

## PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL

<b>Date:</b> Thursday 17th July, 2025 <b>Time:</b> 4.30 pm <b>Venue:</b> Mandela Room
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## AGENDA

1. Welcome and Fire Evacuation Procedure

In the event the fire alarm sounds attendees will be advised to evacuate the building via the nearest fire exit and assemble at the Bottle of Notes opposite MIMA.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. Minutes - Place Scrutiny Panel - 30 June 2025 3 - 6

5. Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2025-2026 7 - 18

Recommendation: The Scrutiny Panel considers its work programme for the 2025-2026 Municipal Year and selects up to three topics for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting - 29 September 2025

7. Proposed Schedule of Meeting Dates 2025-2026 19 - 20

Recommendation: The Panel is asked to consider the proposed schedule of meeting dates for the Municipal Year 2025-2026 and to agree a finalised schedule.

8. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall  
Middlesbrough  
Wednesday 9 July 2025

### MEMBERSHIP

Councillors D Branson (Chair), T Livingstone (Vice-Chair), C Cooper, D Coupe, J Ewan, D Jackson, J Kabuye, L Lewis and T Mohan

### **Assistance in accessing information**

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Joanne McNally 01642 728329/Sue Lightwing 01642 729712, 01642 728329/01642 729712, [joanne\\_mcnally@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:joanne_mcnally@middlesbrough.gov.uk); [sue\\_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:sue_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

## PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel was held on Monday 30 June 2025.

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Branson (Chair), T Livingstone (Vice-Chair), D Coupe, J Ewan, D Jackson, J Kabuye and T Mohan

**OFFICERS:** G Field, R Horniman, S Lightwing and J McNally

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were submitted on behalf of Councillor L Lewis

### 25/1 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the Fire Evacuation Procedure.

### 25/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

### 25/3 **MINUTES - PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL - 29 APRIL 2025**

The minutes of the Place Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 29 April 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### 25/4 **OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AREAS**

The Director of Regeneration and the Director of Environment and Community Services, were in attendance at the meeting and provided the Panel with an overview of the services provided across their respective Directorates, highlighting priorities and challenges for the next year.

The Director of Environment stated that the Directorate is committed to deliver services and policies that meet the Council's strategic vision.

*The Council's vision for Middlesbrough is a thriving, healthier, safer and more ambitious place where people want to live, work, invest, and visit. We will support our residents to live fulfilling lives, to ensure that our communities thrive.*

The Environment and Community Services Directorate consisted of five elements:

- Environment Services
- Highways and Infrastructure
- Neighborhood
- Public Protection
- North East Migration Partnership

The Environment Services department was responsible for:

- Waste Disposal (responsible for day to day management of waste disposal contract for Cleveland authorities)
- Waste collection
- Open space Management
- Newham Grange Leisure Farm
- Parks management
- Bereavement Services
- School catering
- School cleaning
- Green agenda
- Pest control

The Director stated that food waste collection would be taking effect shortly which is a Government initiative across all local authorities and not specific to Middlesbrough.

A Member asked a question on the poor rates of recycling in Middlesbrough, the Director advised that Waste Education Officers were to be employed to assist in increasing the rates of recycling across the town. It was suggested that the Waste Policy could be reviewed to include “no more side waste”. The Director stated that more education was needed and that the Council need to provide all facilities to recycle to make recycling as easy as possible.

The Member requested that the Director provide ward specific data on recycling rates.

The Neighbourhood Services department was responsible for:

- Community Safety Partnership
- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Strategy
- Prevent and Contest responsibilities
- Neighbourhood Management
- Community development
- CCTV
- Street Wardens
- Environment Enforcement
- Libraries
- Community Hubs
- Area Care
- Tree Management

The Director advised that the Neighbourhood Management model was working well, organisations were working collaboratively and building relationships with the local communities.

A Member asked whether the Director had explored the use of AI CCTV the Director explained that there was a need to be cautious around AI due to legislation.

