

Report To: **OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL**

Date: 30 July 2018

Reporting Officer: Sandra Stewart, Director - Governance and Pensions
Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director – Policy, Performance and Communications

Subject: **SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME**

Report Summary: To receive for information, the annual work programmes of the Council's Scrutiny Panels.

Recommendations: That scrutiny work programmes and planned activity be noted.

Links to Corporate Plan: The work programmes are linked to the Council's corporate priorities. Scrutiny activity seeks to support effective decision making and support priorities across Tameside.

Policy Implications: The work programmes comprise activity that seeks to check the effective implementation of the Strategic Commission's policies and if appropriate make recommendations to the Executive with regards to development, performance monitoring, outcomes and value for money.

Financial Implications: All costs incurred must be met from within existing budgets.

(Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)

Legal Implications: Overview and scrutiny committees were established in English and Welsh local authorities by the [Local Government Act 2000](#). They were intended as a counterweight to the new executive structures created by that Act (elected mayors or leaders and cabinets). Their role was to develop and review policy and make recommendations to the council.

(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

Today, the legislative provisions for overview and scrutiny committees for England can be found in the [Localism Act 2011](#). Those for Wales are in the [Local Government \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#), and those for Northern Ireland are in the [Local Government Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014](#). There are no legislative provisions for overview and scrutiny in Scotland, though many Scottish local authorities do operate scrutiny committees alongside executive structures.

Local authorities also manage processes of 'external scrutiny', where their committees look at issues which lie outside the council's responsibilities. In England, specific powers exist to scrutinise health bodies, crime and disorder partnerships, and Police and Crime Commissioners. Combined authorities are also required to establish overview and scrutiny committees.

A helpful parliamentary note can be found [here](#)

Part 4(g) of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in the Constitution requires the Chair of each Scrutiny Panel to submit an annual Work Programme for approval.

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 Paul Radcliffe, Scrutiny Manager by:



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1. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND PLANNED ACTIVITY

- 1.1 The annual work programme of the Council's scrutiny panels have been developed to reflect priority issues across the Council, Strategic Commission and external partners. The programme supports the approach to improve the flexibility, responsiveness and reporting methods of the panels, having been designed as a two year working document to cover municipal years 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- 1.2 In order to further develop scrutiny activity, plans are in place to ensure panel members are able to contribute and respond to a range of engagement and consultation activity taking place within the council and across partners. Where deemed appropriate, the wider influence of scrutiny may be captured through project support and service development work undertaken at the request of the Executive.
- 1.3 Scrutiny activity will continue to be undertaken outside of the six formal meetings, with all findings and recommendations to be approved and submitted in agreement with the full panel. This flexibility can allow for speedier and timelier work to be undertaken, creating an enhanced opportunity to both influence and inform the impact of decisions being made.
- 1.4 It remains essential for both panels to monitor and evaluate outcomes from previous reviews undertaken and the implementation of past recommendations. Attention has been placed to ensure that work programmes remain linked to the corporate priorities of the Strategic Commission, with the majority of topics and activities aimed to add value to services and inform effective decision making.
- 1.5 At the scrutiny panel meetings held in June 2018 members agreed the list of topics to be included in the programme of work. The topics (listed below) are a combination of service and performance updates, input to formal consultations and areas for in-depth review. The panels will have responsibility for:-
 - Engagement and consultation – to provide responses to pre-decision activity
 - Research and insight to a particular issue
 - Review of decisions and recommendations
- 1.6 Scrutiny in practice will be mindful of the suitability and appropriateness of timings, with regards to the impact and value of planned activity. This includes the selection and order of topics and updates to be received during the year ahead. The programme of work is ambitious and it is not expected for all topics and subject areas to be covered during this period, but more an agreed list from which to select work items.
- 1.7 On occasion a topic may require the attention of both scrutiny panels in order to examine a range of impacts, which may be far reaching and considered to be within the remit of each panel. At such a time, a decision will be made to assign a lead panel based on both remit and items for consideration. All aspects of activity will be made available to panel members to consider and respond.
- 1.8 Panel members are encouraged by plans to strengthen relationships and information sharing with the introduction of quarterly meeting between Scrutiny Chairs and the Executive. This will be further complemented by training and development opportunities for all scrutiny members.

2. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES – 2018 to 2020

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel
• Suicide Prevention (carried over from 2017/18)
• Implementation of Urgent Care and Intermediate Care delivery models
• Children's Improvement – Ofsted
• Quality of Tameside's Care Homes
• Prescribing / Over The Counter Medicines (self-care/pharmacy)
• Children's Safeguarding Arrangements
• Corporate Parenting Approach - to include voice of the child elements
• Early Help Offer
• Foster Carers – Recruitment and Retention
• Adults – Homecare Commissioning and New Delivery Model
• SEND – ECHP/ Commissioning / Provision / Preparation for Inspections
• Laurus Ryecroft - Tameside's first Free School
• Children's Homes
• Autism (Local Support/GM)
• Mental Health Services / Pathways
Monitoring of Past Recommendations
• Carers in Tameside
• Child Sexual Exploitation
• Permanent School Exclusions

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel
• Welfare reform – Impacts and Support
• Air and Water Quality
• Vision Tameside / Town Centres
• Housing Growth and Development
• Empty Properties
• Procurement Arrangements – Contracts / Delivering Value for Money / STAR
• Community Safety Partnership (CSP) / Community cohesion and Integration
• Customer Contact – Experience / Impact / Tracking
• Homelessness
• Private Rented Sector – Improving Quality and Standards
• Transport – Transpennine / Road and Rail
• Libraries – Open+ Implementation and Impact
• Outdoor Spaces - Public Realm / Parks / Playgrounds / Countryside / Gateways
• Highways and Flood prevention
Monitoring of Past Recommendations
• Approach to Community Safety Partnership Working
• Homelessness
• Food Poverty

Cross Panel Activity

- Air and Water Quality (environmental and health aspects)
- Impacts of Welfare Reform (poverty, homelessness, foodbanks)