

## CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

<b>Date:</b> Thursday 15th July, 2021
<b>Time:</b> 1.00 pm
<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes - Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel - 15 April 2021 3 - 6
4. Overview of Service Areas 7 - 14  
Geoff Field, Director of Environment and Commercial Services, and Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration and Culture, will be in attendance to provide an overview of their service areas.
5. Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2021/2022 15 - 22
6. Proposed Meeting Schedule - 2021/2022 Municipal Year 23 - 24
7. 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 7 July 2021

**MEMBERSHIP**

Councillors C McIntyre (Chair), G Wilson (Vice-Chair), R Arundale, S Dean, C Dodds, L Lewis, L Mason, D McCabe and J Rostron

**Assistance in accessing information**

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Susie Blood, (01642) 729645, [Susie\\_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:Susie_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

**CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL**

A meeting of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday 15 April 2021.

**PRESENT:** Councillors , L Lewis (Vice-Chair), R Arundale, B Cooper, C Dodds, L Mason, J Rostron, J Thompson and J Walker

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillors

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

**OFFICERS:** S Bonner, A Johnstone and P Stephens

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors C McIntyre

20/30 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest received at this point in the meeting.

20/31 **MINUTES - CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - 18 FEBRUARY 2021**

The minutes of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel held on 18 February 2020 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

20/32 **OPERATION PHOENIX - UPDATE**

The Chair welcomed Superintendent Mark Anderson and Sergeant Brian McCarthy to the meeting and invited them to provide their update on Operation Phoenix.

Superintendent Anderson explained he was responsible for Local Policing south having responsibility for neighbourhood teams in Middlesbrough and Redcar as well as the response teams in those areas.

As part of the presentation the following points were made:

- The operation was ran between 6 July and 25 September but due to its successes the operation was extended to the 30th October.
- The operation was put into place due to high demand over the summer period and to target vulnerable people in the community and to improve public confidence.
- The operation saw over 300 arrests as well as the seizure of half a million pounds worth of drugs and 124 vehicles.
- The operation also saw 114 deployments of the domestic abuse car that provided support to vulnerable people who were victims of domestic abuse.
- The background of the operation stemmed from the outcome of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary that identified a need for improvement around demand and placing resources where they were needed.
- Improvements were also identified around problem solving, prevention and engagement with the community to resolve issues speedily.
- Operation phoenix was first conceived in 2019 but and its successes led to its extension and the focus on proactive responses to policing.
- The Police control room could receive up to a thousand calls per day and the actions as part of Operation Phoenix helped to sort those called in the most appropriate manner.
- The operation was broken down into three main strands; crime investigation vulnerability; and proactivity.
- There were several performance measures used to monitor the operation's outputs, both operational and financial.
- The operation also relied on letting other key partners, such as Local Authorities, know what progress the operation had made.

- The operation also had a dedicated communications plan that helped to illustrate the work carried out across the Cleveland area.
- In terms of vulnerability there was a need to address the back log of outstanding arrests and this resulted in putting additional resources into sex offender visits and domestic violence incidents, after which the appropriate measures could be put in place to protect victims.
- The protection of vulnerable people was achieved through three teams; the domestic abuse team; the child exploitation team; and the child abuse team.
- By using an intelligence-led proactive response the operation helped to reduce workloads improve public confidence
- Development of the operation's priorities and objective as achieved via a research and risk based approach. This allowed for a greater understanding of how to target offenders and allocation of appropriate resources.
- The operation's objectives were measured quantitatively which were in turn informed by arrest numbers and victim engagement.
- Specific initiatives included the deployment of a domestic abuse car that allowed for additional support for victims.
- The Police also engaged an external company to identify and review vulnerability vacancies.
- Until the end of July the operation would also see an officer going out with an independent domestic violence advocate which would offer support. There was also ongoing work to try and install an independent domestic violence advocate in the control room as well as the creation of a vulnerability desk which would better asset front line officers responding to domestic violence incidents.
- From a crime perspective there was a need to complete outstanding work both from an arrests perspective suspects. This was measured by a reduction in live crimes and in reducing the workload of officers which helped improve responsiveness.
- There were also four key objectives that were part of the operation; to increase capacity of stop searches; to identify OCGs; to reduce the amount of firearms or prohibited weapons; and anti-social behaviour.
- In terms of proactivity success was measured via persons arrested and outstanding suspect's criminal offences. Success included 34 drug warrants and 256 arrests as well as drug recoveries in the region of half a million pounds.
- The operation had allowed many reports of crimes to be screened and handled when entering the control room with 233 crimes being screened at this point and finalised with no further line of enquiry
- Building public confidence was also a key feature of the operation. To do this the police used corporate communications to transmit messages and increase engagement about incidents. For example, an incident in North Ormesby received 10,000 interactions. Overall there were over 300,000 interactions across the operation's spectrum and 59 pieces of coverage sent out to the public.
- Overall the operation had led to increased resource to target specific crimes that had led to a reduction in case back-log. Operation Phoenix also informed other operations such as endurance and operation Impact which aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour.

