

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Date: Wednesday 26th June, 2024
Time: 4.30 pm
Venue: Mandela Room (Municipal Buildings)

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.

Fire alarm tests take place in Municipal Buildings at 10.30am on Tuesday mornings. In the event the fire alarm sounds at this time for more than 10 seconds 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

4. Minutes - Overview and Scrutiny Board - 7 May 2024 3 - 6

5. Scrutiny - Work Planning 7 - 26

6. Executive Forward Work Programme 27 - 44

7. OSB Work Programme 2023/24 45 - 54

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
Tuesday 18 June 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors I Blades (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), J Banks, D Branson, E Clynch, D Coupe, J Ewan, B Hubbard, L Lewis, M McClintock, I Morrish, M Saunders, M Smiles, J Walker and G Wilson

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Scott Bonner/ Joanne Dixon, 01642 729708/ 01642 729713, scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk / joanne_dixon@middlesbrough.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on Tuesday 7 May 2024.

PRESENT: Councillors M Storey (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), S Dean, J Ewan, M McClintock, J Platt, M Smiles and J Walker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: B Hubbard, T Livingstone, I Morrish, S Platt, M Saunders and G Wilson

OFFICERS: C Benjamin, S Bonner, S Lightwing, C Lunn, J McNally and A Wilson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors J Banks, I Blades, E Clynch, J Ryles and J Young

23/86 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

23/87 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - 10 APRIL 2024**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 10 April 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

23/88 **FUTURE SCRUTINY STRUCTURE**

The Chair welcomed the Head of Legal Services (People) and invited her to deliver her presentation and invited all Members in attendance to express their views on the proposals contained in the report.

The Head of Legal Services provided a summary of the report and explained it was driven by Democratic Services and supported by Managers. The intention of the report's proposals was to streamline and enhance the Scrutiny process. It was explained the structure in Democratic Services carried a vacancy that would be recruited to but was also experiencing instances of long-term sickness.

The report suggested changing the scrutiny structure from Overview and Scrutiny Board and five thematic panels to Overview and Scrutiny Board and two thematic panels, namely a People scrutiny panel and a Place scrutiny panel. It was also proposed that each panel would be supported by two Democratic Services Officers. It was emphasised the intention of the report was to enhance the quality of the support provided to the scrutiny function.

As part of the proposed structure there was scope to introduce new methodologies of conducting scrutiny reviews such as Task and Finish groups and enquiry days.

The Board was advised that all Members had been invited to provide their comments on the proposals before the meeting. Those comments had been collated and would be shown to the Board along with the relevant responses during the presentation.

An overview of how the scrutiny structure had previously operated was provided. Under that structure Democratic Services Officers provided support to their relevant scrutiny panel along with other committees and associated duties. This had the effect of reducing the time commitment from Democratic Services Officers. The proposals required two Democratic Services Officers supporting OSB and each panel. It was intended this would help to share workload more effectively, increase resilience within Democratic Services and therefore enhance the support provided to scrutiny.

It was clarified that all scrutiny meetings would continue to take place in open forums and officers would still be expected to attend to face questions from Members. The Board was provided with the comments submitted by Members and their respective responses.

Members expressed concerns the proposed structure would increase the workloads of Executive. It was clarified the frequency of Executive Member attendance at Scrutiny was not expected to change.

It was emphasised the new structure would provide a level of operational resilience that had not been experienced previously.

Members suggested that a reduction from five thematic panels to four would provide a more effective solution than the proposals in the report. It was commented that such a reduction would have no marked difference to the existing structure.

It was suggested an increase in staff in Democratic Services would alleviate the issues being faced operationally. It was commented the proposals in the report were transformative and allowed Democratic Services to offer increased support within existing resources. Members expressed concern that the proposed panel structure would result in longer scrutiny meetings which may not allow all members to participate.

The Chair thanked the Head of Legal (People) for their presentation and invited questions from Members of the Board and from Members in attendance in the public gallery.

Members were advised that, in terms of staffing levels, the report did not seek an increase in staff and clarification was provided about Full Time Equivalents and Headcount. Members expressed concern the proposed panels would have broad remits and may not be able to adequately scrutinise those areas. Other Members commented there had sometimes been limitations on time during meetings and there had been a lack of attendance at scrutiny meetings. A Member stated the proposals could provide a degree of efficiency and the Council needed to adopt a model that worked best for its needs.

It was queried if the proposed model had been implemented in other Councils and if there was evidence the proposals would improve the quality of output. It was clarified no other examples were provided as part of the report as there was no ideal structure for all Councils, as explained by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. It was also commented the proposals needed to be understood in the context of staffing reductions.

A discussion took place regarding potential remuneration for Vice Chairs of the proposed panels. While this was alluded to in the report the Chair clarified that affording Special Responsibility Allowances, and their levels, was not within OSB's remit, and was to be left to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Members raised concerns that some areas, such as Children's and Adult services, were the largest spenders of Council finances and therefore effective scrutiny of those areas was essential. It was clarified the reduction in scrutiny panels did not equate to a reduction in topics per panel. While the report sought approval of the proposed scrutiny structure, it was commented the way scrutiny operated, including work planning and topic prioritisation, was unlikely to change.

A discussion took place concerning the number of available seats on the proposed scrutiny panels. There was concern the reduction in panels would mean an overall reduction in the number of seats available for scrutiny. It was clarified that, despite the proposals, the ability for all non-Executive Members to participate in scrutiny remained.

A Member commented the report did not provide sufficient detail around governance issues, particularly that no other options had been put forward as part of the report.

The Chair commented it was important not to introduce politics to the discussion, and that all Members had effectively engaged with the scrutiny process previously. He also reminded the Board no prior decision had been taken, the proposals were for the Board to decide, and officers had created proposals that seemed to work for Middlesbrough. The Chair stated that without changes to the current scrutiny structure there was a risk staff would be placed under further pressure which was not conducive to an effective working environment which in turn may impact of quality of output.

A Member stated this was a significant change and while there were lots of positives contained in the report these needed to be teased out including an increase of Pre-Decision making at OSB. OSB currently received a copy of the Executive Forward Work Programme, but this

seemed to be more routine, and it was difficult to get papers surrounding individual Work Plan items. While there was a possibility panels could meet to discuss Executive papers when they were published this was not mentioned in the report. Concern was also raised around the panels being single issue meetings and the practicalities of holding enquiry days. It was discussed if Task and Finish Groups would be better suited to undertake work led by Members rather than enquiry days. In terms of prospectively remunerating vice chairs, this implied that Member's work on scrutiny was financially driven. Overall, the Member felt the report required more work as asked if the report could be redrafted with more detail.

It was also commented that the increased size of the panels would lead to reduced input from Members as they would be unable to pose sufficient questions in the allotted time.

When asked what success would look like it was commented there was a need to enhance the scrutiny process and to ensure the quality of scrutiny work remained high.

A Member commented no other options had been put forward as part of the report. It was clarified the proposals were intended to make better use of time and resources and would improve the way scrutiny was carried out. Members also stated any previous issues with how scrutiny operated should have been brought before OSB previously. It was commented this aspect of the report could have been clearer.

Concerns were raised around the timing of the report, and the proposals placed OSB into a difficult position.

The proposals included a review of the new scrutiny structure within 12 months. If it was found to be ineffective another solution would be brought before OSB. A Member stated the current scrutiny structure had experienced several vacancies on panels and hoped the proposed structure would see more Members taking up places.

It was commented that Chairs would need to maintain a high degree of control during reviews, and it was reiterated that the proposed structure would not change how scrutiny was carried out.

Memberships of the proposed panels would be unknown until the Council's Annual Meeting on 22nd May. It was clarified the Committee Memberships report to the Annual Meeting would not provide detail on how committees would work operationally.

A discussion took place about deferring the report so that more time could be afforded to its details.

The Chair proposed that the report and its contents be approved or rejected.

ORDERED that Overview and Scrutiny Board:

1. Approve the proposed scrutiny structure and model for implementation in the 2024/25 municipal year.
2. Agree that, in April 2025, an evaluation be undertaken to review the scrutiny arrangements to evidence the impact of the new structure and model, identify tangible results, diagnose any problems and prescribe any solutions.
3. Agree that the findings of the full evaluation be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration.

23/89

ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.

The Chair announced his resignation as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board as he had been recently elected as Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Chair thanked all Members for their involvement in the scrutiny process during his chairmanship.

NOTED



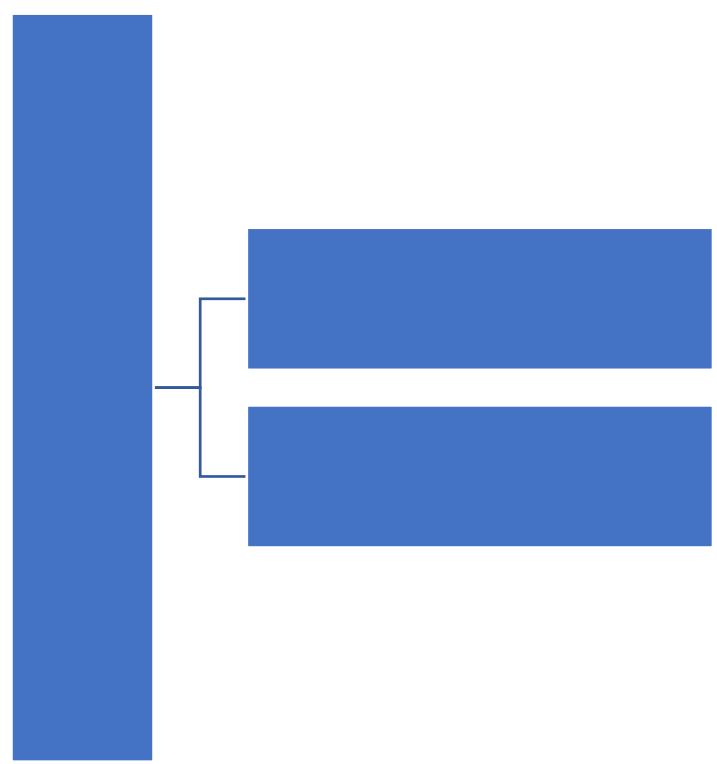
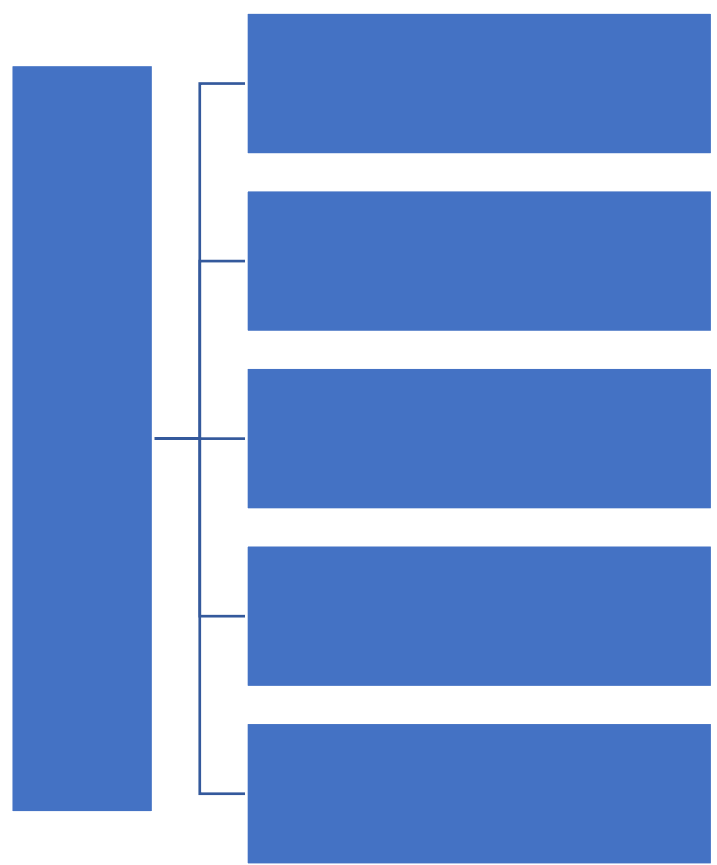
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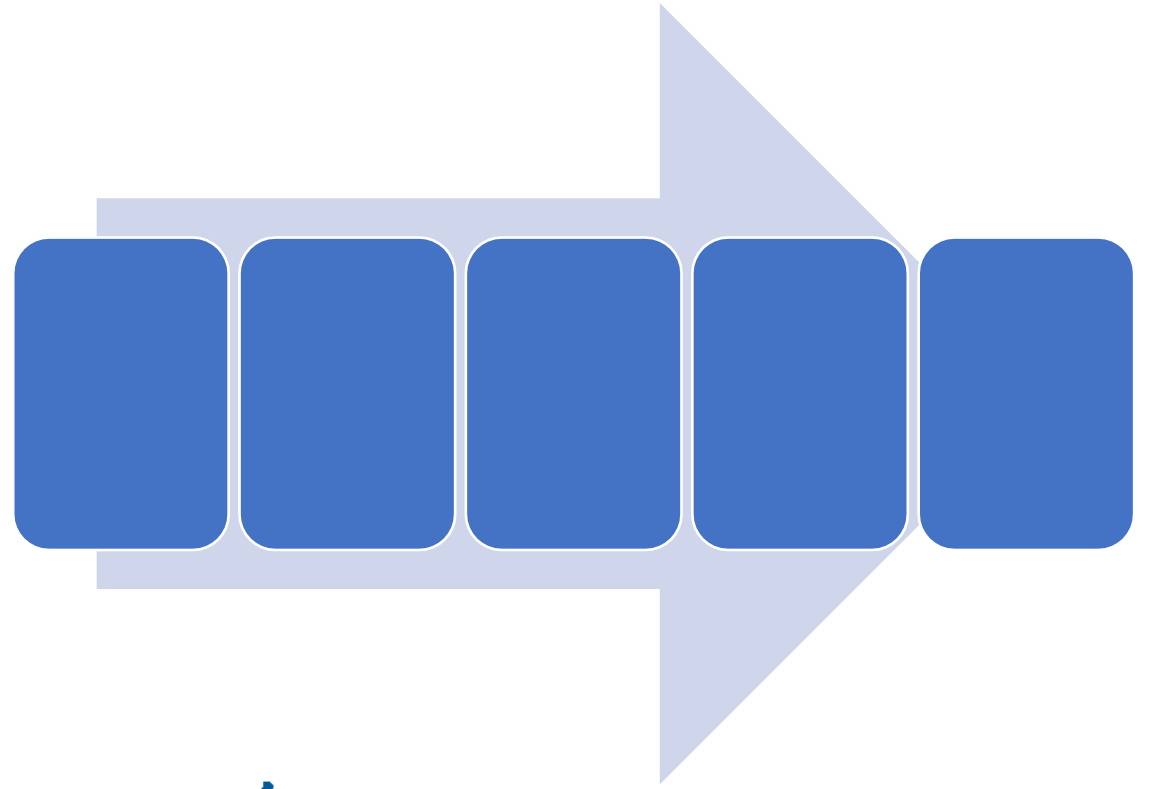
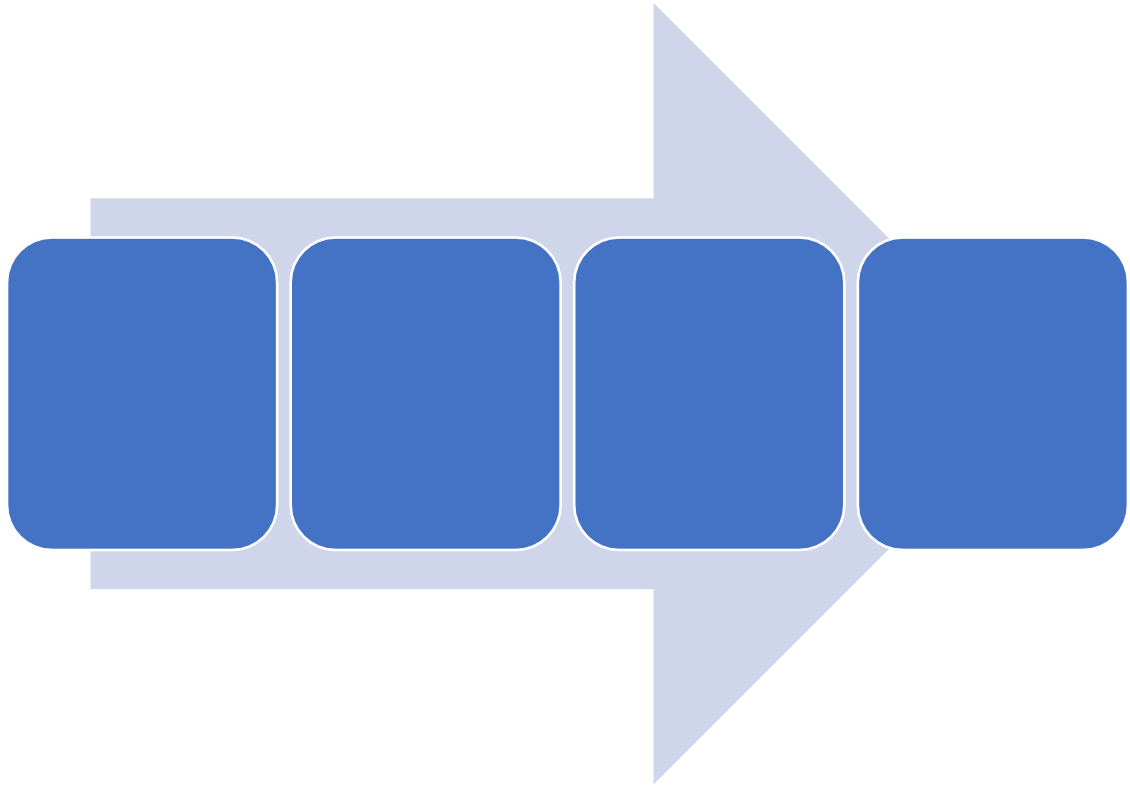

