

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW PANEL</b>
<b>Date:</b>	23 November 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sandra Stewart, Director – Governance and Pensions Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director – Policy, Performance and Communications
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY UPDATE</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	To receive for information, a summary of the work undertaken by the Council’s two Scrutiny Panels for September to November 2020.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That Overview Panel is asked to note the content of the report and summary of scrutiny activity. All related documents can be viewed within the appendices.
<b>Links to Corporate Plan:</b>	Scrutiny work programmes are linked to the Council’s corporate priorities. Scrutiny activity seeks to support effective decision making and priorities across Tameside.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	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.
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)</b>	There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. Any costs incurred by the Scrutiny Panels must be met from existing budgets.
<b>Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	<p>The role that overview and scrutiny can play in holding an authority’s decision-makers to account makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy. Effective scrutiny helps secure the efficient delivery of public services and drives improvements within the authority itself.</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committees were introduced in 2000 as part of new executive governance arrangements to ensure that members of an authority who were not part of the executive could hold the executive to account for the decisions and actions that affect their communities.</p> <p>Overview and scrutiny committees have statutory powers (Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000; paragraph 1 of Schedule 5A to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) to scrutinise decisions the executive is planning to take, those it plans to implement, and those that have already been taken/implemented. Recommendations following scrutiny enable improvements to be made to policies and how they are implemented. Overview and scrutiny committees can also play a valuable role in developing policy. Effective overview and scrutiny should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge;</li> <li>• Amplify the voices and concerns of the public;</li> </ul> <p>Be led by those independent of the decision makers who</p>

take responsibility for their role; and  
Drive improvement in public services.

**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](mailto: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 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.

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

<b>PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b>	
<b>15 September 2020</b>	<b>10 November 2020</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Panel met Cllr Warren Bray, Executive Member, Strategic Development and Transport; Lee Holland, Head of Engineering Services to receive information on consultation and project developments for walking and cycling schemes in Tameside.</li> <li>The Panel received for information, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report, as tabled at the meeting of Overview Panel on 7 September 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Panel met with Cllr Allison Gwynne, Executive Member, Neighbourhood services; and John Gregory, Head of Community Safety and Homelessness to receive an update on service developments and strategy consultation.</li> <li>To Panel received a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to Councillor Oliver Ryan, Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth, in response to the mid-year budget update meetings held on 22 September 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>INTEGRATED CARE AND WELLBEING</b>	
<b>10 September 2020</b>	<b>5 November 2020</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Panel met Cllr Eleanor Wills, Executive Member, Health, Social Care and Population Health; and Jessica Williams, Director of Commissioning, to receive a service response to findings from Tameside &amp; Glossop GP Patient Survey 2020.</li> <li>The Panel met Cllr Eleanor Wills, Executive Member, Health, Social Care and Population Health; and Jeanelle De Gruchy, Director of Population Health, to receive an overview of the local public health response, the transition from crisis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Panel met Cllr Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families); and Richard Hancock, Director of Children's Services to receive an update on services specific to Children's Social Care improvements.</li> <li>To Panel received a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to Councillor Oliver Ryan, Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth, in response to the mid-year budget update meetings held on 22 September 2020.</li> </ul>

management to recovery and the implementation, management and effectiveness of Test and Trace in Tameside.	
--	--

- The Panel received for information, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report, as tabled at the meeting of Overview Panel on 7 September 2020.

### **Review Activity**

- 2.2 At a meeting of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel on 28 July 2020, members received information specific to economic growth and recovery, including the impacts of Covid-19. The Chair has since established a working group to progress oversight and activity in this area.
- 2.3 The group consists of eight members from the main panel and to-date has met virtually on 4 and 9 November 2020. Initial focus has been placed on recent developments and upcoming consultation related to delivering an Inclusive Growth Strategy for Tameside. Findings and recommendations from the activity will be shared in a timely and suitable manner with the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth.

### **Children's Working Group**

- 2.4 A meeting of the fixed working group took place on 12 November 2020. Members met Tracy Watkin, Assistant Director of Children's Services; and Glen Perryman, Fostering Service Unit Manager, to receive a progress update on past activity and recommendations specific to the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers in Tameside.
- 2.5 The follow-up actions relate directly to the past report and Executive Response tabled at a meeting of Overview Panel on 12 February 2020, which concluded research and insight undertaken during the final quarter of 2019.