A Member queried if operation phoenix was initiated by the recently appointed Chief Constable and it was confirmed that the operation started in 2019 and highlighted further need for resources which led to the operation's extension.

A Member queried if anything could be done about the backlog of calls made to 101 and the length of time it takes to reach an operator as this led to frustrations from residents.

It was confirmed that the issues with the 101 number had been identified and Operation Phoenix aimed to address those issues by increasing resources, especially in control rooms, by up to 20 staff members. It was also confirmed that where Neighbourhood Teams received reports of anti-social behaviour those reports were reviewed and call-backs are made where appropriate. It was also confirmed that, while separate from Operation Phoenix, a Covid specific function had been created so that Covid specific issues, such as Covid breaches, could be responded to.

At this point in the meeting a Member was advised that, as a candidate in the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner elections, they should refrain from commenting on this agenda item and that a declaration of interest should be made. The Member subsequently

declared their candidacy to the Committee.

It was queried if residents could report crime through the Crime Stoppers service and if this would be fed into general intelligence gathering processes as described in the presentation. It was confirmed that this was the case.

A Member queried if the Police had experienced a change in the nature of crime during the Covid Pandemic.

It was clarified that since the end of February 2021 there had been a 14% reduction in crime with publically reported crime reducing by 17% with significant decreases in acquisitive crime such as burglary and shoplifting which could be attributed to Covid restrictions.

It was also queried what work was carried out with regard to knife crime in Middlesbrough. It was clarified there were measures in place to identify repeat knife carriers with work carried out with those individuals by Neighbourhood Teams.

A discussion took place around how drug crime was being addressed in Middlesbrough. It was clarified that there was a concerted, joined-up approach to tackling drug crime in the town which was led primarily by the Chief Constable. Members were advised to report any incidents of this nature through the usual channels of crime reporting.

A discussion too place regarding the criminal justice system during which it was clarified the Police were responsible for bringing offenders before the courts. The mechanisms of the courts fell outside Police's jurisdiction.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance.

**ORDERED:** That the information presented to the Panel be noted.

20/33

## **REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT (RIPA) - UPDATE**

The Chair welcomed the Head of Strategy and Information to the meeting who presented information about Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) and made the following points:

- RIPA legislation governed the use of covert surveillance techniques used by public authorities, including Councils, to detect crime.
- There were three types of covert surveillance; directed surveillance; covert human intelligence and Intrusive Surveillance. Local Authorities were not permitted to use the latter.
- There were criteria to follow when applications for RIPA use were made namely, custodial sentences of six months or more or the sale of tobacco and alcohol.
- There was a robust internal process in place for RIPA authorisations which included three authorising officers.
- Operationally RIPA operations were only put in place as a last resort, and stopped when sufficient evidence was gathered, although there were options for renewal.
- RIPA was not used often, with only a small number of operations taking place within the last four years.
- RIPA processes were inspected externally. At the Council's last inspection the feedback praised its records management and the system used to monitor RIPA authorisations. The full report will be provided to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee at its next meeting.
- A new RIPA was being developed that would look to include RIPA operations into crimes that did not meet the threshold.
- The revised RIPA policy would also look to address issues surrounding CCTV which would in turn touch on the Council's CCTV code of practice.
- Ultimately very little about operational matters relating to RIPA as this were confidential.

