

## Scrutiny Activity 2022/23

The table below provides a summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight carried out during 2022/23. This includes updates to seek assurances on service provision and outcomes.

**Figure 2: Summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight (March 2022 to February 2023)**

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel	Children's Services Scrutiny Panel	Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport for Greater Manchester</li> <li>• Tameside town centres</li> <li>• Response to Ashton market square consultation</li> <li>• Follow up on review of Homelessness and Housing</li> <li>• Environment and climate change</li> <li>• Corporate performance scorecard</li> <li>• Mid-year budget update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Children's Social Care Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Children's Self Evaluation Framework (SEF)</li> <li>• Children's placement sufficiency</li> <li>• Children missing from home or care</li> <li>• Assurance review of LGSCO focus report – Out of school, out of sight? Ensuring children out of school get a good education, published July 2022.</li> <li>• Children's workforce strategy – social worker recruitment and retention</li> <li>• Scrutiny of children's social care - benchmarking exercise with Manchester City Council</li> <li>• Children's social care scorecard</li> <li>• Corporate performance scorecard</li> <li>• Mid-year budget update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult social care reform White Paper</li> <li>• LGSCO learning report</li> <li>• Population Health</li> <li>• Tameside &amp; Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Learning Disability Health Checks</li> <li>• Corporate performance scorecard</li> <li>• Mid-year budget update</li> </ul>

### **Budget Consultation**

Scrutiny mid-year budget update received on 3 October 2022. The First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation), received a formal response of the Scrutiny Chairs, capturing a range of points for consideration in supporting the Council's ongoing work in this area. The letter was tabled in a report to the meeting of Overview Panel on 21 November 2022.

All Scrutiny Panel members were invited to attend one of two annual budget sessions held on 16 January 2023. The independence of Scrutiny enables members to seek assurances on budget planning, process and priorities for 2023/24 and beyond. It is appropriate for budget priorities to inform future Scrutiny activity and work programmes. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chairs has been sent to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation); and Interim Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer. The letter was tabled in a report to the joint meeting of Executive Cabinet and Overview Panel on 8 February 2023.

### **Follow-up on past reviews**

As detailed within the annual work programme, Scrutiny Panels will conduct follow-up activity in order to monitor and seek assurances against past recommendations. This work is a vital part of the review process and it is customary for follow-up activity to take place approximately 12 months following the initial review.

The Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel has recently revisited the following review.

- Homelessness and Housing

### **Consultation and Engagement**

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

- Phase 1 – Ashton Market Square – December 2022
  - Submission tabled as part of the Scrutiny Update report to the joint meeting of Executive Cabinet and Overview Panel on 8 February 2023.

### **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.

Scrutiny activity informed by recently published LGSCO focus 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 activity was reported 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 Population Health and Wellbeing.
- Focus report – Out of school, out of sight? Ensuring children out of school get a good education (published July 2022).
  - Report shared with the Executive Member for Education & Achievement and Director of Education. The activity was reported to Overview Panel on 26 September 2022.

### **Training and Development**

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.

Detail below on training and development sessions delivered during the 2022/23 municipal year.

- **20 July 2022** - Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Scrutiny and Overview Panel invited to attend an afternoon training session delivered by the LGA and Councillor Bryony Rudkin (Political Peer).
- **5 September 2022** - All Scrutiny Panel members invited to attend a training session delivered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) - Essentials of Effective Scrutiny.
- **12 September 2022** - All members of the Children's Scrutiny Panel invited to attend an online training session on Children's Safeguarding, delivered by the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team within Tameside Children's Services, to include scene setting delivered by the Assistant Director.
- **14 September 2022** – All members of the Children's Scrutiny Panel invited to a visit of Children's Social Care Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) / Early Help access point.