### **Mid-year Budget Update**

- 2.6 All members of the Council's Scrutiny Panels received an invitation to attend one of two sessions held on 22 September 2020, as the mid-year budget update. The independence of scrutiny enables members to seek assurances on the Council's current financial position and looking forward to budget planning, process and priorities for 2021/22.
- 2.7 Additional attention was placed on budget impacts and recovery related to Covid-19. Where appropriate, priorities will continue to inform future scrutiny activity and work programmes. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chairs has been sent to Councillor Oliver Ryan, Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth, with a summary of discussion points. A summary of this activity is to be tabled as a separate item to Overview Panel on 23 November 2020.
- 2.8 A future budget session with scrutiny members will take place on 18 January 2021, forming part of the formal budget procedures for 2021/22.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 2.9 Scrutiny will remain suitably informed of engagement activity and open consultations at a local, regional and national level. Recent examples include review and feedback based on the:
- NHS GP Patient Survey
  - Walking and Cycling (Safer Streets)
  - Community Safety Strategy

- Inclusive Growth Strategy

### **Keeping Scrutiny Members Informed**

- 2.10 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 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.
- 2.11 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 2020, **APPENDIX 1**.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

## September 2020

Welcome to the September 2020 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.

### **Guidance and Resources on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

- [Covid-19 advice on working safely for employees, employers and businesses](#)
- [Updated figures on the number of Coronavirus cases and risk in the UK](#)
- [How to protect yourself or check if you need medical help](#)
- Guidance on [staying alert and safe \(social distancing\)](#) and for [self-isolation](#)

There is also guidance available on local websites as detailed below:

Tameside Council at <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/coronavirus> - includes links to service change information, how to volunteer, support for businesses, council tax recovery, mental health support, wellbeing, how to contact the Council for support and more.

NHS Tameside & Glossop CCG at <https://www.tamesideandglossopccg.org/> link on homepage.

Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust at <https://www.tamesidehospital.nhs.uk/> information on homepage

Other things to be aware of include:

- **Community Champions** – Tameside Council are looking for residents and staff to become Tameside Community Champions as we all continue to work together in the response to COVID-19. Armed with the latest advice and guidance, the champions can help family, friends and other Tameside community members to understand the latest facts about the virus and what we can all do in order to protect ourselves, each other, and prevent the spread of the virus. You might be the person that everyone knows and trusts. You might be someone who just wants to help in whatever way you can. You can support the community as much or as little as you like in a variety of ways, from simply passing on information to having conversations or volunteering your time. If you're interested in becoming a Community Champion you can [find out more about the role, and how to register on the website here](#).
- **Membership of Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust** – As part of the Tameside and Glossop community, the Trust seeks to engage with people from all walks of life who use our services. One way in which we can do this is through the membership we have as a Foundation Trust, and we are currently seeking to bring this opportunity to the attention of

our residents. Membership of the Trust is free, carries no obligation, and enables individuals to participate in both our governance and development; and to do so at a level at which they are comfortable.

In particular, all members have the opportunity to participate in or offer their service through elections to the Council of Governors. The Council is a key part of our governance, charged with bringing the interests of the community into the Trust and holding the Board to account on their behalf. Membership also gives additional information of the work of the Trust, through a regular twice-yearly membership magazine: together with the provision of information related to our wider public engagement work, undertaken through the Tameside & Glossop Public Engagement Network and other routes. We want to ensure that our local communities are aware of the opportunity to join the Trust as members; and then to participate in or seek election as a Governor. Click [here](#) for more information or to apply to become a member of the Trust.

- **Virtual recycling education** – The Education Team at Recycle for Greater Manchester are now offering one hour virtual sessions to schools, community groups and residents to help people understand what rubbish should be recycled and in which bin, how the waste is separated and why we should recycle. The sessions are interactive and include films, activities and a question and answer session with one of their experienced Education Officers.

The virtual sessions are being offered in place of visits to their Education Centres, which cannot be conducted at the moment because of coronavirus restrictions. To find out more or to book a session contact: [education@recycleforgreatermanchester.com](mailto:education@recycleforgreatermanchester.com). A new Facebook group has also been launched called “Recycle for Greater Manchester Learning and activities” that features information for residents, teachers and parents about how to recycle right, reduce waste and learn more about reuse in Greater Manchester [www.facebook.com/groups/recycle4gm.activities](https://www.facebook.com/groups/recycle4gm.activities).

- A new dedicated webpage on useful contacts for people who find themselves in need of advice or support in light of the Covid-19 outbreak has been set up on the Tameside & Glossop CCG website [here](#), and the Council website [here](#).

### **Grant Funding for VCSE Organisations**

There are a number of ways VCSE organisations in Greater Manchester can apply for funding during the Covid-19 outbreak. 10GM, a partnership of local support and development agencies in Greater Manchester, have come together to produce a bulletin providing all the information on funding opportunities available for VCF organisations in Greater Manchester, including how to apply. You can find the latest bulletin here <https://www.gmcvo.org.uk/news/10gm-funding-bulletin-may-2020>.

Update on various funding pots available

- **Lloyds Foundation Grant Opportunity** – A funding opportunity has come up via the [Lloyds Foundation](#) for projects focused on learning how people interact with welfare and benefits. Action Together are interested in working with local partners who would want to apply, particularly around issues of No Recourse to Public Funds. This group face huge barriers accessing any welfare support, with legal obstacles, access to immigration advice and lack of trust being major challenges amongst other areas. This is a great opportunity to capture their experience and imagine how it could be different, but there is a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September to submit an Expression of Interest so we need to act quick! If you would like to work with us on these issues or others related to the welfare system, please contact [Robbie.cowbury@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:Robbie.cowbury@actiontogether.org.uk).
- **[Covid-19 Community-led Organisations Recovery Scheme](#)** – This funding is designed to support organisations that work with those communities which have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, as well as social enterprises and community businesses.

- [GM Mental Wellbeing Grants](#) – GMCVO, working in partnership with 10GM, have launched a grants programme to support adults from communities of identity or experience, based in Greater Manchester; that may struggle to achieve higher levels of mental wellbeing.
- [Emergency grants for GM BAME Communities](#) – Between July and December 2020, grants will be available for GM BAME led VCSE organisations, with an annual income of under £10,000, to focus on emergency needs within BAME communities. The grants will fund new activities and services as well as the additional costs of adapting existing services due to COVID-19. The grants will also help counter the loss of fundraising income directly caused by the pandemic.
- [Social Enterprise Support Fund](#) – provides grants to support social enterprises during Covid-19. It is particularly focussed on smaller social enterprises with an annual income of between £25,000 and £1.5m before COVID. The funding is specifically for social enterprises that support people who are at high risk from COVID-19, or those that support people most likely to face increased demand and challenges as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Covid-19 opinion and behaviour insight**

The following are some key statistics taken from different pieces of national and regional research indicating what the impact of covid-19 has been for people including businesses. Understanding the impact of covid-19 will be crucial to our recovery locally and how we plan to build back better.

- Less than half think guidance on who and how many people you can meet with is clear (44%), and just 34% think that others are following it well
- Young people's biggest concerns about the return to school are struggling to keep up (68%), the social distancing rules (50%) and catching Coronavirus (47%)
- 46% say they always maintained social distancing when meeting up with others (45% two weeks ago) - 8% said they rarely or never maintained social distancing (5% two weeks ago)
- Most bosses believe staff could/work effectively from home (74%), however, one in five are sceptical staff are being productive (19%)
- Most people feel safe and confident when attending hospital for specific procedures; attending hospital for essential surgery was considered most safe (78%), and attending A&E was considered least safe (50%)
- Mental health: 64% are worried about the effect that Covid-19 is having on their life right now
- Renters are more likely to be furloughed, unable to work or made redundant than home-owners
- An increasing proportion of people have few concerns about using public transport (43% compared to 38% last week)

### **Open Consultations**

[SEND Service Questionnaire](#) - In Tameside, we are looking to further develop how we deliver support for children and young people with special educational needs and /or disabilities (SEND) for 0-25 years in the future. We want to make sure that families get the best possible outcomes for children, that you need only tell their story once and that the support you need happens in the right place, at the right time. Therefore, we would like to hear all about your lived experience of support for your child or young person's special educational needs and disabilities, the level of support you have received and what is important for you and your family for the future. If you would like someone to help you complete the survey, then please contact [local.offer@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:local.offer@tameside.gov.uk).  
Deadline: **9 October 2020**.