A Member queried if there was scope to expand the remit of RIPA as this may assist in capturing more crime and disorder. However it was clarified that the use of RIPA needed to be within the confines of the law. RIPA operations needed to be carried out proportionally.

A Member queried if, in the course of using RIPA, signage is used to alert people to the fact that CCTV camera were in use. It was clarified that consistent signage would be created as

part of the revised RIPA policy.

The Chair thanked the officers for their presentation.

**ORDERED:** That the information presented to the Panel be noted.

20/34 **NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SERVICE REVIEW - DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Democratic Services Officer advised the panel that, after receiving suggestions from Members the Warden Service review should encompass the following draft Terms of Reference:

1. To examine the impact the Neighborhood Warden Service has had since its expansion.
2. To understand how Middlesbrough's Neighborhood Warden Service compares to similar services.

**AGREED:** That the Draft Terms of Reference presented to the Panel be used to define the Warden Service Review.

20/35 **CHAIR'S OSB UPDATE**

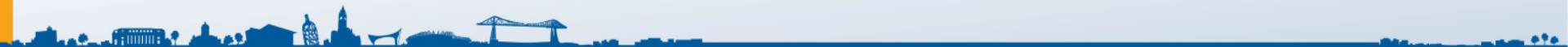
The Chair advised the Panel that at the last meeting of OSB the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health provided an update on the Council's continuing response and recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Executive Member for Communities and Education also provided an update on their portfolio as well as receiving an update on progress against the Strategic Plan and Revenue Capital Budgets at Quarter 3.

**ORDERED:** That the information provided be noted.

20/36 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

None.

# Culture and Communities Scrutiny 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021



# Regeneration and Culture

- Regeneration (for context)
  - Economic Growth
  - Infrastructure
  - Planning
  - Capital Projects
  - Design Services
  - Housing



# Culture

- Venues
  - Town Hall, Theatre, Newham Grange Leisure Farm

Page 9

## Museums

- Dorman Museum, Captain Cook Museum
- Parks and Open Spaces
  - Stewart Park, Albert Park etc.

# Culture

- Events
  - Orange Pip, Christmas, Mela, Discover Middlesbrough etc.
- Sport and Leisure
  - SLM contract management, playing field provision etc.
- Teesside Archives
- Arts Development
  - Arts and music projects

# Impact of Covid 19

- Town Hall and Theatre closed for over 12 months, and uncertainty still exists over future programme
- All other venues in similar position, but fewer future programme issues
- No events have taken place
- May take time to build up public confidence in attending large gatherings

# 2021/22 Priorities

- Returning audiences safely
- Retaining customer interest
- Restarting events
- Working around the threat posed by the Globe
- Financial sustainability of the Town Hall
- Moving Teesside Archives
- 2022/23 events programme

# Questions?

Page 13

This page is intentionally left blank

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**  
**CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL**

**Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme  
2021/22**

**15 July 2021**

**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 2020/21**

- Social Cohesion- Scheduled for Executive on 13 July 2021

**Topic carried over from 2020/21**

- Cultural events in Middlesbrough– at the panel's meeting on 7 January 2021 and 21 January 2021, evidence was received in relation to Cultural events but also British Esports Association provided information. A report will be drawn up in the next few months and circulated for approval.

**Topics agreed in 2020/21, which have not been investigated**

- Neighbourhood warden service – following a presentation on 18 February 2021, the panel were provided with some draft terms of reference to investigate the Neighbourhood warden service. The Panel may like to readdress this or look the wider policing polices within Middlesbrough to combat anti-social behaviour.

## Topical and local Issues

Topic	Details
<p>Integrated Enforcement Team and Anti-Social Behaviour.</p>	<p>One of the Mayor’s cornerstone pledges was to tackle anti-social behaviour, which appears to be a problem in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>The Council’s Strategic priority SR11 looks to improving community life, working with local residents to ensure that all adults and children and young people feel safer and happier with the place that they live, and to reduce loneliness and social isolation.</p> <p>There have been a number of initiatives launched to try and tackle anti-social behaviour, including the expansion of the Street Warden Service, and the introduction of the Public Space Protection Order and a revamp of the community safety plan (due to be considered by the Executive on 13 July 2021).</p> <p>The Panel may want to examine how such initiatives have addressed anti-social behaviour in the Town and examine good practice in terms of addressing this further.</p>
<p>Impact of COVID-19 on Cultural Venues.</p>	<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 as well as looking at the recovery plan set in place.</p>
<p>Tees Valley City of Culture bid 2025.</p>	<p>The Council’s Strategic priority under social regeneration (SR12) outlined that the Council will be developing a new Culture Strategy for the town, investing in our museums and other cultural assets, and leading the Tees Valley’s 2025 UK City of Culture bid.</p> <p>Middlesbrough has also entered the Civic Honours competition as part of celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022, which will mean Middlesbrough will be</p>



