

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
------------------------------	--

Report of:	Councillor L Young, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)
-------------------	---

Relevant Executive Member:	The Mayor
-----------------------------------	-----------

Submitted to:	Council
----------------------	---------

Date:	10 September 2025
--------------	-------------------

Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
---------------	--------------------------

Report for:	Information
--------------------	-------------

Status:	Public
----------------	--------

Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
-------------------------------	-----------------------

Key decision:	No
----------------------	----

Why:	Report is for information only
-------------	--------------------------------

Subject to call in?:	Not applicable
-----------------------------	----------------

Why:	Not Applicable Council Report for information only
-------------	---

Proposed decision(s)
That Council note the report.

Executive summary
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 of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions**
 - 1.1 To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels.

1.2

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	By responding effectively and efficiently to constitutional requirements the Council will maintain effective and robust governance arrangements. Robust governance arrangements will allow for effective decisions which inform all the Council's ambitions.
A healthy Place	
Safe and resilient communities	
Delivering best value	

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:

Overview and Scrutiny Board

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 30 July 2025.

The Board considered the following substantive items as part of its agenda:

- Executive Member Update – The Mayor
- Delivery against the Continuous Improvement Plan – Progress Update
- Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme
- Scrutiny – Work Planning 2025/26
- Pre-Decision Scrutiny Protocol
- Executive Forward Plan
- Final Report of the People Scrutiny Panel – Children Missing Education
- Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel – Empty Properties

The Board received several updates from the Mayor relating to his portfolio and wider Council initiatives. Those updates included progress on the Childhood Enrichment programme, the removal of the Linthorpe Road Cycle Lane, Area Care Uplift programmes and the Turner Prize being hosted in Middlesbrough.

Following the end of the Best Value Notice, the Board also received an update on the Council's progress against the Continuous Improvement Plan. The Plan, approved by Executive, was for OSB's comment and noting. The Mayor stated he was confident all actions would be completed.

As well as approving the work plans of individual scrutiny panels, OSB also agreed its own work programme for the 2025/26 Municipal Year. It decided to examine issues

of poverty, specifically how the Council can help alleviate it, and how faith and belief plays a role in decision making.

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Protocol was approved which was intended to better facilitate the working relationship between the Scrutiny and Executive functions.

The Board also considered the Executive Forward Work Programme and, as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process, requested further information on several entries.

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.

Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel

- 5.2 The Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel last met on 22 July 2025 and considered topics for its 2025-26 Work Programme, via the scrutiny consultation process. It was agreed that the following be added to the Panel's Work Programme:

Review Topics:

1. Healthy Placemaking Across the Life Course, with a Focus on Children and Young People (Childhood Obesity).
2. Violence Against Women and Girls: How to Tackle It.

The regular updates were also noted to be included in the programme as follows:

- 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

The next meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel is scheduled to take place on 8 September 2025 at 5pm, an overview of the topic Healthy Placemaking Across the Life Course, with a Focus on Children and Young People (Childhood Obesity) will be provided. The Panel will also receive a quarterly update from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration on the CQC Improvement Plan as well as an introduction to the Health Determinants Research Collaboration from the Head of Knowledge and Innovation.

Children's Scrutiny Panel

- 5.3 The Children's Scrutiny Panel last met on 15 July 2025 and considered topics that had been suggested for its 2025-26 Work Programme, via the scrutiny consultation process. It was subsequently agreed that the following be added to the Work Programme:-

Review Topics

1. Out of Area Specialist Provision
2. Educational Attainment of Children in Care
3. Supporting Children who are being exploited

Updates

1. South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership – Annual Report
2. Performance Data

In addition, the Panel requested that updates on the following also be received during the year:-

1. Children's Services financial information
2. SEND Local Offer

- 5.4 The Panel's next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 15 September 2025 at 4.30pm when an introduction to its new scrutiny topic, "Out of Area Specialist Provision", would be provided.

Place Scrutiny Panel

- 5.5 Meetings of the Place Scrutiny Panel took place on 30 June and 17 July 2025.

- 5.6 At the 30 June meeting the Director for Regeneration and the Director of Environment and Commercial Services were in attendance to provide Members with an overview of the services delivered across their directorates, and to highlight the strategic and departmental priorities for the coming year. The Panel noted the information provided in preparation for formulating the 2025/2026 work programme, which would take place at the next meeting on 17 July 2025.

- 5.7 At the meeting on 17 July 2025 the Panel considered the suggested topics that had been put forward for the forthcoming municipal year. Topics had been received from members of the public, officers and Elected Members. The panel agreed to the following topics for the coming year to be included in their work programme for 25/26.

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

The regular Statutory Updates will also be included in the programme as follows:

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

- 5.8 The next meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel is scheduled to take place on Monday 29 September 2025, when the Panel will be receiving a presentation from the Head

of Growth and the Town Centre Manager on how Anti-Social Behaviour is a Barrier to Regeneration of the Town which is part of the current Barriers to Regeneration scrutiny review.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

5.9 The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee last met on 17 July 2025 to consider the following items:

- Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee Protocol and Terms of Reference.
- North East and North Cumbria (NENC) Integrated Care Board (ICB) - NHS Dentistry Update.
- Tees Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust - CAMHS Update.
- Tees Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust - Tees Respite Care / Adult Learning Disability Update.
- North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust - Community Diagnostic Centre Update.
- Work Programme 2025/26.

5.10 The next meeting has been scheduled for 2 October 2025.

Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive

5.11 Since the last update to Council, no Final Reports have been submitted to Executive.

6. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate.

6.1 Not applicable.

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

7.1 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.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications or impact on any budgets or the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) arising from the content of this report.
Legal	The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.
Risk	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, this would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Data Protection	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin

Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk