

**COUNCIL**

<b>Report title</b>	Scrutiny Progress Report
<b>Chief Executive or Director</b>	Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support
<b>Date</b>	2 September 2020
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) and scrutiny panels. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.
<b>Summary of the report</b>	The report provides an update in respect of issues considered at each individual Scrutiny Panel and the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
<b>If this is a confidential report, which exemption(s) from the Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 applies?</b>	NO
<b>Decision(s) asked for</b>	That the report be noted
<b>Impact of decision(s)</b>	Members will be able to keep abreast of the work carried out through the Scrutiny Process

**What is the purpose of this report?**

1. To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) and scrutiny panels.

**Why is this report necessary?**

2. The report is necessary so that Members are aware of the work being carried out by the individual Scrutiny Panels and the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

**What decision(s) are being asked for?**

3. That Council note the report.
4. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

Since the last Council update and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Overview and Scrutiny Board have met on several occasions and considered the following:-

21 May 2020:

- a) Executive Forward Work Programme;
- b) Middlesbrough Council COVID-19 – Recovery Plan and Terms of Reference;
- c) Children’s Services – Update; and
- d) Scrutiny Chairs Update.

11 June 2020:

- a) Executive Forward Work Programme;
- b) Mayor’s Update (deferred);
- c) Middlesbrough Council COVID-19 – Response and Recovery Plan;
- d) Executive Member Update: Environment;
- e) COVID-19 Recovery: Environment and Infrastructure; and
- f) Scrutiny Chairs Update.

2 July 2020:

- a) Executive Forward Work Programme;
- b) Mayor’s Update;
- c) Middlesbrough Council COVID-19 – Response, Recovery and Local Outbreak Plans;
- d) COVID-19 Update: Health, Adult Social Care and Public Health;
- e) Scrutiny Chairs Update.

23 July 2020:

- a) Executive Forward Work Programme;
- b) Executive Member Update: Regeneration;
- c) Middlesbrough Council COVID-19 – Response and Test, Track and Trace;
- d) Budget and Balanced Scorecards: Year-End 2019/2020; and
- e) Scrutiny Chairs Update.

The Board’s next meeting has been scheduled for 3 September 2020, which will focus on the following:

- a) Executive Forward Work Programme;
- b) Middlesbrough Council COVID-19 (update from Chief Executive);
- c) COVID-19 Update: Education;
- d) Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/2021; and
- e) Scrutiny Chairs Update.

## **SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES**

The updated position in respect of the work of each of the Council’s scrutiny panels is shown below.

### **Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel met on 29 July 2020 for the first time since the Covid-Pandemic began in March 2020. At that meeting the Panel were presented with the annual work programme report containing suggested topics and updates for future consideration.

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration was in attendance and provided the Panel with information on the service areas key areas of work, strategic priorities and challenges for the year ahead.

Last municipal year, the Panel has conducted a review on physical activity for older people (aged 65+), the final report was due to be presented to the meeting in March, however was deferred due to the Covid- Pandemic.

Members were conscious that the information and proposed recommendations may not be relevant and therefore agreed to continue with their investigation and invite officers back to the next meeting of the Panel for an update.

The Panel also agreed to undertake a review on the following, in partnership with the Health Scrutiny Panel:

- Palliative and End of Life Care

The Panel also agreed that it would receive information at one off meetings on the following:

- Support for Carers
- Impact of Covid -19 on Vulnerable adults

The next meeting of the Panel will take place on 16 September 2020.

### **Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel has not met since the last Council meeting.

### **Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel**

The Scrutiny Panel is continuing to gather evidence in respect of its current review - Addressing Poverty Issues and the Impact on Learning.

The Panel met on 20 January 2020. At the meeting, the Scrutiny Panel received evidence from the Council's School Readiness Manager, including:

- information on the early educational support provided to those children from deprived backgrounds;
- an overview of the measures implemented to prevent the attainment gap becoming entrenched before children start school; and
- examples of the work undertaken by the best quality early years settings to tackle development gaps, especially key early language and literacy skills.

The Panel also met on 17 February 2020. At the meeting, the Scrutiny Panel received evidence from the voluntary sector, demonstrating positive impacts and evidence-based practice in respect of tackling poverty, removing barriers to learning and raising the educational attainment of disadvantaged children. The Senior Strategic Development Officer from the Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency (MVDA), the Operational Manager from Linx Youth Service, the Education Manager from Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation and the Kinship Care Programme Manager from Grandparents Plus were in attendance to submit evidence.

The meeting that was scheduled for 23 March 2020 did not go ahead due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic. At that meeting, the Scrutiny Panel was due to receive evidence from a selection of head teachers on the effective school-based practices, classroom strategies and interventions implemented by the schools to tackle poverty, successfully raise the educational attainment of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and improve educational achievement for children living in poverty. This evidence will now be considered in September.