The Highways and Infrastructure department was responsible for:

- Strategic highways
- Highways repair and maintenance
- Responsibility for bridges and structures
- Flood management
- Emergency highways management
- Rights of way management
- Integrated transport management (Children & Adults)
- Car parking (strategy)
- Street lighting
- Traffic signal management for Cleveland Authorities
- Management of Urban Transport System
- Highway laboratory for Cleveland

The Director explained that the department was also responsible for Fleet Management which included:

- Management of Council's Operator License
- Fleet Strategy
- Fleet Maintenance
- Fleet hire

Members heard that the directorate was also responsible for the North East Migration Partnership and was the lead in the region for asylum and migration. The authority does not make decisions on the numbers, purchasing or procuring properties this was down to Central Government. The department is working closely with Centra Government on the asylum dispersal system and other asylum schemes that effect the UK and the North East.

A Member suggested that it would be beneficial for an all Member Briefing to be held to detail the work of the North East Migration Service.

The Public Protection department was responsible for:

- Trading Standards
- Environmental Health
- Food Standards
- Taxi Licensing
- Gambling Policy
- Licensing Policy
- Selective Landlord Licensing
- Noise control
- Air Quality
- Metrology Labs

Members were advised of the following priorities for the directorate:

- Support and enhance the Council's Transformation Program by introducing and developing neighbourhood working
- Community Safety Plan and Partnership implementation to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Increase cleanliness and the town and its physical environment
- Develop and implement the Green Strategy
- Tender for main waste disposal for post 2025/26
- Reduce environmental crime
- Reduce crime and antisocial behaviour
- Maintain a robust approach with regard to Trading Standards and Public Protection issues
- Deliver significant capital project in highways.

The Regeneration Directorate consisted of five elements:

- Growth and Assets - Economic development, town centre, capital projects, design services, asset management, commercial property
- Housing - Housing growth, housing supply
- Culture - Venues, museums, archives, events, sector development
- Community Learning - Apprenticeships, Learning for Inclusion, ESOL
- Marketing and Comms – External comms and internal comms

The Marketing and Communications Team was also included within the Directorate, but the Head of Service reported directly to the Chief Executive.

The priorities for the Regeneration Directorate were as follows:

- Transforming the Town Centre
- Development of a new community at Middlehaven
- Rebalancing the role as a landlord
- Addressing Council accommodation issues
- Accelerating housing growth
- Aligning housing demands and housing supply
- Commercialising cultural venues
- Revamping the museum offer
- Growing the role of events

The Director of Regeneration advised Members of current projects within the Regeneration Directorate which included:

- Central Library
- Old Town Hall
- Southlands
- Newham Hall
- Hemlington Grange
- Hemlington Grange South
- Hemlington Grange West

- Hemlington North
- Former St David's School Site
- Nunthorpe Community Centre

The key challenges currently for the Regeneration Directorate were:

- Town Centre ASB
- Mayoral Development Corporation
- Difficult office market
- Retail decline
- Empty properties
- Construction costs v property values
- Nutrient neutrality and Biodiversity Net Gain
- Dwindling resources – capital & revenue
- Commercialising cultural venues
- Aging property portfolio with increasing risks

It was advised that the biggest issue for Middlesbrough in terms of regeneration currently was anti-social behaviour (ASB). Tenants in corporate and commercial buildings were raising this as a barrier to investment, with companies saying they would leave or not invest in Middlesbrough as a result of ASB. In relation to ASB there were a number of businesses or organisations, particularly based around Centre Square who were suffering. They were working together to combine their security resources to make a more effective team.

Another issue was the cost of construction was disproportionately higher than the value of buildings once they were completed. As a result, commercial and private developers would not invest without gap funding from the public sector.

Nutrient Neutrality was another issue which was slowing down house building.

Members asked questions in relation to ASB, a greener town centre, decline in retail and café culture and the Director provided answers accordingly.

The Chair thanked the Director of Environment and Community Services and the Director of Regeneration for their presentations.

