

COUNCIL

Report title	Scrutiny Progress Report
Chief Executive or Director	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Date	30 March 2022

Summary

Proposed decision(s)
To update the position in respect of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential/Exempt:	Is the report urgent?
To be noted	No	No	Non-urgent report

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
N/A	N/A	Members will be able to keep abreast of the work carried out through the Scrutiny Process
Ward(s) affected		
No wards in Middlesbrough are directly affected.		

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To update the position in respect of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels.

Why is this report necessary?

2. The report is necessary so that Members are aware of the work being carried out by the individual Scrutiny Panels and the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

3. That Council note the report.
4. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 22 February 2022 and 23 March 2022.

At the 22 February 2022 meeting the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Executive Member Update: Executive Member for Culture and Communities and previous Executive Member for Education
- Chief Executive's Update;
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates;
- Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn position as at Quarter Three 2021/22;
- Corporate Performance Report – Quarter 3.

At the 23 March 2022 meeting the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Executive Member Update: Executive Member for Environment, Governance and Finance
- Chief Executive's Update;
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates;
- Town Centre Update.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

The updated position in respect of the work of each of the Council's scrutiny panels is shown below.

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 2 March 2022.

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration provided Members with an update regarding the integration of Health and Social Care.

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration and the Advanced Public Health Practitioner were also in attendance at the meeting to provide members with an introduction to the panel's new topic of the Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on Covid-19 Recovery).

The next meeting of the panel is scheduled for 30 March 2022.

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

The Scrutiny Panel continues to gather evidence in respect of its current review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Scrutiny Panel's last meeting was held on 21 March 2022. At this meeting, the Council's Head of Inclusion, Assessment and Review; the Head of Resources and the

Head of Service for Children with Disabilities were in attendance to provide evidence in respect of the increasing demands across the Local Area.

Information was presented to the Scrutiny Panel that detailed the pressures across education, health and social care with regards to children and young people with SEND and those at risk of exclusion.

It was highlighted to Members that:

- there had been a 63% increase in referrals for statutory assessment;
- Interim Reviews for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) had risen by 55%;
- there had been a 20% increase in EHCPs to be maintained; and
- there had been an increase in the rate of exclusions, with 43 pupils being permanently excluded since September 21 (34% of those excluded children had SEND).

Detailed information was presented to the Scrutiny Panel in respect of the mitigation measures and strategies that had been introduced/implemented, the wider system impacts and future pressures.

The Scrutiny Panel's next meeting is scheduled to be held on 25 April 2022. At this meeting, Members will receive:

- a comprehensive report on exclusions; and
- information on how the Local Authority works with schools to identify and support all the children and young people in Middlesbrough who have, or may have, SEND.

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

Since the last OSB update report to Council in January, the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel has met on 25 January, 21 February and 21 March 2022.

The Panel has continued to gather evidence in relation to its current review 'Locality Working from a Children's Services Perspective'. At the 25 January meeting, the Panel heard from several partners working within the North Ormesby locality: Youth Focus North East; Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland and North Ormesby Primary School.

At its meeting on 21 February, the Panel was attended by the Head of Stronger Communities who provided an overview of the locality working project in North Ormesby and responses to several points of clarification previously raised by the Panel.

The meeting was also attended by:

- The North Ormesby Neighbourhood Police Sergeant – who spoke about how the multi-agency approach of locality working has helped to reduce anti-social behaviour in North Ormesby.

- Two of the Children's Centre Assistant Team Managers from within Education and Partnerships – who discussed the role of the Children's Centre and school readiness within the localities.
- The Neighbourhood Safety Manager – who spoke about the contribution made by Street Wardens within the localities and the impact they were having.

At the Panel's meeting on 21 March, a presentation was provided by C O'Neill, Children's Improvement Advisor with the LGA, on developing a Council-wide approach to Children's Services, together with a brief overview of the SEND review.

In addition, the Executive Director of Children's Services provided an update on the Children's Services Improvement Plan, focussing on the previous Ofsted monitoring visit in December 2021.

The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for 26 April 2022.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

The Culture and Communities Panel met on 10 February 2022 and 10 March 2022 and continued their review on Tough enough? Enforcement in Middlesbrough and its impact on crime and anti-social behaviour.

