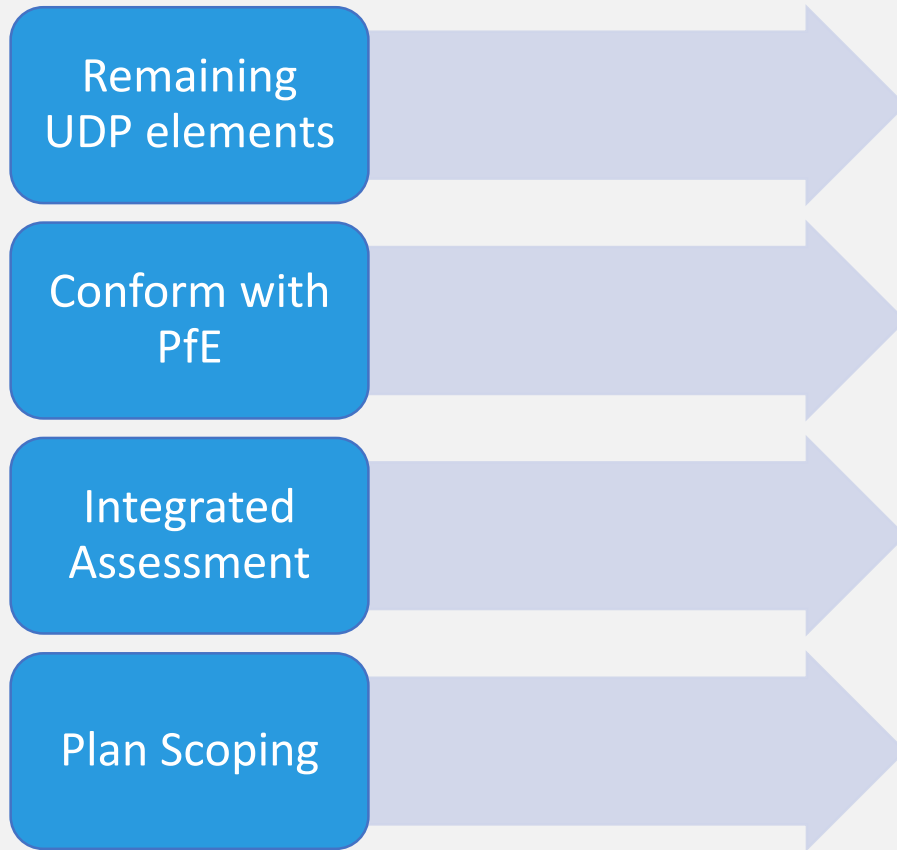
Inspectors report

Adoption early 2024



HOMES SPACES PLACES

Page 14



SCOPING

Integrated
Assessment

PEN Network

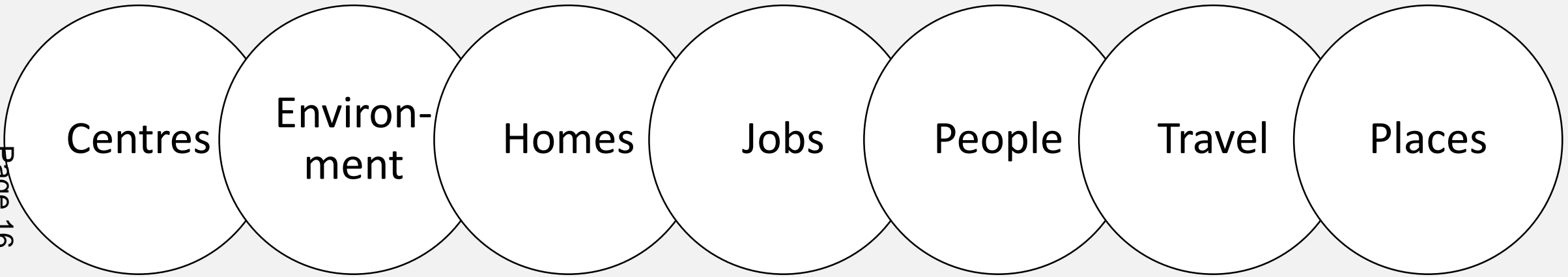
Member
Engagement

Scrutiny



SCOPING

Page 16



SCOPING

Page 17

Plans need
to...