	<p>crowned with City Status. The Civic Honours competition aims to provide local authorities with the chance to showcase their civic pride, interesting heritage and record of innovation - putting their hometowns on the map and bringing greater prosperity of opportunity.</p> <p>The Panel may like to have further information on the Strategy and how this will impact the town as well as learning more about how Middlesbrough intend to apply for the city status.</p>
The Domestic Abuse Act 2021	<p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 became law on 29 April 2021. The Act includes a new statutory duty on Local authorities to deliver accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse (Tier one to deliver services and Tier 2 to collaborate).</p> <p>What is the Local Authority doing to meet these new demands made by the Act and how are they working with partners to ensure the aims of the Act are delivered?</p>

### **Review Topic Suggestions**

<b>Suggestion</b>	<b>Details</b>
<p><b>Communities</b></p> <p>Alcohol misuse in the community</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from a Councillor</i></p> <p>.</p>
<p>Middleborough's struggling high street in the retail sector?</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from a Councillor</i></p> <p>.</p>
<p>The impact of private rented properties on areas of owner occupied properties and areas of social housing and what can be done to mitigate negative effects.</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Councillor</i></p> <p>There has been a massive increase in the number of private rented properties in wards across Middlesbrough. The increase has been more noticeable since landlord licensing was introduced in Newport and North Ormesby. Unfortunately some landlords are irresponsible which causes numerous problems for the local communities. People have started moving away and stable communities are deteriorating.</p>
<p>Anti social behavior</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from member of the public</i></p>

Community Safety and enforcement	<i>Suggestion from Councillor</i>
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

### **Possible updates**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>CLEVELAND POLICE</b> Operation Phoenix	In July 2019, Cleveland Police launched a major campaign to prevent crime, protect communities and tackle serious crime (domestic abuse).  The Panel last received an update on 15 April 2021 and the Panel may like to consider receiving an annual update on the Operation's progress.
<b>Selective Landlord Licensing</b>	The Panel completed their review in 2018 after receiving extensive evidence regarding the scheme in North Ormesby. The scheme now operates in Newport and North Ormesby was redesigned in March 2021 with the consultation responses being reported back to the Executive on 16 February 2021.  The Panel may wish to receive an update on the scheme and learn of the impact it has had on the area and residents.

### **Standing Updates**

<b>Domestic abuse support</b> (see details of Operation Phoenix above)	The panel has a responsibility for addressing Domestic abuse and examine what Middlesbrough and supporting agencies are doing to combat the raising issue.
<b>Regulatory Investigative Powers (RIPA)</b> Last update received 15 April 2021.	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.  At the last update the Panel learnt that the policy would be reviewed and this should be embedded in time for the annual update.
<b>Preventing Terrorism</b> Last Update received 7 January 2021	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

	<p>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><b>Community Safety Partnership</b> Last Update received 18 February 2021</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

