

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

23 MARCH 2022

| |
|--|
| <p>ATTENDANCE OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AT THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD</p> |
|--|

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide information in respect of the scheduled attendance of Members of the Executive at the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB).

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is **RECOMMENDED** as follows:
 1. That Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are appraised of the work of the Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance.
 2. That Board Members question the Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance in respect of the Finance and Governance elements of his portfolio and any issues which arise at the meeting.

BACKGROUND

3. Arrangements are in place in the Council to ensure that potential issues for consideration via the scrutiny process (i.e. by the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the relevant scrutiny panel) are highlighted and brought forward as necessary.
4. Overview and Scrutiny also has a responsibility of “holding the Executive to account.” This can happen in a number of different ways and at different stages in the decision-making process. In terms of decision making, this can be:
 - Before decisions are made - such as by examining policy options or considering issues included in the Council’s forward work programme.
 - Immediately after decisions are made, but prior to their implementation, through the call-in process; and
 - After decisions are implemented, through monitoring and evaluation of their effects.

5. Overview and Scrutiny can be involved in holding the Executive to account as a whole, by using the methods outlined in the preceding paragraph, or on an individual basis. The OSB's role in this area has been strengthened in recent years, with arrangements having been made for individual Members of the Executive to attend OSB.
6. This has given OSB Members the opportunity to hear directly from each Executive Member on matters such as their aims and aspirations, progress made, objectives and priorities and also any emerging issues or pressure areas relating to their portfolio.
7. The process has also presented an opportunity for OSB to highlight and question any issues of concern or difficulty (for example in respect of service areas where targets have not been reached or where objectives have not been achieved) and to question what action will be taken to address such issues.
8. Arrangements have been made for the Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance to be in attendance at today's meeting.
9. As Members' will recall the Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance attended OSB on 9 November 2021. At that meeting he provided an update to the Board in respect of the Environmental aspects of his portfolio.
10. The update provided at today's meeting will focus on the Financial and Governance aspects of the portfolio. Details of the relevant aspects of the portfolio are attached at **Appendix 1**.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

Contact Officer:

Caroline Breheny

Democratic Services

Telephone: 01642 729752(direct line)

e mail: caroline_breheny@middlesbrough.gov.uk

| | |
|--|--|
| Executive Portfolio: | Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance |
| Portfolio Holder: | Councillor Barrie Cooper |
| Lead Officer: | In respect of the portfolio of Finance and Governance - Director of Finance, Director of Legal and Governance Services |
| SCOPE OF PORTFOLIO | |
| <p>The Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance, in respect of the portfolio of Finance and Governance, has the responsibility of ensuring that the Council operates efficiently, openly and fairly. The Executive Member for Finance and Governance has oversight of budgetary issues. Areas falling within this portfolio are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources/payroll • Legal Services • Democratic/Member Services • ICT • Business Continuity and Risk Management • Customer Services and Complaints and Compliments • Information Governance • Performance Management • Project and Programme Management • Financial Management • Procurement • Investment Strategy • Valuation and Estates • Teesside Pension Fund (as administering authority) • Business Rates • Housing Benefits • Council Tax • Borrowing Investments and Cash Management • Insurance • Information Security • Adult Commissioning • Social Care Commissioning <p>Policy Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan (Overview) • Council's Budget Strategy • Capital Strategy • Medium Term Financial Plan • Pay Policy Statement <p>Other Plans and Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy • People Strategy • Digital Strategy • Corporate Risk Management Strategy • Strategic Risk Register | |

- Corporate Business Continuity Plan
- Annual Audit and Inspection Letter
- Treasury Management
- Member Development Strategy
- Procurement Strategy
- Information Governance Strategy
- ICT Strategy
- Estates Strategy
- Customer Strategy

Functions at Head of Service Level

- Financial Governance
- Financial Planning
- Teesside Pension Fund
- Strategy Information and Governance
- Legal Services
- Democratic Services including Registrars and Coroners Services
- Revenues and Benefits
- Human Resources
- ICT

Other Roles

- Responsibility (jointly with Deputy Mayor for Digital City Business Trading Ltd including appointment of suitable Directors to act on the Council's behalf.
- Liaison with Internal and External Audit as necessary
- Representation at NEREO/NEPC
- Representation at NEPO
- Corporate governance/decision making

In circumstances where it is considered that an Executive Member would have a prejudicial interest the matter will be referred to the Deputy Mayor.