The
context
is...

Places for
Everyone...

What we
know...

How
should the
plan...

SCOPING

NATIONAL TRENDS

ONLINE SHOPPING has increased exponentially
3.4% of all retail sales (2007) to 27.9% (2020)

CLOSURE OF LARGE MULTIPLE STORES
NW had the highest concentration of retail and leisure vacancies in UK at 16.1% (2017)

In 2023 footfall in town centres nationally remains on average 10% below pre-pandemic levels

TAMESIDE

7 DESIGNATED TOWN CENTRES
Ashton
Denton
Hyde
Drolydsen
Stalybridge
Mossley
Hattersley

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION SUPPORT
£40m Ashton
£18.7m for Denton
£20m Stalybridge
£1m Brownfield Homes fund

MASTERPLANS
Hyde, Drolydsen, Stalybridge, St Petersfield, Ashton

130 takeaways per 100,000 residents in Tameside

2 centres currently have Primary Shopping Areas

11

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

LIVE WORK INVEST IN TAMESIDE

HOMES SPACES PLACES IN TAMESIDE

SHAPING TAMESIDE FOR TOMORROW

CENTRES

PLANS NEED TO:

- Support the role of town centres as the heart of a community;
- Plan for positive growth and long-term vitality and viability;
- Allow diversification in a way that responds to market changes; but that also reflects their distinct character;
- Allocate a range of sites for town centre development where growth is anticipated;
- Recognise the role of new homes, and people in town centres alongside the role which smaller scale local shops and services play as part of local communities away from town centres.

4

Schedule of Proposed Local Development Documents

Document	Status	Coverage	Preparing the draft plan	Publication	Submission	Examination ²	Adoption
Places for Everyone ³	Joint Development Plan Document	Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan	<p>Consultation on first Draft GMSF October 2016 – January 2017</p> <p>Consultation on Second Draft GMSF January – March 2019</p>	Summer/ Autumn 2021	Early 2022	Commenced Summer 2022 (ongoing)	Early 2024
Homes, Spaces, Places - Shaping Tameside for Tomorrow	Development Plan Document	Tameside	<p>Integrated Assessment Scoping Summer 2023</p> <p>Plan scoping Autumn 2023</p> <p>Issues and Options Draft Plan Summer 2024</p> <p>Preferred Options Draft Plan Summer 2025</p>	Winter 2025/26	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Autumn 2026
Policies Map	Development Plan Document	Tameside	The Policies Map will be developed in line with the timescales of other DPD. It will be amended and incorporate relevant polices as necessary upon adoption of DPD.				



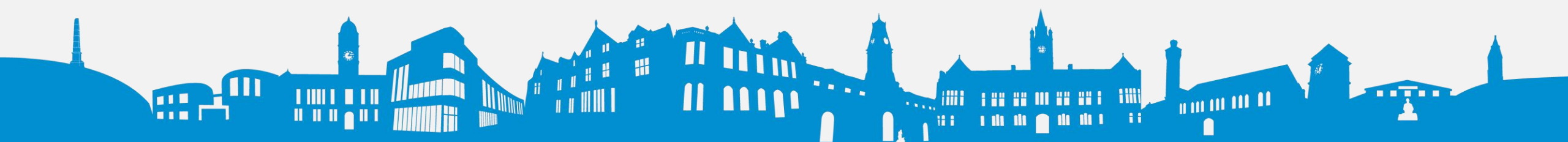
RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES

