

## MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2020/2021</b></p>
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**3 September 2020**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To invite the Overview and Scrutiny Board to consider each scrutiny panel's 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 were agreed by the relevant scrutiny panel.

#### **WORKPLAN FOR 2020/2021**

5. The agreed topics for each scrutiny panel for the municipal year 2020/2021 are listed below for the Board's information:

##### Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel

##### **Items to be considered:**

- Due to continued challenges facing Local Government finance, a request has been made to assess if reductions in service budgets have impacted on the Council's Health and Safety provision; and
- A request has been made by the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee to review current processes and protocols regarding press releases that relate to ward matters and the inclusion of ward members. The Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee was advised that a Marketing and Communications delivery plan will be developed in 2020/2021, which will align the Marketing Team's work with the Council's corporate priorities.

## Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

### Full Review:

- Physical Activity for Older People (aged 65+) (carried over from 2019/2020); and
- Palliative and End of Life Care (in collaboration/liaison with the Health Scrutiny Panel).

### Short Reviews/Updates:

- Improved Support for Unpaid Carers (with links to The Recruitment and Retention of Care Workers); and
- The Impact of Coronavirus on Vulnerable Residents.

## Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

### The Panel agreed to investigate the following topics:

- Permanency and Sufficiency, linked to No Wrong Door and Perceptions of Children in Care;
- Youth Services; and
- PACE bed provision.

## Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

### Full Review:

- Behaviour, Discipline and Bullying in Schools; and
- The Impact of Covid-19 and the Attainment Gap.

### Task and Finish Group:

- The Cost of School Uniforms.

## Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

### Full Review:

- The Impact of Middlesbrough's Cultural Strategy; and
- Integrated Enforcement Team (IET).

### Updates:

- Operation Phoenix/Domestic Abuse Support;
- Regulation of Investigative Powers Act (RIPA);
- Preventing Terrorism;
- Community Safety Partnership; and
- Selective Landlord Licensing.

## Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

### Full Review:

- Town-wide Regeneration Post-Covid-19.

### Short Reviews/Updates:

- Good Management of Trees/Tree Policy;
- Parking on Grassed Verges;
- Update on the Review of the Local Plan;
- Update from Boro Youth Climate Action Team;
- Liveable Streets;
- Broadband; and
- Pest Control.

The Panel also intends to complete two outstanding investigations: Teesside Crematorium; and Recycling and Waste Management, as well as receive updates on Air Quality and Flood Risk, which were postponed due to the pandemic lockdown. All items were scheduled in last year's work programme.

## Health Scrutiny Panel

### Full Review:

- Opioid Dependency: An emerging issue (carried over from 2019/2020);
- Inclusive Growth – Alignment of Town Regeneration and Health Goals; and
- The First 1001 Days.

### Short Review:

- PFI Scheme at The James Cook University Hospital.

6. The topics and updates outlined above have been agreed by the individual panels. When considering the work programme, the panel was advised to select topics that were of interest to it, as well as topics that the panel felt by considering, could add value to the Local Authority's work.
7. 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.
8. On occasion, the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel may also be established throughout the year to undertake additional investigations - to examine areas of work which overlap more than one scrutiny panel, for example. As noted previously at paragraph five, two topical suggestions have been made for the Board to consider.

9. Scrutiny panels are 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 to name a few.

### **Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid**

10. In deciding their work programme, panels may have used 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 REPORT**

11. The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and agree individual panel work programmes for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.
12. When considering the work programme, the Board 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.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

13. That, in respect of the scrutiny work programme for 2020/2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Board:
1. Approves the inclusion of those topics put forward by the scrutiny panels; and
  2. Agrees the topics that will be reviewed/investigated by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

14. Scrutiny panel work programme reports 2020/2021.

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# APPENDIX 1

