

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Councillor L Young, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)
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Relevant Executive Member:	The Mayor
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	14 January 2026
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Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
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Report for:	Information
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
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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	
A healthy Place	
Safe and resilient communities	
Delivering best value	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.

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 last met on 19 November 2025 and received presentations on the Council's Welfare Strategy and the Poverty Sprint as an introduction to the Board's scrutiny review into poverty.

4.2 The Board also received a progress update on the Continuous Improvement Plan from the Mayor. The Council was moving toward the end of its improvement journey and long term projects needed to be in place to bring about town-level change.

4.3 The Executive Member for Finance was in attendance to provide an overview of her portfolio which included responsibility for ensuring the Council was financially sustainable, delivered value for money and operated openly and fairly.

4.4 At the meeting on 18 December 2025, the 2026/27 draft budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 and 2029/30 was presented by the Mayor. The Executive Member for Finance provided OSB with an update on the Council's financial position at Quarter Two for 2025/26 and the Mayor gave an update on the Council's Performance position at Quarter Two in 2025/26. The Executive Member for Adult Social Care was also in attendance to provide the Board with an update on her portfolio.

4.5 At the next meeting, scheduled for 28 January 2026, the Board will consider the Final Report of the Community Cohesion Task and Finish review, as well as receiving an update about the Council's Artificial Intelligence policy and continuing its review into the Council's approach to poverty.

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 met on 1 December 2025.

5.3 The Panel received the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Annual Report, presented by the Independent Chair of the Board. The report provided information on the progress made against the Board's priorities, the outcomes of safeguarding adult reviews and their recommendations and what the Board had done to improve practice that keeps adults in our communities safe from abuse and neglect.

5.4 The final evidence on the Panel's topic 'Healthy Placemaking, with a Focus on Childhood Obesity' was presented by the Health Improvement Specialist for Public Health South Tees. The evidence included an overview of the Healthy Weight Declaration and Unhealthy Commodity Industries.

5.5 The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for 12 January 2026, at 4:30pm. Members will receive the quarterly update on the Care Quality Commission Improvement Plan from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration. The Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead will also be in attendance to introduce the Panel's second scrutiny topic, 'Violence Against Women and Girls'.

Children's Scrutiny Panel

5.6 The Children's Scrutiny Panel met on 8 December 2025. The Interim Director of Education and Partnerships and the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager were in attendance to provide the Panel with an annual update on the work of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP).

5.7 A copy of the STSCP Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and Officers highlighted key areas within the report, including: key statistics/data; practice reviews and guidance; challenges; diversity; governance structure and remit of the STSCP.

5.8 The Panel also agreed Terms of Reference for its review of "Out of Area Specialist Provision".

5.9 The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 26 January 2026 at 4.30pm when it will receive further evidence in relation to its current scrutiny topic.

Place Scrutiny Panel

- 5.10 The Place Scrutiny Panel met on 17 November 2025 and received evidence from the Director of Regeneration who provided information on the Town Centre Board and Place Leaders Partnership. The Place Leaders Partnership had been formed in collaboration with partner organisations all of whom had a stake in Middlesbrough and worked together to inform the Council's Place Strategy.
- 5.11 The Head of Culture and Director of Creative Factory were also in attendance and provided a presentation on the work of the Creative Factory and how culture can play a role in regeneration.
- 5.12 At the meeting of 22 December the Assistant Director of Inclusive Growth and Development at Stockton on Tees Borough Council was in attendance and provided Members with an overview of the Regeneration that had taken place in Stockton town centre.
- 5.13 Representatives from the Town Strategic Partnership also attended the meeting and provided the Panel with an update on the work of the Partnership.
- 5.14 The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 26 January 2026 at 1.30pm.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

- 5.15 The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee met on 11 December 2025.
- 5.16 Members received an update on the development of the Clinical Strategy and Wider Strategy for the University Hospitals Tees Group (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT and South Tees Hospitals NHS FT).
- 5.17 Other agenda items included:
 - An update on the Tees Respite Care / Short Breaks Service.
 - Improving Palliative and End of Life Care across the Tees Valley
 - Health Inequalities

Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive

- 5.18 The Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel on Empty Properties was submitted to the Executive on 3 December 2025 and the action plan prepared by the service in response to the recommendations was approved.

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

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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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