

Report To:	OVERVIEW PANEL
Date:	29 July 2019
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 (Audit) 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)	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:	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

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1. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMMES AND PLANNED ACTIVITY

- 1.1 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 2019/20. Discussions from the meetings held in June 2019 have directly informed the list of topics and planned updates 'check and challenge', for the year ahead.
- 1.2 The topics listed in section 2 of the report are a combination of service and performance updates, input to formal consultations and areas for 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
- 1.3 In addition to the work programmes, all panel members will continue to receive a monthly update email to inform of upcoming activity, access to scrutiny resources, engagement and consultation with regards 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. Where deemed appropriate, the wider influence of scrutiny may be captured through project support and service development work undertaken at the request of the Executive.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Attention has been placed to ensure the work programmes remain closely linked to corporate priorities of the Strategic Commission, with the majority of topics and activities aimed to add value to services and inform the decision making process. It is also necessary to monitor and evaluate outcomes from past activity and to review the implementation of recommendations.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 Having established a fixed Children's Working Group during 2018/19, to include co-opted young people and adults, it was agreed at the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel meeting on 13 June 2019 that this will remain in place for 2019/20.
- 1.8 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

- Housing Strategy – Improving Quality and Standards in the Private Rented Sector

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

- Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers in Tameside.

(Children's Working Group)

- Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

- 1.9 On occasion a topic may require the attention of both scrutiny panels in order to examine a range of impacts, which may be far reaching. 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.

2. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES – 2019 to 2021

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel
Consultation Response / Input to Policy Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly (ongoing) • GM Drug and Alcohol Strategy (ongoing) • Support for victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation (National – 2 August 2019) • SEND and AP provision: call for evidence (National – 31 July 2019) • The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas.
Quick review ‘Check and Challenge’
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Services Improvement • Urgent Care - impact • Children’s safeguarding arrangements • Adults – homecare commissioning and new delivery model • SEND – commissioning and provision • Foster Carers – recruitment and retention
In-depth Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s mental health and wellbeing • School Attendance / Exclusions • Early Help Offer to Children and Families – demand/sustainability
Follow-up / Past Recommendations / Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Services Improvement • Suicide Prevention • Quality of Care Homes

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel
Consultation Response / Input to Policy Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM Clean Air (30 June 2019) • New Rent Standard (30 July 2019) • GM Plan for Homes, Jobs and Environment (2nd phase autumn 2019) • GMCA Culture Strategy (Consultation mid 2019) • GM 5 Year Environmental Plan (launched March 2019) • Local Industrial Strategy (ongoing) • Parking (borough-wide provision and subject to such a review taking place) • The Panel to receive regular updates during the year regarding new and emerging areas.
Quick Review ‘Check and Challenge’
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth and Strategy • Improving quality and standards - private rented sector and empty properties • Community Safety Partnership / Strategy • Libraries – Open+ implementation and impact • Outdoor spaces - public realm / parks / playgrounds / countryside
In-depth Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Agenda – environmental impacts / energy use / plastics / key partners • Customer contact – experience / impact / complaints / tracking • Capital and asset programme
Follow-up / Past Recommendations / Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness • Procurement arrangements – contracts / delivering value for money / STAR