

## March 2022

Welcome to the March 2022 Scrutiny Update. This is the final update e-mail of the 2021/22 municipal year.

The regular updates aim to keep you informed of upcoming activity, including engagement and consultation with regard to local, regional and national decision-making. All of the open consultations listed below are available for you to access and complete, with the opportunity to raise greater community awareness and participation where possible. For further information and to have your say please follow the relevant links below.

I hope this is something you will continue to find useful and please let me know if you require any further information.

**(Please note, Covid-19 related information is now at the end of this update)**

Things to be aware of:

**Scrutiny Webpages:** <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/scrutiny>

The Scrutiny homepage is located on the Council's website and has been recently updated and refreshed. The webpages provides access to information and documents related to:

- Scrutiny Panels, meeting dates and published papers
- Scrutiny Annual Work Programmes
- Scrutiny oversight and reports, including in-depth reviews, check and challenge; and activity linked to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO).

**Tameside in Work** – a new support service has launched in Tameside aimed at helping people to progress in their employment. If you are or know a Tameside resident who is on low pay, self-employed and would like professional support to upskill or increase earnings – sign up now. Trained advisors are here to support you. They will offer you a bespoke service tailored to your personal needs, career aspirations, skills and development goals.

Email - [tamesideinwork@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:tamesideinwork@tameside.gov.uk)

Call - 07849310786 or sign up at [www.tameside.gov.uk/tamesideinwork](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/tamesideinwork)

## Scrutiny Activity 2021/22

With the municipal year drawing to a close the table below provides a summary of activity and oversight undertaken throughout the year. This includes updates to seek assurances on service provision and outcomes.

### Summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight (March 2021 to March 2022)

Place and External Relations	Integrated Care and Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HMIC inspection of GMP</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health Improvement Service</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime and Disorder Update (Community Safety Strategy)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health and Care Bill</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate change and improving the local environment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children's Social Care</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children's Services – Ofsted focused visit</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic impacts of Covid-19</li> <li>• Tameside cultural offer and strategy</li> <li>• Homelessness and Housing</li> <li>• Digital offer and delivery</li> <li>• Response to Community Safety Strategy consultation</li> <li>• Corporate performance scorecard</li> <li>• Mid-year budget update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health and wellbeing (Access and Crisis)</li> <li>• Adult Services</li> <li>• Tameside SEND inspection</li> <li>• Assurance review of LGSCO focus report – Domestic Abuse</li> <li>• Corporate performance scorecard</li> <li>• Mid-year budget update</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Children’s Working Group</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering marketing and recruitment</li> <li>• Children’s Services Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Children in Care Council</li> </ul>
---	---

### **Budget Consultation**

All Scrutiny Panel members were invited to attend one of two annual budget sessions held on 17 January 2022. This follows on from the mid-year budget position update received in September 2021. The independence of Scrutiny enables members to seek assurances on budget planning, process and priorities for 2022/23 and beyond. It is also appropriate for budget priorities to inform future Scrutiny activity and work programmes. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chairs has been sent to the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth; and the Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer.

### **Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)**

Scrutiny Panels continue to review decisions and focus reports published by the Ombudsman. The aim is to ensure learning opportunities be shared with services in a timely manner and for a formal response and/or position statement to be returned to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel within agreed timescales.

It will remain important to ensure that the subject matter is appropriate, proportionate and can add value. Work in this area has progressed well, with the plan to ensure responses be reported to Overview Panel at the earliest opportunity. Activity informed by recent LGSCO focus reports listed below:

- Focus report – Help! Learning to improve council services for domestic abuse victims (published November 2021).
  - Response of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health; and the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment received in January 2022. The focus report and response tabled in a separate report to the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 9 February 2022.
- Focus report – Unprecedented Pressure: Learning from complaints about council and care provider actions during the Covid-19 pandemic (published February 2022).
  - Focus report shared with the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health in March 2022, for response.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

Scrutiny will remain suitably informed of open consultations at a local, regional and national level. Past responses include:

- Safe Streets – July 2020
- Healthwatch Tameside Covid-19 Survey – July 2020
- Inclusive Growth Strategy – December 2020
- Community Safety Strategy – January 2021
- Health Improvement Service Review – April 2021

### **Local Engagement and Consultations**

**What's it like to live in Tameside?** Using funding as part of the Community Champions programme, we are looking at what residents think about where they live to help us improve the area and our services. The next survey is now live and focusses on town centres, giving residents of Tameside the opportunity to give feedback on their local areas. The survey only takes around 10-15 minutes to complete.

Closing date: **27 March 2022**

[DJS Research](#)

**General feedback about health and care services** – This survey is about general use of health and care services. Please help Healthwatch Tameside by telling them about any services you have used recently, that you haven't included in a survey response before. What went well? What could be improved?

Closing date: **Ongoing**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HWTgeneral21>

### **Regional Engagement and Consultations**

**Developing a Greater Manchester Community Wealth Hub** - In March 2021 the Greater Manchester Independent Equalities Commission recommended that Greater Manchester should: *'Create a Community Wealth Hub to support and grow co-operatives, mutuals, social and community enterprises, staffed by people from the co-operative and community sector who understand the market.'*

A community wealth hub should be developed and co-designed with the people and organisations who might benefit from or provide services to the Hub.

Your thoughts are sought on the proposals. GMCA would particularly like to hear from:

- People involved in the business support 'ecosystem' for enterprises in the social economy in GM
- People involved in running 'generative businesses' - social enterprises, trading charities, companies limited by guarantee, community interest companies, social firms, credit unions, community benefit societies, worker co-ops, consumer co-ops, mutuals, community businesses (for profit but social purpose) and employee-owned private businesses.....
- Local authorities and public agencies – who commission and support local businesses
- Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations with an aspiration to trade
- Larger, private businesses, particularly those with an interest in having more social enterprises or community organisations in their supply chains

Closing date: **1 September 2022**

[Developing a Greater Manchester Community Wealth Hub - Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Citizen Space \(gmconsult.org\)](https://gmconsult.org)

**Dementia Call for Evidence – Black African and Caribbean People in Greater Manchester** - The African Caribbean Care Group (ACCG) want to understand the dementia support and information provision to Black African and Caribbean people in Greater Manchester. Questions can be answered by either carers or people living with dementia. The Dementia Call for Evidence Survey

covers 4 areas of a person's Dementia journey: Diagnosing well, living well, supporting well and end of life.

Closing date: **ongoing**

[Dementia Care and Advisory Service - Dementia Surveys - ACCG](#)

## **National Engagement and Consultations**

**Operational guidance to implement a lifetime cap on care costs** – On 7 September 2021 the Prime Minister announced that from October 2023, the government will introduce a new £86,000 cap on the amount anyone in England will need to spend on their personal care over their lifetime. The main purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the statutory guidance which sets out how a cap on care costs would operate in practice, as well as to inform how government can support local authorities in their preparations for its implementation from October 2023. It is important that the guidance for local authorities is clear and operable so that local authority officials and other stakeholders are able to prepare successfully for implementation of this reform.

Closing date: **1 April 2022**

[Operational guidance to implement a lifetime cap on care costs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**Consultation on the impact of joint tenancies on victims of domestic abuse** – The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is seeking views on the impacts of the law on joint tenancies on victims of domestic abuse in the social rented sector, with particular interest in:

- Perpetrators are using their ability to end a joint tenancy to threaten the victim with homelessness
- Victims feel trapped in their joint tenancy with the perpetrator
- The current guidance for social landlords is sufficient to support victims in joint tenancies
- The law on transferring joint tenancies is functioning successfully for victims

Closing date: **10 May 2022**

[Consultation on the impacts of joint tenancies on victims of domestic abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**Consultation on local connection requirements for social housing for victims of domestic abuse** – Consultation on regulations to prevent local authorities applying a local connection to victims of domestic abuse who apply for social housing. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities is seeking views on:

- Proposals to introduce regulations to enable victims of domestic abuse who need to move to another local authority district to qualify for an allocation of social housing in the new area
- How local authorities are making use of the existing legislation and guidance to support victims of domestic abuse who wish to move within and across local authority boundaries

Closing date: **10 May 2022**

[Consultation on local connection requirements for social housing for victims of domestic abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Regional Scrutiny**

The links below provide you with access to the most recent meeting papers for each of the GMCA Scrutiny Panels.

[Corporate Issues & Reform Overview & Scrutiny](#)

[Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview & Scrutiny](#)

[Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny](#)

## **Scrutiny Resources**

I will look to share any available material to support you in your role during the course of the year.

Publications:

- [CfGS – Levelling Up White Paper](#)
- [CfGS – Approaches to meeting: learning the lessons from the pandemic](#)
- [LGA – Creating resilient and revitalised high streets in the 'new normal'](#)

## **COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update**

The government is reducing remaining domestic restrictions in England. The advice is still the same for reducing the risk of catching and spreading Covid-19. This information is available via <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Recent and upcoming changes:

- 24 February – You are not legally required to self-isolate if you test positive for Covid-19. Stay at home if you can and avoid contact with people
- The Test and Trace Payment Scheme has ended
- From 1 April – the government will:
  - Remove the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification in domestic settings and no longer recommend that certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass.
  - No longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.
  - Remove the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their risk assessments.

You can find information on Covid-19 for Tameside & Glossop residents here:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/covid19Information>

<https://www.tamesideandglossopccg.org/coronavirusaccessingprimarycare>

## **Grant Funding for VCSE organisations**

**Action Together Funding Bulletin** – Action Together have a wealth of experience that could help you find and secure funding. The latest funding bulletin, which is produced monthly with 10GM colleagues can be found here:

[10GM Funding Bulletin March 2022 0.pdf \(actiontogether.org.uk\)](#)

**10GM Funding Bulletin (March 2022)** - The latest Funding Bulletin produced by 10GM, a partnership of local support and development agencies in Greater Manchester has been produced. March's edition features local funds including Kellogg's Breakfast Club Programme and the Zuto Make a Difference Fund.

[10GM Funding Bulletin March 2022.pdf \(salfordcvs.co.uk\)](#)