


Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	25 July 2022
Reporting Officer:	Sarah Threlfall - Director of Transformation
Subject:	SCRUTINY UPDATE
Report Summary:	To receive for information, a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Panels for March to July 2022.
Recommendations:	That Overview Panel is asked to note the content of the report and summary of scrutiny activity. All related documents can be viewed within the appendices.
Links to Corporate Plan:	Scrutiny work programmes are linked to the Council's corporate priorities. Scrutiny activity seeks to support effective decision making and priorities across Tameside.
Policy Implications:	The work programmes comprise activity that seeks to check the effective implementation of the Strategic Commission's policies and if appropriate make recommendations to the Executive with regards to development, performance monitoring, outcomes and value for money.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any changes to policy or service delivery arising from scrutiny work programmes will need to be accommodated within existing budgets or subject to a separate report.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>The role of the scrutiny panels is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2000 with the purpose to act as balance in the executive structure which is reinforced in the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>The programme works is also intended to ensure robust governance together with improved service performance and outcomes for residents.</p>
Risk Management:	Regular updates to Overview Panel provide assurance that scrutiny is progressing with an effective work programme, supporting good decision making and service improvement.
Access to Information:	<p>The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Paul Radcliffe, Policy and Strategy Lead by:</p> <p> Telephone: 0161 342 2199</p> <p> e-mail: paul.radcliffe@tameside.gov.uk</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Update provides a platform for appropriate insight, activity, outcomes and proposals to be relayed. This method of reporting supports the improved responsiveness of scrutiny work and prevents any delay in the communication of key messages.
- 1.2 The report, by nature, aims to provide members with a general summary of scrutiny activity and proposals. It remains that all reports produced by scrutiny as a result of in-depth review will be tabled separately at the earliest opportunity.

2. SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

- 2.1 Scrutiny in practice remains mindful of the suitability and appropriateness of timings with regards to the impact and value of planned activity. This includes the selection and order of topics and updates to be received during the year. The tables below provide a summary and chronology of scrutiny activity.

Figure 1: Breakdown of activity at Scrutiny Panel meetings held in March 2022

PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL
8 March 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Panel met Councillor Allison Gwynne, Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment); Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods; and Chief Superintendent Rob Cousen, Greater Manchester Police, to follow-up on the HMICFRS inspection of Greater Manchester Police and receive an update on strategic developments for community safety, crime and disorder.• The Chair updated members on the annual budget letter presented at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022.• The Chair presented a summary of scrutiny activity undertaken during the 2021/22 municipal year.• The Panel received the Corporate Performance Scorecard, for information.
INTEGRATED CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY PANEL
10 March 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Panel met Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families); and Alison Stathers-Tracey, Director of Children's Services to receive a response to specific points related to Ofsted, sustainability, forward strategy, practice quality and key priorities for the next 12 months.• The Chair updated members on the annual budget letter presented at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022.• The Chair presented a summary of scrutiny activity undertaken during the 2021/22 municipal year.• The Panel received the Corporate Performance Scorecard, for information.

Figure 2: Breakdown of planned activity at the July Scrutiny Panel meetings

PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL
26 July 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel to meet Councillor Jan Jackson, Executive Member (Planning, Transport & Connectivity); Nick Fenwick, Interim Director of Place; Ian Palmer, Head of Modelling and Analysis, TfGM; and Rosalind O'Driscoll, Head of Policy, TfGM, to receive an update on transport strategy, delivery plan and picking up on local issues. • To review the Annual Work Programme and agree work priorities and activity to be undertaken in the first half of the municipal year. • To receive the Corporate Performance Scorecard, for information.
CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
27 July 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel to meet Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families); and Alison Stathers-Tracey, Director of Children's Services for scene setting with regard to children's social care and to review the improvement plan. • To review the Annual Work Programme and agree work priorities and activity to be undertaken in the first half of the municipal year. • To receive the Corporate Performance Scorecard, for information.
HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL
28 July 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel to meet Councillor John Taylor, Executive Member (Adult Services); and Stephanie Butterworth, Director of Adult Services, to receive an update on the social care reform White Paper and implications for Tameside. • To receive an Executive Response to the LGSCO learning report: Unprecedented pressure: Learning from complaints about council and care provider actions during the Covid-19 pandemic, specific to Adult Services. • To review the Annual Work Programme and agree work priorities and activity to be undertaken in the first half of the municipal year. • The Panel to receive the Corporate Performance Scorecard, for information.

Work Programmes and Planned Activity

2.2 Each Scrutiny Panel has held a work programme session in June 2022. The work programme is presented in a separate report to Overview Panel on 25 July 2022.

2.3 The planned activity for July Scrutiny Panels is as follows, with invitation of attendance made to relevant Executive Members.

Place and External Relations - Transport for Greater Manchester

Children's Services - Children's social care improvement plan

Health and Adult Social Care - Adult Social Care White Paper

Training and Development

2.4 There is an ongoing commitment to ensure all scrutiny members receive a suitable level of training and guidance. In addition to online resources, it is important that new and existing

members have access to external provision based on scrutiny principles, national guidance and expectations.

- 2.5 The Scrutiny sessions held in June provided a timely opportunity to recap on:
- Training
 - Role of Scrutiny
 - Remit and scope of the Scrutiny Panels
 - Work priorities for 2022/23
- 2.6 All scrutiny members have now received, A Councillors workbook on scrutiny published by the Local Government Association (LGA). This has been further supported with links to a range of e-learning opportunities for councillors that includes a scrutiny module.
- 2.7 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS), is the national body that supports effective scrutiny in local government and provides a wealth of information, research, training and publications at www.cfgs.org.uk.
- 2.8 Arrangements made for the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Scrutiny, along with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Overview Panel, to attend an afternoon training session delivered by the LGA and to include a political peer, on 20 July 2022.
- 2.9 Enquiries made with the CfGS to provide a suitable training session for all Scrutiny members in the near future. A plan for this will include the delivery of a one-off session to cover the following:
- The role and potential impact of Scrutiny
 - Scrutiny adding value to policy shaping and performance
 - Support members to gain specific skills in essential aspects of Scrutiny
 - How Scrutiny works collaboratively and constructively with the Executive and officers

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)

- 2.10 Scrutiny Panels continue to review decisions and focus reports published by the ombudsman. This ensures learning opportunities are identified and shared with services in a timely manner and where necessary, a formal response and/or position statement returned to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel within agreed timescales.
- 2.11 Scrutiny activity informed by recently published LGSCO reports include:
- Focus report – Unprecedented pressure: Learning from complaints about council and care provider actions during the Covid-19 pandemic (published February 2022).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Adult Services and Director of Adult Services. The report and Executive Response tabled in a separate report to Overview Panel on 25 July 2022.
 - Guidance report – Section 117 aftercare: guidance for practitioners (published April 2022).
 - Report shared for information and awareness with the Executive Member for Health, with no request for a formal response at this stage, **APPENDIX 1**.

Keeping Scrutiny Members Informed

- 2.12 All Scrutiny Panel members receive a monthly update email, with the purpose of raising awareness to a variety of materials to support their role, provide access to scrutiny resources and the ongoing opportunity for councillors to contribute and share any open consultations and engagement exercises. This will continue to include a wide variety of topic areas for consideration.
- 2.13 The update email also includes links to Greater Manchester Priorities and the work of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panels. This email provides a further opportunity to inform members how the work of scrutiny is shared and reported within the Council. The most recent update was sent in March 2022, **APPENDIX 2**.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 As set out on the front of the report.