

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2020/21
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28 July 2020

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Culture and Communities scrutiny panel to consider its work programme for the 2020/2021 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.

Topics completed in 2019/20

- Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Middlesbrough Community Learning: Employability
- Financial Inclusion and Foodbanks

Topic carried over from 2019/20

- Social Cohesion – a final evidence gathering session may be required to ensure the Panel is equipped with the latest information, especially in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Topics agreed in 2019/20, which have not been investigated

- Not applicable

Topical and local Issues

Topic	Details
Integrated Enforcement Team and Anti-Social Behaviour.	<p>One of the Mayor's cornerstone pledges was to tackle anti-social behaviour, which appears to be a problem in Middlesbrough. A widely reported example of this is an incident in which 40 young people received home visits by Police in January 2020 following anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre. (<i>Evening Gazette, "Pictures show 40 youths police say plagued town centre, riding bikes at people and hurling abuse", 23 Jan 2020</i>)</p> <p>A number of initiatives have been launched to try and tackle this, including the expansion of the Street Warden Service, and the introduction of the Public Space Protection Order.</p> <p>The Panel may want to examine how such initiatives have addressed anti-social behaviour in the Town.</p>
Impact of COVID-19 on Cultural Venues.	<p>The Town Hall was renovated in 2018 following £7.7 million of investment with the intention of attracting a more diverse range of entertainment acts and to increase visitor numbers.</p> <p>In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Panel may want to assess if the renovation of the Town Hall has achieved these objectives.</p>
Tees Valley City of Culture bid 2025.	<p>Given the TVCA's decision to pause the Tees City of Culture Bid 2025, the Panel may want to examine if Middlesbrough is undertaking any actions to make sure its cultural offer remains fit for purpose.</p>

Review Topic Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
<p>Culture The Impact of Middlesbrough's Cultural Strategy.</p>	<p>The Council launched its Cultural Strategy in November 2018 with the intention of growing the Town's Cultural offer.</p> <p>There are many strands to the Cultural Strategy which aims to achieve financial resilience, contribute to a stronger economy and to transformation the perception of Middlesbrough (<i>Cultural Strategy p14</i>). It aims to achieve these aims via different means, including the Place Brand and contributing to other strategies, such as the Social Regeneration Strategy (<i>Cultural</i></p>

	<p><i>Strategy p16).</i></p> <p>In light of the COVID Pandemic, the cultural sector has been severely impacted, something the Creative Industries Federation has termed a “Cultural Catastrophe”.</p> <p>Nationally, up to 400,000 jobs could be lost with a loss in weekly revenue of £1.4 billion per week.</p> <p>The Government recently announced £1.57 billion fund for the cultural sector to draw on for support.</p> <p>Locally, the Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, has appointed Annabel Turpin (Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership culture lead) to head a task force that will work with Tees Valley cultural organisations.</p> <p>The Panel may be interested in how the Cultural Strategy was performing prior to COVID-19 and how Middlesbrough’s cultural base responded to, and contributes to the recovery from, the COVID Pandemic.</p>
<p>Communities Integrated Enforcement Team (IET)</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from a Councillor</i></p> <p>Since being elected in 2019 the Mayor has initiated an increase in the numbers of Street Wardens available in the Town. To realise this objective, an Integrated Enforcement Team has been created.</p> <p>By using funding from the Tees Valley Combined Authority the Council has amalgamated several enforcement roles (including Street Wardens and Traffic Enforcement Officers). As such the service has grown from 12 Street Wardens to 58 IET Officers operating in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>The Panel may wish to explore the impact this initiative has had on combating anti-social behaviour in the Town and how the IET has responded to the COVID Pandemic.</p>
<p>Culture and Communities</p> <p>How we promote our town to the rest of the UK as a desirable place to live and work</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from a Councillor</i></p> <p>Various initiatives have been launched to make Middlesbrough a more appealing place to work, live and invest. These can have a specific focus such as the TAMP (Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park) or be more wide ranging and more difficult to quantify. For example, in December 2018 the</p>

	<p>Place Brand was approved with the intention of “attracting inward investment and jobs...attract new people to live and work in the area [and] encourage local people to spend more time and money in the area” (<i>Executive report, “Middlesbrough Place Brand” 18th December 2018</i>).</p> <p>The Panel may be interested in examining how successful the Place Brand has been in achieving its objectives, especially in conjunction with other initiatives.</p>
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Possible updates

Topic	Details
<p>CLEVELAND POLICE Operation Phoenix (part of the Panel’s requirement to receive updates regarding Domestic abuse – see below)</p>	<p>In July 2019, Cleveland Police launched a major campaign to prevent crime, protect communities and tackle serious crime (domestic abuse).</p> <p>The police did this by changing the way they work by freeing up resources to support the work of frontline staff and focused, over a period of three months, on key areas with the commitment to deliver improvements.</p> <p>‘Domestic abuse cars’ became operational on 18 July 2019 staffed by officers working additional hours. The cars patrol during certain hours of Fridays, Saturday and Sunday nights, traditionally peak times for such offences.</p> <p>As the campaign has now been in place for a year, and the Council has recommissioned its Domestic Abuse Services, the panel may wish to receive an update to ascertain the impact the campaign has had.</p>

Standing Updates

<p>Domestic abuse support Last Update received April 2018 (see details of Operation Phoenix above)</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>Regulatory Investigative Powers (RIPA) Last update received July 2018.</p>	<p>RIPA is the law governing the use of covert surveillance techniques by public authorities, including local Councils. The panel has a duty to assess the intentions of RIPA.</p>

<p>Preventing Terrorism Last Update received July 2018</p>	<p>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 "<i>Due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism</i>". 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.</p> <p>In 2018, the Counter-Terrorism Strategy was published and the panel received an update regarding PREVENT actions.</p>
<p>Community Safety Partnership Last Update received November 2018</p>	<p>Middlesbrough's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The powers of the Police and Justice Act 2006 relating 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.</p>

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** See above for details.
- **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)** See above for details.
- **Domestic Violence** See above for details.
- **Preventing Terrorism** See above for details.

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 2020/21 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 2020/21, 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 2020/21

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