

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW PANEL</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21 November 2022
<b>Scrutiny Chair / Reporting Officer:</b>	<p>Councillor Yvonne Carthey – Chair of Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>Councillor Naila Sharif – Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>Councillor Tafheen Sharif – Chair of Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>Sandra Stewart – Chief Executive</p>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY MID-YEAR BUDGET UPDATE</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	To receive a summary and feedback based on recent scrutiny engagement on the mid-year budget position for 2022/23 and future planning.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That Overview Panel is asked to note the content of the report and appendices.
<b>Links to Corporate Plan:</b>	Scrutiny work programmes are linked to the Council’s corporate priorities. Scrutiny activity seeks to support effective decision-making and priorities across Tameside.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	The work programmes comprise activity that seeks to check the effective implementation of council policies and if appropriate make recommendations to the Executive with regards to development, performance monitoring, outcomes and value for money.
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)</b>	<p>There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Any costs incurred by the Scrutiny Panels must be met from existing budgets.</p> <p>The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget for the upcoming financial year. This balanced budget must be based on sound and sustainable assumptions about income and expenditure, the delivery of savings and use of reserves</p>
<b>Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	<p>The function of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are to secure the efficient delivery of public services and drive improvement across the council.</p> <p>They were introduced in 2000 and have the statutory powers (Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000; paragraph 1 of Schedule 5A to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) to scrutinise decisions the executive is planning to take, those it plans to implement, and those that have already been taken/implemented.</p> <p>Recommendations following scrutiny enable improvements to be made to policies and how they are implemented. Overview and scrutiny committees can also play a valuable role in developing policy.</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:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Paul Radcliffe, Policy and Strategy Lead by:



Telephone:0161 342 2199



e-mail: [paul.radcliffe@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:paul.radcliffe@tameside.gov.uk)

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget for the upcoming financial year. It is important to base proposals on a range of sound and sustainable assumptions about income and expenditure. There is an additional need to assess, project and monitor a range of known and unknown external pressures.
- 1.2 The authority also has a statutory duty to consult with businesses and other representatives of non-domestic ratepayers on its annual spending proposals. The Council instructs and delivers a timetable of engagement activity in order to seek and understand the priorities of individual services, residents, patients, service users and businesses alike.

## **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 It is a requirement that Scrutiny Panels be consulted as part of planned budget conversations and engagement. Such arrangements have been in place in Tameside since Scrutiny Panels were established in 2000. The independence of scrutiny enables members to seek assurances on budget planning, process and priorities.
- 2.2 All scrutiny members are cordially invited to attend an annual budget consultation session in January each year, at which final budget proposals are presented in detail. The session provides a suitable opportunity for scrutiny members to provide feedback, raise questions and concerns. Scrutiny Chairs provide timely feedback to the Executive Member with responsibility for Finance. Discussion points and findings are summarised in a formal letter, in support of the final budget report.
- 2.3 More recently, 2019 onwards, Scrutiny Panels have received a mid-year budget update. This provides a further level of engagement to inform proposals and can be used to support the development of future work priorities for each panel.
- 2.4 All Scrutiny Panel members were provided with an opportunity to attend one of two mid-year budget update sessions delivered on 3 October 2022. This year the invitation included all non-executive members of Overview Panel. The sessions enable members to seek assurance on the Council's approach to managing and mitigating budget pressures, known risks and future uncertainty. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation), can be viewed in **APPENDIX 1**.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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