**AGREED** that the information provided was received and noted.

**25/5 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel was scheduled for Thursday 17 July 2025 at 4.30 pm.

**25/6 MEETING DATES 2025/2026**

A discussion took place regarding the future dates for the Place Scrutiny Panel, Members agreed to hold the meetings on a Monday at 1.30pm. It was agreed that the Democratic Services Officer would circulate a list of potential dates to Panel Members.

**25/7 ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

None.

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Democratic Services
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Place Scrutiny Panel
<b>Date:</b>	17 July 2025
<b>Title:</b>	Setting the Work Programme 2025-2026, for the Place Scrutiny Panel
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
<b>Key decision:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Subject to call in?</b>	Not applicable
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That the Place Scrutiny Panel consider and agree its work programme for the 2025/2026 municipal year. Once agreed, the work programme will be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Board, for approval.

<b>Executive summary</b>
<p>The Place Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider its work programme for the 2025/2026 municipal year.</p> <p>The primary function of a Scrutiny Panel is to influence the policies and decisions of the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services. It does this by gathering evidence on issues that affect local residents and making informed recommendations based on its findings.</p> <p>Work programmes provide structure to the activity of the scrutiny panel and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work. The Panel is asked to select two Scrutiny</p>

Investigation Topics and note the standard agenda items for updates throughout the municipal year.

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 an influence.
- Are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or Scrutiny Panels have considered during the last 12 months.
- Do not relate to an individual service complaint.
- Do not replate matters dealt with by another Council Committee unless the issue deals with procedure.

## 1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions.

1.1 Managing an effective work programme is essential to the success of scrutiny panels, as it assists with planning and managing the workload, focussing on the Council's ambitions and aims to assist with maximising impact on the Council's performance and outcomes for residents.

1.2 Scrutiny ensures that the decisions taken by the Council and its partners are appropriate. It creates an open, transparent way for members to shape, question, evaluate and challenge policies, decisions, and performance.

1.3 Scrutiny investigations are usually carried out over the course of several meetings, which consider information from relevant sources and examine current policies and practices. At the end of the exercise, a report is prepared which summarises the scrutiny panel's findings and puts forward recommendations.

1.4 The purpose of the report is to agree a work programme for the Place Scrutiny Panel, ensuring Scrutiny Investigation Topics and standard updates support the delivery of the ambitions of the Middlesbrough Council Plan 2024-27:

<b>Our ambitions</b>	<b>Aims</b>
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- attract and grow businesses to increase employment opportunities.</li> <li>- Improve attainment in education and skills.</li> <li>- Ensure housing provision meets local demand</li> </ul>
<b>A healthy Place</b>	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities.</li> <li>- protect and improve our environment.</li> <li>- promote inclusivity for all.</li> <li>- reduce poverty</li> </ul>
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- support adults to be independent for longer.</li> <li>- improve transport and digital connectivity.</li> <li>- promote new ideas and community initiatives.</li> </ul>



	- <i>reduce crime and anti-social behaviour</i>
<b>Delivering best value</b>	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>ensure robust and effective corporate governance.</i></li> <li>- <i>set a balanced revenue budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan to restore financial resilience and sustainability</i></li> </ul>

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Place Scrutiny Panel agrees a Work Programme, for approval by Overview and Scrutiny Board by;

1. Noting the standard updates / presentations that will be scheduled throughout the municipal year.
2. Selecting two Scrutiny Investigation Topics, taking into consideration the suggestions from stakeholders and additional suggestions from panel members.

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 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.

