

Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	1 August 2023
Chair / Reporting Officer:	Councillor Jack Naylor – Chair of Overview Panel
Subject:	OVERVIEW WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24
Report Summary:	To receive for information, the annual work programme of the Council's Overview Panel.
Recommendations:	That Overview Panel note the content of the work programme and planned activity.
Links to Corporate Plan:	Topics included within the work programmes remain linked to the Council's corporate priorities. Overview and Scrutiny activity seeks to support effective decision-making and to improve outcomes for residents and service users.
Policy Implications:	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.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Any changes to policy or service delivery arising from recommendations made through the Overview Panel will be subject to separate reports.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>Overview Panels were introduced in 2000 as part of new executive governance arrangements to ensure that members of an authority who were not part of the executive could hold the executive to account for the decisions and actions that affect their communities asset out in sections 9F to 9FI of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.</p> <p>Overview Panels have statutory powers to scrutinise decisions the executive is planning to take, those it plans to implement, and those that have already been taken/implemented and to play a valuable role in developing policy.</p>
Risk Management:	The Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Scrutiny Panels will be informed of the progress in implementing the work programmes.
Access to Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Simon Brunet, Head of Policy and Communications by:



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tameside Overview and Scrutiny Panels publish an annual work programme of planned activity for the municipal year ahead. That programme of work will cover a two-year rolling period to be reviewed, updated and agreed on an annual basis.
- 1.2 Overview and Scrutiny activity aims to reflect priority issues across the council and external partners. Discussion with the Executive and the three Scrutiny Panel chairs has informed the list of topics identified in the work programme below.
- 1.3 There is a range of options available to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels as to how activity is planned and undertaken. Chairs will work closely with panel members in order to adopt a combination of approaches to review service and performance updates, respond to formal consultations, in-focus reports of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and areas in need of more in-depth review. This includes a responsibility for:
- Research and insight on a particular issue, including desktop reviews
 - Review of decisions and recommendations
 - Follow-up (from previous review / recommendations)
 - Engagement and consultation – to provide responses to pre-decision activity
 - Consideration of decisions and reports of the LGSCO
 - Receive updates on key issues as they arise
 - Active monitoring of national and regional policy and substantive variation to services
- 1.5 Overview and Scrutiny in practice will be 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 during the year. The work programme is ambitious and it is not expected that all topics will be covered during the year, but more an agreed list from which to select work items.

2. WORK PROGRAMME – 2023 to 2025

- 2.1 The work programme is outlined below. The list of topics does not reflect the order in which activity will be selected or undertaken.

• Corporate Plan – monitoring and delivery progress (incl. key projects)
• Supporting strategies underpinning the Corporate Plan.
• Performance and assurance framework – effectiveness.
• Performance updates on council services – corporate and thematic scorecards.
• Transformation / improvement programme – scope and progress updates.
• Financial strategy – long term financial resilience plan.
• Workforce development – recruitment & retention of staff in key services and the training & upskilling of the workforce (in particular in systems and IT).
• Key learning from external challenge – e.g. complaints (incl. LGSCO), inspections (incl. Ofsted, CQC), peer reviews (incl. LGA), new Best Value and Oflog framework.
• Systems, IT and digital – forward plan and key projects to modernise council infrastructure – e.g. data science, single customer record.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

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