

Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
Date:	31 July 2024
Title:	Setting the Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/2025
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	All
Key decision:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	Not applicable
Why:	Not Applicable

Executive summary

Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and agree individual Panel work programmes for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

When considering the work programme, the Board is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:

- 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.

Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to determine the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/2025.

Background and relevant information

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.
3. The topics agreed by each Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2024/2025 are listed below in turn for the Board's approval. Members are advised that the People Scrutiny Panel met on the 15 July but did not agree a work programme for the coming year. The Panel will meet to agree its work programme at its meeting on 16 September 2024 after which OSB will be able to consider that work programme at its meeting on 25 September 2024.

Place Scrutiny Panel

4. The Place Scrutiny Panel met on 29 July 2024 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

In-depth reviews:

- Empty Properties.
- Barriers to Regeneration.
- Home to School Transport.

Potential Short Reviews/ Updates:

- Bereavement Services (in relation to diminishing cemetery space)
- Provision for Migrants

Updates:

- Flood Risk Management.
- Toxic Chemicals in the River Tees/Crustacean Working Group.
- RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers) – annual update.
- Prevent and Channel – annual update.
- Community Safety Partnership – annual update.
- Medium Term Financial Plan Refresh for Regeneration and Environment and Community Services Directorates

The Place Scrutiny Panel also agreed that a Task and Finish Group will review progress on actions from some previous investigations including: Green Strategy, Waste Recycling and Town Centre Regeneration post-Covid.

Throughout the last municipal year, the Environment Scrutiny Panel undertook a detailed investigation into Waste Management. It was agreed that a draft Final Report on Waste Management should be presented to the Place Scrutiny Panel for consideration at the earliest opportunity.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

- 9. That in respect of the scrutiny work programme for 2024/2025 the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the inclusion of those topics put forward by the Place Scrutiny Panel.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 10. The Overview and Scrutiny Board is required to consider and approve the Scrutiny Work Programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

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

- 11. No other options are put forward as part of the report.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

- 12. Not Applicable

Strategic priorities and risks

- 13. Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Council's Strategic Objectives.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

- 14. Not Applicable.

Financial

- 15. Not Applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	Scrutiny Topic Selection Aid
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Scrutiny Panels	Work Programme Reports	Various

Contact: Scott Bonner/ Joanne Dixon

Email: scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk/

Joanne_dixon@middlesbrough.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

