

Scrutiny panels - possible delivery options

1. **Current Model** – maintain the current model

Potential Benefits	Potential Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All services provided by the Council are covered and it is clear which Directorate(s) the Scrutiny Panel works with • Any issue which affects Middlesbrough Residents can be examined and it is clear which Scrutiny Panel would be most suited to deal with it • All Elected Members can have a seat on a Scrutiny Panel (excluding Executive Members) and have the opportunity to influence the direction of the Council if they wish to do so 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer resource available to support statutory functions, including Committee support • Not maximising effectiveness of panels • Topics chosen are too wide, not focused and don't always meet the criteria of strategic or policy development. • There is some overlap with the two Children's related Panels • The Children's Services Directorate has to support and often senior staff have to attend, both panels.

2. **Reduce number of panels** – including merging some panels together

Potential Benefits	Potential Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merging the two Children's Panels would reduce any overlap with those two panels and be less onerous on the Director in terms of attendance at meetings • Reduction in overall number of meetings – less attendance and preparation time for Officers and members • More effective use of time available to resource the Panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer resource available to support statutory functions, including Committee support • Not all topics could be covered in larger directorates such as Children's Services is a large Directorate

3. Align scrutiny to the four service directorates – Reduces panels by two but would include OSB and Health

Potential Benefits	Potential Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected topics align with directorate aims • More outcome focused • Gives clear role and focus as to which topics may be included • Build more cohesive relationships between members and directorates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer resource available to support statutory functions, including Committee support

4. Align Scrutiny with the Council’s three strategic aims – People, Place, Business

Potential Benefits	Potential Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected topics can align into strategic aims more directly • More outcome focused • Gives clear role and focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer resource available to support statutory functions, including Committee support • Depending on topic selection, could become less focused and more difficult to cover emerging issues due to larger remits • Depending on the size of the scrutiny panels – would all Elected Members be able to have a place? • Some topics could overlap across Directorates

5. One Overview & Scrutiny Board – Create sub-groups after topics are selected (stat sub group of Health)

Potential Benefits	Potential Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives flexibility around selection of topics • More outcome focused • Greater use of task and finish style groups. This can allow improved cross-party working and detailed investigation of a single issue focused on producing substantive recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May lack focus • Possible review of level of support to statutory functions, including Committee support • Statutory topics including Health, RIPA and Flood Risk Management still need to be scrutinized. • Would more task and finish style groups and less formal meetings lower the profile of scrutiny within the Council? • Depending on the size of the scrutiny panels – would all Elected Members be able to have a place?