

<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>	26 March 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 22 January and 12 February 2025.

4.3 At the meeting held on 22 January 2025, the Board received a presentation from the Executive Member for Children's Services. The Executive Member provided an overview of the current key priorities and challenges within his portfolio.

4.4 The Board also received an update in relation to Levick Court and considered the Executive Forward Work Programme and updates from the Chairs of the Place and People Scrutiny Panels.

4.5 At its meeting on 12 February 2025, the Board received a presentation from the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability, outlining key areas within his portfolio, including current and future key priorities and issues.

4.6 The Board also considered the Executive Forward Work Programme and updates from the Scrutiny Panel Chairs.

4.7 The Board's next meeting is scheduled for 19 March 2025.

### **5.0 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 At the 20 January 2025 meeting, the Panel continued its review of Children Missing Education (CME), with presentations from The Head of Virtual School and the Vice Principal of a Secondary School to discuss the impact of CME.

5.3 The Panel commenced its second review of the year with an overview of Homelessness from the Access and Change Together (ACT) Middlesbrough Lead Officer.

5.4 At the meeting on 17 February 2025 meeting, the Panel received further evidence in relation to its CME review. Members received a written statement from a representative of a Primary School, which detailed the impact of CME. Members also received further information from the Head of Access to Education and Alternative Provision. A draft final report would be prepared in advance of the next Panel meeting on 24 March 2025.

5.5 The Panel considered and approved the Terms of Reference for the Homelessness review.

## 5.6 **Place Scrutiny Panel**

5.7 At the meeting on 27 January 2025, the Panel received the following annual statutory updates:

- Flood Risk Management.
- RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers).

5.8 Continuing its review of Home to School Transport, the Panel also received an update from the Task and Finish Group.

5.9 At the meeting on 11 March 2025, the Panel considered and approved the Final Report on Home to School Transport.

5.10 The Panel commenced its third review of the year with an overview of Barriers to Regeneration from the Director of Regeneration.

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

6.1 The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee met on 13 March 2025. The following agenda items were discussed: North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account for 2024/25, Tees Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account priorities update 2024/25 and Crisis Screen, Triage and Assessment Overview – Durham and Tees Valley.

## 7.0 **Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive**

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

## 8.0 **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	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. <table border="1" data-bbox="564 712 1426 1093"> <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**

<b>1</b>	
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**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

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