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Chief Executive
Relevant Executive Member:	Not applicable
Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
Date:	26 June 2024
Title:	Executive Forward Work Programme
Report for:	Discussion
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable

Proposed decision(s)

It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the content of the Executive Forward Work Programme.
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Executive summary

OSB has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny and, if appropriate, it can either undertake the work itself or delegate to individual Scrutiny Panels.

One of the main duties of OSB is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive and decide whether value can be added by Scrutiny considering the matter in advance of any decision being made.

This would not negate a Non-Executive Member's ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
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1. Purpose

1.1 To make OSB aware of items on the Executive Forward Work Programme.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Board It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the content of the Executive Forward Work Programme.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 OSB has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny and, if appropriate, it can either undertake the work itself or delegate to individual Scrutiny Panels.

3.2 One of the main duties of OSB is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive and decide whether value can be added by Scrutiny considering the matter in advance of any decision being made.

3.3 This would not negate a Non-Executive Member’s ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.

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

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

6.1 Financial (including procurement and Social Value)

Not applicable

6.2 Legal

Not applicable

6.3 Risk

Not applicable

6.4 Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

Not applicable

6.5 Climate Change / Environmental

Not applicable

6.6 Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

Not applicable

6.7 Data Protection

Not applicable

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Implement any decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with regard to the	Relevant Officer	As directed by OSB

Executive Forward Work Plan.		
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Appendices

A	Forward Work Plan
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
NA		

Contact: Scott Bonner
Email: scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk/joanne_dixon@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

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Forward Plan 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024

FOR THE PERIOD 26 JUNE 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health							
I019002 All Wards	Corporate Performance: Quarter Four 2023/2024, Year End This report advises the Executive of corporate performance at Quarter Four, and 2023/2024 Year End, providing the necessary information to enable the	Executive 26 Jun 2024			Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Clive Heaphy, Chief Executive</i> <i>clive_heaphy@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Executive to discharge its performance management responsibilities and where appropriate, seeks approval of any changes or amendments, where these lie within the authority of the Executive. Future corporate performance reports will be against the new Council Plan 2024-27.						
I017724 All Wards	Gambling Policy 2024-2029 Statutory requirement to have gambling policy to place.	Executive 24 Jul 2024		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Judith Hedgley, Head of Service - Public Protection</i> <i>judith_hedgley@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I018729 Linthorpe	EXEMPT: Options for Utilisation of Levick Court Residential Care Home	Executive 24 Jul 2024		KEY	Fully exempt		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Suzanne Hodge</i> <i>suzanne_hodge@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	<p>As part of the budget savings the re-provisioning of Levick Court Residential Care Home was identified and within that included the option to provide alternative residential care for the current service users and seek opportunities to maximise the utilisation of the property working with partner organisations. Approval is therefore required on the recommended option and the potential to consult with staff in terms of potential redundancies. Approval is being sought on the recommended option for the utilisation of Levick</p>						

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Court Residential Care Home						
I019013 All Wards	Recover, Reset, Deliver: Transformation Portfolio updates This report advises the Executive of progress and performance each Quarter against the Recover, Reset, Deliver: Transformation Portfolio, providing the necessary information to enable the Executive to discharge its performance management responsibilities and where appropriate, seeks approval of any changes or amendments, where these lie within the authority of the Executive.	Executive 24 Jul 2024			Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Clive Heaphy, Chief Executive</i> <i>clive_heaphy@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
I019347 All Wards	Review of Licensing fees for Houses in Multiple Occupation Key decision for approval.	Executive 24 Jul 2024		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Judith Hedgley, Head of Service - Public Protection</i> <i>judith_hedgley@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I019346 All Wards	South Tees Clean Air Strategy Key decision for approval.	Executive 24 Jul 2024		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Judith Hedgley, Head of Service - Public Protection</i> <i>judith_hedgley@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I018999	Third progress report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board to provide the Executive with a report that summarises the Board's views on the Council's progress in relation to addresses weaknesses within its corporate	Executive 24 Jul 2024			Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Clive Heaphy, Chief Executive</i> <i>clive_heaphy@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	governance arrangements						
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture							
I018884 All Wards	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2024-2025	Executive 10 Jul 2024			Public		Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture <i>Kay Dargue, Head of Partnerships</i> <i>kay_dargue@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Children's Services							
Executive Member for Community Safety							
I019044 All Wards	Community Safety Enforcement Powers For the Executive Member to approve proposals to withdraw Neighbourhood Warden Police Accreditation Powers	Executive Member for Community Safety 16 Jul 2024			Public		Councillor Janet Thompson, Executive Member for Community Safety <i>Jane Hill</i> <i>Jane_hill@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I018593 All Wards	Community Safety Partnership Plan	Executive 24 Jul 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Community Safety

