

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Democratic Services
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Board
<b>Date:</b>	30 July 2025
<b>Title:</b>	Setting the Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/2026
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
<b>Key decision:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Subject to call in?</b>	Not applicable
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the inclusion of the topics listed in the report topics put forward by the Adult Social Care, Children's and Place Scrutiny Panels.

<b>Executive summary</b>
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and agree individual Panel work programmes for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.</p> <p>When considering the work programme, the Board is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area.</li> <li>• Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence.</li> <li>• Are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the scrutiny panels have considered during the last 12 months.</li> <li>• Do not relate to an individual service complaint.</li> <li>• Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.</li> </ul>

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

1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to determine the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2025/2026 ensuring Scrutiny Investigation Topics and standard updates support the delivery of the ambitions of the Middlesbrough Council Plan 2024-27:

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

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2025-2026 by agreeing individual Scrutiny Work Plans detailed in this report.

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board is required to consider and approve the Scrutiny Work Programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

## 4. Background and relevant information

At the start of every Municipal Year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. The topics agreed by each Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2025/2026 are listed below for the Board's approval.

## **Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel**

### In Depth Reviews

- Healthy Place Making across the life course with a focus on children and young people.
- Domestic Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls and how to tackle it.

### Updates:

- Quarterly Monitoring of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Improvement Plan
- Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) - Annual Report
- Director of Public Health, Annual Report
- Updates from the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee
- South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - Draft Quality Account
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust - Draft Quality Account

## **Children's Services Scrutiny Panel**

### In Depth Reviews

- Out of Area Specialist Provision
- Educational Attainment of Children in Care
- Supporting Children who are being exploited

### Updates:

- South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report
- Performance data
- Children's Services financial information.
- SEND Local Offer

## **Overview and Scrutiny Board**

### In Depth Reviews

- Poverty, its impact, and efforts to tackle it.
- The role of faith and belief in decision-making, civic life, and the work of Middlesbrough Council

## **Place Scrutiny Panel**

### In Depth Reviews

- Barriers to Regeneration (ongoing review)
- Commemorating Middlesbrough's Bicentenary in 2030
- Development of a Vision for the Town
- The Council's Role in Housing

Updates:

- Flood Risk Management
- RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers) (Annual update)
- Community Safety Partnership (Annual update)
- Prevent and Channel (Annual update)

**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 were put forward as part of the report.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	Details of impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
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	
2	
3	

**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

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