

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme
2017/2018

17 July 2017

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Culture and Communities scrutiny panel to consider its work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year.

BACKGROUND

2. At the start of every municipal year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
3. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work.
4. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Below is a list of topics which are anticipated to be of particular interest to the scrutiny panel. Members are advised that the list of possible topics is not exhaustive and that additional topics can be added and considered at the scrutiny panel meeting.

Topic carried over from 2016/17

- Not applicable

Topics agreed in 2016/17, which have not been investigated

- Social Isolation

Topical issues

Topic	Details
Anti –social behaviour	Under the Mayor's Vision 2025, the Mayor is aiming to create a Safer Middlesbrough. Promise 4 stated that the local authority will work jointly with the police and community groups to tackle anti-social behaviour. Working in a new way, pooling resources as well as information. What outcomes are the Council and Cleveland Police seeking to achieve through this work?

<p>Reducing Homelessness</p>	<p>The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (the Act) sets out new duties on English local authorities with the aim of preventing homelessness.</p> <p>The issue of homelessness was flagged as red under the, what was 'Supporting Communities' Outcome Delivery Plan 2016-2020). It is envisaged that by 2018 a combined (and incrementally reduced) contract with homelessness service, based on early help will be in place.</p> <p>What are the new duties placed on Local Authorities and how is Middlesbrough working to meet the aims of the Act?</p>
<p>Gaps in Prevention-Domestic Abuse</p>	<p>In 2016, My Sisters Place reported that there was a number of gaps in prevention activities including limited educational programmes on healthy relationships in Middlesbrough schools.</p> <p>At the meeting on 29 February 2016, the Panel were advised of a Domestic Violence Perpetrator programme which was being commissioned to address the gap in provision of positive intervention and behaviour therapy services for perpetrators. Was the programme successful and what have been the outcomes/ lessons learnt?</p> <p>Local schools were also given the opportunity to join a project called Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass, has been designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of normal school hours and that might have had an impact on a student attending school the following day. What has been the take up from Middlesbrough schools to join the project and what have been the outcomes?</p>
<p>Selective Landlord Licensing</p>	<p>Selective licensing is a scheme which aims to improve the standards of property management in the private rental sector. Landlords are inspected on a number of areas to ensure they comply with Selective licensing conditions, including valid gas safety certificate and valid tenancy agreements</p> <p>The Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme is currently operating in North Ormesby, to help improve social and economic conditions. Evidence shows that significant and persistent anti-social behaviour and low housing demand are linked to the private rental sector in North Ormesby.</p> <p>Has the scheme been successful and does the Council have immediate plans to roll out the project town wide?</p>
<p>Financial Inclusion</p>	<p>Universal Credit will be introduced in Middleborough in 2018. What impact will this have on residents of the town and Council services?</p>

Cultural Strategy	<p>The Cultural Strategy to be submitted to Executive toward the end of 2017. The panel will be given the opportunity to view the draft Strategy prior to its submission to Executive to feed in any comments.</p> <p>The Director of Culture and Communities has outlined he would be happy to attend a future meeting of the panel to present the aims of the Strategy.</p>
Strengthening Our Communities- Visit to Town Hall	Middlesbrough Town Hall is currently closed for refurbishment to return it to its 19 th Century glory. The Town Hall operate hard hat tours and the panel may like to consider this for a future site visit.

Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
Modern slavery	<p>A member suggestion</p> <p>Details:</p> <p>The Local Government Association recently published an article on modern slavery. Modern slavery can take many forms, including the trafficking of people, forced labour, servitude and slavery.</p> <p>The 'duty to notify' provision for specified public authorities is set out in the Modern Slavery Act. As from 1 November 2015, local authorities have a duty to notify the Home Office of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking.</p>
Community Tension	Suggestion from Councillor
New models of commissioning – domestic abuse	Suggestion from Growth and Place
Working with partners to strengthen CCTV	Suggestion from Growth and Place
Future of Teesside Archives	Suggestion from Growth and Place
Implementation of the Local Development Transformation Programme – the local plan and its implementation	Suggestion from Growth and Place

5. It should be noted that the suggested topics outlined above are exactly that, suggestions. The content of the scrutiny panel's work programme is entirely a decision for the panel to make. When considering the work programme, the panel is advised to select topics that are of interest to it, as well as topics that the panel feels by considering, it could add value to the Local Authority's work.
6. In addition to undertaking the agreed work programme, scrutiny panels have also previously responded on an ad-hoc basis to emerging issues - such as considering relevant new legislation, guidance or Government consultation documents. This approach occasionally results in further topics being identified for investigation or review throughout the year.
7. On occasion ad-hoc scrutiny panels may also be established throughout the year to undertake additional investigations, for example to examine areas of work which overlap more than one scrutiny panel.

