

## Appendix 1 – Suggested Scrutiny Topics for 2025/2026

Ref	Suggested Scrutiny Investigation Topic	Source	Council Plan 2024-2027, Ambition and Aim
1.	<b><u>Supported Housing Regulations</u></b> Understanding the impact of the supported housing regulations currently out to consultation – Supported Housing (Regulatory oversight) Act 2023	Officer	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all</i> <b>A Successful and Ambitious Town</b> - <i>Ensure housing provision meets local demand.</i> <b>Safe and Resilient Communities</b> - <i>Support for adults to be independent for longer</i>
2.	<b><u>Housing Standards</u></b> Are we meeting the housing standards for our most vulnerable groups?	Councillor	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i> <b>A Successful and Ambitious Town</b> - <i>Ensure housing provision meets local demand.</i> <b>Safe and Resilient Communities</b> - <i>Support for adults to be independent for longer</i>
3.	<b><u>Childhood Obesity and Travel to School</u></b> Active travel to schools to reduce the issue of car parking outside schools and help reduce childhood obesity	Councillor	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i> <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i>
4.	<b><u>Creating physically active communities</u></b>	Councillor	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i> <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i>
5.	<b><u>Dental Care Practices</u></b> Is the need being met?	Councillor	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i> <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i>
6.	<b><u>South Tees NHS Trust – Investigations / Complaints</u></b> How are complaints investigated at South Tees NHS Trust? Does the Patient Experience Team (PET) have a framework for complaint investigation?	Resident	<b>A Healthy Place</b> – <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i> <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i>
7.	<b><u>Violence Against Women and Girls and how to tackle it.</u></b>	Councillor	<b>Safe and Resilient Communities</b> - <i>Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour</i>

	In the last year, violence against women and girls (VAWG) represented almost a quarter of all crime recorded by Cleveland Police. How does the Council work with partners like Cleveland Police to tackle it, what more can be done? How do we work with charities? Another issue that should be looked at is how do we tackle the growth of so-called influencers promoting toxic masculinity and their appeal to young men and children.		
8.	<b><u>Domestic Abuse</u></b> Joint working between Children's and Adults with regard to Domestic Abuse – assessing progress from the Internal Audit outlining areas of improvement in this area.	Officer	<b>Safe and Resilient Communities</b> - <i>Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour</i>
9.	<b><u>Informal Carers</u></b> The valuable work undertaken by informal carers, the support received and ease of access to information, advice and guidance across all social care (Adults & Children's)	Officer	<b>Safe and Resilient Communities</b> - <i>Support for adults to be independent for longer</i>
10.	<b><u>Independent Advocacy</u></b> Is Independent Advocacy working well and what is the impact of a opt out service planned under the Mental health Act 2025?	Officer	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities.</i> <b>Safe and Resilient Communities</b> - <i>Support for adults to be independent for longer</i>
11.	<b><u>Mental Health Act 2025</u></b> Understanding the impacts of changes within the Mental Health Act 2025 and how the Council is preparing for this over the next 5 years	Officer	<b>A Healthy Place</b> – <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i> <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i>
12.	<b><u>All-age Autism Strategy</u></b> Measuring the impact of the All-age autism strategy.	Officer	<b>A Healthy Place</b> – <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i> <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities.</i>

13.	<p><b><u>Healthy place making across the life course with a focus on children and young people.</u></b></p> <p>Healthy placemaking, particularly for children and young people, involves creating environments that support their physical, mental, and social well-being throughout their lives enabling healthy behaviours rather than obstructing them. The focus will be on understanding how the built environment influences health and wellbeing at different life stages and our role as a Council in this.</p>	Officer	<p><b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i></p>
14.	<p><b><u>Commercial determinants of health and council role</u></b></p> <p>CDoH encompasses the activities of private sector industries that influence the environments where people live, work, and play, impacting their health. These activities can be both positive and negative, such as the promotion of healthy food or the production of unhealthy products such as tobacco, alcohol, and gambling. Local councils can play a role in addressing CDoH through various strategies, including policies, community engagement, and working with other council departments and wider system partners to influence decision-making.</p>	Officer	<p><b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i></p>
15.	<p><b><u>Impact of unhealthy food advertising on the health and food choices of communities</u></b></p>	Councillor	<p><b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i>  <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i></p>

16.	<p><b><u>Teenage Conception</u></b>  Understanding the drivers and strengthening local response  It would cover:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Local picture/trends</li> <li>2. Key drivers and risk factors</li> <li>3. Impact on young people and families</li> <li>4. Local focus and services</li> <li>5. Partnership working</li> <li>6. Opportunities for Improvement</li> </ol>	Officer	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i>
17.	<p><b><u>The rise of youth vaping and its consequences.</u></b>  Understanding the long-term health implications of vaping, the preventative work undertaken by partners and the single-use ban.</p>	Officer	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i>
18.	<p><b><u>Reduction in the ICB Running Costs</u></b>  At the meeting of the ASC and Health Scrutiny Panel on 1 July 2025, Members were advised that NHS England was being integrated into the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) were to reduce their running costs.</p>	ASC & Health Scrutiny Panel – 1 July 2025	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i> <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i>
19.	<p><b><u>Proactive Frailty Case Finding</u></b>  At the meeting of the ASC and Health Scrutiny Panel on 1 July 2025, Members were advised that Proactive Frailty Case Finding was as a key priority for the ICB in relation to preventative care and a significant element of the ICB's Neighbourhood Health Guidelines. It was noted that Proactive Frailty Care Finding should be considered further by the Panel, when confirming the Scrutiny Work Programme.</p>	ASC & Health Scrutiny Panel – 1 July 2025	<b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i> <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities.</i> <b>Safe and Resilient Communities</b> - <i>Support for adults to be independent for longer</i>

20.	<p><b><u>GP and Primary Care Access (satisfaction levels, appointment waiting times etc)</u></b></p> <p>At the meeting of the ASC and Health Scrutiny Panel on 1 July 2025, Members raised concerns around patients' difficulties in accessing primary care. It was noted that this should be considered further by the Panel, when confirming the Scrutiny Work Programme.</p>	ASC & Health Scrutiny Panel – 1 July 2025	<p><b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i>  <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i></p>
21.	<p><b><u>Mental Health - Identifying and Supporting Individuals</u></b></p> <p>At the meeting of the ASC and Health Scrutiny Panel on 1 July 2025, Members stressed that poor mental health is a significant concern, particularly in relation to the economic and social factors in Middlesbrough. It was also noted that individuals experiencing poor mental health are often reluctant to seek help, and there should be careful consideration of the system and processes in place to identify and support them.</p>	ASC & Health Scrutiny Panel – 1 July 2025	<p><b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all.</i>  <b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities</i></p>
22.	<p><b><u>Homelessness</u></b></p> <p>Previous scrutiny investigation started by the People Scrutiny Panel in 2025</p>	People Scrutiny Panel	<p><b>A Healthy Place</b> - <i>Promote inclusivity for all</i>  <b>A Successful and Ambitious Town</b> - <i>Ensure housing provision meets local demand.</i>  <b>Safe and Resilient Communities</b> - <i>Support for adults to be independent for longer</i></p>