

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

**Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme
2017/2018**

18 June 2018

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 2018/19

- Not applicable

Topics agreed in 2018/19, which have not been investigated

- Drugs and Alcohol Rehabilitation- how to prevent the revolving door issue

Topical issues

Topic	Details
Reducing Homelessness	<p>The Homelessness Reduction Act commenced in April 2018, and set new duties on English local authorities with the aim of preventing homelessness.</p> <p>The Government will provide £72.7 million to local authorities to meet the new burdens costs associated with the additional duties contained within the Act over the course of the Spending Review. It is anticipated that the new duties to</p>

	<p>prevent homelessness will lead to savings for local authorities thereafter.</p> <p>The issue of homelessness was flagged as red under the, what was 'Supporting Communities' Outcome Delivery Plan 2016-2020) and Middlesbrough introduced their Middlesbrough Preventing Homelessness Strategy in 2015.</p> <p>The Panel has been made aware of the approach to Begging in Town (which is often linked to Homelessness), however, how is Middlesbrough working to meet the aims of the Act and how will the new burden costs effect the Council.</p>
Anti –social behaviour	<p>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.</p> <p>What outcomes are the Council and Cleveland Police seeking to achieve through this work?</p>
Modern Slavery	<p>In 2013 1,746 cases were reported in the UK, a 47% increase on 2012 and these are the cases and victims we know about (Cleveland Police website)</p> <p>Local Authorities have a key role to play in tackling modern slavery, including in identifying and supporting victims and working in partnership locally. What is the Council doing and is there an issue in Middlesbrough and how are they working with the Police to tackle this?</p>
Financial Inclusion	<p>Universal Credit will be introduced in Middleborough on 3rd October 2018. What impact will this have on residents of the town and Council services? How is the Council preparing for the changes?</p>
Marketing Middlesbrough	<p>Marketing Middlesbrough is due to be submitted to Executive on 4 September 2018. It would be beneficial for the panel to receive an update on the Strategy and have an opportunity to feed in any comments prior to its submission.</p>

Strengthening Our Communities- Town Hall	The newly refurbishment Middlesbrough Town Hall recently reopened. The panel may like a tour. It would also be interesting to receive an update on visitor levels in 6 months time.
Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper- March 2018	<p>The Integrated Communities Strategy green paper invites views on the government's vision for building strong integrated communities where people – whatever their background – live, work, learn and socialise together, based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities.</p> <p>The green paper sets out an ambitious programme of actions we propose to take across government to deliver this vision at the local and national level.</p> <p>The paper is open to consultation. What is Middlesbrough Council's response?</p>

Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
<p>Culture</p> <p>Art organisations and Artists</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Growth and Place.</i></p> <p>How the Council support individual arts organisations and artists in Middlesbrough</p>
<p>Communities</p> <p>Pilot integrated community safety and prevention model (town centre)</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i></p> <p>The Panel has been made aware of a new approach which is to take place in community safety.</p> <p>The panel may like to consider what we currently have, how it can be made smarter and review other community safety models across the country that have been successful.</p>
<p>Communities</p> <p>Domestic abuse support</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i></p> <p>The Panel recently received an update in April 2018 on preventing domestic abuse in</p>

	Middlesbrough. Within the update it discussed recommendations from the impact assessment. Within these recommendations, it recommended ways to improve domestic abuse support, for example developing a single point of contact.
Communities Update on roll out of selective landlord licensing to other locations across Middlesbrough and future of the scheme (including exit strategy for existing locations)	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> The Panel concluded their review on Selective Landlord Licensing in May 2018. Within the report, the panel recommends a 6 month update. This update would include information on future roll out and the panel has asked to be kept informed on the exit strategy from North Ormesby.
Communities Homelessness provision	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> Impact of changes re: Homeless Reduction Act (later in the year)
Communities Council's partnership working with VCS.	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> How does the Council engage/ support VCS e.g. MVDA and how successful is this partnership?
Communities Adult Education Budget	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> The Panel could potentially consider how effective the budget is used to meet local priorities/stakeholder requirements in preparation for the handover to Tees Valley Combined Authority
Communications Events programme	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> Opportunity to examine and focus on which events are most important.

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:
 - **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 May 2018.
 - **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.

In 2018, the Counter-Terrorism Strategy was published. The Panel may like to receive an update on how this impacts Middlesbrough and if there is any implications.

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 – Panel should re-visit the recommendations. There have been reported cases of drug use in Holme House prison, and it would be useful for the Panel to be updated accordingly on what is being done to combat this issue.

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 2018/9 municipal year. To assist in this task, Adam Allen, 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. Charlotte Nicol, Head of Culture, will also be in attendance.
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 2018/19, 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 and Strategic Plan 2018/ 2020

Contact Officer

Susie Blood
Democratic Services Officer
Democratic Services
Finance, Governance and Support
Tel: 01642 729645
Email: Susie_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk

