

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

2 AUGUST 2016

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME - 2016/17

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is two-fold:
 - i. To inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) of the work programmes proposed by each of the scrutiny panels for 2016/17 and for those to be approved by the Board.
 - ii. To consider and agree topics for examination by OSB 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 2016-17 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 or by the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel.

PROPOSED SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMMES

3. Proposed topics put forward by the Council's scrutiny panels are set out below. With the exception of the Health Scrutiny Panel, which at the time of writing is yet to meet, the topics have been considered and agreed by each of the panels following meetings held in July 2016.

Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel

In-depth reviews:

- a) The provision of support for family and friends carers (kinship carers).
- b) Post-16 education and the skills agenda.

Task and finish group:

- Managing school exclusions

Short topics or information sessions:

- a) School outcomes at KS1,KS2 and KS4, including how the pupil premium is utilised.
- b) Update on children's social care.
 - Ofsted improvement plan.
 - How the government will reform children's social care in England.
 - Placements - demand and costs.

Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel

- a) Street beggars - access to services/enforcement.
- b) Sextortion/sex education and healthy relationships.
- c) Domestic violence - services for children/young people.
- d) Sexual violence.
- e) Middlesbrough Council's Alcohol Strategy 2016 – 2021.
- f) Middlesbrough Recovering Together (MRT) - Change, Grow, Live.

Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel

In-depth reviews:

- a) Community Hubs (continued from 2015-16 municipal year).
- b) Linthorpe Road Regeneration.
- c) Additional topics to be identified if time permits.

Project Management:

- a) Dock bridge
- b) Town Hall refurbishment
- c) Middlesbrough Bus Station

Short topic

Potholes

Environment Scrutiny Panel

- a) Commercial opportunities within Environment, Property and Commercial Services.
- b) Future land availability for burials.
- c) Impact of Housing Growth – Joint with other panels to cover transport, GP provision and school places.
- d) District Heating for Middlesbrough Town Centre
- e) Ball game signs

Health Scrutiny Panel

4. To be confirmed at the panel's 25 July 2016 meeting. An update will be provided at the Overview & Scrutiny Board meeting.
 - a) Better Health Programme
 - b) Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 - c) South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – update
 - d) Physical condition of patients on discharge
 - e) Mental Health of Young People
 - f) Childhood Obesity

g) Urgent Care Update

Social care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel

In-depth reviews:

- a) Safeguarding vulnerable adults
- b) Supporting informal carers

Information session:

- The integration of health and social care (joint work with the Health Scrutiny Panel).

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

5. The committee will meet on 28 July to establish its annual work programme. In accordance with the agreed rotation procedure, the Chair for the Joint Committee for 2016/17 will be appointed by Middlesbrough Council.
6. The committee's work programme will be reported to Overview & Scrutiny Board in due course.

South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

7. This panel has not yet met - an update will be reported to Overview & Scrutiny Board in due course.

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR EXAMINATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

8. 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.
9. Such issues can be examined by the Board as a whole or by the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Scrutiny topic suggestions appropriate to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Board have been received as follows:
 - a) Council use of social media/social media presence.
 - b) Community cohesion in Middlesbrough.
 - c) Ensuring the Combined Authority works for Middlesbrough residents.

- d) Council Improvement Plan. (OSB need to understand and comment on this - though most of the work is being progressed through Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee the relationship needs to be understood.)
- e) Improving the engagement of elected members in the work of the Council.
- f) Financial inclusion.
- g) Verbal/physical abuse of frontline staff - Is this issue on the increase and what is the council doing to promote safety?

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Contact Officer:

Alan Crawford

Scrutiny Support Officer

Democratic Services

Telephone: 01642 729707(direct line)

e-mail: alan_crawford@middlesbrough.gov.uk