Change of
Government
Policy

Change in
Government

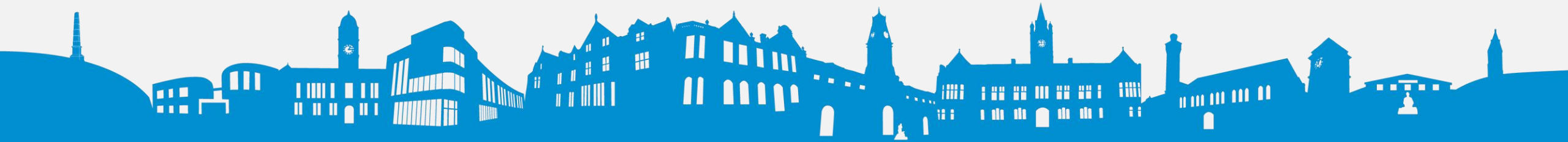
Lack of Control

Intervention



QUESTIONS FEEDBACK

Page 21



This page is intentionally left blank

Chair of Overview Panel

Chairs of Scrutiny Panels

Councillor Jacqueline North
First Deputy
Finance, Resources & Transformation

Ashley Hughes
Director of Resources
Section 151 Officer

Tameside One
Market Place
Ashton-under-Lyne
OL6 6BH

email: paul.radcliffe@tameside.gov.uk
Ask for Paul Radcliffe
Direct Line 0161 342 2199
Date 9 November 2023

Dear Councillor North,

Scrutiny mid-year budget update 2023/24

We write in response to the mid-year budget update presented on 6 November 2023. Thank you for the time taken to provide all scrutiny members with the opportunity to receive a comprehensive appraisal, which included an overview of key financial assumptions, the current budget position and a forward view regarding risks and pressures.

Budget monitoring information continues to inform work priorities for the Scrutiny Panels and regular updates enable members to seek assurance on the Council's approach to managing and mitigating budget pressures, known risks and future uncertainty. The demand on statutory services and the sustainability of budgets beyond the short-term remains a concern for members, along with growing social and economic pressures associated with the rise in living costs, inflationary pressures and the need to support individuals and families in Tameside.

Scrutiny forms part of the Council's governance and decision-making process, underpinned by principles that aim to provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge, to amplify the voice and concerns of residents, and to drive improvement in public services. Scrutiny activity remains aligned with priorities set within the Council's Corporate Plan and relies on insight of the Council's budget and financial plan.

This letter provides an account of discussions captured from the meetings and subsequent feedback received. It is hoped that the collective points can assist with planning for the remainder of 2023/24 and beyond. Please pass our thanks to the Director of Resources and the Interim Assistant Director of Finance for attending the sessions. The Council's Overview Panel will receive a summary of this activity at the next meeting on 21 November 2023.

The Council continues to demonstrate a firm commitment to meet all financial challenges and budget reductions. The current position does appear somewhat precarious when considering that in order to close the budget gap a significant amount of in-year savings need to be delivered. This comes at a time when statutory services are experiencing high levels of demand and a lack of certainty that pressures will subside any time soon.

The Director of Resources reported that all previously identified savings for 2023/24 will be delivered in full, which equates to £15.979m for the financial year. With the successful redirection of £5.425m, this leaves budget reductions of £10.554m to address. Members were presented with a Month 5 performance table that was RAG rated and showed £2.523m in Red and £3.046m in Amber, which account for more than 50% of the target required.

It was confirmed that those currently in Red are not expected to be delivered in the financial year and challenges remain in order to deliver those currently in Amber. To date £1.702m has been achieved with £3.283 identified in green as achievable and on track.

In addition to the current budget reductions and savings requirements, revenue monitoring information highlighted a significant in-year overspend across directorates. With £13.021m predominantly attributed to Adults, Children's Social Care and Place. Members were advised that current variances are to be addressed by officers and through management actions to balance the budget. Should difficulties be encountered then alternatives will need to be put forward.

This does appear somewhat ambitious and challenging given the persistence of demand and external pressures. Vigour and intensity is needed within budget monitoring arrangements to support this and members remain cautious of accounting measures that may be needed should actions or revised plans not be achieved.

