

OVERVIEW PANEL

21 November 2022

Commenced: 14:00

Terminated: 14:20

Present:

Councillors Naylor, M Smith, N Sharif, T Sharif, Cooney, Fairfoull, North and Billington

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director of Finance
Paul Radcliffe	Policy and Strategy Lead
Tom Hoghton	Policy & Strategy Service Manager

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cartey, Kitchen and Ryan

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the Overview Panel meeting on the 26 September 2022 were approved as a correct record.

17. SCRUTINY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive. The report provided a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Panels for September to November 2022.

It was reported that on the 20 September 2022 the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel met with the Executive Member for Town Centres, Communities, Corporate Land & Community Assets and the Assistant Director for Development and Housing. The Panel received a strategic overview and proposals on the next steps for Tameside town centres and regeneration. On the 1 November 2022, the Panel met with the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity and the Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods to receive an update on past scrutiny activity and recommendations on Homelessness and Housing. In addition, the Panel receives a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to the First Deputy for finance, Resources and Transformation in response to the mid-year budget update sessions held on 3 October 2022.

On the 21 September 2022 the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel met with the Executive Member for Education & Achievement and the 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 2022. Further, the Panel met with the Assistant Director of Children's Social Care self-evaluation (SEF). On the 2 November 2022 the Panel met with the Assistant Director of Children's Social Care, Head of Service for Cares for Children, Head of Commissioning to receive an update on placement strategy and capacity across in-house and external provision, including fostering recruitment. The Panel also received a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to the First Deputy for Finance, Resources and Transformation for information. The letter was in response to the mid-year budget update sessions, which were held on 3 October 2022.

Members were advised that the Head and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on the 22 September 2022 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. On the 3 November 2022, the Panel met with the Chief Executive of 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. The Panel also received a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to the First Deputy for Finance, Resources and Transformation for information. The letter was in response to the mid-year budget update sessions, which were held on 3 October 2022.

It was reported that 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).

The Executive had 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 was tabled in a separate report to Overview Panel on 21 November 2022.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

18. SCRUTINY MID-YEAR BUDGET UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel / Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel / Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Panel / Chief Executive. The report provided a summary and feedback based on the recent scrutiny engagement on the mid-year budget position for 2022/23 and future planning.

It was reported that 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 enabled 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), could be viewed in the attached Appendix 1.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

19. SOCIOECONOMIC DUTY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Education, Achievement and Equalities / Assistant Director, People and Workforce Development, which set out the local and national context, policy recommendations, case studies, key terms and other considerations in adopting the socioeconomic duty in Tameside, in line with work taking place in other local authorities in Greater Manchester and across England..

It was explained that, in recent years the rise of poverty had emerged as a major policy issue. This has made adopting the socioeconomic duty and other anti-poverty measures a matter of urgency. Local and National statistics were provided in an appendix to the report and key issues for consideration was detailed as follows:

- Tameside had the 5th best male Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy in Greater Manchester, but the 9th best female Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy. Life Expectancy (at birth) in Tameside was 77.57 years for men and 80.7 years for women, while Healthy Life Expectancy (at birth) was 61.9 years for men but only 58.3 years for women.
- In the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Tameside was ranked as the 28th most deprived of 317 Local Authority districts in England, and the 5th most deprived local authority in GM. Within Tameside, 11 of the borough's 141 lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) are also within the most deprived 5% of such areas nationally.

- The Trussell Trust end of year data for 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 showed that their foodbanks in Tameside had given out the 4th most parcels in GM. This equated to 11.1% of their total food parcels for Greater Manchester, 10.6% of their parcels for adults in GM, and 12% of their parcels for children in GM.
- According to the Resolution Foundation, the real incomes of the poorest quarter of households nationally were set to drop by 6% in 2022/23, putting an extra 1.3 million people, including 500,000 children, into absolute poverty. This would be the first recorded incident of a rise in absolute poverty in Britain outside of a recession.

Members were advised that, whilst the precise details of implementation of the socioeconomic duty could vary, research by a number of organisations had identified key practical steps in all cases.

Short-Term Recommendations - Simple measures that could be implemented quickly.

1. Identify Senior Members and Officers to take on the role of “Designated Leads” of the Socioeconomic Duty;
2. Integrate Socioeconomic Disadvantage into Equality Impact Assessments using appropriate proxy indicators and review processes; and
3. Consolidate existing poverty-related data held by the Council and partners.

Long-Term Recommendations – More involved measures that would require an element of discretion.

4. Develop internal guidance and training for officers to consider how they could meet the Socioeconomic Duty at a service delivery level, on a day-to-day basis, outside of formal Equality Impact Assessments;
5. Collaborate with residents, civil society and voluntary and community sector organisations to build awareness and understanding of the Socioeconomic Duty and people’s lived experience of socioeconomic disadvantage;
6. Embed accountability for the implementation of the Socioeconomic Duty through monitoring, evaluation, and sharing of best practice; and
7. Deliver the Living Wage for all council staff and contracted employees, and introduce mechanisms to promote uptake of the Living Wage among other local employers.

Successfully implementing the socioeconomic duty in Tameside would deliver a number of benefits, including but not limited to:

- Reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socioeconomic disadvantage;
- Supporting coordination and partnership working, both within the Council between service areas and externally with partners in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors;
- Raising awareness of existing socioeconomic inequalities in Tameside within the Council and among our partners;
- Securing a widespread commitment from council services to consider their impact on local socioeconomic inequalities while carrying out their day-to-day functions;
- Actively encouraging the participation of low-income residents in decisions that affect them, especially in the context of any proposed cuts or changes to services;
- Achieving greater consistency in practice in both the short-term and in the long-term across political administrations and turnover of staff;
- More rigorous and systematic approaches to Equality Impact Assessments and general assessments of policy and practice;
- Strengthening data gathering and analysis practices, especially in the context of Equality Impact Assessments, thereby strengthening the council’s evidence base and accountability to residents and partners; and
- Supporting the effective and efficient allocation of limited resources in medium and long-term planning.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

20. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR