

Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	18 November 2019
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 period September to November 2019.
Recommendations:	That Overview Panel are 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 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 Borough Treasurer)	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	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. 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.
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:

 Telephone: 0161 342 2199

 e-mail: paul.radcliffe@tameside.gov.uk

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 panels as a result of in-depth review will be tabled separately and at the earliest opportunity.

2. SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

- 2.1 Scrutiny in practice remains 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. The annual work programmes and priorities were agreed at the June meetings and this coincides with consultation activity for which a valued response and input can be achieved. The tables below provide a summary and chronology of scrutiny activity by Panel.

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

INTEGRATED CARE AND WELLBEING	
12 September 2019	7 November 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trish Cavanagh, Chief Operating Officer, Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent Treatment Centre Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director, Policy, Performance and Communications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Plan Performance Scorecard Co-operative Council Tom Wilkinson, Assistant Director, Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update position on 2019/20 budget. Scrutiny response to consultation on Domestic Abuse Services, submitted on 2 August 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Mallion, Consultant Public Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on Domestic Abuse peer review Scrutiny response to consultation on VCSE in Greater Manchester, submitted on 30 September 2019. Corporate Performance Scorecard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly review / monitoring Greater Manchester Scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on priorities from the individual members that attend meetings Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting methods and scrutiny oversight going forward
PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS	
10 September 2019	5 November 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Oliver Ryan, Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth; and Tom Wilkinson, Assistant Director, Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update position on 2019/20 budget Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director, Policy, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Exall, Consultant Public Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on Healthy Spaces peer review Scrutiny response to consultation on a New Deal for Renting, submitted on 12 October 2019. Corporate Performance Scorecard

<p>Performance and Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Plan - Performance Scorecard - Co-operative Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny response to consultation on a New Rent Standard, submitted on 30 July 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly review / monitoring • Greater Manchester Scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback on priorities from the individual members that attend meetings • Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting methods and scrutiny oversight going forward
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Consultation and Engagement

- 2.2 Scrutiny will remain suitably informed of open consultations at a local, regional and national level. Past responses include:
- Over the Counter Medicines – 14 September 2018
 - Greater Manchester Clean Air Conversation – 30 June 2019
 - New Rent Standard – 30 July 2019
 - Domestic Abuse Services – 2 August 2019
- 2.3 The Scrutiny Panels have recently submitted formal responses to the following regional and national consultations. Efforts were made to ensure input and insight was sought from relevant services and partners to inform the submissions.
- VCSE in Greater Manchester - 30 September 2019, **APPENDIX 1.**
 - A New Deal for Renting - 12 October 2019, **APPENDIX 2.**

Current Reviews

- 2.4 Each panel is currently mid-way through a review, for which a working group has been established to plan and deliver all activity, with findings and recommendations to be signed off by the main panel.

Integrated Care and Wellbeing	Place and External Relations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and Standards in the Private Rented Sector

- 2.5 The Children’s Working Group is a fixed sub-group of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel. The group is currently reviewing Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing, with the next meeting scheduled for 21 November 2019.

Keeping Scrutiny Members Informed

- 2.6 All Scrutiny Panel members receive a monthly update email, with the purpose of raising awareness to a variety of materials to support their role, provide access to scrutiny resources and provide the ongoing opportunity for councillors to contribute and share any open consultations and engagement exercises. This will continue to include a wide variety of topic areas for consideration.
- 2.7 The update email also includes links to Greater Manchester Priorities and the work of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panels. This email provides a further opportunity to inform members how the work of scrutiny is shared and reported within the Council. The most recent update was sent in September, **APPENDIX 3.**

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As set out on the front of the report



VCSE in Greater Manchester

gmcvo@gmcvo.org.uk

Chair of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Teresa Smith

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Ashton-under-Lyne
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Phone: 0161 342 2199
Ask for: Paul Radcliffe
Date: 30 September 2019

To whom it may concern,

VCSE in Greater Manchester – the next 10 years

I write on behalf of Tameside Council's Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel. The Panel seeks to submit a response to the consultation on the VCSE in Greater Manchester – the next 10 years, which closes on 30 September 2019. This letter therefore aims to provide a summary of points and to express any areas of issue and concern. I would be extremely grateful if on receiving this letter you are able to take the appropriate action to ensure the response is suitably recorded and submitted to the consultation.

The policy paper is ambitious by nature and presents a regional offer that aims to remove emphasis from service provider and sector, by introducing an agreed set of principles to develop a fully integrated model. The Panel agree that this is a positive step in creating a platform for greater co-operative working across each authority area and the city region.