At the Panel's last meeting, held on 27 July 2020, the Council's Director of Children's Services; Director of Education, Prevention and Partnerships and Strategic Lead for Education were in attendance to provide the Scrutiny Panel with an overview of the main service areas within its remit and an outline of priorities, key issues and challenges for the year ahead. The Scrutiny Panel also considered its work programme for 2020/21 and agreed to investigate the following topics:

#### In-depth reviews

- Behaviour, discipline and bullying in schools; and
- The impact of Covid-19 and the attainment gap.

#### Task and finish group

- The cost of school uniforms.

### **Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

Since the Scrutiny Panel's last update to Council on 23 December 2019, it met on:-

- 6 January 2020. S Butcher, Executive Director of Children's Care and S Kitching, Principal Social Worker attended to provide Members with information regarding the recruitment and retention of children's social workers in Middlesbrough.
- 10 February 2020. S Butcher, Executive Director of Children's Care and the Chief Executive attended a meeting to provide Members of the Scrutiny Panel and Members of the Corporate Parenting Board with information in relation to the 12-week Immediate Assurance Plan and revised governance arrangements for Children's Services following the Ofsted Inspection findings published on 24 January 2020.
- 9 March 2020. S Butcher, Executive Director of Children's Services and S Williams, Head of Looked After Children and Corporate Parenting, were in attendance to provide an update in relation to a previous review on Kinship Care. Members of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel were also invited to attend.

The Scrutiny Panel's meeting scheduled for 20 April 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To ensure Members were kept up to date in relation to progress on the Children's Services Improvement Plan, a written update was provided, with reference to Covid-19, to all Members of the Council on 5 April 2020. Members were provided with the opportunity to submit questions and these were responded to accordingly.

In addition, Members of the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel were invited to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, held on 21 May 2020, where the Executive Director of Children's Services provided an overview of the department's response to Covid-19 and an update on the Improvement Plan.

An all-Member briefing was held on 8 June 2020 where the Executive Director of Children's Services provided a further update on the Improvement Plan, with reference to Covid-19 and the role of the Children's Commissioner.

The Scrutiny Panel met informally on 29 June 2020 and held its first formal meeting of the 2020/21 Municipal Year on 20 July 2020. S Butcher, Executive Director of Children's Services and R Brown, Director of Education and Partnerships were in attendance to provide an overview of the service structure and service provision within Children's Services. The Panel also considered its Work Programme for 2020/21 and agreed to investigate the following topics:-

- Permanency and Sufficiency, (perceptions of children in care).
- 'No Wrong Door' Programme.
- Youth Services.
- PACE bed provision.

The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for 14 September 2020.

### **Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel met on 30 January 2020 and 27 February 2020, at which they were provided with evidence in relation to their investigation on Community Cohesion. Members received information in relation to projects funded through the Controlling Migration Fund, including Stronger Communities Middlesbrough and data mapping. The Panel were keen to understand what Middlesbrough does to promote community cohesion in the town, and issues faced, as well as looking at statistics of numbers on international new arrivals, asylum seekers and refugees.

The Panel also were keen to understand what our partner organisations are doing to promote community cohesion, and heard from representatives from the Police, Public Health and the Manager of the North East Migration Partnership (NEMP). It was anticipated the Panel would receive a presentation from Marion Walker in respect to Place Based working and the impact this has on community cohesion at its March meeting. However, due to the COVID Pandemic this has been moved to the Panel's September meeting.

Aside from their investigation into Community Cohesion, the Panel received an update on reducing homelessness in November and approved its final report on Foodbanks, which was presented to, and approved by, Executive on 14 July 2020.

The Panel met on 28 July 2020 for the first time since the Covid-Pandemic began in March 2020. At that meeting the Panel were presented with the annual work programme report containing suggested topics and updates for future consideration. The Directors of Environment and Community Services and Regeneration and Culture attended the Panel to provide an overview of their respective Service Areas.

Members were keen to understand the impact of the Covid Pandemic on services and queried specific issues around cultural venues and events. The Panel agreed the following reviews be undertaken:

- The Impact of the Cultural Strategy
- The Integrated Enforcement Team.

The Panel also agreed to receive the following updates:

- Operation Phoenix/ Domestic Abuse Support
- Regulatory Investigative Powers (RIPA)
- Preventing Terrorism
- Community Safety Partnership
- Selective Landlord Licensing

The Panel also agreed that its next meeting, on 10 September, to undertake a final evidence gathering session in pursuance of its review of Social Cohesion.

### **Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel met on 8 January 2020 and approved the Final Report for the review of Infrastructure Delivery. The Panel also received an update on M Homes (now the Middlesbrough Development Company (MDC), from the Director of Regeneration. The Terms of Reference for the review of Recycling and Waste Management were also approved.