## 4. Background and relevant information

4.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 19 March 2025, a new structure for scrutiny arrangements in Middlesbrough was agreed. As a consequence, Middlesbrough Council now operates three Scrutiny Panels for 2025/2026 in addition to its Overview and Scrutiny Board:

- Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel
- Children's Services Scrutiny Panel
- Place Scrutiny Panel

4.2 Topics considered by the Place Scrutiny Panel in 2024-2025 are listed below for Member's information.

## **Scrutiny Investigation Topics**

<b>Completed</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Not Started</b>
Home to School Transport  Empty Properties  Bereavement services and future planning for cemeteries and cremations	Barriers to Regeneration	

## **Updates / Presentations**

<b>Place Panel Remit:</b>
Flood Risk Management
Toxic Chemicals in the River Tees/Crustacean Working Group
RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers) (Annual update)
Community Safety Partnership (Annual update)
Prevent and Channel (Annual update)

4.3 At the start of every Municipal Year, Scrutiny Panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year. The Panel is asked to select topics for two Scrutiny Investigations and to note the standard updates that will be scheduled as part of the Work Programme.

4.4 As part of the process for establishing the panel's work programme, Democratic Services gather information and views from a number of sources. Following an annual consultation exercise which ran between 3 April 2025 and 9 May 2025, several topics were suggested by Councillors, residents, officers, and other stakeholders which are listed in Appendix 1. Members are advised that the list is not exhaustive and that additional topics can be added and considered at the scrutiny panel meeting.

4.5 When considering topics for the work programme, Members need to consider the following to prioritise issues where scrutiny can make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development:

- Does the issue affect a majority of the population of Middlesbrough or specific area?
- Is the issue strategic and significant
- Will the scrutiny activity add value to the Council's overall performance?
- Is it likely to lead to effective outcomes?
- Will it be duplicating some other work?
- Is it an issue of concern to partners and others?
- Is it an issue of community concern?
- Are there adequate resources to do the activity well?

- Is the scrutiny activity timely?

4.6 In addition to the selected Scrutiny Investigation Topics, Panel Members are asked to note the following agenda items which will be scheduled for updates, throughout the municipal year:

	Update
1	Performance Data
2	Flood Risk Management
3	RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers) (Annual update)
4	Community Safety Partnership (Annual update)
5	Prevent and Channel (Annual update)

#### 5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

Ward Members were invited to submit topic suggestions as part of the consultation.

#### 6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

No other alternatives are put forward as part of the report.

#### 7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	Details of Financial impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Legal	Details of Legal impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Risk	Details of Risk impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	Details of Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Reducing Poverty	Details of Reducing Poverty impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Climate Change / Environmental	Details of Climate Change / Environmental impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Details of Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Data Protection	Details of Data Protection impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.

#### Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
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Approved recommendations to be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Board	Democratic Services Officer	21 July 2025
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## Appendices

1	Suggested Scrutiny Topics for 2025/26
2	
3	

## Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

**Contact:** Joanne McNally  
**Email:** [joanne\\_mcnally@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:joanne_mcnally@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1 – Suggested Scrutiny Topics for 2025/2026

Ref	Suggested Scrutiny Investigation Topic	Source	Council Plan 2024-2027, Ambition and Aim
1	<b><u>Issue of Pigeons and Seagulls</u></b> There's a big problem across the town centre and wider area regarding excrement, this in turn, can affect people's health. I feel that some businesses residents, and landlords are disregarding their responsibilities.	Councillor	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>protect and improve our environment.</i>
2	<b><u>Commemorating Middlesbrough's Bicentenary in 2030</u></b> The Culture team are making preparations for a series of events celebrating the bicentenary of Middlesbrough in 2030.	Officer	<b>Safe and Resilient Communities</b> - <i>promote new ideas and community initiatives.</i>
3	<b><u>Impact of the Mayoral Development Corporation</u></b> The Middlesbrough Development Corporation has been in operation for three years now and is now progressing a number of investments.	Officer	<b>A successful and ambitious town</b> - <i>attract and grow businesses to increase employment opportunities.</i> <b>A successful and ambitious town</b> – <i>Ensure housing provision meets local demand</i>
4	<b><u>Investment Zones</u></b> The Government backed Investment Zone programme covers Middlesbrough Town Centre and plans are being developed for this by TVCA / Middlesbrough Development Corporation.	Officer	<b>A successful and ambitious town</b> - <i>attract and grow businesses to increase employment opportunities.</i>
5	<b><u>Improving Private Landlords Standards</u></b> The Council is looking at developing a new approach to improving private landlord standards and is looking at best practice from other authorities.	Officer	<b>A successful and ambitious town</b> – <i>Ensure housing provision meets local demand</i>
6	<b><u>The Council's role in housing</u></b> The Council has just re-established a senior role to lead the strategic direction of housing in Middlesbrough, and will be looking at prioritising where it can make an impact.	Officer	<b>A successful and ambitious town</b> – <i>Ensure housing provision meets local demand</i>

