

Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	26 July 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sandra Stewart, Director - Governance and Pensions Sarah Dobson, Assistant Director – Policy, Performance and Communications
Subject:	SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES
Report Summary:	To receive for information, the annual work programmes of the Council's Scrutiny Panels.
Recommendations:	That Overview Panel note content of work programmes and planned activity of the Scrutiny Panels.
Links to Corporate Plan:	Topics included within the work programmes remain linked to the Council's corporate priorities. Scrutiny activity seeks to support effective decision making and to improve outcomes for residents and service users.
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. Any costs incurred by the Scrutiny Panels and service must be met from existing budgets.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The role of the scrutiny panels is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2000 with the purpose to act as balance in the executive structure which is reinforced in the Localism Act 2011. The programme of works as set out in this report will enable the panels to undertake their function. In addition 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, Policy and Strategy Lead by:  Telephone:0161 342 2199  e-mail: paul.radcliffe@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tameside Scrutiny Panels are required to publish an Annual Work Programme of planned activity for the municipal year ahead. The programme of work will cover a two-year rolling period to be reviewed, updated and agreed on an annual basis.
- 1.2 Scrutiny activity aims to reflect priority issues across the Council, Strategic Commission and external partners. Work will continue to improve the flexibility, responsiveness and reporting methods of all scrutiny activity undertaken during 2021/22. Discussion from Scrutiny Panel meetings held in June 2021 has directly informed the list of topics and planned updates 'check and challenge', for the year ahead.
- 1.3 Each year a range of emerging topics and issues may require the attention of scrutiny. It is therefore important to ensure efforts are best placed to support and influence effective decision-making, with a focus on improving outcomes for residents and communities.

Scrutiny activity in Tameside

- 1.4 There is a range of options available to each Scrutiny Panel as to how activity is planned and undertaken. Scrutiny Chairs will work closely with panel members in order to adopt a combination of approaches to review service and performance updates, respond to formal consultations, focus reports of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and areas in need of more in-depth review. This includes a responsibility for:
 - Research and insight on a particular issue, including desktop reviews
 - Review of decisions and recommendations
 - Follow-up (from previous review / recommendations)
 - Engagement and consultation – to provide responses to pre-decision activity
 - Consideration of decisions and reports of the Ombudsman
 - Receive updates on key issues as they arise
 - Active monitoring of national and regional policy and substantive variation to services
- 1.5 Scrutiny in practice will be mindful of the suitability and appropriateness of timings, with regard to the impact and value of planned activity. This includes the selection and order of topics and updates during the year. The work programme is ambitious and it is not an expectation that all topics and subject areas be covered during this period, but more an agreed list from which to select work items.
- 1.6 In addition to the work programme, all panel members will continue to receive a monthly update email to inform of upcoming activity, access to scrutiny resources, engagement and consultation with regard to local, regional and national decision-making. This provides a direct opportunity for scrutiny members to contribute and respond to the range of activity taking place both within the Council and across partners.

2. WORK PROGRAMMES

- 2.1 At the Scrutiny Panel meetings held in June 2021, all panel members were provided with the opportunity to comment and contribute to the list topics included in the annual work programmes.
- 2.2 Scrutiny activity will continue to be undertaken outside of the formal meetings and through working groups, with all findings and recommendations presented to the full panel for comment and approval. This flexibility can allow responsive and timely work to be undertaken, creating an enhanced opportunity to both influence and inform the impact of decisions. It is also necessary to monitor and evaluate outcomes from past activity and to review the implementation of recommendations.

2.3 Where deemed appropriate, the wider development of scrutiny may include project support and service development work undertaken at the request of the Executive as a critical friend.

Planned activity

2.4 In order to prevent delay, Scrutiny Panels received a substantive update at the June meetings, as detailed below.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel – 8 June 2021

- Climate Change and Improving the Local Environment

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel – 10 June 2021

- Health and Care Bill

2.5 The Scrutiny Panels will carry out in-depth activity and reviews through working groups, for which Scrutiny Chairs will aim to ensure that two reviews are running concurrently for each panel with topics selected from the annual work programme.

2.6 It was agreed at the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel meeting on 10 June 2021 that the fixed Children’s Working Group will remain in place for 2021/22. The group will continue to include co-opted young people and adults.

2.7 On occasion a topic may require the attention of both scrutiny panels in order to examine a range of impacts. At such a time, a decision will be made to assign a lead panel based on both remit and the subject matter. All aspects of activity will be made available to panel members to consider and respond.

3. SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES – 2021 to 2023

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel
• Economic impact of Covid-19 – local response (immediate and medium term).
• Cultural Offer – museums, galleries, arts, events and heritage.
• Environment / climate change
• Major investments, asset management, emerging developments and regeneration
• Homelessness and temporary accommodation
• Digital offer and delivery
• Waste and recycling – next steps
• Next steps for town centres
• Local Procurement and Commissioning arrangements
• The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas

Follow-up on past activity
• Private rented sector / GM Good Landlord Scheme
• Community Safety Strategy / HMIC report on GMP
• Inclusive Growth projects
• Active Travel

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel
• NHS White Paper – implications for Tameside
• Primary care and dental service response and access (post Covid-19)
• Mental health – male suicide rates / mental health offer – scale and accessibility
• Social Isolation and Loneliness
• Support for carers
• Care homes post Covid-19
• Impact of Covid-19 on inequalities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Services (to inform priorities of the Children’s Working Group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complex safeguarding - Health services for cared for children - Care leavers / transition to adulthood - Educational services / SEND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas

Follow-up on past activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital and health system recovery (including workforce)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tameside Health Improvement Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Services - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainability projects - Ofsted - Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers

Cross Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued monitoring of Covid-19 recovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty and welfare support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget updates – annual and mid-year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and learning from complaints (LGSCO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance monitoring against corporate priorities

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 As set out at the front of the report.