

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Councillor L Young, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Corporate Services (Monitoring Officer)
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	20 May 2026
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Title:	Annual Overview and Scrutiny 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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Proposed decision(s)	That Council note the Annual Overview and Scrutiny report 2025/2026.
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Executive summary	To provide Council with an overview of scrutiny activity during the 2025/26 Municipal year.
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- 1. Purpose**
 - 1.1 To provide Council with an overview of scrutiny activity during the 2025/26 Municipal year.
- 2. Recommendations**
 - 2.1 That the Council note the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report.
- 3. Background and relevant information**
 - 3.1 The Council is required to produce an annual report detailing the work undertaken and the progress and achievements made by Middlesbrough Council’s Overview and Scrutiny function in the previous Municipal year (which runs between May and April). This report encompasses scrutiny activity between May 2025 and April 2026.

3.2 These are incredibly challenging times for local government, and despite Middlesbrough receiving a more favourable financial settlement for 2026/2027, the Overview and Scrutiny Board recognises the financial context in which decisions around service delivery and spending plans have been made. Scrutiny plays an important role in assisting to ensure that such decisions are both effective and robust and will continue to do so.

3.3 The period between May 2025 and April 2026, saw scrutiny continuing to embed changes to scrutiny panel structures which provide resilience in how scrutiny is supported. Scrutiny moved from two Panels in 2024/2025 (People and Place) to three Panels (Place, Adult Social Care and Health and Children’s) in 2025/2026. Despite these changes Scrutiny Members continued their work of scrutinising the work and performance of the Council, local health providers and other external agencies and organisations with great dedication and enthusiasm.

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

4.1 Not applicable.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including 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.
Procurement	Not applicable as this a report does not require the procurement of goods or services.
Legal	Statutory Guidance encourages annual updates on all scrutiny activity to Council.
Risk	Failure to adhere to Statutory Guidance and the 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 report does not change any policy.
Reducing poverty	Not applicable as this report does not change any policy.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable as this report does not change any policy.
Children and Young People Cared for by	Not applicable as this report does not change any policy.

the Authority and Care Leavers	
Data Protection	Not applicable as this report does not change any policy.

Appendices

1	Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2025/26
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3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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