7	<b><u>Housing Strategy Formulation</u></b>	Officer	<b>A successful and ambitious town –</b> <i>Ensure housing provision meets local demand</i>
9	<b><u>Development of a Vision for the Town</u></b>	Officer	<b>A successful and ambitious town -</b> <i>attract and grow businesses to increase employment opportunities.</i>
10	<b><u>Regulation</u></b> How regulation is delivered in the different service areas across the council. This could include an overview of national policy and guidance and the range of approaches used to achieve compliance within Public Protection, Community Safety (Marion's area), possibly Traffic Regulation and Planning and building control.	Officer	<b>A Healthy Place –</b> <i>protect and improve our environment.</i>
11	<b><u>Neighbourhoods</u></b>	Officer	<b>A Healthy Place –</b> <i>Protect and improve our environment.</i> <b>A successful and ambitious town –</b> <i>Ensure housing provision meets local demand</i>
12	<b><u>Pavement Parking</u></b> I am writing to ask that the scrutiny panel discuss a resolution to the increase in pavement parking. It's completely out of control. It's making using pavements impossible and is dangerous for pedestrians, especially wheelchair users and prams. Vehicles are often fully parked over pavements and more often than not parked over dropped kerbs making getting about as a wheelchair users incredibly difficult. It's also breaking paving slabs and now the council is implementing tarmac to replace them it signals that pavements are even	Resident	<b>A Healthy Place –</b> <i>protect and improve our environment.</i>

	more available to drivers. We need a robust approach to stop this. Thank you.		
13	<p><b>Review of Selective Landlord Licensing</b>  <i>Selective Landlord Licensing North Ormesby Scheme Evaluation Report 2020.</i></p> <p>After reviewing the subject report and its appendices, I am increasingly convinced that a more thorough and up to date examination of the Selective Landlord Licensing North Ormesby Scheme is essential. I believe it is crucial to update the assessment of the scheme and question several of the findings and conclusions from the 2020 report.</p> <p>The last review of the situation was conducted in 2020, with many assessments dating back even further, such as internal property inspections from 2015/2016. Since then, North Ormesby has experienced a dramatic rise in the number of private landlords and short-term transient residents including a large contingent of non-British tenants. This influx has significantly impacted the area's social fabric, leading to growing tensions between long-term residents and newcomers, many of whom are foreign nationals.</p> <p>As reflected in the Council's report, these issues have resulted in several negative outcomes that the council already accept are inevitable consequences, using the council's own assessment:</p> <p>i. Increased Anti-Social Behaviour: There has been a surge in environmental and social anti-social behaviour, including large-scale rubbish and litter dumping, particularly in alleyways. Numerous images document this issue (sample attached).</p> <p>ii. Rising Criminal Activities: There has been a noticeable increase in various crimes, including drug and alcohol abuse, violent crime, theft, burglaries, and vehicle-related offenses.</p>	Resident	<b>A successful and ambitious town – Ensure housing provision meets local demand</b>

