

Report To:	JOINT MEETING EXECUTIVE CABINET/OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	10 February 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sandra Stewart, Director – Governance and Pensions Sarah Threlfall, 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.
Recommendations:	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.
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 Section 151 Officer)	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.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	There are no immediate legal implications arising out of this report.
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 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

PLACE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS	
10 November 2020	19 January 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Panel met John Gregory, Head of Community Safety and Homelessness to receive an update on service developments and strategy proposals.• The 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Panel met Cllr Warren Bray, Executive Member, Strategic Development and Transport; Jonathan Marsh, Strategic Planning Manager, TfGM; Nigel Gilmore, Strategic Lead for Transport and Infrastructure; and Graham Holland, Planning Policy Team Manager, to receive an update on the Strategic Transport Implementation Plan and key projects.• The Panel received the formal response submitted to the consultation on the Inclusive Growth Strategy.

INTEGRATED CARE AND WELLBEING	
5 November 2020	14 January 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 improvement.• The 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Panel met Cllr Allison Gwynne, Executive Member, Neighbourhood Services; Cllr Eleanor Wills, Executive Member, Health, Social Care and Population Health; James Mallion, Public Health Consultant; and Samantha Jury-Dada, Strategic Domestic Abuse Manager, to receive an update on Domestic Abuse in Tameside.

Figure 2: Summary of Scrutiny activity and oversight (March 2020 to January 2021)

Place and External Relations	Integrated Care and Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Strategy • Corporate Plan Scorecard • Impact of Covid and lockdown on the local economy • Response to Inclusive Growth Strategy consultation • Feedback and learning from communities on Covid-19 • Walking and Cycling • Response to Safe Streets consultation • LGSCO annual report for complaints monitoring • Community Safety • Response to Community Safety Strategy consultation • Strategic Transport • Follow up – Improving Quality and Standards in Private Rented Sector • Mid-year budget update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Well at Home • Corporate Plan Scorecard • Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust • Response to Healthwatch Tameside Covid-19 survey • Feedback and learning from communities on Covid-19 • Public Health response to Covid-19 • GP Patient Survey 2020 • LGSCO annual report for complaints monitoring • Children's Services • Domestic Abuse • Mid-year budget update <p><u>Children's Working Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tameside's Early Help Offer • Impacts of Covid-19 on Education in Tameside • Follow up - Recruitment and retention of foster carers

Budget Consultation

- 2.2 All Scrutiny Panel members were provided with an opportunity to attend one of two budget briefing sessions held on 18 January 2021. This follows on from a mid-year budget position update received in September 2020. The independence of Scrutiny enables members to seek assurances on budget planning, process and priorities for 2021/22 and beyond. It is also appropriate for budget priorities to inform future Scrutiny activity and work programmes.
- 2.3 A number of points were discussed with regards to demand on statutory services and pressures associated with Covid-19 and recovery. Details of the discussion is drafted in a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth; and the Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer, **Appendix 1**.

Follow-Up on Past Reviews

- 2.4 As detailed within the annual work programme, both Scrutiny Panels have recently conducted follow-up activity in order to monitor and seek assurances against past recommendations. This work is a vital part of the review process and it is customary for follow-up activity to take place approximately 12 months following the initial review.
- 2.5 The Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel has recently revisited the following review. This has taken the form of a comprehensive response paper of the Executive, discussed at a designated working group.
- Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers (originally tabled at the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 12 February 2020). Follow up received at a meeting of the Children's Working Group on 12 November 2020.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)

- 2.6 On 18 November 2019, Overview Panel received a report to detail the planned approach of Scrutiny Panels to review decisions and focus reports published by the Ombudsman. The aim is to ensure learning opportunities be shared with services in a timely manner and for a

formal response and/or position statement to be returned to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel within agreed timescales.

- 2.7 It will remain important to ensure that the subject matter is appropriate, proportionate and can add value. Work in this area has progressed well, with the plan to ensure responses be reported to Overview Panel at the earliest opportunity. Activity informed by recent LGSCO focus reports listed below:
- Focus report – Home truths: how well are councils implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act? (published July 2020).
 - Focus report shared directly with the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Employment. Shared for information and awareness, no request made for a formal response.
 - Focus report – Careless: helping to improve council services to children in care (published December 2020).
 - Response of the Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) and Director of Children's Services received in January 2021. The focus report and response tabled in a separate report to the joint meeting of Cabinet and Overview Panel on 10 February 2021.

Consultation and Engagement

- 2.8 Scrutiny will remain suitably informed of open consultations at a local, regional and national level. Past responses include:
- Safe Streets – July 2020
 - Healthwatch Tameside Covid-19 Survey – July 2020
 - Inclusive Growth Strategy – December 2020
 - Community Safety Strategy – January 2020
- 2.9 The Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel has recently submitted a formal response to the Inclusive Growth Strategy consultation, **Appendix 2**. The Panel will also submit a formal response to the Community Safety Strategy consultation prior to the deadline of 25 February 2021.

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 December 2020, **Appendix 3**.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

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