


Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	21 November 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 September to November 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 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)	The functions of the Overview Panel are set out in Article 8 of the Constitution. The report provides an update on Council activities in order that the panel may perform its function of providing a constant rolling review of such activities as re the constitution.
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:

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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, with annual work programmes and priorities agreed at the June meetings. The tables below provide a summary and chronology of recent scrutiny activity.

Figure 1: Breakdown of activity at the formal Scrutiny Panel meetings

PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL	
12 September 2023	7 November 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Panel met Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member (Towns & Communities); Julian Jackson, Director of Place; Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods; and Mike Walsh, Superintendent, Greater Manchester Police, to receive an update on implementation and effectiveness of the GMP neighbourhood model; and forward plan of activity for the Community Safety Partnership.• Received the Executive Response to the LGSCO focus report: Out of Order – learning lessons from complaints about antisocial behaviour, published August 2023.• Received Executive Response to the LGSCO focus report: Not in my back yard – Local people and the planning process, published August 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Panel met Councillor Jack Naylor, Executive Member (Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment); Nicola Elsworth, Assistant Director; and Sarah Jamieson, Head of Economy, Employment & Skills; to receive an update on strategic priorities, work streams, local delivery and support for business and employment.• Received the formal response submitted to the Executive Member (Towns & Communities) on the draft Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL	
13 September 2023 & 4 October 2023	8 November 2023
<p>13 September 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families); and Allison Parkinson, Director of Children's Services, to receive an update on Children's Social Care. Received the Children's Services performance scorecard specific to Early Help and Social Care. <p>4 October 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families); Sandra Stewart, Chief Executive; and Allison Parkinson, Director of Children's Services, to receive an update specific to the safety of children in Tameside. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families); Allison Parkinson, Director of Children's Services; Alison Montgomery, Assistant Director; Melanie Field, Interim Head of Quality Assurance; and James Smith, Performance, Intelligence and Scrutiny Manager, to review the Children's Social Care and Early Help Scorecard and to receive a summary of findings and learning from recent quality assurance work and audits, with a focus on practice improvement. The Panel met Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families); Allison Parkinson, Director of Children's Services, to receive the updated Children's Social Care Improvement Plan.

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL	
14 September 2023	9 November 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met Councillor John Taylor, Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity); and Stephanie Butterworth, Director of Adult Services, to receive an update on Adult Social Care Reforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel met Simon Sandhu, Medical Director, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust; Trish Cavanagh, Deputy Place Based Lead; and Lynzi Shepherd, Head of Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism (Tameside), to receive an update on mental health priorities for Tameside and an overview of services and support delivered by Pennine Care.

Scrutiny activity and working groups

2.2 Scrutiny is progressing review activity in the following areas.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

- Community Safety – working group meeting held on 1 November 2023.
- The review to consider the effectiveness of local partnership arrangements in the development and delivery of community safety priorities. Aspects specific to the strategic and operational partnership between the local authority, Police and partners within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

- Care Leavers – working group meeting held on 2 November 2023.
- The review to consider the effectiveness of services and support for care leavers in Tameside. Priorities for the working group will focus on the services and partners specific to the local offer for care leavers; accommodation (sufficiency, quality, future planning); support available regarding education, employment and training; and to meet with and listen to the experiences of care leavers on the services they receive.

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

- Domestic Abuse – working group meeting held on 31 October 2023.
- The review to consider services aimed at supporting and improving outcomes for the perpetrators of domestic abuse, access to safe accommodation for victims and the importance of prevention work in this area and measures to protect and safeguard people in their own homes.

Response to mid-year budget update

- 2.3 Mid-year budget update sessions for all Scrutiny members took place on 6 November 2023. The update was provided by Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation); and Ashley Hughes, Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer).
- 2.4 The Executive has now 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 is tabled in a separate report to Overview Panel on 21 November 2023.

Consultation and Engagement

- 2.5 Where appropriate Scrutiny Panels will undertake consultation and engagement outside of the formal meetings with Council services and external partners. Following a meeting on 12 September 2023, members of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel received a draft version of the Council's Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Policy, for review and comment.
- 2.6 A formal and collective response of the Scrutiny Panel was submitted to Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member (Towns & Communities), on 10 October 2023, (**APPENDIX 1**).
- 2.7 At a meeting of the Community Safety working group on 1 November 2023, members received an updated version of the ASB Policy where the comments of Scrutiny had been given full consideration and informed the document.

Training and Development

- 2.8 There is an ongoing commitment to ensure 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.
- 2.9 All members of the Children's Services Scrutiny are invited to attend a training session delivered by the Local Government Association (LGA) on 28 November 2023. The session will focus on the effective scrutiny of Children's Services, explore what good scrutiny looks like and identifying current strengths and areas for development centred on a thematic self-assessment tool. An elected member peer has been identified by the LGA and will attend the session.
- 2.10 In preparation for the training on 28 November 2023, all members of the Children's Services Scrutiny have received e-learning modules from the LGA that cover Children's Services and Corporate Parenting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

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