

Place & External Relations Scrutiny Panel

6 June 2023

1. Training

Training

- Centre for Governance & Scrutiny – skills briefings and practice guides.
- Local Government Association – workbooks, e-learning portal and events.
- Bespoke.

2. Role of Scrutiny

Role of Scrutiny (1)

- Local Government Act 2000.
 - ‘Executive’ – leader and cabinet.
 - ‘Overview & Scrutiny’ – look at decisions & policies / issue reports & recommendations.
- Improve decisions and thus services.
 - no formal power to change.
 - influence policies and decisions.
 - gather evidence & make recommendations

Role of Scrutiny (2)

- Legal power to require:
 - information made available
 - recommendations responded to within a set time frame.
- ‘Critical friend’ – soft influencing power.
 - focus on forward thinking improvement and positive recommendations.
 - avoid apportioning blame and focusing on negatives.

Role of Scrutiny (3)

- Council – direct (and commissioned).
- Partners – formal
 - Health (Health & Social Care Act 2001)
 - Community Safety (Police & Justice Act 2006)
- Partners – informal
 - Housing
 - Transport
 - Education

Role of Scrutiny (4)

- Pre decision (inform and influence).
 - Challenge assumptions
 - Bring insight
 - Suggest new ideas and thinking
- Post decision (challenge and evaluate).
 - Inform evaluation and assess impact
 - Call in (pause a decision)

Role of Scrutiny (5)

- Full in-depth reviews.
- Light touch and/or research reviews.
- Follow up (from previous reviews).
- Check & challenge / assurance.
- Engagement / consultation.
- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO).

Role of Scrutiny (6)

NOTE: Scrutiny is not / does not ...

- Planning or Licensing.
- Party political.
- Ward specific issues.
- Management of services.
- Operational monitoring of performance, finance, risk and/or projects.
- Inspectorate.

3. Panel Remit

Panel Remit

The Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel has responsibility for considering policy linked to Tameside's economy, environment, housing and the provision of place-based services within the Council's Place Directorate.

The Panel is also responsible for scrutinising key external partners and relations in Tameside, with the addition of a statutory responsibility, set by legislation, to review and consider local strategic arrangements, partnerships and outcomes specific to the planning and discharge made by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. For this purpose, Tameside Council and Greater Manchester Police.

Work of this nature will seek to ensure that the Council maintains positive and effective working relationships with partners to create a safer, more supportive and prosperous place for all.