### **Contact Officer**

Susie Blood

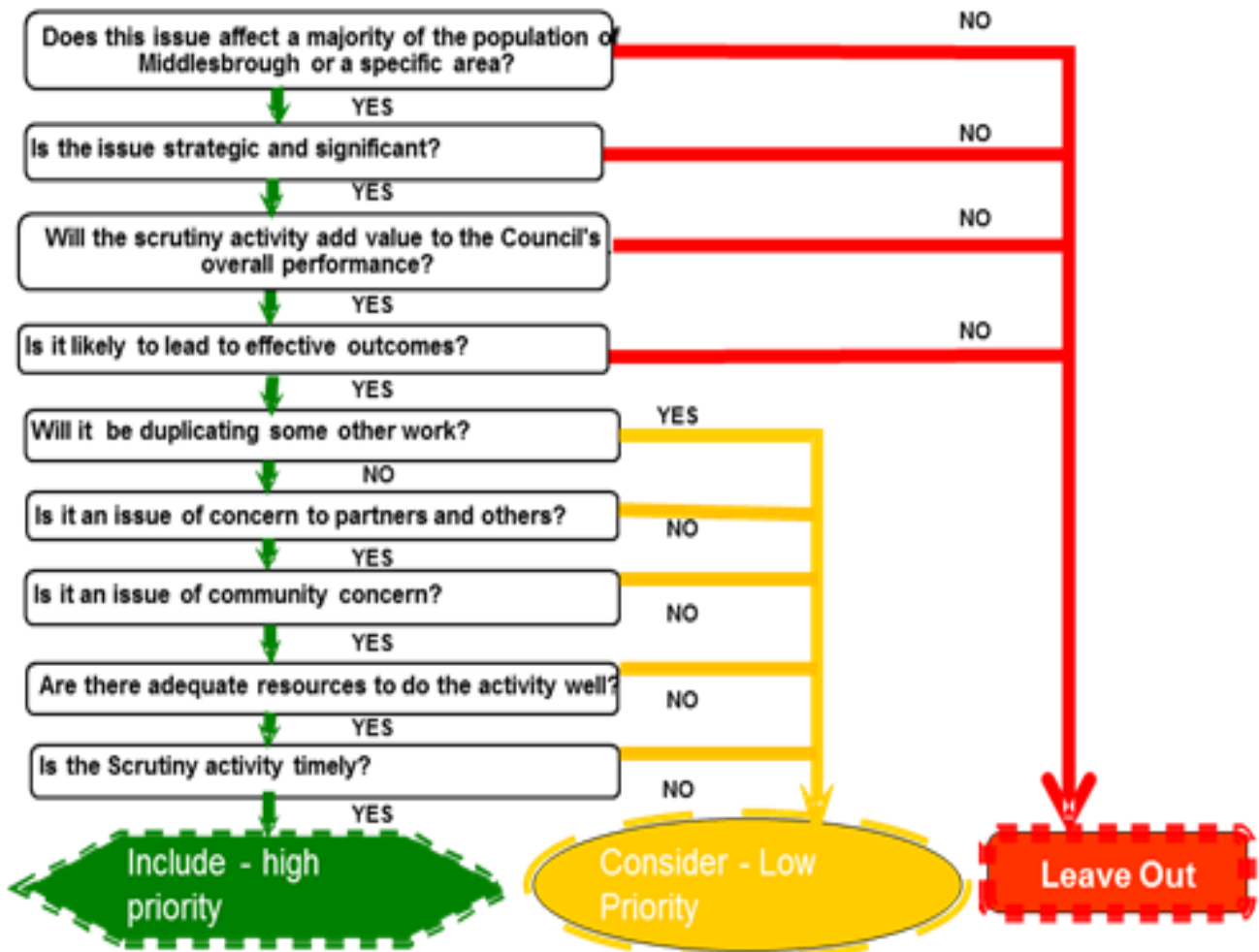
Democratic Services Officer

Democratic Services

Legal & Governance Services

Tel: 01642 729645

Email: [Susie\\_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:Susie_blood@middlesbrough.gov.uk)



**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL****CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL****15 July 2021**

<b>PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE 2021/2022 MUNICIPAL YEAR</b>
---

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To agree the proposed schedule of meeting dates, for the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel, for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Thursday 23 September 2021	1.00 pm	Spencer Room
Thursday 21 October 2021	1.00 pm	Spencer Room
Thursday 18 November 2021	1.00 pm	Spencer Room
Thursday 16 December 2021	1.00 pm	Spencer Room
Thursday 13 January 2022	1.00 pm	Spencer Room
Thursday 10 February 2022	1.00 pm	Spencer Room
Thursday 10 March 2022	1.00 pm	Spencer Room
Thursday 7 April 2022	1.00 pm	Spencer Room

**COUNCILLOR MCINTYRE****CHAIR OF THE CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL****Contact Officer:**

Scott Bonner  
 Democratic Services  
 Telephone: 01642 729708  
 email: scott\_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank