

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	27 November 2024
Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Not Applicable

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 23 October 2024 and considered the following substantive items on its agenda:

- a) Executive Member Update – Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture
- b) Final Report of the Environment Scrutiny Panel – Waste Management
- c) Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25 – People Scrutiny Panel
- d) Executive Forward Work Programme
- e) Scrutiny Chairs' Updates

4.3 Members received a presentation from the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture, in relation to her portfolio. The Executive Member highlighted the current challenges and opportunities within both Culture and Education portfolios and also set out her priorities for both, with key focus on ensuring the build of Outwood Riverside and extending the use of the Town Hall for commercial opportunities and community groups.

4.4 The Board considered the Final Report of the former Environment Scrutiny Panel on Waste Management. The review focussed on waste management practices and explored how recycling could be increased whilst reducing residual waste levels. The Board endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained within the report to be referred to the Executive for consideration.

4.5 Members also formally approved the Work Programme for the People Scrutiny Panel and considered the Executive Forward Work Programme - requesting further information in relation to the item on future cemetery provision.

4.6 The Board's next meeting is scheduled for 20 November 2024.

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 The People Scrutiny Panel met on 14 October 2024 and 11 November 2024.

At the 14 October 2024 meeting, the panel continued its investigation into Children Missing from Education (CME) by discussing and determining the Terms of Reference. In addition, the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration was in attendance to provide an update position regarding the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection of Middlesbrough Council.

At the 11 November 2024 meeting, a representative of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP) was in attendance to present the Partnership's annual report.

Regarding the topic of CME, the Head of Achievement was present at the meeting and provided the panel with information regarding Ethnic Minority Children missing education.

The next meeting is scheduled for 16 December 2024; the panel will continue its investigation into CME with a presentation from the Head of SEN and Vulnerable Learners. The panel will also receive an overview in relation to the next topic of investigation: Homelessness. In addition, the Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) will be in attendance to present their annual report.

5.4 Place Scrutiny Panel

5.5 At the meeting of 7 October 2024 the Panel received a presentation from the Ethical Housing Company detailing the work they are undertaking to address empty properties in Middlesbrough. The Panel also received a presentation from the Integrated Transport Unit Manager which provided details on the Home to School Transport Policy in Middlesbrough.

The next meeting is scheduled for 2 December 2024 the Panel will continue the investigation into Home and School Transport. In addition, a representative from Thirteen Group will be in attendance to provide an overview in relation to the work being carried out by Thirteen to address the issues with empty properties in Middlesbrough. The Panel will also discuss the Terms of Reference for the Empty Property Review.

6. Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

6.1 A meeting of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee was held at Hartlepool Civic Centre on 7 November 2024. The Committee considered several items, including: The Winter Plan Update; Opioid Prescribing and Dependency Across the Tees Valley; The Tees Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan; and Health Inequalities in the Tees Valley.

7. Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive

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

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

8.1 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.

9. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact						
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications because of this decision.						
Legal	The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.						
Risk	<p>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.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Risk No</th> <th>Risk Description</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>O8-054</td> <td>Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.</td> <td>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.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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.
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, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	No protected groups are affected by the decision.						
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable.						
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable.						
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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