Reference was made to the role of the Star Chamber process and members highlighted a requirement of the Executive to fully oversee and challenge key areas relating to budget reductions and in-year variances within their portfolios. A question that remains for Scrutiny is clarity on the existing financial planning model and processes by which directorates identify achievable savings. Further points include learning from previous years and members are keen to ensure future decisions are robustly costed and achievable, without jeopardising service quality or requiring late or unplanned financial adjustments.

A question was asked on the Capital Programme and how this is financed. A total figure of just over £15m was shown against a funding source of receipts and reserves. Upon enquiry members heard that a significant amount of the expected receipts are yet to be achieved, with concerns that they may not be fully delivered in this financial year.

Members shared concerns on the challenges and uncertainty associated with short-term funding settlements and ambitions of the Council to set a more robust medium term financial plan. It is accepted that a greater level of confidence can be achieved should longer funding arrangements be granted to local authorities beyond the next financial year.

Recent activity of the Scrutiny Panels has highlighted a need for the Council to address growing local challenges around accommodation and placements, which too have a significant reactionary impact on the Council's budget when taking account of statutory requirements in relation to Homelessness, Adults and Children's Social Care. Scrutiny members would fully support and endorse a borough-wide accommodation sufficiency strategy. It is not felt that this is something that each decision maker and directorate can do in isolation, but requires a collective and partnership approach with key stakeholders in housing.

Trends in current spend appear increasingly reactionary in parts and building resilience, evidence and business cases can allow the Council to plan for the future and make positive investment decisions. This will ultimately aim to improve outcomes for individuals while also benefitting parts of the budget.

Improving outcomes for children and vulnerable residents remains in place as a budget pressure, with talks of associated costs with regard to external children's placements and the need to achieve greater permanence within parts of the workforce and exposure to external markets.

Effective budget monitoring must take precedence, with the aim to promote a transparent and honest culture for the reporting of in-year budget and savings difficulty. Reducing delay and ensuring issues are flagged at the earliest opportunity is now key to overall success. It is also felt that the role of financial oversight and expertise may need to extend further in a more coherent and partnership role with services.

A number of questions that may require further consideration include:

- The savings most at risk of not being met and actions required.
- Challenges and viability of non-statutory and discretionary services going forward. Reviewing for best value.
 - A specific and pertinent point was raised on future budget commitments for the upkeep, cleanliness and appearance, 'look and feel', of the borough. Any changes would be detrimental to the borough's future success and prosperity.
- The financial position the Council now finds itself in regarding the previously pooled budget arrangement and separation/detachment from the CCG (now ICB).
- Options to alleviate significant placement costs and building greater capacity in Tameside.
 - The Council making the best use of its powers relating to homes, accommodation and placement needs for vulnerable residents and allocations for care leavers.
- Issues and challenges specific to workforce and external markets. Examples were provided regarding Educational Psychology and Social Workers.
- Facilities Management arrangements and making the best use of Tameside's buildings and venues across all towns - income generation, current pricing and advertising.
- Pivotal role of the Council's asset management and disposal plans.
- Access to health funding and contributions - can more be done to support costs associated to specific Children's Social Care interventions and placements.
- Continuing to grow our tax base – meeting our housing targets, inward investment and business growth.
- Demand projections and a need for greater mechanisms of prevention and early intervention – overarching plan, population growth, future pressures / dependency.
- A relentless and uncompromising focus on achieving outcomes and making best use of the money available for the residents and businesses we serve.
- Improving customer interactions and ability of the Council to respond through enhancements in digital solutions and website navigation.

We are pleased to say that the Council's leadership and Executive remain fully engaged with all aspects of Scrutiny activity and options will be explored to incorporate greater and more frequent oversight of budget and financial information within planned activity and in-depth reviews.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Michael Smith – Interim Chair of Overview Panel

Councillor Claire Reid – Chair of Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Hugh Roderick – Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Naila Sharif - Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

This page is intentionally left blank