

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

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

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

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

Date:	15 July 2026	
--------------	--------------	--

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 15 April 2026 and considered the draft final report following its short review into the Council's approach to poverty. The findings and recommendations of the review were endorsed by the Board and referred to the Executive.
- 4.2 Draft Terms of Reference for a short review on "what role do faith and belief groups play in civic life in Middlesbrough" were discussed and approved. It was intended that the review could contribute to the wider social cohesion agenda and aimed to assess how faith and belief groups could be engaged by the Council more effectively.
- 4.3 The Board also received updates from the Mayor on the Council's Continuous Improvement Plan and an update on his portfolio activity which included progress against key projects including the old town hall and southlands centre as well as continued efforts to improve open spaces
- 4.4 The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods was also in attendance to provide an update on his portfolio which included an update on the role of neighbourhood navigators and neighbourhood caretakers.
- 4.5 At the next meeting, scheduled for 7 July 2026, the Board was due consider a Final Report from the Children's Scrutiny Panel on Out of Area Specialist Provision, agree its Work Programme for 2026-2027 and receive a presentation on Corporate Performance.

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 held an additional meeting on 18 May 2026 at which it considered the Draft Quality Account of University Hospitals Tees NHS Foundation Trust.
- 5.3 Members reviewed the Draft Quality Account and agreed a formal written response on behalf of the Panel.
- 5.4 The Panel met on 23 June 2026 for the first meeting of the 2026/2027 municipal year.
- 5.5 At the meeting, the Panel received overview presentations from the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, Public Health South Tees, and Adult Social Care and Health. The presentations provided Members with an overview of key priorities, challenges, and areas of focus to inform the Panel's work programme.
- 5.6 Following consideration of a report on setting the work programme, the Panel noted the draft work programme and shortlisted a number of potential scrutiny investigation topics. It was agreed that further information would be provided on the shortlisted topics for consideration at a future meeting.
- 5.7 The Panel will continue its work programme development at its next meeting on 21 July 2026, where it will agree its scrutiny investigation topics, consider the final draft report on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): How to Tackle It, and receive updates from Adult Social Care on Digital Inclusion in Adult Social Care and Artificial Intelligence utilisation plans in Adult Social Care.

Children's Scrutiny Panel

- 5.8 Since the last update to Council, the Children's Scrutiny Panel met on 20 April 2026 to consider its draft final report on Out of Area Specialist Provision. Members discussed the report and formulated conclusions and recommendations based on the evidence received throughout the review. It was agreed that the final report would be submitted to the next available Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration, prior to submission to the Executive. Subsequently, the Panel's final report will be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Board on 7 July 2026.
- 5.9 The Corporate Director of Children's Services was in attendance at the meeting and provided the Panel with a verbal update in relation to national and local developments, including:
- Policy changes that required the development of a local plan in response to the Government's SEND reforms and associated white paper.
 - Social care reforms including a review of children's social care teams and strengthening collaboration with regional and multi-agency colleagues.

- Update on Children's Services Improvement Plan developed in response to a focused visit from Ofsted to the 'front door' in December 2025.

5.10 The Panel's first meeting of the 2026/27 Municipal Year, scheduled for 29 June 2026, was cancelled due to a full inspection of Children's Services, by Ofsted, taking place. The Panel's first meeting would now take place on Monday, 27 July 2026 at 4.30pm when a Service Overview, highlighting the key priorities and challenges for the year ahead, would be presented and Members would also be asked to consider selecting topics for its Work Programme.

Place Scrutiny Panel

5.11 At the Place Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 30 March 26, the Corporate Director of Regeneration was in attendance and provided the Panel with an overview on the Council's Role in Housing. The panel were advised that the Council was a diverse organisation with housing cutting across several departments although there was no specific housing department. Members were advised that there had been a recent appointment to the role of Head of Strategic Housing which sat within the Regeneration Directorate.

5.12 The Head of Culture was also in attendance at the meeting. Members were advised of an ambitious 5-year plan to transform Middlesbrough by scaling up cultural programming, maximising visibility and deepening reach into Middlesbrough communities towards a major celebration of Middlesbrough's industrial heritage and creative future for the Bicentenary year in 2030.

5.13 At the meeting of 27 April 2026 the District Environment Lead from Erimus Rotary Club was in attendance and provided the Panel with an update on the plans the Erimus Rotary Club had to celebrate Middlesbrough's Bicentenary. The Erimus Rotary Club are currently planning a project of three dimensions which incorporated the past, present and future.

5.14 The Development Control Manager was also in attendance at this meeting and provided an update on Section 106 Agreements. A Section 106 Agreement is a legally binding contract between a local planning authority and a developer/landowner that is deemed to make development acceptable. It can include affordable housing, schools, transport improvements and other additions. Neighbourhood Plans provided a framework for the type of provisions that would be sought through Section 106 agreements.

5.15 The final report on Barriers to Regeneration was submitted to the Executive on 10 June 2026, the report and accompanying recommendations were noted and the Executive approved the action plan prepared by the service area in response to the recommendations.

5.16 The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 6 July 2026 at 1.30pm.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

5.17 The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee met on 12 March 2026 and considered the following agenda items;

- North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account for 2025/26.
- Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust Urgent Care Mental Health Crisis Update.
- Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust - Quality Account for 2025/26.

5.18 Members were advised that meetings of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2026/27 will be administered by Middlesbrough Council.

Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive

5.19 The following reports have been reported to Executive since the last update to Council:

- OSB Task and Finish Group Final Report (Community Cohesion) (8 April 2026)
- Final Report of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel - Healthy Placemaking with a focus on Childhood Obesity (10 June 2026)
- Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel - Barriers to Regeneration (10 June 2026)

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 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 is a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function.
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 is a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Reducing Poverty	Not applicable as this is 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 is 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 is a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Data Protection	Not applicable as this is 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	
---	--

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin

Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk