

Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	21 November 2022
Reporting Officer:	Sandra Stewart – Chief Executive
Subject:	SCRUTINY UPDATE
Report Summary:	To receive for information, a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Panels for September to November 2022.
Recommendations:	That Overview Panel is asked to note the content of the report and summary of scrutiny activity.
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 policy changes or decisions taken as a result of the work of Scrutiny Panels will need to be subject to separate consideration and decision.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.
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:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Paul Radcliffe, Policy and Strategy Lead by:



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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 the formal Scrutiny Panel meetings

PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL	
20 September 2022	1 November 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Panel met Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member (Town Centres, Communities, Corporate Land & Community Assets); and Gregg Stott, Assistant Director, to receive a strategic overview and proposals on next steps for Tameside town centres and regeneration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Panel met Councillor John Taylor, Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity); and Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, to receive an update on past scrutiny activity and recommendations on Homelessness and Housing.Received for information, a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation), in response to the mid-year budget update sessions held on 3 October 2022.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL	
21 September 2022	2 November 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Panel met Councillor Leanne Feeley, Executive Member (Education & Achievement); and Tim Bowman, Director of Education, to receive a response to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Focus Report – Out of School, out of sight? Ensuring children out of school get a good education, published July 2022.The Panel met Tony Decrop, Assistant Director of Children's Social Care, to review the Children's Social Care self-evaluation (SEF).Received the Children's Social Care Scorecard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Panel met Tony Decrop, Assistant Director; Susan Harris, Head of Service; and Adrian Rocks, Head of Commissioning, to receive an update on placement strategy and capacity across in-house and external provision, including fostering recruitment.Received for information, a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation), in response to the mid-year budget update sessions held on 3 October 2022.

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL	
22 September 2022	3 November 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met with Population Health, to receive an overview of strategic priorities for local health outcomes and inequalities, considering aspects of rising cost of living and poverty, future priorities and work streams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met Karen James OBE, Chief Executive, Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, to receive an update on health system recovery, winter pressures and locality plans, including the planning and delivery of neighbourhood and community health care. Received for information, a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation), in response to the mid-year budget update sessions held on 3 October 2022.

Response to mid-year budget update

- 2.2 Mid-year budget update sessions for all Scrutiny members took place on 3 October 2022. The update was provided by Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation); and Caroline Barlow, Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer).
- 2.3 The Executive has now received a formal response of the Scrutiny Chairs, capturing a range of points and highlighting any concerns and specific areas for consideration in supporting the Council's ongoing work in this area. The response letter is tabled in a separate report to Overview Panel on 21 November 2022.

Scrutiny activity and working groups

- 2.4 Scrutiny is progressing review activity in the following areas.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

- Town Centres – oversight and input to consultation and delivery phases for town centres. The first meeting to take place in line with formal consultation opening on 7 November on Phase 1 – Ashton public realm and market square.

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

- Children's Workforce Strategy (Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers) – members met with Tracy Brennand, Assistant Director, People and Workforce Development, on 26 October 2022.

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

- Learning Disability Health Checks – members met with Lynzi Shepherd, Head of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities; and Dr Vinny Khunger, on 9 November 2022.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)

- 2.5 Scrutiny Panels continue to review decisions and focus reports published by the ombudsman. Most recently, Scrutiny Chairs have ensured all panel members, the Council's Executive and leadership team receive associated annual reports of the ombudsman for 2021/22, along with the Council's annual review letter.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As set out on the front of the report.