The panel also had a responsibility to address certain issues each year and these are presented below:

8. The scrutiny panel is also advised that, under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have a responsibility of community leadership and a power to secure the effective promotion of community well-being. Therefore, in addition to the scrutiny panel's generally recognised powers (of holding the Executive to account, reviewing service provision, developing policy, considering budget plans and performance and financial monitoring), panels also have the power to consider **any** matters which are not the responsibility of the Council but which affect the local authority **or** the inhabitants of its area. For example, nationally, local authorities have undertaken scrutiny work on issues such as post office closures, rural bus services, policing matters and flood defence schemes.
9. Each year, the panel has responsibility for addressing certain issues, these are as follows:
 - **Middlesbrough Community Safety Partnership**- Is Middlesbrough's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The powers of the Police and Justice Act 2006 relation to Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require the CDRP to present the partnerships intentions, and actions to Scrutiny on an annual basis. This requirement commenced in 2009 and the panel has met with the CDPR each year since that time. The last time the panel met with CRDP representatives was January 2016.
 - **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)** - RIPA is the law governing the use of covert surveillance techniques by public authorities, including local authorities. The panel has a duty to assess the intentions of RIPA and last received an update on this in November 2015.

- **Domestic Violence-** The panel has shown a sustained interest in Domestic Violence and the pressures of funding to deliver the Council's Domestic Violence Strategy. The panel last received updates and position statements for Domestic Violence in February 2016.

The Queen Speech 2017 proposed that there is to be a Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill, establishing a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner to stand up for victims and survivors and monitor the response of the authorities. What will be the requirements for Local authorities under the Bill?

- **Preventing Terrorism-** In 2011, the Prevent strand of the UK's long-term strategy for countering international terrorism, known as CONTEST was explicitly changed by the Government to deal with all forms of terrorism, and target not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism. . This change in strategic direction was enacted in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The Act, which became law in February 2015 places a duty on specified authorities to have "*Due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*". In response an Action Plan for Middlesbrough was developed to respond to the specific elements of the Prevent agenda. The panel hosted a scrutiny seminar on the Prevent agenda in October 2015.

10. It should be noted that it is in the panel's gift to identify the time and frequency for when the panel receives updates on the above issues.

Update Reports

11. In addition to any agreed work programme topics, Members are asked to note that the panel has also previously requested updates reports in respect of the following previous scrutiny topics:
 - a) Reoffending and Rehabilitation
 - b) Prevent

Scrutiny work plan prioritisation aid

12. Members may wish to use the aid attached at **Appendix 1** to prioritise issues where scrutiny can make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

13. The scrutiny panel is asked to consider and agree its work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year. To assist in this task, Richard Horniman, Director of Culture and Communities will be in attendance to provide an overview of the main services within the scrutiny panel's remit and an outline of priorities, key issues and challenges for the year ahead.

14. When considering its work programme, the scrutiny panel is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:
- Affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area.
 - Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence.
 - Are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the scrutiny panels have considered during the last 12 months.
 - Do not relate to an individual service complaint; and
 - Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.
15. It is suggested that the scrutiny panel has a mixture of working styles in its programme. This can include detailed and in-depth reviews, shorter topics, or one-off investigations.
16. Once the scrutiny panel has identified the areas of priority, support staff will draw those topics into a programme for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDATION

17. That the scrutiny panel identifies two topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2017/18, for consideration/approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. Throughout the report, reference is made to documents published by the Local Government Association, Cleveland Police, The Queens Speech 2017, and gov.uk.

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APPENDIX 1