A whole system approach is required when taking account of the range of services our most vulnerable residents receive and the localised efforts to build resilient and self-reliant communities. Tameside's VCSE sector is vibrant and diverse, with a legacy of closely connected organisations working to achieve a shared vision. Local core values are underpinned by the need for services to be planned and delivered in a more co-operative way, Tameside PACT is an agreement between Tameside's voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE) and public sector agencies. The PACT features three main principles:

- Involving community groups and charities in advising and delivering services
- Better communication to build partnership working
- Working together to secure investment

Practical examples can be drawn from across the borough in the way organisations and partners are coming together to engage and to influence service provision. The Partnership Engagement Network (PEN) was created in autumn 2017 and forms a multi-agency approach to provide the public and our partners with an identified and structured method to influence the work of public services and to proactively discuss issues and share ideas. The key principles of the PEN are to:

- Engage in an ongoing conversation with the public, patients and other stakeholders
- Reach across the whole of the public and community sectors to ensure engagement doesn't happen in organisational silos
- Begin discussions early, enabling the public, patient and other stakeholders to be part of designing solutions.

In November 2018, Tameside and Glossop Strategic Commissioning Board adopted new Social Value Guidance. The guidance, developed in partnership with STAR Procurement, builds on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Social Value Policy and the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

Tameside Council has now also outlined its ambition to become a Co-operative Council and to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN). The application for membership will be reviewed on 2 October 2019.

As a place, we continue to invest in the development of a system-wide model whereby greater opportunities are made available for cross-sector engagement and service delivery. I have listed some of the main points below, which are to be viewed under the collective of Tameside's Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel.

- The Panel supports the publication of a VCSE Policy Paper, which brings together a number of aspirations that will require agreement and buy-in across all Greater Manchester authorities. It is felt that a combined ambition can only be fully achieved by learning from local practice, relationships and organisational linkages.
- The vision that sits within the paper is clear in parts, with a need to build on the vital role of all public and non-public agencies with the framework to focus on people, place and partnerships. To remove organisational boundaries and to achieve greater opportunity and transparency within decision making and general governance arrangements.
- There may be a need to determine required mechanisms for a GM vision to become a practical and branded reality for all councils. To measure and take account of the steps authorities across Greater Manchester have already taken and to build on the learning already made.
- To identify the most practical opportunities to test the offer. With the Council holding a number of statutory roles, there may be a practical need to identify where cross sector working can improve outcomes and complement the current approach.
- Across Tameside a number of voluntary and community groups work very well through what is effectively a disassociation with public partners. Further consideration may be required to ensure the paper is one that does not remove the individual identity and operational success of an organisation.
- Council's across Greater Manchester remain stretched and it is yet unclear how much resource will be required, at a local level, to deliver a sustainable vision to both enable and sustain a GM-wide VCSE 'ecosystem'.
- There is a need for individual areas to identify and enable transformation across all sectors, therefore providing suitable opportunities for greater influence for the VCSE sector.

If further clarity is needed on any of the above points, please do not hesitate to contact me.



ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE · AUDENSHAW · DENTON · DROYLSDEN · DUKINFIELD · HYDE · LONGDENDALE · MOSSLEY · STALYBRIDGE

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Teresa Smith
Chair - Integrated Care and Wellbeing
Scrutiny Panel

Chair of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny
Panel

A New Deal for Renting

TenancyReform@communities.gov.uk

Councillor Mike Glover

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Ask for: Paul Radcliffe
Date: 12 October 2019

To whom it may concern,

A New Deal for Renting

I write on behalf of Tameside Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel. The Panel seeks to submit a formal response to the consultation on A New Deal for Renting, which closes on 12 October 2019. This letter therefore aims to provide a summary of collective points and to express any areas of issue and concern. I would be extremely grateful if on receiving this letter you are able to take the appropriate action to ensure the collective response is suitably recorded and submitted to the consultation.

Tameside, as a place, continues to face significant challenges with an ongoing need to address social, economic and health inequalities. Unemployment in Tameside remains higher than the national average, with a higher proportion of residents claiming out of work benefits. This is further compounded by almost 50% of the population living within the 30% most deprived areas nationally and parts identified within the top 5% for deprivation.

Research and intelligence shows that the percentage of people living in relative poverty, after housing costs, is higher in the North West than the national average. Tameside's low income households and single parents continue to be adversely affected by the impacts of welfare reform and Universal Credit. This also includes housing elements such as the Local Housing Allowance

and pressures placed on single people in receipt of the shared room rate who continue to face limited housing options.

The private rented sector (PRS) in Tameside has grown over recent years, with a wider range of residents now living in the sector and for longer. There are approximately 15,000 privately rented properties in Tameside, housing 40,000 residents of which 12,000 are children. For the first time, there are now a higher number of older residents living in the PRS when compared to numbers housed with social landlords.