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	The Council have a statutory obligation to develop and publish a Community Safety Plan every 2 years.						<i>Marion Walker, Head of Stronger Communities marion_walker@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I018591 All Wards	<p>Stray Dog Kennelling Provision</p> <p>This report sets out Middlesbrough Councils statutory responsibilities relating to Stray Dog provision. Middlesbrough Council face challenges relating to delivering this function as a result of a lack of available provision/ service providers to deliver services. The report summarises the financial implications faced as a result of the lack of available provision.</p>	Executive 24 Jul 2024		KEY	Public		<p>Executive Member for Community Safety</p> <p><i>Dale Metcalfe, Operational Community Safety Manager</i> <i>Dale_Metcalfe@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i></p>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Executive Member for Environment							
I019045 Marton East	Brackenhoe Connections Scheme Approval for the proposed scheme to progress to implementation during the 2024/25 financial year.	Executive Member for Environment 10 Jun 2024			Public		Executive Member for Environment <i>Craig Cowley</i> <i>craig_cowley@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Finance and Governance							
I018885 All Wards	2025/26 Budget and MTFP Approach and Timetable To provide Executive with details of the proposed budget strategy for 2025/26 including the proposed timetable	Executive 22 May 2024			Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Debbie Middleton</i> <i>debbie_middleton@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I018973	Cultural Transformation of the Council The report is to update Executive as to the progress of the Council's	Executive 22 May 2024			Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Charlotte Benjamin</i> <i>charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	cultural transformation.						
I019076 All Wards	2023/24 Revenue and Capital Outturn and development of MTFP	Executive 26 Jun 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance
I019078 All Wards	2023/24 Treasury Management Outturn	Executive 26 Jun 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance
I018991 All Wards	Auto-enrolment of Free School Meals That the Executive approves the decision to implement the auto-enrolment of free school meals across Middlesbrough.	Executive 26 Jun 2024		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Anne Rose</i> <i>anne_rose@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I019079 All Wards	CIPFA Review of Council's Financial Management Arrangements	Executive 24 Jul 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance
I018905 All Wards	Vulnerability Policy Vulnerability Policy - 3 year review	Executive 4 Sep 2024		KEY	Public		Councillor Nicky Walker, Executive Member for Finance & Governance

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
							<i>Martin barker martin_barker@middlesbrough.gov.uk, Janette Savage, Head of Resident and Business Support Janette_Savage@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I018904 All Wards	ASC Residential Charging Policy ASC Residential Charging Policy - 3 year review	Executive 2 Oct 2024		KEY	Public		Councillor Nicky Walker, Executive Member for Finance & Governance <i>Martin barker martin_barker@middlesbrough.gov.uk, Janette Savage, Head of Resident and Business Support Janette_Savage@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Regeneration							
I018713 Nunthorpe	Nunthorpe Community Facility To present current position and to seek approval to proceed to delivery stage.	Executive 22 May 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Peter Brewer peter_brewer@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I018906 Central	Sale of TeesAMP To seek Executive permission to sell TeesAMP following	Executive 22 May 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	an extensive marketing exercise.						<i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I019148 All Wards	Scrutiny Review - Planning Capacity Service response to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel Review of capacity within the planning service.	Executive 24 Jul 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i> <i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I019207 Hemlington	The disposal of land at Hemlington Grange West To seek Executive approval for the disposal of the Hemlington Grange West site in accordance with the Council's Asset Disposal Process, and to inform Executive of the next steps to take the site to market.	Executive 24 Jul 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Nicola Norman</i> <i>nicola_norman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I017049 All Wards	Capex Municipal Buildings and Town Hall Roofs Any matters relating to bids for funding,	Executive 4 Sep 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Teresa Garret</i> <i>teresa_garret@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	which are financially or strategically significant and have not been provided for within the financial and policy framework.						
I019349 All Wards	Cemetery Provision Setting out the future plan for cemetery provision.	Executive 4 Sep 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i> <i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I019344 Nunthorpe	Disposal of Land Nunthorpe at Nunthorpe Grange To seek Executive approval to dispose of the land at Nunthorpe Grange via an open, competitive process.	Executive 4 Sep 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i> <i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I019341 Berwick Hills and Pallister; Park End and	Southlands Facility Contract Delivery To seek Executive approval to commence the contractor procurement	Executive 2 Oct 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i> <i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Beckfield	process and delivery of the Southlands Facility.						
I019345 All Wards	<p>Management and Maintenance of Development Land / Nutrient Neutrality Mitigation</p> <p>The report seeks Executive approval of the resources required to maintain land held prior to disposal / development and the management of land held fallow as part of the Nutrient Neutrality mitigation measures. Report seeks management resources to be capitalised as an abnormal cost to disposal receipts.</p>	Executive 11 Nov 2024		KEY	Public		<p>Executive Member for Regeneration</p> <p><i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i></p> <p><i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i></p>

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2024-2025

26 JUNE 2024

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) to consider its work programme for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year and suggest potential topics for the People and Place Scrutiny Panels.