At the February meeting the Panel received information in relation to locality working and heard from the officers, partners and the ward councillor from Newport Ward. The Panel were pleased to hear that locality working had had a huge impact on the community and reducing asb and crime.

At the March meeting, the Panel was joined by Harvinda Saimbhi, CEO of ASB Help and Katy Anderson, Practitioner Support Manager as well as internal officers.

ASB Help had featured on the recent BBC Panorama documentary – Anti-social behaviour- afraid in my own home, which addressed anti- social behaviour in Hemlington and discussed community triggers, putting the victim at the heart of the process.

The Panel heard about the work ASB help do and were provided with information on the community trigger process as well as learning about the ASB pledge.

The next meeting of the Panel will take place on Thursday 7 April 2022.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

The Economic Development Infrastructure and Environment Scrutiny Panel met on 9 February and 9 March 2022.

At the February meeting the Panel received information in relation to Bus Services from the Head of Transport of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and in particular the new Bus Service Improvement Plan for the Tees Valley.

As part of the current review into Middlesbrough Council's Green Strategy, the Head of Culture attended the meeting and provided information in relation to Middlesbrough Council's Culture and Community Action Group.

At the March meeting the Panel received presentations on Sheffield City Council's Grey to Grey Strategy and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council's West Bromwich Outdoor Market. Both presentations contributed to the Panel's current scrutiny review of the Green Strategy.

The next Panel meeting is scheduled for 6 April 2022 when the Panel is due to receive information in relation to the Council's new Waste Disposal Facility, from the Director of Environment and Community Services and an update on broadband installation in Middlesbrough from CityFibre.

Health Scrutiny Panel

At the Health Scrutiny Panel's meeting of the 8th March Members received information relating to its review into Health Inequalities from the Tees Valley CCG and the Council's Public Health Team.

The TVCCG informed Members that health inequalities across the Tees Valley were generally worse than the English average. Specific areas included higher rates of obesity and smoking

As such the TVCCG identified five priority areas that would help tackle health inequalities. These included restoring and strengthening leadership and accountability and achieving this required a need to work collaboratively, especially with system partners including Local Authorities.

The Council's Public Health Team Panel also informed Members that health inequalities needed to be reframed with the most effective means of addressing them being including structural changes to individual's environments and intensive support for disadvantaged population groups, all of which needed to be started when those groups were young.

Members were also informed that health inequalities were driven by complex interactions between lots of different factors all of which had been exacerbated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Approaches to tackling the problem of health inequalities revolved around Place Based Action that encompassed Civic, Services and Community centered interventions. The Panel were keen to understand if health inequalities were solvable and were told that as they centered on preventable differences in health status it was possible to reduce those inequalities but a long term, collaborative approach, was required.

The Panel also received its Covid-19 update and heard that Middlesbrough was placed 133 out of 149 in the league tables and averaged 200 infections per day, a situation that was stabilizing. Hospital admissions were also stabilizing and critical care cases were also low. As with previous updates, vaccination rates in the town remained low.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee met on 18 March 2022 and considered the following:

- Tees, Esk & Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust - Response to recent CQC inspection;
- North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) Performance Update;
- TVCCG – Update including:-
 - The development of the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (NECS ICS), the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the proposed sub-regional Integrated Care Partnership's (ICP's)
 - Opioid prescribing rates across the Tees Valley and actions taken to reduce overprescribing
 - Learning Disabilities Respite Review

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

Since the last update to Council, the Final Report of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Middlesbrough Regeneration Post Covid-19, was submitted to Executive on 14 February 2022 and approved.

The Final Report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel - Cultural Events in Middlesbrough: Their Impact and Future, was submitted to Executive on 14 February 2022 and approved.

The Final Report of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel – The Recruitment and Retention of Staff within Adult Social Care, was submitted to Executive on 8 March 2022 and approved.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

5. No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

6. There are no legal implications as a result of the proposed appointments.

Financial

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

The Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough

8. The report is line with the Mayor's vision for Middlesbrough.

Policy Framework

9. The report does not impact on the overall budget and policy framework.

Wards

10. The report does not impact on wards.

Risk

11. Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity

12. An Impact Assessment has not been completed, as it is not applicable.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

13. Not applicable.

Background papers

14. No unpublished background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**COUNCILLOR M SAUNDERS
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