

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

28 JULY 2015

<p>SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME - 2015/16</p>

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is two-fold:
 - i. To inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of the work programmes proposed by each of the scrutiny panels for 2015/16.
 - ii. To consider and agree topics for examination by the Overview and Scrutiny Board over the course of the municipal year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board:
 - i. Considers the range of topics identified by the individual scrutiny panels for inclusion in 2015-16 work programmes and approves/amends these as appropriate.
 - ii. Agrees a list of topics for examination by the Board during the course of the year, with an indication of whether these should be examined by the Board, by the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel or by Task and Finish Groups.

PROPOSED SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMMES

3. Proposed topics put forward by the Council's scrutiny panels are set out below. These have been considered and agreed by each of the panels following meetings held in July 2015.

a. Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel

- Safeguarding and children in care (carried over from 2014-15)
- Comparison of how each school spends the pupil premium and why – looking at attainment, achievement and social outcomes.
- Updates on previous reviews in respect of:
 - Substance Misuse Among Parents and Carers.
 - Child Poverty, Deprivation and Attainment.
 - Early Help – Improving Outcomes for Children, Young People and Families.

- Myplace visit - to view services and facilities.
- The skills agenda - are education providers providing the qualifications and training to match the requirements of future employers and young people?

b. Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel

- Recovery from dependence - Middlesbrough's drug treatment services.
- Reoffending and rehabilitation - How does Middlesbrough fare? (including reducing first time entrants to the youth justice system and youth crime and anti-social behaviour).
- The Prevent Strategy - the local response.
- The impact of budget cuts on Neighbourhood Policing.
- Middlesbrough Retail Crime Partnership.
- Promoting physical activity - tackling child and adult obesity through leisure services.

c. Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel

- Middlehaven (carried over from 2014-15).
- Cutting of bus services/availability of bus services for commuters.
- Effects of community centre closures on children and local groups.
- Albert Road - regeneration in the context of links to Middlehaven.
- Highways issues: Update re. 20mph speed limits; traffic calming; and resurfacing/highways maintenance.
- Updates on previous reviews in respect of:
 - Gresham.
 - Acklam Hall.
 - Business and job creation.
 - Wi-fi town.

d. Environment Scrutiny Panel

- Education/enforcement - The Council's future direction.
- Low carbon economy and low carbon funding.
- Crematorium - new rules and regulations.
- Street furniture, bollards and kick rails.
- Tree policy.
- Dog fouling.

e. Health Scrutiny Panel

- Neurological Services.
- Update from South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- Health inequalities.
- Public health - annual report.
- Winter pressures/pharmacy.
- Dementia town.
- Seven day working in the NHS.

f. Social care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel

- The Care Act – an update.

- Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) provision.
- Prevention services in Adult Social Care.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

4. The committee will meet on 31 July to establish its annual work programme. In accordance with the agreed rotation procedure, the Chair for the Joint Committee for 2015/16 will be appointed by Redcar and Cleveland Council.
5. The committee's work programme will be reported to Overview & Scrutiny Board in due course.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

6. Members will be receiving information and updates on the following topics
 - IMProVE (Integrated Management and Proactive Care for the Vulnerable and Elderly).
 - Lifestore.
 - Urgent Care.

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR EXAMINATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

7. In addition to the topics that are examined by each of the scrutiny panels, further subjects are also generally examined by the Overview and Scrutiny Board throughout the year. For example, these may be cross-cutting topics that overlap the work of more than one scrutiny panel, or focus on corporate issues affecting the Council.
8. Such issues can be examined by the Board as a whole; by the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel; or (as was the case in 2014-15) by Task and Finish Groups comprising a small number of Members. In addition to undertaking the agreed work programme, scrutiny panels have also previously responded to emerging issues - such as considering relevant new legislation, guidance or Government consultation documents. This approach can result in further topics being identified for investigation or review during the year.
9. Agreed topics may be investigated as detailed scrutiny reviews over the course of several meetings, or as shorter topics over one or two meetings. Updates on scrutiny topics previously considered may also be requested.
10. OSB should also ensure that the agreed work programme is not overly ambitious so that it can be delivered within the municipal year alongside consideration of the remainder of the Board's business.
11. Scrutiny topic suggestions appropriate to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Board have been received as follows:
 - a) The town's commitment to honouring its signing of the armed forces covenant in relation to social provision.
 - b) Financial inclusion.

- c) The method for collecting unpaid council tax and the use of bailiffs. In particular the cost to the individual, the level at which action is taken and time scales from notification of arrears to formal court action.
- d) Ayresome Industries - Business model, strategic direction and opportunities for development.
- e) Tied accommodation - Management, allocation and security of tenure.
- f) Training/education for Councillors - Mandatory and voluntary (particularly with reference to equal opportunities; what constitutes bullying and harassment; media training; accreditation of training).
- g) Scrutiny on scrutiny - Purpose and Achievements.
- h) Skills audit for staff and Councillors.
- i) Verbal/physical abuse of frontline staff - Is this issue on the increase and what is the council doing to promote safety?
- j) Cross-agency and authority working - How can we work together to make service improvements?
- k) Community Councils - Expenditure; value for money; do they all operate in the same way; look at other areas and see how they do it.
- l) Council use of consultants.
- m) Establishment of a Council Access Group/Forum for people with disabilities – eg to involve them in issues such as planning procedures, new project development, campaigns to promote facilities and services for disabled people, access to paths and rights of way, provision of accessible buildings.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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