

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

**Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme
2019/20**

25 July 2019

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Culture and Communities scrutiny panel to consider its work programme for the 2019/2020 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

- Not applicable

Topical and local Issues

Topic	Details
Financial Inclusion	<i>Universal Credit</i> Universal Credit full service was rolled out on October 2018. What impact has this had on residents of the town and Council services? How has it impacted on poverty within the Town? Increase demand on food banks? How has this impacted on fuel and food poverty?

<p>Reducing Homelessness *also suggestion from a member of the public</p>	<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 has provided £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 was anticipated that the new duties to 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 the Council 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> <p>What are the positives from tougher enforcement which is to be introduced by the Council? How will this have been impact on Council services?</p>
<p>Strengthening Our Communities- Town Hall</p>	<p>The newly refurbishment Middlesbrough Town Hall has been opened for a year.</p> <p>For those members who haven't visited, a tour could be organised.</p> <p>The panel may also be interested in receiving visitor numbers to the Town Hall and whether there are any longer term plans to develop their programme to increase visitor numbers.</p> <p>(Potential task and finish)</p>
<p>Tees Valley City of Culture big 2025</p>	<p>What are preparations from a cultural and art side in Middlesbrough towards the City of Culture bid?</p>

Cleveland Police
Possible updates

Topic	Details
<p>Anti –social behaviour-</p> <p>Tackling youth anti-social and anti-social cycling.</p>	<p>In February 2019, Cleveland Police launched a new scheme, the first of its kind amongst UK Police forces to provide under 18’s with the chance to learn about responsible cycling.</p> <p>Young people found riding anti-socially, will be reported by Neighbourhood Officers to the Youth offending team and will have to pay £30 on that day. The money will be given to Middlesbrough Environment City to benefit the local neighbourhood and the cyclist can then attend a 3 hour cycling proficiency course and get a certificate.</p> <p>What have been the outcomes from this scheme? Have the Police seen a dramatic change in youth anti-social cycling? And how can the Police and Middlesbrough Council work closer to combat this issue as well as anti-social behaviour in general.</p>
<p>Operation Phoenix (combat Domestic abuse)</p>	<p>In July 2019, Cleveland Police have launched a major campaign to prevent crime, protect communities and tackle serious crime (domestic abuse).</p> <p>The police will do this in a 2 fold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing the way by work by freeing up resources to support the work of frontline staff. 2. Focusing over the next 3 months on key areas with the commitment to deliver improvements. <p>The campaign will evolve over the next 3 months, and will ensure new effective way of working are implemented and new initiatives are brought in line.</p> <p>‘Domestic abuse cars’ become operational on 18 July 2019 staffed by officers working additional hours. The cars will be out during certain hours of Fridays, Saturday and Sunday nights, traditionally peak times for such offences.</p> <p>As the campaign has just commenced, the panel may like an update in November 2019 to ascertain</p>

	the impact the campaign has had/ outcomes.
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Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
Culture Art organisations and Artists	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place.</i> How the Council support individual arts organisations and artists in Middlesbrough, links to City of Culture and the need to have more cultural capacity with our communities.
Communities Enforcement	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> Street wardens had been reduced from 96 down to 12, however the Mayor was currently having discussions with the Tees Valley Combined Authority to negotiate funding for a possible 40 more street wardens to combat anti-social behaviour within the Town- which will bring greater enforcement and better joint working. How has the new integrated community safety and prevention models operating in Middlesbrough and how will the model benefit from new enforcement power? Has anti-social behaviour decreased since the commencement of targeted work in the Town Centre and through the partnership pilot at Hemlington?
Communities Engaging Communities	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> What is the Council doing to develop community engagement in neighbourhoods? E.g. more volunteering, community champions.
Communities Community cohesion -support for Asylum seekers and Refugees	<i>Suggestion from Councillor</i> The Asylum seeker contract will be introduced in September 2019, what are the terms of the contract and the implications on

	<p>Middlesbrough.</p> <p>Middlesbrough is home to a number of asylum seekers and refugees, although where they are dispersed is a matter for the Home office. However once in a community, is there good community cohesion? What are the cost on services? What support is in place to help integrate families into the local community?</p> <p>The Council also operates a controlled migration fund – which undertakes research and community engagement to ensure we have settled communities.</p>
<p>Communities</p> <p>Integration of all communities (links to above suggestion)</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Councillor</i></p> <p>Examination of issues related to the successful welcome and integration of children and learners into our schools and communities.</p> <p>Issues related to the value we attach to being part of a rich and diverse society in our town?</p>

Updates

<p>Communities</p> <p>Domestic abuse support</p>	<p>The panel has a responsibility for addressing Domestic abuse and examine what Middlesbrough and supporting agencies are doing to combat the raising issue.</p> <p>The service is currently being recommissioned and therefore an update later in the year may be advisable.</p>
<p>Communities</p> <p>Selective landlord licensing</p>	<p>Selective Landlord Licensing is now operating in North Ormesby and Newport (since June 2019).</p> <p>The panel has always had a keen interest since undertaking their review in 2017/18. An update may be timely to certain how whether the number of licensed properties in North Ormesby has increased, and what the</p>

	<p>impact has been on anti-social behaviour in the area. It may also be beneficial for the panel to receive an update on how the roll out in Newport is going.</p>
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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 November 2018.
 - **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 July 2018.

- **Domestic Violence (see above)** – panel was last updated in April 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 and the panel received an update regarding PREVENT actions in July 2018.

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.

Scrutiny work plan prioritisation aid

11. 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

12. The scrutiny panel is asked to consider and agree its work programme for the 2018/9 municipal year.
13. 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.
14. 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.

15. 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

16. That the scrutiny panel identifies two topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2019/20, for consideration/approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. 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

APPENDIX 1