[Review of Draft 2020 Statement of Community Involvement](#) – The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how Tameside Council will involve the local community, stakeholders and other organisations in preparing and revising local planning documents and making decisions on planning applications. The current SCI was adopted in 2016 and needs to be updated to reflect changes to planning legislations, policy and guidance, in addition to measures implemented to combat Covid-19. An updated SCI has been drafted and the Council is seeking feedback on this document. Deadline: **1 October 2020**.



[COVID-19 survey](#) – Due to the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have all been asked to ‘Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, and Save Lives’. This short survey from Healthwatch Tameside will help them to understand and gather information about what you think could make the situation easier to live with. They want you to say what is working well, as well as what could be improved. Paper copies of this consultation will be made available in due course, and questions can be talked through over the phone to support as many responses as possible. Deadline: **ongoing**.

[Healthwatch Tameside General Survey 2020](#) – Healthwatch Tameside is asking local people about their experiences of health and care services. The questionnaire will ask what services respondents have used in the past year, as well as what was good and what could be improved about these services. They will then combine the results from this survey with other information on how well local services are performing to produce a report on the subject. Deadline: **Ongoing**.

[Healthwatch Tameside young people’s health & care survey 2020](#) - Healthwatch Tameside want to find out what young people think about health and care services they have used during the past 12 months. The questionnaire will ask about which services respondents used in the past year, their views on service quality, and what changes could be made. They will then combine the results from this survey with other information on how well local services are performing to produce a report on the subject. Deadline: **Ongoing**

[Greater Manchester’s Big Mental Wellbeing Conversation](#) – People in Greater Manchester are being asked to join a conversation about their mental wellbeing, to discover how they feel, what worries them, and what they think can be done to make a positive difference to where they live. Greater Manchester’s Big Mental Wellbeing Conversation is being run by the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and the Independent Mental Health Network. The Independent Mental Health Network is a membership-led organisation that represents a diverse community of past, current and future users of mental health services, as well as those with lived experience of mental health problems. Deadline: **19 October 2020**.

[City Centre Transport Strategy Consultation](#) - Since 2018 there have been many discussions with city centre residents, commuters, businesses and interest groups to learn how they want to travel into and around the centre of Greater Manchester, and how they would shape the next phase of improvements to roads, rail, tram, bus, bike, pedestrian and public spaces.

The proposed strategy reflects the strongest calls from these discussions, including those for more space for pedestrians and bikes, and cleaner, greener more sustainable travel options. This final consultation is to make sure that their ambitions for city centre travel are right for you. Deadline: **4 November 2020**

### **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:

[Fire safety](#) – The Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government are seeking views on proposals to strengthen the Fire Safety Order, implement Grenfell Tower Inquiry recommendations and strengthen the regulatory framework for how building control bodies consult with Fire and Rescue Authorities. Deadline: **12 October 2020**.

[Planning for the future](#) – The Planning for the future consultation proposes reforms of the planning system to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed. Deadline: **29 October 2020**.

[Managing Pavement Parking](#) – Consultation asking whether a change of existing pavement parking legislation should occur. The Department for Transport are proposing 3 options: Improving

the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process, under which local authorities can already prohibit pavement parking; a legislative change to allow local authorities with civil parking enforcement powers to enforce against 'unnecessary obstruction of the pavement'; and a legislative change to introduce a London-style pavement parking prohibition throughout England. Deadline: **22 November 2020**.

[Raising accessibility standards for new homes](#) – This consultation considers how to raise accessibility standards, recognising the importance of suitable homes for older and disabled people. In particular, it considers how the existing optional accessible and adaptable standard for homes and the wheelchair user standard are used and whether government should mandate a higher standard or reconsider the way the existing optional standards are used. Deadline: **1 December 2020**.

[LGBT Sport & Physical Activity Group Coronavirus Impact Survey](#) – With this survey Pride Sports would like to get an idea of how the coronavirus lockdown has affected LGBT+ sports clubs, not just in terms of providing sports and physical activity, but also other aspects such as social events and the governance of clubs. Deadline: **ongoing**.

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](#)

### **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:

- [CFPS - Local government living with the pandemic and looking ahead](#)
- [CFPS – Revisiting the four principles of good scrutiny](#)
- [LGA – Coronavirus: Information for Councils](#)