	<p>iii. Safety Concerns Among Residents: Long-term residents increasingly report feeling unsafe, particularly with large groups of Romany men congregating late into the night, leaving behind additional rubbish (see sample images attached).</p> <p>iv. Growing Racial Tensions: There is a rise in racial tensions and growing mistrust between different cultural groups, leading to a decline in social cohesion and community morale. Attendance at Community Council meetings is very low, with fewer than 10 participants out of a population of 3,200.</p> <p>v. Decreased Property Values and Sense of Hopelessness: Many residents feel trapped, wanting to move but unable to due to stagnant property prices. This situation benefits private landlords and contributes to a decrease in owner-occupiers, with many residents reluctantly accepting lower property values just to escape. The Council's optimistic projections about property price increases are met with scepticism and derision by the residents.</p> <p>vi. Unregulated Property Management: Such is the rush to get onboard the gravy train, there has been a surge in what can only be described as "cowboy builders," this is evident by the mess left by their construction activities, including plaster and cement poured down street drains or across roads and pavements, external paint spills , rubble and other construction waste surreptitiously rammed into what should be resident's communal bins or simply tossed int the alleys, there is also evidence of hazardous waste (asbestos) being dumped into alleys etc. This raises concerns about unregulated building practices and inadequate maintenance of rented properties, which often pose significant safety risks. Numerous photographs documenting these issues have been previously submitted to the council. All this is happening at a pace right</p>		
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<p>across North Ormesby without any apparent building control by the council.</p> <p>I would like to challenge several of the findings and conclusions presented in the 2020 report. The report seems to overlook how COVID-19 might have distorted the so-called “improvements” it highlights. While it optimistically mentions rising property prices, these increases are minimal and have not kept pace with other areas. The report praises a decrease in resident turnover as a positive sign, yet it simultaneously describes residents as having “limited choice” and suggests they are not inclined to move—akin to depicting a caged bird as content in its environment.</p> <p>Furthermore, as long-term residents are increasingly displaced by non-British tenants, the new residents may be less likely to voice complaints or move away. The 2020 report appears to emphasise the perceived benefits of the SLL scheme, yet it acknowledges that:</p> <p><i>“The North Ormesby ward remains one of the most deprived in the country based on low income levels, low educational attainment, poor health outcomes, and crime. North Ormesby has the second highest rate of crime and anti-social behaviour out of all Middlesbrough wards.”</i></p> <p>The resident survey from December 2023 indicates that satisfaction levels have declined since the 2017 survey and fall below the national benchmark. While the SLL scheme may have brought about some marginal improvements, these changes are occurring from an extremely low baseline, and the report cannot hide the reality.</p> <p>Given that the Council asserts that <i>“strategies and plans must be evidence-based to effectively address the challenges facing Middlesbrough and maximise opportunities,”</i> it is crucial for the Council to conduct a more current and thorough scrutiny of the SLL scheme, especially considering the</p>		
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	<p>significant changes North Ormesby is increasingly undergoing.</p> <p>I therefore strongly urge that the council reconsider their scrutiny programme 2024/2025 and include a more up to date review of the SLL Scheme and its current impact on North Ormesby.</p>		
14	<p><b><u>Recycling Exclusions (Terraced Properties)</u></b></p> <p>Please could you look into why people who live in some of the terraced housing in the borough get excluded from the recycling bins and wheelie bins and will now be excluded from the food recycling. Big communal bins in back alleys lead to more crime, rats and clean up for the bin men who often have to return the day after bin collection day to clean up the back alley. This can't be value for money.</p>	Resident	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>protect and improve our environment.</i>
15	<p><b><u>Conservation Area Policy</u></b></p> <p>Is the conservation area policy affordable for families – and is the council being so inflexible in its approach that some families are being priced out of updating their homes with safe and secure doors, windows etc?</p>	Councillor	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>promote inclusivity for all.</i>
16	<p><b><u>Tree Policy</u></b></p>	Councillor	<b>A Healthy Place</b> – <i>protect and improve our environment</i>

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL****PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL****17 July 2025****PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE  
2025/2026 MUNICIPAL YEAR****PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To agree the proposed schedule of meeting dates, for the Place Scrutiny Panel, for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Monday 29 September 2025	1.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 27 October 2025	1.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 17 November 2025	1.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 22 December 2025	1.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 26 January 2026	1.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 16 February 2026	1.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 23 March 2026	1.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 27 April 2026	1.30 pm	Mandela Room

**COUNCILLOR D BRANSON****CHAIR OF THE PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL****Contact Officers:**

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