REVIEW OF 2023-2024

2. At a meeting of OSB held on 7 May 2024, a new structure for scrutiny arrangements in Middlesbrough was agreed. Consequently, OSB will work with the People and Place Scrutiny Panels for this year to deliver Scrutiny in Middlesbrough. The topics below were placed on OSB's work programme for 2023/24 but were not progressed due to other emerging issues throughout the year.

Scrutiny Investigations

- Homelessness
- Electoral Registration.
- Cyber Security

BACKGROUND

3. At the start of every Municipal Year, OSB and scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
4. 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.
5. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from several sources. Each scrutiny panel will decide its own workplan for the 2024/25 municipal year, but OSB will have the opportunity to suggest topics it feels those panels should examine. Following an annual consultation exercise which ran between 15 May 2024 and 14 June 2024 several topics were suggested by Councillors, residents and other stakeholders which are listed below. 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. Priorities from the Council Plan 2024-2027 are also listed below for information.

Suggestions for People Scrutiny Panel

Suggestion	Details
Resident	<p>Outwood Ormesby Outwood Ormesby School is failing to provide the education our children deserve. Bullying, assaults, and attacks are rampant, both in person and online. Some children are resorting to self-harm due to the stress. The school's response to these issues has been inadequate.</p> <p>This school is not fulfilling its duty to care for families and children, focusing instead on financial gains. Legal action is being considered to enforce necessary changes and ensure the safety and education of our children.</p> <p>Councillors should prioritize education and children's welfare, ensuring schools are properly managed. Outwood Ormesby has been placed in Ofsted special measures and received the lowest rating possible. As a parent with five children who attended this school, I have witnessed a decline in education quality since Outwood's takeover. The school appears to prioritize financial gains over students' needs, particularly for SEN children. Many parents share similar grievances, and it's time for action to support parents and children, turning Outwood from a money-focused institution into a proper educational facility.</p>
Council Officer	Universal Services for secondary school young people (aged 11 to 16).
NHS	Grateful if the councillors could look into the roll out of the reasonable adjustments digital flag and how this could make it easier for deaf people and those with disabilities to use health services.

Suggestions for Place Scrutiny Panel

Suggestion	Details
Councillor P Storey	<p>Bereavement services and future planning for cemeteries and cremations</p> <p>(urgently needed as Acklam cemetery will be full in under two years and I don't know what has been done about it and the furnaces need replacing at the crematorium).</p>
Councillor P Storey	Implementation of the new Brown garden waste bins and service
Councillor P Storey	Home to school transport

Resident	<p>Neglected Thorntree and Brambles Ward</p> <p>This ward has become an area with few facilities for the public. We lack a sports hall and have only two playgrounds for our children—one in Pallister Park and the other in Thorntree Park. There are no playgrounds in Brambles or St. Anthony's, and we need more than one in the Thorntree area.</p> <p>Thorntree Hub is only open four days a week and lacks many essential facilities. Millbrook Park, known locally as Spider Park, needs an update to provide Brambles Farm with a park, which it currently lacks.</p> <p>Thorntree Park also needs attention. The road requires repairs, the park fences need painting, the annual flooding issue needs addressing, and the MUGA pitches should be revamped into volta cages for daily public use.</p> <p>Providing recreational facilities will foster a healthier and more vibrant community. We seek Middlesbrough Council's support to enhance our community's quality of life.</p>
Resident	<p>Motorbikes/Drug Dealing</p> <p>Brambles and Thorntree are plagued by motorbikes and drug dealing. Quads and off-road bikes are rampant, some used for drug dealing and others causing disturbances. Riders are often without helmets and sometimes have children on board without helmets. The community council has received numerous complaints and action is needed.</p> <p>Drug dealing occurs openly, near children, outside shops, close to schools, and behind local buildings. These activities are disrupting local businesses and residents.</p> <p>We urge MBC to collaborate with Cleveland Police and local housing associations to address these issues, making Brambles and Thorntree safer and cleaner.</p>
Resident	<p>Gangs of Youths</p> <p>There is growing concern among residents about large groups of youths loitering in the ward, making it unsafe for people to walk around, shop, or even visit local pubs. Residents desire a safe and enjoyable local environment.</p>
Resident	<p>Litter and Bins</p> <p>Brambles and Thorntree suffer from a significant litter problem and a shortage of bins. Thorntree Park once had 12 bins, more than the</p>

