

<b>Report of:</b>	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	17 January 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Scrutiny Progress Report
<b>Report for:</b>	Information
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Strategic priority:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Urgent:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	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 20 December 2023.

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

- Executive Forward Work Programme
  - Members noted the Executive Forward Work Programme

- Council Plan
  - The Mayor outlined the Council Plan for 2024 onwards and the Council's strategic priorities.
- 2024/2025 Budget and MTFP Refresh
  - Members were provided with an update on the Council's financial position and the budget proposals required to redress the projected budget gap.
- Final Report of the Health Scrutiny Panel – Dental Health and Impact of Covid-19
  - The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel presented the Health Scrutiny Panel's report into Dental Health. OSB endorsed the recommendations and it approved its submission to Executive.
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates.
  - Members were updated about the activity within each Scrutiny Panel.

## **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 met on 21 November 2023 and 19 December 2023.
5. At the meeting on 21 November 2023, the panel welcomed Suzanne Hodge, Head of Prevention and Partnerships and Chris Thompson, Prevention and Support Services Lead Officer to the meeting.
6. This was the first meeting of the new topic in relation to the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel's investigation into Prevention, as a way of keeping older people in their own home for longer.
7. The officers provided a detailed presentation of the Middlesbrough Independent Living Services (MILS). To assist with the developing the terms of reference for the review, the Panel agreed it would be useful to receive information from Public Health South Tees.
8. With this in mind, the Panel welcomed Dr Michelle Stamp, Consultant in Public Health-Public Health South Tees to the meeting on 19 December 2023.
9. The presentation provided contained key statistics in relation to Middlesbrough's healthy life expectancy, as well as statistics for promoting independence for older people.
10. The Panel heard about the approach in Public Health as well as learning about some of the effective public health interventions in the community to support individuals. Due to the extend of information received, the Chair thought it would be wise to pull together all of the information and devise some terms of reference, prior to continuing with the review.
11. At the meeting on 19 December 2023, the Panel also received a presentation from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration on Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board annual report.
12. The next formal meeting of the Panel will take place on 27 February 2024, however a Special meeting of the Panel will take place on 9 January 2024 to consider the 2024/25 budget and Medium term financial plan (MTFP) for Adult Social Care.

## **Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel**

13. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel last met on 4 December 2023. At that meeting, the Panel continued with the School Attendance investigation.
14. The Head of Access to Education and Alternative Provision attended the meeting and gave a presentation in relation to the importance of good school attendance; attendance data; and action being undertaken in respect of it. Members also received information from the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Director of Education and Partnerships.
15. The Panel also agreed the Terms of Reference for the review.
16. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 15 January 2024 when the Panel will be considering the Council Budget 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan Refresh – Children's Services.

## **Environment Scrutiny Panel**

17. At its meeting on 13 November 2023, Officers from Environment Services were in attendance to provide further information in relation to the Panel's current topic of 'Waste Management'. This included: details around recycling rates and how Middlesbrough compares locally and nationally; the types and amounts of materials collected; frequent contaminants; data on disposal and processing.
18. The Panel also agreed Terms of Reference for its review and received a verbal update from the Vice Chair regarding the Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group.
19. The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for 11 December 2023. Community Action Group, Boro Doughnut, will be in attendance to talk about its work in supporting the town's One Planet Living strategy.

## **Health Scrutiny Panel**

20. The Health Scrutiny Panel last met on 11 December 2023. At this meeting, Members considered and agreed the content of the draft final report on the topic of Dental Health and the Impact of Covid-19.
21. At the meeting, the Panel also received an update on women's health services from the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Director of Place Based Delivery and the Commissioning Delivery Manager were in attendance to provide information on women's health concerns and details of the work that is being undertaken, locally, to improve how the health and care system listens to women, improve access to services and improve health outcomes.
22. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 16 January 2024. At this meeting, the Panel will consider the following items:
  - Council Budget 2024/25 and MTFP Refresh  
The Director of Public Health and the Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health will be in attendance to present the budget in respect of Public Health.
  - Avoidable Deaths and Preventable Mortality - An Introduction  
The Consultant in Public Health will provide general overview/introduction of the topic, including:
    - information on the role of Public Health South Tees in preventing ill-health, specifically:

- reducing inequalities through the prevention and early detection of disease and supporting the management of long-term conditions; and
- key data and information on Middlesbrough's rates of preventable and avoidable mortality and how these compare regionally and nationally.

### **Regeneration Scrutiny Panel**

23. A meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel was held on 6 December 2023. The Panel continued with their scrutiny investigation into Planning Capacity with two items related to the Terms of Reference for the review.
24. The Head of Policy Practice and Research at the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) attended the meeting virtually and gave a presentation in relation to the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and information was also provided in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Local Plan-making.
25. The Council's Development Control Manager provided an update on a review of the Council's website content in relation to Planning and Development.
26. The next Panel meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17 January 2024 when the Panel will be continuing with the current review and considering the Council Budget 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan Refresh – Regeneration.

### **South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

27. The South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee met on 13 December 2023. At this meeting, the Committee considered the following items:
  - An Overview of Public Health
  - An Update on the Live Well South Tees Health and Wellbeing Board
  - Winter Planning
  - Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) Developments

### **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

28. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee met on 15 December 2023. At this meeting, the Committee considered the following items:
  - Office for Health Improvement & Disparities - Community Water Fluoridation
  - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board - NHS Dentistry Update
  - NHS England / Northern Cancer Alliance - Non-Surgical Oncology Outpatient Transformation
  - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board - Tees Valley Winter Planning Update
  - Work Programme 2023-2024

### **Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

23. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 2 March 2023.
24. 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**

25. 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?**

26. That Council note the report.

### **Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

27. 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**

28. 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***

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

#### ***Strategic priorities and risks***

30. 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.

<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact</b>
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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.
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***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

31. 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***

32. 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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