



Report To:	JOINT MEETING EXECUTIVE CABINET / OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	8 February 2023
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 the period November 2022 to February 2023.
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 policy and if appropriate make recommendations to the Executive with regard 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. Where Scrutiny activity and recommendations result in changes to policy or service delivery with financial implications, these changes will need to be subject to separate reports.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. However, the Scrutiny work programme is a key element to provide Members with assurance in relation to the Council's performance and to continue the drive for excellence in service provisions and outcomes
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

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 also 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 regard 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 annual work programmes and priorities were agreed at the June meetings and this coincides with consultation activity for which a valued response and input can be achieved. 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	
1 November 2022	10 January 2023
<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met Councillor Denise Ward, Executive Member (Climate Emergency & Environmental Services); and Lindsay Johnson, Interim Assistant Director, to receive a progress update on the delivery of identified environment and climate change projects. Received for information, a formal response of the Scrutiny Panel to the consultation on Ashton Market Square.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL	
2 November 2022	11 January 2023
<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families); Alison Stathers-Tracey, Director of Children's Services; Phil Davies, Divisional Commander for Tameside, GMP; and Paula Sumner, Assistant Director, to receive an update on local partnership arrangements and involvement directly linked to statutory guidance for local authorities and their partners to stop children going missing and to protect those who do. Reviewed progress against the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan.

mid-year budget update sessions held on 3 October 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received Children’s performance scorecard specific to Early Help and Social Care. Received for information, a report that concludes activity on a review of Children’s Workforce Strategy – Social Worker Recruitment and Retention.
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HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL	
3 November 2022	12 January 2023 **Meeting Postponed**
<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Interim Clinical Lead; Martin Ashton, Assistant Director; and Tori O’Hare, Head of Primary Care, to receive an update on Primary Care access in Tameside.

Scrutiny reviews and working groups

2.2 Scrutiny has completed review activity in the following areas.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

- Town Centres – oversight and input to consultation on Phase 1 – Ashton public realm and market square. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chair sent to Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member (Towns & Communities); and Julian Jackson, Director of Place, to be received as a formal response of Scrutiny for submission to the consultation, **(APPENDIX 1)**.

Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel

- Children’s Workforce Strategy (Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers) – The final report with recommendations and response of the Executive, tabled as a separate item at the joint meeting of Executive Cabinet and Overview Panel on 8 February 2023.

Budget Consultation

- 2.3 All Scrutiny Panel members were invited to attend one of two annual budget briefing sessions held on 16 January 2023. This follows on from a mid-year budget position update received in September 2022.
- 2.4 The independence of Scrutiny enables members to seek assurances on budget planning, process and priorities for 2023/24 and beyond. It is also appropriate for budget priorities to inform future Scrutiny activity and work programmes.
- 2.5 A response letter of the Scrutiny Chairs sent to Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation); and Stuart Fair, Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), **(APPENDIX 2)**.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 As set out on the front of the report.