On 4 February 2020, Members of the Panel attended a site visit of the new Stockton Crematorium. At the Panel meeting held the following day, the Director of Environment and Commercial Services provided an overview of Teesside Crematorium. It is the Panel's intention to visit Teesside Crematorium to gather further information to conclude the review.

Also at the February meeting, the Operations Manager Recycling and Education, gave a presentation in relation to the current recycling and waste management services in Middlesbrough.

At a meeting held on 4 March 2020, the Panel received information in relation to the Boho Digital Expansion Site and also Historic Buildings and the Local Conservation Area protection, in line with the Work Programme. Terms of Reference for a Short Topic Review of Teesside Crematorium were also approved.

Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the next formal meeting of the Panel did not take place until 15 July 2020. However, in the intervening months, two informal meetings were held which enabled Members to be kept up-to-date on service provision within its remit.

On 15 July 2020, the Panel agreed its work programme and meetings schedule for 2020-2021 and determined the next steps in the review of Teesside Crematorium.

### **Health Scrutiny Panel**

The Panel met on 14 January 2020 to receive an update from the Head of Planning in respect of recommendations previously made in relation to the power of planning policy in reducing health inequalities. The panel also agreed to undertake a piece of work in respect of the support offered locally to the LGB&T community within Health Services.

On 11 February 2020 the Panel continued to gather evidence in respect of its current review on the topic of Reducing Opioid Dependency. Representatives were in attendance from Foundations, Change, Grow, Live (CGL), Recovery Connections and the Council's Public Health Team to provide an overview of the substance misuse services delivered by Middlesbrough Recovering Together (MRT).

At a meeting held on 10 March 2020, the Panel received information in relation to the findings of the first phase of the national review of drugs, as undertaken by Dame Carol Black and published on 27 February 2020. Representatives from South Tees CCG, North East Commissioning Support (NEAS) and the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) were also in attendance to provide further information in respect of the Panel's current review topic.

A site visit was undertaken by the Panel on 12 March 2020 to the residential rehabilitation service provided by Recovery Connections, the Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) room operated by Foundations and The Fork in the Road, which provides the opportunity for people that have experienced substance misuse to gain valuable work experience and training.

Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the next formal meeting of the Panel did not take place until 21 July 2020. However, in the intervening period the Overview and Scrutiny Board received regular updates in respect of Health issues, which enabled Members of the Panel to be kept up-to-date on service provision within its remit.

On 21 July 2020, the Panel agreed its work programme and meetings schedule for 2020-2021 and determined the next steps in the review on Opioid Dependency.

### **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

The Committee is scheduled to meet on 18 September 2020 and will consider the following items:-

- Quality Accounts 2019/20:-
  - North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
  - North Tees Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
  - Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
- Annual Hand-Over of Chair and Support

### **South Tees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

The Scrutiny Panel's meeting scheduled for 20 March 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee had been scheduled to consider the items listed below:-

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Local Public Health / NHS Response

- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust - Care Quality Commission (CQC) Report
- Healthwatch South Tees - Overview and update
- Live Well South Tees Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) - Update
- Breast Symptomatic Diagnostic Services - South Tees
- Regional Health Scrutiny – Update

It is envisaged that the Committee will meet on 4 occasions during the 2020/21 period and dates will be announced once agreed with the Chair(s).

### **Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee met on 16 January 2020 however the meeting was inquorate.

The Committee's meeting scheduled for 19 March 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Committee met on 18 June 2020 and considered the following items:-

- Chief Executive's Update
- South Tees Development Corporation Update
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report
- Delegated Decisions March – June 2020
- Meetings and Forward Plan

The Committee met on 13 August 2020 and considered the following items:-

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- Chief Executive's Update
- Education, Employment & Skills Portfolio Update: Cllr Bob Cook
- Local Enterprise Portfolio Update: Paul Booth OBE
- Teesside International Airport Update
- Delegated decisions report
- Meetings and Forward Plan

### **SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE**

Since the last update to Council, the following Scrutiny Panel reports have been submitted to Executive.

21 January 2020 - Health Scrutiny Panel - Vulnerable and Fragile Health Services

### **URGENT DECISIONS**

Since the last update to Council, no urgent decisions have been taken. The following General Exceptions were approved:

18 February 2020 - Executive - Quarter 3 Budget Outturn 2019/20

18 February 2020 - Executive - Revised Fee Structure for Building Control and Development Control



**Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

5. No other options were considered.

**Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

**Legal**

6. There are no legal implications as a result of the proposed appointments.

**Financial**

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report

**The Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough**

8. The report is line with the Mayor's vision for Middlesbrough

**Policy Framework**

9. The report does not impact on the overall budget and policy framework.

**Wards**

10. The report does not impact on wards

**Risk**

11. Not applicable.

**Equality and Diversity**

12. An Impact Assessment has not been completed, as the changes will not adversely impact on any individual group.

**Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

13. Not applicable

**Background papers**

No unpublished background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**COUNCILLOR J THOMPSON  
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