

Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	25 June 2024
Scrutiny Chair / Reporting Officer:	<p>Councillor Claire Reid – Chair of Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>Councillor Teresa Smith – Chair of Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>Councillor Naila Sharif – Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel</p> <p>Sandra Stewart – Chief Executive</p>
Subject:	SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES
Report Summary:	To receive for information, the annual work programmes of the Council’s three Scrutiny Panels.
Recommendations:	That Overview Panel note the content of work programmes and planned activity of the Scrutiny Panels.
Links to Corporate Plan:	Topics included within the work programmes remain linked to the Council’s corporate priorities. 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)	<p>There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.</p> <p>The recommendations from the content of the work programmes and planned activity of the Scrutiny Panels and any associated reports could have financial implications where policy or service delivery changes are implemented as a result. Any changes, and the associated financial implications, will need to be the subject of separate reports</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>The Overview Panel supports the role that scrutiny plays in holding the authority’s decision-makers to account making it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy by ensuring the efficient delivery of public services and driving improvements within the authority.</p> <p>In reviewing the summary of the work undertaken, the Panel can consider how the scrutiny function is being supported by the annual work programme.</p> <p>Both Overview and Scrutiny 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.</p> <p>Recommendations from such scrutiny enable improvements to be made to policies and how they are implemented. Overview and Scrutiny also 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 Tom Houghton, Policy and Strategy Service Manager by:



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tameside Scrutiny Panels are required to publish an Annual Work Programme of planned activity for the municipal year ahead. The programme of work will cover a two-year rolling period to be reviewed, updated and agreed on an annual basis.
- 1.2 Scrutiny activity aims to reflect priority issues across the Council and external partners. Work will continue to improve the flexibility, responsiveness and reporting methods of all scrutiny activity undertaken during 2024/25. Discussion from Scrutiny Panels held in June 2024 has directly informed the list of topics and planned updates 'check and challenge', for the year ahead.
- 1.3 Each year a range of emerging topics and issues may require the attention of Scrutiny. It is therefore important to ensure efforts are best placed to support and influence effective decision-making, with a focus on improving outcomes for residents and communities.

Scrutiny activity in Tameside

- 1.4 There is a range of options available to each Scrutiny Panel as to how activity is planned and undertaken. Scrutiny 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, focus reports of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman 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 Ombudsman
 - Receive updates on key issues as they arise
 - Active monitoring of national and regional policy and substantive variation to services
- 1.5 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 items. Scrutiny will remain mindful of budget pressures, regulatory frameworks and the demand on statutory services. Through each work programme, the scrutiny of key partners will be planned where appropriate and relevant. At times, Scrutiny may also consider work and outcomes associated with individual delivery panels of the Executive.
- 1.6 In addition to the work programme, all panel members will continue to receive a regular update email to inform of upcoming activity, access to scrutiny resources, engagement and consultation with regard to local, regional and national decision-making. This provides a direct opportunity for scrutiny members to contribute and respond to the range of activity taking place both within the Council and across partners.

2. WORK PROGRAMMES

- 2.1 The Scrutiny meetings held in June 2024 provided members with the opportunity to comment and contribute to the list topics included in the annual work programmes.
- 2.2 Scrutiny activity will continue to be undertaken outside of the formal meetings and through working groups, with all findings and recommendations presented to the full panel for comment and approval. This flexibility can allow responsive and timely work to be undertaken, creating an enhanced opportunity to both influence and inform the impact of decisions. It is also necessary to monitor and evaluate outcomes from past activity and to review the implementation of recommendations.

2.3 Where deemed appropriate, the wider development of scrutiny may include project support and service development work undertaken at the request of the Executive as a critical friend.

Planned activity

2.4 In order to prevent delay, Scrutiny Panels agreed topics to be considered at the next round of public meetings in July, as detailed below.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel – 23 July 2024

- Private Rented Sector and work with landlords

Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel – 24 July 2024

- SEND/EHCPs

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel – 25 July 2024

- Health Inequalities

2.5 On occasion a topic may require the attention of more than one scrutiny panel in order to examine a range of impacts. At such a time, a decision will be made to assign a lead panel based on both remit and the subject matter. All aspects of activity will be made available to panel members to consider and respond.

3. SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES 2024/25

3.1 The work programmes below capture the input and discussion of panel members from meetings held in June 2023. The list of topics does not reflect the order in which activity will be selected or undertaken.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

3.2 The Scrutiny Panel recognises that topics specific to growth, investment and regeneration may be closely linked and best considered in conjunction with others.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel
• Homelessness Progress update
• Cultural Framework and Strategy
• Local Plan – Places for Everyone
• Levelling Up and Town Centre Regeneration
• Parking Pricing Policy & Strategy
• Local Economy – Jobs & Skills
• Road Safety
• Digital Inclusion
• The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas

Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel

3.3 The Scrutiny Panel will undertake core assurance activity across improvement activity, to include:

- Children’s Social Care Improvement Plan
- Safeguarding Partnership
- Ofsted activity and reports

Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel
• Children’s Social Care Improvement Plan / Ofsted Monitoring
• Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub developments
• Brilliant at the Basics Performance (standing item)

• Voice of the Child – How it's captured and used
• Neglect – progress on Strategy and implementation
• Child Protection Reviews
• Commissioner's Report
• SEND/EHCPs – Preparation for inspection and update on developments
• Links with Safeguarding Partnership
• Workforce Recruitment & Retention
• The experience of unaccompanied migrant children
• Care Leaver's Experience – Entitlements and the local offer
• Journey of a complaint from a child – how listened to, acted upon and fed back to the team

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

- 3.4 The Scrutiny Panel will undertake core assurance activity with health partners during the municipal year and receive timely briefings, to include: CQC inspection framework
- GMIC model
 - Tameside & Glossop NHS Integrated Care Foundation Trust
 - Pennine Care NHS Mental Health Foundation Trust

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel
• Adult Social Care Performance (standing item)
• Carers update
• Substance Misuse
• Dentistry and the Challenges facing the sector
• Substance Misuse
• Community Pharmacies
• Health inequalities – improvement and prevention programmes
• The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas

In-year monitoring

- 3.5 Each Scrutiny Panel will plan and undertake additional oversight and in-year monitoring, to include the following activity.

Additional in-year monitoring
• Budget updates – annual and mid-year
• Feedback and learning from complaints (LGSCO)
• Performance monitoring against corporate priorities (incl. Children's Social Care)

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

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