

Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance
Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board – 19 July 2022
Subject:	Setting the Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/2023

Summary

Proposed decision(s)
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and agree individual Panel work programmes for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.</p> <p>When considering the work programme, the Board is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Information	No	N/A	N/A

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor's Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor's Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor's Vision.

Ward(s) affected
All Wards affected equally

What is the purpose of this report?

1. The purpose of the report is for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to determine the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/2023.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. At the start of every Municipal Year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year. 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. 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 were agreed at the relevant scrutiny panel.

Workplan for 2022/2023

3. The topics agreed by each Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2022/2023 are listed below in turn for the Board's approval.
4. The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 22 June 2022 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- '*The Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on Covid-19 Recovery)*' - current review topic (work to continue from the next meeting - 7 September 2022); and
- '*Hospital Discharge*' (final title TBC in due course, but the review will focus on the impact of the cost of care and the impact of care worker recruitment on hospital discharge and the Council's Adult Social Care services. The impact on lone adults will also be assessed as a supplementary 'feed in' area of focus).

Updates

- Integration of Health and Social Care (standard agenda item);
 - A performance report in respect of increases in service demand on a quarterly basis. Reporting systems and processes are currently being reviewed and this will commence from Autumn/Winter 2022;
 - Charging Reforms and Fair Cost of Care – updates to be provided as work progresses; and
 - Previous scrutiny review – '*The Recruitment and Retention of Staff Within Adult Social Care*'
5. The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel met on 20 June 2022 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- Youth Offending and Partnership Working with Schools; and
- Early Learning for Young Children

Short Review

- School Meals and Physical Education

6. The Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 21 June 2022 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

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

Full Review

- Transition from Children's Social Care to Adult Social Care

Short Review

- Procedures for Child Protection Plans/Early intervention support

Updates

- OFSTED inspections
- South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership
- Performance information
- Sufficiency and Permanency (Perceptions of Children in Care)
- Locality Working from a Children's Services Perspective

7. The Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel met on 23 June 2022 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- Scrambling bikes and illegal quad bikes- what enforcement is in place/ has operation kickstart been rolled out to other areas of Cleveland?; and
- 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.

Updates

- Future High street fund
- Surveillance Policy
- Preventing Terrorism
- Community Safety Partnership
- Cohesion/ Asylum Seekers and support for Ukraine families.
- Previous scrutiny review – Cultural events

Site visit

- The panel expressed an interest in visiting the new Art School as part of the wider Cultural programme.

8. The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel met on 15 June 2022 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- Improving and Enhancing the Physical Environment Town-Wide.

The review will focus on the following areas:

- Environmental Enforcement/Fly Tipping.
- Damage to grass verges.
- Tree Replacement Programme.
- Enforcement of Planning Conditions.
- Pest Control Service.
- Allotments.
- Empty Properties.

Short Reviews/Updates:

- Teesside Crematorium.
- Flood Risk Management.
- Local Plan.
- Town Centre Strategy - Update on Future High Streets/Towns Fund.
- Middlesbrough Mayoral Development Corporation.
- Income to the Council from Housing/Potential impact of increased development costs.
- Housing – impact on health and wellbeing.

9. The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 21 June 2022 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

Health Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- Dental health and the impact of COVID-19; and
- GP access and quality of service

Short Reviews / Updates

- The Neurodevelopmental Pathway; and
- NEAS / ambulance service provision in Middlesbrough

10. When considering the work programme, each panel was 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.
11. 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.
12. On occasion, the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel 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.
13. Scrutiny panels are 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 to name a few.

14. In deciding their work programme, Panel's may have used the aid attached at **Appendix 1** to prioritise issues where scrutiny can make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

15. It is recommended that in respect of the scrutiny work programme for 2022/2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the inclusion of those topics put forward by the scrutiny panels.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

16. No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

17. Not Applicable

Financial

18. Not Applicable

Policy Framework

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

Equality and Diversity

20. Not Applicable

Risk

21. Not Applicable

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

22. Implement the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with regard to the selection of topics for the 2022/2023 Scrutiny Work Programme.

Appendices

23. Details of the aid that may have been used to assist Panel's in their prioritisation of topics is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Background papers

24. Scrutiny Panel Work Programme reports 2022/2023.

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