

Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	27 July 2020
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 are asked to note content of the 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 that is to be reviewed, updated and agreed on an annual basis.
- 1.2 The annual work programmes have been developed 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 2020/21. Discussion from the panel meetings held in June 2020 have 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 the added focus on improving outcomes for residents and communities.

The role of Scrutiny during COVID-19

- 1.4 Guidance published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) is aimed at managing some of the challenges associated with undertaking effective scrutiny during COVID-19. In order to address the significant and far-reaching impacts, scrutiny must adapt accordingly to consider appropriate matters with a keen eye on recovery, as well as community and economic resilience.
- 1.5 Work priorities will remain under continuous review throughout this period and Councillors are encouraged to plan and conduct activity in a way that is timely, supportive and proportionate. Scrutiny will consider how well partnerships are working; oversee the systems that contribute to smooth effective decision making and bring influence to find positive solutions.
- 1.6 Maintaining a form of effective scrutiny is critical for several reasons:
 - Decisions will be made which are likely to have an impact on the lives of residents and the places they live.
 - The Council and its partners should be trying to draw on the perspective of a broad range of stakeholders in response to the crisis.
 - Scrutiny activity does not take the Executive and senior officers away from the task in hand. Councillors have a vital role in feeding into and supporting the response to communities and the scrutiny provides a mechanism for this work to feed into overall strategy.
 - The crisis will not be ending any time soon.
- 1.7 It is expected that the current crisis will generate a consolidation of scrutiny's usual role, with a tighter focus on a smaller range of issues. Overall this involves a shift to recognise that scrutiny can respond accordingly by undertaking:
 - **Outreach** to get an understanding from local communities about the kind of issues and challenges experienced.
 - **Support** oversight of the system response to COVID-19. Understanding and supporting the Council and its partners as they respond to the unprecedented situation, providing assistance with complex issues and resolution of challenges faced.

2. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES

- 2.1 At the Scrutiny Panel meetings held in June 2020, all panel members were provided with the opportunity to comment and contribute to the list topics included in the work programmes. A separate request was made by the Scrutiny Chairs for members to take time outside of the meeting to provide feedback on lived experiences from communities

related to COVID-19. Feedback has been collated and presented in a separate report to the Executive.

- 2.2 The topics listed in section 3 of the report present a range of subject areas whereby COVID-19 is thought to have had a direct or indirect impact on service delivery and/or accessibility. There are a range of options available to each scrutiny panel as to how activity is planned and undertaken, with a further need to consider timescales and future reporting. The Chairs will continue to work closely with panel members in order to determine the best approach on how activity is undertaken.
- 2.3 Plans will remain in place to keep scrutiny members informed on the range of engagement and consultation activity taking place both within the Council and across partners. 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.
- 2.4 Scrutiny activity will continue 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:
- Engagement and consultation – to provide responses to pre-decision activity
 - Research and insight to a particular issue
 - Review of decisions and recommendations
- 2.5 Scrutiny activity will continue to be undertaken outside of the formal meetings, with all findings and recommendations presented to the full panel for comment and approval. This flexibility can allow for speedier and timelier work to be undertaken, creating an enhanced opportunity to both influence and inform the impact of decisions being made. It is also necessary to monitor and evaluate outcomes from past activity and to review the implementation of recommendations.
- 2.6 Scrutiny in practice will 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. The programme of work is ambitious and it is not expected for all topics and subject areas to be covered during this period, but more an agreed list from which to select work items.

Planned activity

- 2.7 At the June meetings each panel agreed the topics to be considered during the first part of the municipal year, as detailed below.

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

- Impact of Covid-19 and lockdown on the economy

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

- Hospital response to Covid-19 and plans to bring routine back on stream

- 2.8 It was agreed at the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel meeting on 11 June 2020 that the fixed Children's Working Group will remain in place for 2020/21. The group will include co-opted young people and adults
- 2.9 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. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES – 2020 to 2022

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital response to Covid-19 and plans to bring routine back on stream <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - i.e, A&E attendance, cancer referrals, routine appointments and surgery - Supporting NHS staff (mental and physical wellbeing) - Impact on BAME communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary care response to Covid-19 and plans to support increased diagnosis of conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on Schools / education (re-opening) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to learning / digital - Vulnerable children - Educational attainment / bridging the gap
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care home resilience now and post Covid-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting Care at Home while living with Covid-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isolation / loneliness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding and welfare of children and families – stress / pressure in households
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockdown impact on mental wellbeing and programme of supporting provision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass testing / Test and Trace – how it will work / how it will be managed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas
Future consideration / follow-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s mental health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early years provision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers
Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Covid-19 and lockdown on the economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small business and employment support - Covid safety measures including work places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting public transport to meet the needs of the re-opening economy while maintaining social distancing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on Clean Air at a local level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term and sustainable projects to seize opportunity around walking and cycling - Connection to wider projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste and Recycling – behaviour / fly tipping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where next for key development sites – e.g. Godley Garden Village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximising the social and economic benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas.
Future consideration / follow-up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving quality and standards - private rented sector and empty properties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Partnership / Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcomes related to domestic abuse / homelessness
Cross Panel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from the community on their experiences of Covid-19 (impact on BAME groups)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian response to Covid-19 (learning for the future)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation / Loneliness – impacts of reduced social contact, WFH, schools etc
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing council and public sector budgets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation and engagement with Scrutiny Panels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial and economic impact on individuals and families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deprivation and vulnerability