

Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	29 March 2023
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 22 February 2023.

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

- Executive Forward Work Programme.
- Corporate Performance Update: Quarter Three 2022-2023.

- Revenue can Capital Budget – Projected Outturn Position as at Quarter Three 2022/23.
- Children’s Finance Improvement Plan.
- The Statutory Finance Report (Section 25 Report).
- Mayoral Budget Proposals 2023/24, MTFP and Investment Strategy, including outcome of Consultation.
- Final Report of the Children and Young People’s Learning Scrutiny Panel.
- Final Report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel.
- 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 8 February 2023.
5. Members received updates from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration regarding the Integration of Health and Social Care, and the Recruitment and Retention of Staff Within Adult Social Care.
6. The Scrutiny Panel’s next meeting is scheduled to take place on 29 March 2023. At this meeting, Members will receive updates regarding the Integration of Health and Social Care, and the Cost of Living Impacts on Adult Social Care.

Children and Young People’s Learning Scrutiny Panel

7. The Children and Young People’s Learning Scrutiny Panel met on 13 February 2023. At that meeting, as a result of a Notice of Motion submitted to Council on 30 November 2022, the scrutiny panel considered an assessment of the costs associated with an extension of Middlesbrough’s Free School Meal offer to include 3 and 4 year olds in nursery and primary schools in the borough.
8. Karen Smith, the Head of Achievement was in attendance to provide an overview of the proposal and the associated costs.
9. Although the scrutiny panel recognised the key benefits of providing a healthy school meal, Members highlighted concerns that extending free school meal provision to only the 3 and 4 year old cohort attending maintained settings would have been considered discriminatory against those children attending Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) nurseries, childminders or academy sector provision. Subsequently, the scrutiny panel considered that the only option available would have been to extend free school meal provision to ALL 3 and 4 year olds and that would have resulted in the Council incurring significant costs (£1,748,000 in the first year). Therefore, given the Council’s current financial position, the scrutiny panel supported the officer’s recommendation - That the extension of free school meal provision, to include 3 and 4 year olds, would have been highly expensive and was not affordable at present.
10. At the meeting on 13 February, the scrutiny panel also agreed its final report and recommendations for submission to Executive, following its review of Youth Offending and Partnership Working with Schools.
11. The scrutiny panel last met on Monday 20 March 2023. At that meeting, the Head of Achievement was in attendance to provide information on the Learning and Education Strategy, setting out the

current context for learning in Middlesbrough and outlining how the Education Partnership works to improve the outcomes for children and young people accessing education in Middlesbrough.

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

12. Since the last update to Council, the Scrutiny Panel met on 17 January, 14 February and 14 March 2023.
13. At its 17 January meeting, the Panel received further evidence in relation to its current scrutiny topic from Middlesbrough Community Learning. Members heard how the Post-16 Alternative Provision and Apprenticeship Teams in particular help vulnerable young people to achieve their learning and employment goals with support tailored to meet the individual's needs. The Panel also received an update in relation to the findings of the Ofsted Monitoring Visit to the Pathways (Leaving Care) Service in November 2022.
14. At its meeting on 14 February, the Panel held its final evidence-gathering session and received information from the Tees Valley Children in Care Service (Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust) in relation to how the physical and mental health needs of children in care and care leavers are met by the service.
15. The Head of Resident and Business Support also attended the meeting to provide the Panel with an overview of potential future accommodation provision, particularly in relation to care leavers, that was being developed in partnership with housing providers.
16. The Panel last met on 14 March 2023 to consider its draft final report – Supporting Young People to Prepare for Adulthood and Independence – and agreed its conclusions and recommendations arising from its investigation. The Final Report is scheduled to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration on 28 March 2023.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

17. The Culture and Communities Panel met on Thursday 26 January 2023 and received an update from the then, Interim Head of Strategy, Information and Governance, on the Surveillance Policy.
18. The panel also agreed the final report on off road bikes, which will be submitted to the Executive in due course.
19. The date of the next meeting of the panel is 23 March 2023.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

19. The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel met on 18 January and 15 February 2023. At the January meeting the Panel began to look at its new scrutiny topic of Business Rates Pooling and received an overview from the Head of Finance and Investment.
20. At the February meeting the Panel received information in relation to Planning Enforcement from the Head of Planning. The Panel were informed of the different actions that could be taken by the Council and how enforcement action was prioritised.
21. The Panel also received an updated from Councillor Branson in relation to the mass morbidity of crustaceans that had taken place along the north east coast. Investigations into the possible cause was still ongoing and the latest Government evidence suggested that the deaths may have been caused by a pathogen.

22. At the next meeting, which is scheduled for 22 March 2023, the Panel will return to its current scrutiny topic of Business Rates Pooling, with a guest speaker from Leeds City Council, who have successfully participated in a pool for a number of years.

Health Scrutiny Panel

27. The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 21 March 2023. The Panel received information from the Chief Executive of Teesside Hospice who updated Members on the work of Teesside Hospice and services it offers around end of life and palliative care.

28. The Panel also received an update around investment in urgent care services in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. Plans for this investment included GP out of hours services to move from North Ormesby to the James Cook site

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

29. The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (TVJHSC) met on 17 March 2023.

At its meeting on the 17 March 2023 the Committee considered the following:-

- Update on NHS Dental Services - Tees Valley
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust - Quality Account
- Community Diagnostic Centres
- Clinical Services Strategy Update
- Work Programme

Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 2 March 2023.

31. At its meeting on the 2 March 2023 the Committee considered the following:-

- Martin Waters, Business Growth Manager of TVCA delivered a presentation to the committee on supporting local businesses.
- Councillor Bob Cook from Stockton Council together with Shona Duncan Head of Education & Skills at TVCA presented a report with an update on the activity and forward plan to date. The Committee sought clarity on the number of apprentices in Tees Valley and were informed that there were around 500 live vacancies at this time.
- The TVCA Monitoring Officer discussed the requirements for the Committee to either deal with presentations or reports.
- It was explained that the time of the next meeting could not be confirmed until after the May elections, when new members would have been ratified by TVCA cabinet.
- Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-2023
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Business Update
- EES Update

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

32. Since the last update to Council, the following Final Scrutiny report has been submitted to Executive:-

Executive – 24 January 2023 - Final Report of Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel in respect of a review of the role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on COVID-19 and Recovery).

What decision(s) are being recommended?

33. That Council note the report.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

34. 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

35. 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

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

Strategic priorities and risks

37. 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

38. 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

39. 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
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Appendices

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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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