

Scrutiny Activity 2023/24

The table below provides a summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight carried out during 2023/24. This includes updates to seek assurances on service provision and outcomes.

Table 1: Summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight (March 2023 to March 2024)

| Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel | Children's Services Scrutiny Panel | Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Growth – strategy and delivery • Response to LGSCO focus report - More home truths: learning lessons from complaints about the Homelessness Reduction Act, published March 2023 • Neighbourhood Enforcement • Crime and Disorder - GMP Neighbourhood Model and Community Safety Partnership – (Working group established). • Response to LGSCO focus report - Out of Order: learning lessons from complaints about anti-social behaviour, published August 2023 • Response to LGSCO focus report - Not in my back yard – Local people and the planning process, published August 2023 • Scrutiny response to the Draft ASB Policy • Economy, Employment and Skills • Local Plan • Major projects • Budget consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted inspection of Children's Services • SEND Improvement (March 2023 and January 2024) • Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership • Scrutiny summary report – review and monitoring of Children's Services 2021 to 2023 • Support and services for Care Leavers • Children's Social Care Performance and Quality Assurance • Children's Social Care Improvement Plan • Response to LGSCO focus report - Parent Power: learning from complaints about personal budgets, published November 2023. • Children's Services Performance and Quality Assurance Scorecard • Budget consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMICS Update • Primary Care Access • Domestic Abuse - (working group established). • Adult Social Care • Tameside Mental Health Provision (Pennine Care) • Tameside Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board • Elective waiting lists (follow up activity) • Healthwatch Tameside • Budget consultation |

Budget Consultation

Scrutiny mid-year budget update received on 6 November 2023. The First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) and Director of Resources 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 2023.

Scrutiny Annual Budget meetings held on 15 January 2024. The First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) and Director of Resources 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. A summary of the activity and letters is tabled in a separate report to the joint meeting of Executive Cabinet and Overview Panel on 14 February 2024.

Consultation and Engagement

Scrutiny will remain suitably informed of open consultations at a local, regional and national level. Each panel will also undertake engagement outside of the formal meetings with Council services and external partners, where necessary.

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. A formal and collective response of the Scrutiny Panel was submitted to Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member (Towns & Communities), on 10 October 2023.

At a meeting of the Community Safety working group on 1 November 2023, members received an updated version of the draft ASB Policy where the comments of Scrutiny had been given full consideration and informed the document.

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 are 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 – More Home Truths: Learning lessons from complaints about the Homelessness Reduction Act (published March 2023).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity. The report and response was tabled at a meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel on 6 June 2023.
- Focus report – Out of Order: Learning lessons from complaints about anti-social behaviour (published August 2023).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Towns & Communities. The report and response was tabled at a meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel on 12 September 2023.
- Focus report – Not in my back yard: Local people and the planning process (published August 2023).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Planning, Transport & Connectivity. The report and response was tabled at a meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel on 12 September 2023.
- Focus report – Parent power: Learning from complaints about personal budgets (published November 2023).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Education & Achievement. The report and response was tabled at a meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on 10 January 2024.

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 2023/24 municipal year.

- **28 November 2023** – Members of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel invited to attend a training session delivered by the LGA and Councillor Paul Watling (Political Peer). The session was on the Effective Scrutiny of Children’s Services. A further two sessions to be held on **6 February 2024** and **11 March 2024**.
- **19 January 2024** - Scrutiny members invited to access an online session delivered by the LGA, titled an Introduction to Scrutiny for Councillors.