

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
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Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	16 October 2024
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Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
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Report for:	Information
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
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Key decision:	No
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Why:	Not applicable
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Subject to call in?:	No
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Why:	Not Applicable
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Proposed decision(s)
That Council note the report.

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.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the position in respect of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council note the report.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

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

4. Background and relevant information:

4.1 Overview and Scrutiny Board

4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 25 September 2024 and considered the following substantive items on its agenda:

- a) Corporate Performance Update – Quarter One 2024/2025
- b) Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position – Quarter One 2024/25
- c) Executive Member Update - Regeneration
- d) Community Cohesion – Discussion
- e) Executive Forward Work Programme

4.3 Members heard that 11 (25%) actions were delayed due to external factors beyond Middlesbrough Council control and 3 (7%) actions were delayed due to internal capacity to complete within approved timescales. However, Members were also informed that 90% of outcome measures were expected to be completed by the end of the year.

4.4 Members also heard the Council was projected to have a budget overspend of £3.7 million for 2024/25. However, it was also stated the projected overspend at Quarter One was without any actions being taken so it was hoped this would reduce as the year progressed.

4.5 The Executive Member for Regeneration was in attendance, accompanied by the Director of Regeneration, and provided an update on his portfolio. Members were presented with the challenges and opportunities facing the Regeneration portfolio including the need to ensure fair access to high quality homes and strengthening transport links within Middlesbrough and beyond. A significant challenge facing the Regeneration portfolio was the rejuvenation of the Town Centre.

4.5.1 Following social unrest in Middlesbrough, and further afield, the Board discussed if a review into community cohesion was necessary. Members attention was drawn to a previous scrutiny review into Community Cohesion produced in 2020 by the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel. It was agreed that a Task and Finish Group lead on the issue of Community Cohesion and report its finding back to OSB.

- 4.5.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Board also met on 30 September 2024 to consider a Call-In request in relation to the Executive decision to dispose of land at Nunthorpe Grange (Executive Sub Committee for Property, 4 September 2024)
- 4.5.3 Cllr Tom Livingstone presented the Call In on behalf of Cllr Morgan McClintock with the Executive Member for Regeneration, accompanied by the Director of Regeneration, putting the case supporting the decision. The Call In focussed on if sufficient alternatives had been proposed to Executive when making its decision.
- 4.5.4 After hearing evidence from both the Call In proposer and respondent, OSB decided not to refer the decision back to the Executive Sub Committee for Property.

5. Scrutiny Panel Updates

- 5.1 The updated position in respect of the work of each of the Council's scrutiny panels is shown below.

People Scrutiny Panel

- 5.2 A meeting of the People Scrutiny Panel took place on 16 September 2024.

At the meeting, Members considered the Work Programme for 2024/2025. The topics chosen for review this year were Children Missing from Education and Homelessness. Should time allow, the topic of Obesity would also be pursued.

Regarding the topic of Children Missing from Education, the Head of Access to Education and Alternative Provision was present at the meeting and provided the panel with an overview of the key issues involved.

The next meeting is scheduled for 14 October 2024 and the panel will continue the investigation into Children Missing from Education by discussing and determining the Terms of Reference. In addition, the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration will be in attendance to provide an update position regarding the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection of Middlesbrough Council.

5.4 Place Scrutiny Panel

- 5.5 Two meetings of the Place Scrutiny Panel took place in September. At the meeting held on 2 September 2024, the Panel received overviews of two of the topics chosen for review this year: Home to School Transport and Empty Properties.

At the 23 September 2024 the Panel considered the former Environment Scrutiny Panel's Final Report on Waste Management. Members of the former Environment Scrutiny Panel also attended the meeting. The Final Report was approved and will now be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 October 2024 and the Panel will continue the investigation into Home and School Transport with a presentation from the Council's Independent Travel Trainer. In addition, the Director of Regeneration will be in attendance to provide an overview in relation to Middlesbrough Council's

responsibilities with regard to empty commercial properties in Middlesbrough. The Panel will also discuss and determine Terms of Reference for both reviews.

6. Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive

6.1 Since the last update to Council, no Final Scrutiny reports have been submitted to Executive.

7. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

7.1 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)

8. *Financial (including procurement and Social Value)*

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

9. *Legal*

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

10. *Risk*

10.1 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.

11. *Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion*

11.1 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.

12. *Climate Change / Environmental*

Not applicable.

13. Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

Not applicable.

14. Data Protection

Not applicable.

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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