

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
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<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	The Mayor
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
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<b>Date:</b>	15 January 2025
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<b>Title:</b>	Scrutiny Progress Report
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<b>Report for:</b>	Information
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
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<b>Key decision:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Subject to call in?:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not Applicable
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<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That Council note the report.

<b>Executive summary</b>
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 18 December 2024 and considered the following substantive items on its agenda:

1. Corporate Performance: Quarter Two 2024/25
2. Executive Member Update – Finance
3. 2024/25 Quarter Two Revenue and Capital Monitoring and Forecast Outturn
4. 2025/26 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 and 2028/29 Executive Forward Work Programme
5. Forward Plan Information Updates
  - a. CAPEX – Municipal Buildings Roof Repair
6. Scrutiny Chairs' Updates

4.3 Members received a presentation from the Executive Member for Finance, in relation to her portfolio. The Executive Member highlighted the current challenges and opportunities within the Finance portfolio and set out her priorities with a key focus on ensuring the Council delivered within budget for the current financial year and achieved a balanced budget in 2025/26.

4.4 The Board also considered the draft 2025/26 budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 and 2028/29, as part of the budget consultation.

4.5 The Board's next meeting is scheduled for 22 January 2025.

## **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**

The People Scrutiny Panel met on 16 December 2024 and continued its review of Children Missing Education (CME) with a presentation from The Head of Inclusion around Permanent Exclusion. In addition, the Public Health Practitioner was in attendance and presented the Tees Suicide Prevention – Strategic Plan 2024-2029

and the Independent Chair of the Tees Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB), was in attendance and presented the TSAB's Annual Report 2023-24.

The next meeting is scheduled for 20 January 2025; the Panel will continue its investigation into CME by inviting representatives from schools to this meeting, to seek their views on how CME affects their schools. Headteachers will also be given the opportunity to provide written commentary for the Panel to consider, should they not be able to attend the meeting. The Panel will also receive an overview in relation to the next topic of investigation; Homelessness.

#### **5.4 Place Scrutiny Panel**

5.5 The Place Scrutiny Panel met on 2 December 2024 and continued its review of Empty Properties. The Executive Director of Customer Services from Thirteen attended and gave a presentation in relation to the actions the Company is undertaking to address the issue of empty properties in Middlesbrough and bring them back into use.

5.6 The Panel agreed Terms of Reference for the review of Empty Properties which had been drafted by the Empty Properties Task and Finish Group.

5.7 The Home to School Transport Task and Finish Group provided an update on information collected from several schools in relation to home to school transport for inclusion as evidence for the scrutiny investigation.

5.8 At the meeting on 6 January 2025, the Panel received annual updates on Prevent and Channel and the Community Safety Partnership.

#### **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.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 January 2025 and will take place at Hartlepool Civic Centre. The Committee will consider several items, including: Clinical Services Strategy Update – Group Model; Improving Palliative and End of Life Care Across the Tees Valley; NEAS: Staff Safety and Performance Update; and Tees Respite Care/ Short Breaks Service Update.

#### **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)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Impact</b>						
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><b>Risk No</b></th> <th><b>Risk Description</b></th> <th><b>Impact</b></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>	<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact</b>	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.
<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact</b>					
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)**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>

**Appendices**

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**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

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