

Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	7 September 2022
Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	All
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	No
Why:	Not applicable

Executive summary

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.

Purpose

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

Background and relevant information**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 19 July 2022.

At that meeting the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Executive Member Update;
- Chief Executive's Update;
- The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel - Final Report - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND);
- Scrutiny Work Programme Report 2022-2023;
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

3. 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

4. The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel last met on 22 June 2022.
5. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration was in attendance at the meeting to provide an overview of the service area, and also to provide Members with an update regarding the integration of Health and Social Care.
6. The Scrutiny Panel discussed and selected topics for the Work Programme 2022/2023 which were subsequently forwarded to, and approved by, the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
7. A proposed meeting schedule for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year was also approved by the panel.
8. The next meeting of the panel is scheduled for 7 September 2022; Members will continue with their investigation regarding the Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on Covid-19 Recovery).

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

9. The Scrutiny Panel's last meeting was held on 18 July 2022.
10. The Scrutiny Panel held a one-off meeting on the topic of School Meals and Physical Education. The Council's Advanced Public Health Practitioner provided the Scrutiny Panel with:
 - an overview of school meals and healthy eating standards in schools;
 - information on free school meals and Middlesbrough's headline facts and figures; and
 - information on the physical education curriculum and details of school-based activities.
11. The Principal of Unity City Academy was also in attendance to provide the Scrutiny Panel with information on the academy's PE curriculum.
12. The Scrutiny Panel was advised that:
 - There are a number of programmes that will be offered to schools starting from September 2022 to improve the diets and physical activity levels of Middlesbrough's children and their families. However, addressing obesity, nutrition and physical activity requires action and a whole system approach is needed, from influencing the individual to changing the environment in which they live.
 - By the time they start primary school (aged 4/5 years), around one in ten children in the borough are living with obesity and this increases to one in five by the time that they are in Year Six (10/11 year olds).

- Children living with obesity suffer from worse physical and mental health outcomes and achieve poorer educational results.

13. In light of the evidence received, the Scrutiny Panel was in agreement that as the health of children in Middlesbrough is a significant concern and the Health Scrutiny Panel should undertake a full review of Childhood Obesity.

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

14. At its meeting on 26 July 2022, the Scrutiny Panel was provided with an introduction to its new scrutiny topic – Supporting Young People in the Transition to Adulthood. The Panel was asked to consider which areas it wished to focus on as part of examining the current arrangements and support available for young people transitioning to adulthood.

15. The date of the next meeting of the Panel is Monday, 19 September 2022.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

16. The Culture and Communities Panel met on Thursday 21 July 2022. The panel received information in respect of the following:

- Future High Street Fund

The Head of Economic Growth and Infrastructure provided the panel with a presentation in relation to the future high street fund and the development of the town centre.

- Cultural Strategy

The Acting Head of Culture provided a presentation in relation to the Cultural Strategy.

17. The date of the next meeting of the panel is 22 September 2022.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

18. At a meeting held on 20 July 2022, the Panel received an update on Teesside Crematorium from the Director of Environment and Community Services in line with a previous scrutiny recommendation from 2020. The Panel agreed that the future updates on Bereavement Services’ income would be presented annually rather than six monthly.

19. The Director of Environment and Community Services also delivered a presentation on environmental enforcement.

20. The Panel had received a request to give consideration to adding Toxic Chemicals in the River Tees to the scrutiny topics in this year’s Work Programme, following approval of Motion No 153 at a Council meeting held on 6 July 2022. Given that a formal request from the Council would be submitted to the Tees Valley Combined Authority for a further independent investigation to be undertaken, the Panel agreed that the outcome of that investigation (if one was undertaken), was needed prior to the Panel undertaking any work on this topic. The Panel resolved that Councillor Branson would keep a watching brief on this developing issue and report back to the Panel as appropriate.

21. Following a request from the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the Panel revised its Work Programme for 2022- 2023 to include the topic of Nutrient Neutrality, and remove the following topics: Tree Replacement Programme, Allotments and Empty Properties.

22. The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled to take place on 14 September 2022.

Health Scrutiny Panel

23. At its meeting on 19 July 2022, the Scrutiny Panel considered a number of items including the South Tees Quality Account 2021-2022, the Health and Well-Being Strategy, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2021-2022 and the formal establishment of the NENC ICB – a new statutory NHS organisation, as launched on 1 July 2022.

24. Information was also provided in respect of NHS proposals to develop a new model of Integrated Urgent Care (IUC) in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. The proposals aim to bring urgent care provision in South Tees in line with the offer currently provided in other areas of the Tees Valley. A public consultation exercise would be launched in August, with a view to gathering the views of residents and stakeholders by early October 2022. It is anticipated that the South Tees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee will consider the findings of the consultation prior to providing a formal consultation response on behalf of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

25. The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (TVJHSC) is next scheduled to meet on 23 September 2022.

Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 14 July and 10 August 2022.

27. At its meeting on the 14 July the Committee considered the following:-

- Group Chief Executive Update;
- Transport Update;
- Delegated Decisions;
- Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-2022;
- Feedback of Consultation on Quorum in Other Combined Authorities;

28. At its meeting on 10 August the Committee considered the following:-

- Referral from Cabinet: Investment Plan Refresh

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

29. Since the last update to Council, the Final Report of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – Green Strategy, was submitted to Executive on 6 September 2022.

30. The Final Report of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), was submitted to Executive on 6 September 2022.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

31. That Council note the report.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

32. The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

33. That an update on the work of the scrutiny function is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for updates on the scrutiny function, to be reported to full Council.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

34. The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.

Strategic priorities and risks

35. The relevant risks this decision would influence are cited below, with an explanation as to why they are relevant and how it would affect each risk.

Risk No	Risk Description	Impact
O8-054	Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.	If updates on the work of the scrutiny function were not provided to Council, it would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

36. The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.

Financial

37. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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