

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Democratic Services Manager
Relevant Executive Member:	Not applicable
Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
Date:	30 July 2025
Title:	Pre-Decision Protocol
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable

Proposed decision(s)
That Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the draft Pre-Decision Protocol

Executive summary
<p>The aim of this protocol (Appendix 1) is to set out an agreed way of working with the Executive, in line with the Council's Constitution, to facilitate the role of Scrutiny in respect of pre-decision scrutiny.</p> <p>The purpose of the protocol is to continue to embed a culture that recognises the importance of Executive and Scrutiny working together in a collaborative way.</p>

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 The aim of this protocol is to set out an agreed way of working with the Executive, in line with the Council's Constitution, to facilitate the role of Scrutiny in respect of pre-decision scrutiny.

1.2 The purpose of the protocol is to continue to embed a culture that recognises the importance of Executive and Scrutiny working together in a collaborative way.

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - attract and grow businesses to increase employment opportunities - Improve attainment in education and skills - Ensure housing provision meets local demand
A healthy Place	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities - protect and improve our environment - promote inclusivity for all - reduce poverty
Safe and resilient communities	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support adults to be independent for longer - improve transport and digital connectivity - promote new ideas and community initiatives - reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
Delivering best value	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure robust and effective corporate governance - set a balanced revenue budget and Medium Term Financial Plan to restore financial resilience and sustainability

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the Pre-Decision Scrutiny protocol.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 Scrutiny carried out well in advance of a decision being made should allow for more time and resources to explore the fundamentals of the decision and if appropriate, propose alternative options.

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 Scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that local government remains transparent, accountable and open, resulting in improved public policies and services.

4.2 For effective scrutiny to happen the Executive and Scrutiny need to work together for the benefit of the Council and to improve decision-making.

4.3 Considering decisions before they are made provides an important means to influence those decisions, and to improve them. It gives Councillors the opportunity to challenge assumptions that may have been made as the decision was developed. It also provides an opportunity to consider how decision-makers have considered what risks might arise from the implementation of the decision, and how those risks might be mitigated.

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

5.1 Not applicable

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

6.1 No other options are put forward as part of the report.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	Impact will depend on decisions being examined under the pre-decision scrutiny protocol.
Legal	
Risk	
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	
Reducing Poverty	
Climate Change / Environmental	
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	
Data Protection	

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	Pre-Decision Scrutiny Protocol
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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