Housing remains a significant challenge in Tameside, with a large number of residents and families desperately in need of landlords to provide a secure and safe living environment so that they can get on in life. Data tells us that certain areas have more than 30% of housing located in the PRS, which is often in close proximity to the town centres and areas of high deprivation. The assumption can be made that part of the PRS is housing some of the most vulnerable residents, with reduced choice or options due to limited economic and social mobility.

Tameside Housing Advice is a frontline service that provides residents with help and advice for all aspects of housing and directly supports individuals and families to resolve housing problems. The demand for advice and support is increasing, with the following data drawn from 2018/19.

- 657 households accepted as being owed a homeless relief duty or main homeless duty.
- 276 households homeless or at risk of being made homeless as result of loss of property in PRS.
- 97 households became homeless as result of loss of property in PRS (Section 21 notices).

Evidence therefore shows that the end of tenancies as a result of a Section 21 notice is a contributing factor of homelessness and something we in Greater Manchester are all too aware of the consequences.

The Council recognises the work of the vast majority of private sector landlords who act responsibly towards their tenants. Tameside's PRS is varied and the majority of properties will be of good quality. A priority going forward is to work more closely with the sector to improve the consistency of quality housing and to reduce the number of residents in need of crisis support for housing.

Having familiarised myself with the consultation document, I have listed some of the main points below, which are to be viewed under the collective of Tameside's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel.

- Tameside residents are facing real impacts of Section 21 notices, with panel members supportive of all measures to improve standards and security for both tenants and landlords, while seeking to protect our most vulnerable residents.
- The Panel support a decision to abolish the assured shorthold regime, including the use of Section 21 notices for all users of the Housing Act 1988. There is a need for the future amendment to become 'fit for purpose' based on evidence, impacts and to take account of changing trends in the PRS.
 - In addition, this further supports a motion carried unanimously at a meeting of Full Council on 8 October 2019.
- There is a need to stabilise tenancies by removing elements of uncertainty and the future expectation of reasonable practice for landlords. This could include the introduction of break clauses for both parties and greater clarity around eviction procedures. The Panel appreciate that there is a future need for landlords to act promptly should a breach of tenancy occur and this should remain within the act.

- Members have a specific interest to ensure tenants of all types and age are safeguarded against the impact of eviction. There are currently limited housing options available to residents receiving the shared accommodation rate, with significant risks associated with tenancies and standards in this part of the PRS.
- The varied nature of the PRS does make it difficult to determine whether a fixed term assured tenancy should have a minimum length, also whether an assured periodic tenancy agreement should be introduced from the offset. The options do represent progression in the market however this does have potential to create a system whereby the needs of landlords are met in advance of tenants.

If further clarity is needed on any of the above points, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Mike Glover
Chair - Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

September 2019

Welcome to the September 2019 Scrutiny Update.

The regular updates aim to keep you informed of upcoming activity, including engagement and consultation with regards to local, regional and national decision making. All of the open consultations listed below are available for you to access and complete, with the opportunity to raise greater community awareness and participation where possible. For further information and to have your say please follow the relevant links below.

I hope this is something you will continue to find useful and please let me know if you require any further information.

Open Consultations

[Co-operative Councils Innovation Network Proposals \(Local\)](#) – Tameside Council is aspiring to become a member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network. CCIN was established to promote the delivery of local services in a co-operative or co-productive manner. The approach is about giving people choice and control over the public services the use. A consultation is open asking for views and suggestions on working towards a co-operative council.

[Supporting victims and witnesses every step of the way: experiences of police, court and support services \(Regional\)](#) – Greater Manchester Police would like to hear from people who have been a victim or a witness of a crime in Greater Manchester. They will use insight to shape the future of the victim support services and improve police and court services so that it works better for victims and witnesses. All information provided will be kept confidential. Closing date: **29 September 2019**.

[Improving Specialist Care Programme: Greater Manchester Cardiology Services \(Regional\)](#) – Cardiology services are being reviewed across Greater Manchester. They are looking to hear from people on their thoughts about the cardiology service that they or a friend/relative have used in the region on how they think it can be improved. Your views will help identify what is important to patients and what needs to be considered from a patient perspective in the design of any future services. Closing date: **29 September 2019**.

[VCSE in Greater Manchester – the next 10 years \(Regional\)](#) – The VCSE Devolution Reference Group have developed a VCSE Policy Position Paper which sets out a long term ambition for the VCSE sector in Greater Manchester. They would like to hear views on the draft paper. Closing date: **30 September 2019**.

[Transport and the night-time economy \(Regional\)](#) – Greater Manchester's Night Time Economy Adviser, the Mayor of Greater Manchester and TfGM want to know about how people move around the city-region at night – and what, if anything prevents them from doing so. If you're out and about between 6pm and 6am whether work or pleasure or mode of transport, they want to hear from you. Closing date: **13 October 2019**.