	rest of Thorntree combined. Cargo Fleet Lane has only five bins, the Greenway has none, and the rest of Thorntree has barely five bins. Brambles has three bins near Marshall Ave shops and fewer elsewhere. St. Anthony's has none, Town Farm has one, and other areas of the ward have only two bins each, which is insufficient. We need more bins to manage litter effectively.
Resident	Rubbish Dumping Residents are struggling with the high costs of waste disposal. The free service is slow, leading people to dump items in gardens, streets, becks, fields, and parks. This issue needs urgent attention. MBC must find a solution for the fifth most deprived area in the UK to dispose of rubbish for free and promptly. Residents shouldn't have to walk past discarded beds, sofas, and TVs due to unaffordable disposal costs.
Council Officer	Decline of Middlesbrough spaces and place What do our communities want/ need. What matters most to them and what can we do to bring about positive change i.e. lighting up a dark area, disrupting adverse behaviours with structures or diversion activities, painting railings, community ownership (bedding plants given to schools to upkeep – taking an allotment approach to spaces).
Council Officer	Town Centre and local communities shop space investment – evaluating our attempts to reinvigorate Middlesbrough Town Centre and local shop space in communities
Council Officer	Challenging landlords in communities – what is non-negotiable for a landlord, who is operating below the expected level and why.

Updates for the People Scrutiny Panel

Quality Accounts 2023/24	COMPLETED Annual review of South Tees Hospital Foundation Trust Quality Accounts.
TSAB	Annual update from the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board.
South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership	Annual update from South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership

Updates for the Places Scrutiny Panel

<p>Flood Risk Management</p>	<p>The Pitt Review 2007, undertaken as a result of major flooding in the UK, made a number of recommendations, including that local authorities' scrutiny committees should receive annual updates in relation to the actions taken locally and review of the work carried out to manage flood risk.</p>
<p>Toxic Chemicals in the River Tees/Crustacean Working Group</p>	<p>At a meeting of Council on 6 July 2022, Motion No. 153, it was determined that regular updates on this topic be provided to the relevant scrutiny panel.</p>
<p>RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers) (annual update)</p>	<p>RIPA is the law governing the use of surveillance techniques by public authorities, including local authorities. RIPA requires that when public authorities need to use covert techniques to obtain private information about someone, they only do so if surveillance is necessary, proportionate, and compatible with human rights. Typically, this relates to suspected criminal activity that is likely to result in a custodial sentence of six months or more.</p>
<p>Prevent and Channel (annual update)</p>	<p>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 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 "Due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". In response an Action Plan for Middlesbrough was developed to respond to the specific elements of the Prevent agenda. In 2018, the Counter-Terrorism Strategy was published and the former Culture and Communities and Environment Scrutiny Panels received an update regarding PREVENT actions and annual updates thereafter.</p>
<p>Community Safety Partnership (annual update)</p>	<p>The powers of the Police and Justice Act 2006 relating to Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require the Middlesbrough's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to present the partnerships intentions, and actions to Scrutiny on an annual basis. This requirement commenced in 2009 and the former Culture and Communities and Environment Scrutiny Panels have received annual updates since that time. On 24 January 2023, the Executive approved an extension to the Community Safety Plan which would run in its current form until March 2024.</p>

Council Plan

Priority: A successful and ambitious town Maximising economic growth, employment and prosperity in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable way.
Priority: A healthy place Helping our residents to live longer, healthier lives.
Priority: Safe and resilient communities Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives.
Priority: Delivering best value Changing how we operate to deliver affordable and cost-effective outcomes for residents and businesses.

6. It should be noted that the topics and updates outlined above are suggestions. 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, 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. 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.

Scrutiny work plan prioritisation aid

9. When considering topics for the work programme, 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

10. OSB is asked to consider its work programme for the 2024-2025 municipal year and suggest any topics it feels the People and Place Scrutiny Panel should consider. Further information can be requested from relevant officers if required, for example with regard to timely scheduling.
11. When considering its work programme, OSB 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 OSB or the scrutiny panels have considered during the last 12 months.
- Do not relate to an individual service complaint.
- Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council Committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.

12. It is suggested that OSB has a mixture of working styles in its programme. This can include detailed and in-depth reviews, shorter topics, or one-off investigations.

RECOMMENDATION

13. That OSB initially identifies no more than 3 topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2024-2025. It is also recommended that OSB suggest topics it feels either the People or Place Scrutiny Panel should undertake. A final work programme report will be submitted to the July meeting of OSB for approval.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. None.

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