

Report To:	OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL
Date:	10 September 2018
Reporting Officer:	Sandra Stewart, Director – Governance and Pensions Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director – Policy, Performance and Communications
Subject:	SCRUTINY UPDATE
Report Summary:	To receive for information, a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's two scrutiny Panels for the period June to September 2018.
Recommendations:	That Overview (Audit) Panel are asked to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The content of the report and summary of scrutiny activity. (b) That a standard agenda item named 'Scrutiny Update', be added to all future meetings of the panel in order to receive timely reporting of scrutiny activity and outcomes for assurance.
Links to Corporate Plan:	Scrutiny 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: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Any costs incurred by the Scrutiny Panels and service must be met from existing budgets.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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

Risk Management:

Regular updates to Overview (Audit) Panel provide assurance that the Scrutiny is progressing with an effective work programme that supports good decision making and service improvement.

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. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Scrutiny activity can take many forms, from panel meetings and in-depth reviews, through to the need for greater flexibility provided by working groups. The order and complexity of work for each panel is determined by the agreed work programmes, which have been developed to reflect priority issues across the Council, Strategic Commission and external partners.
- 1.2 Scrutiny work programmes identify and support a need for improved flexibility, responsiveness and reporting methods. Plans are in place to generate greater scrutiny awareness and input to a range of engagement and consultation activities taking place within the Council and across partners.
- 1.3 In order to adapt the way scrutiny activity is reported, it is proposed that a standing agenda item be added to future Overview (Audit) Panel meetings. This item will provide a platform for appropriate insight, activity, outcomes and proposals to be relayed. This method of reporting will support the improved responsiveness of scrutiny work and also prevent any delay in the communication of key messages.
- 1.4 This report, by nature, aims to provide members with a general summary of scrutiny activity and to include detail of outcomes and proposals. It remains that all reports produced by scrutiny panels as a result of in-depth review will continue to be tabled at the earliest opportunity.

2. SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

- 2.1 To date scrutiny panels have held three formal meetings in June, July and September 2018. In June panel members developed and approved work programmes for the period 2018 to 2020. The order in which activity will be conducted was also discussed and agreed.
- 2.2 The tables below provide a summary and chronology of scrutiny activity. Panel members have identified a number of priorities for the first half of the municipal year, which are timely and coincide with consultation activity for which a valued response and input can be achieved.
- 2.3 Scrutiny in practice will continue to 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.

Figure 1: Breakdown of scrutiny activity by panel and meeting date

INTEGRATED CARE AND WELLBEING		
14 June 2018	26 July 2018	13 September 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme agreed for period 2018 to 2020. • Future training requirements for all scrutiny panel members. • Ofsted monitoring of Children's Services improvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-the-counter-medicines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of guidance and consultation. - Response and input of scrutiny panel being sought. • Scrutiny engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on methods to improve public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel to approve formal response and input to consultation for over-the-counter-medicines. • Quality of Tameside Care Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of current position to be provided at the meeting.

	<p>awareness of scrutiny activity and wider participation in scrutiny work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed that working group activity to be concluded in the form of a formal report and recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priorities to be agreed and working group to continue this work.
PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS		
12 June 2018	31 July 2018	11 September 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme agreed for period 2018 to 2020. • Future training requirements for all scrutiny panel members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of issues both GM and local level. - Required to deliver a Clean Air Plan for Tameside. - Timely input for scrutiny in developing the plan. - Working group to continue this work. • Scrutiny engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on methods to improve public awareness of scrutiny activity and wider participation in scrutiny work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conclusion of past activity in the form of a short report. • Follow-up on Air Quality, to include priorities and reporting.

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

- 2.4 At the July meeting consideration was given to the new NHS England guidance to reduce the future prescribing of over-the-counter medicines for minor and self-limiting conditions. At a local level there is a 12 week period of engagement between June and September 2018 that will inform a local decision by Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group whether to adopt the new NHS England guidance in full, in part or not all. Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group have sought input from the scrutiny panel as part of the engagement process.
- 2.5 A formal response has been drafted for sign off at the September meeting, for inclusion in the engagement. This is a positive example of the speedy and effective contribution that scrutiny can make at an earlier stage in policy and service development.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

- 2.6 At the July meeting the panel received a detailed overview of air quality impacts from both health and environmental aspects. With the authority as part of Greater Manchester wide activity to develop a Clean Air Plan, scrutiny will have an ongoing role to provide a 'critical friend' input to the develop of plans and engagement on those plans.
- 2.7 A working group of the panel has been established to look at the complexity of issues and possible solutions with regards to improving local and regional air quality. The panel will remain responsive to timescales and contributing factors for wider engagement.

3. TRAINING FOR SCRUTINY MEMBERS

- 3.1 Discussions took place at the June meetings to determine the range of training requirements to take account of changes in panel membership and also the induction to scrutiny for newly elected members.
- 3.2 It is important that panel members acquire the necessary knowledge, awareness and skills to be confident in fulfilling their scrutiny role. This includes legislative framework, the evolving role of scrutiny and developing techniques to remain relevant, effective and flexible to change.
- 3.3 In partnership with North West Employers (NEW) arrangements were made for all panel members to attend a training session aimed at 'Shaping Successful Scrutiny'. The training was delivered by Dr Stephanie Snape, an associate to NWE. The content was designed to deliver a refresh on scrutiny fundamentals, processes and councillors becoming effective scrutineers.
- 3.4 The sessions took place on 22 August and 5 September. They were extremely well attended and feedback was positive on its ability to refresh and enthuse councillors in their role for the forthcoming year.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

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