National Engagement and Consultations

There are currently a number of pieces of work being led by government departments and agencies that you may wish to take part in. For further information and to have your say please follow the relevant links below:

[Higher technical education consultation](#) – Higher technical education is post-18 education aligned to technical routes such as accounting, engineering, management or laboratory science. The DfE would like to hear views on plans to create a new system to make it clearer which higher technical qualifications provide the skills employers want and make higher technical education a more positive and popular choice. Closing date: **29 September 2019**.

[How we should engage and involve patients and the public in our work](#) – The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency are reviewing their approach to how they engage patients in their work. They are looking to adopt a more systematic approach to listening to and involving patients, ensuring that the patient voice is heard when safety issues concerning medicines are identified in the licensing of new medicines. They would like to hear from patients, patient group representatives, carers and healthcare professionals. Closing date: **7 October 2019**.

[Electric vehicle chargepoints in residential and non-residential buildings](#) – The government is proposing to alter existing building regulations for new residential buildings to include requirements for electric vehicle chargepoints and for non-residential buildings to include requirements for electric vehicle chargepoint infrastructure. They would also like to introduce requirement for existing non-residential buildings to have electric vehicle chargepoints. The proposals aim to support and encourage the growing uptake of electric vehicles and make charging easier and cheaper. They would like to hear from individuals as well as organisations on these new proposals. Closing date: **7 October 2019**.

[Measures to reduce personal water use](#) – Climate change, population increases, environmental requirements and a growing demand for water will mean that, in future there will be substantial pressure on surface and groundwater supplies, less water available per person and a significant likelihood of more frequent, severe droughts. This consultation seeks views on a range of potential measures to reduce personal water consumption, and what reduction in water is technically feasible and/or achievable. Closing date: **11 October 2019**.

[A new deal for renting: resetting the balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants](#) – This consultation is seeking views on implementing the government's recent decision to abolish Section 21 of the Housing Act, or 'no-fault' evictions. They would like to hear about how they have been used in the past and the implications for landlords by abolishing it. Closing date: **12 October 2019**.

[Rogue landlord database reform](#) – In October 2018 the Prime Minister committed to opening up access to a database of rogue landlords and property agents to allow tenants and prospective tenants to access it. The consultation is also seeking views on expanding the scope of offences and infractions which could lead to entries on the database. Closing date: **12 October 2019**.

[Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s](#) – The government is seeking views on proposals to tackle the causes of preventable ill health in England. This consultation is looking for views on proposals for a new approach for the health and care system, in the knowledge that 'prevention is better than cure'. It includes 'chapters' on smoking, healthy diet, sleep and more. Closing date: **14 October 2019**.

[Restraint in mainstream settings and alternative provision](#) – the Department for Education recently published guidance on reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention in special schools. They would like to gather views on whether there is a need for guidance in mainstream schools, post-16 settings and alternative provision. It is open to professionals working in education settings, parents, young people, local authority staff and more. Closing date: **17 October 2019**.

[Home to school travel and transport: statutory guidance](#) – the DfE is seeking views on revised statutory guidance for local authorities on home to school travel and transport for children of a compulsory age (5-16). The revised guidance seeks to clarify local authorities' statutory duties in relation to home to school travel and transport policy, in response to feedback from local authorities and other interested parties. Closing date: **31 October 2019**.

[Sprinklers and other fire safety measures in new high-rise blocks of flats](#) – This consultation outlines the government's proposal on options to reduce the trigger height for sprinkler provision in new high-rise blocks of flats in England, alongside other fire safety measures – improving wayfinding signage within blocks of flats and installing evacuation alert systems for use by fire and rescue services. Closing date: **28 November 2019**.

All live and past consultations are available for viewing at the [Big Conversation](#) pages on the Council's website.

Regional Scrutiny

The Council appoints representatives to each of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Scrutiny Panels and also scrutiny arrangements for Pennine Care. The links below provide you with access to the most recent meeting papers for each of the panels.

[Corporate Issues & Reform Overview & Scrutiny](#)

[Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview & Scrutiny](#)

[Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny](#)

[Joint Scrutiny Panel for Pennine Care \(Mental Health\) Trust](#)

Scrutiny Resources

In addition to the past training events, I will look to share any available material with you. This will include any material to support you in your role during the course of the year.

Recent publications:

- [Tackling modern slavery: council case studies](#)
- [Councillor guide to tackling modern slavery](#)
- [Explaining variation in spending – Children's Services](#)
- [Councils in charge: making the case for electric charging investment](#)
- [Polling on resident satisfaction with councils: June 2019](#)
- [Procedures for referrals of homeless applicants to another local authority](#)