

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Democratic Services Officer
Relevant Executive Member:	N/A
Submitted to:	Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel
Date:	21 July 2026
Title:	Setting the Work Programme 2026-2027, for the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel – Shortlisted Scrutiny Topics
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	A healthy place
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?	No
Why:	Not applicable

Proposed decision(s)
That the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel: • CONSIDERS the shortlist of Scrutiny Investigation Topics presented at Appendix One; • SELECTS one Public Health Scrutiny Investigation Topic and one Adult Social Care Scrutiny Investigation Topic for inclusion in the 2026–2027 work programme; and • AGREES that the selected topics be incorporated into the finalised work programme for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Executive summary
At its meeting on 23 June 2026, the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel considered a report on the development of its work programme for the 2026–2027 municipal year, including a list of suggested scrutiny topics identified through consultation and informed by overview presentations delivered at the meeting.

Whilst Members considered a wide range of potential topics, the Panel was unable to reach agreement on the selection of two Scrutiny Investigation Topics for inclusion in the work programme.

The Panel therefore agreed that a refined shortlist of topics should be presented to a future meeting, supported by additional contextual information, to assist Members in determining areas where the Panel considers scrutiny can add the greatest value. It was also agreed that the final selection should comprise:

- one Public Health Scrutiny Investigation Topic; and
- one Adult Social Care Scrutiny Investigation Topic

This report presents that shortlist and supporting information to enable Members to make an informed decision and finalise the Panel's Scrutiny Investigation Topics for 2026–2027.

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

1.1 Effective management of the scrutiny work programme is essential to ensuring that activity remains focused, proportionate, and aligned to the Council's strategic priorities and ambitions.

1.2 Scrutiny provides an important mechanism for Members to review, challenge, and influence policy, service delivery, and performance, with the aim of improving outcomes for residents.

1.3 This report builds on the Panel's previous consideration of its 2026–2027 work programme and supports Members in completing the selection of Scrutiny Investigation Topics. By focusing on a prioritised shortlist, the report is intended to support informed decision-making and ensure that the Panel's activity is directed towards areas where it can have the greatest impact.

1.4 The selection of appropriate scrutiny topics will contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan, particularly in relation to the ambition of 'A Healthy Place', alongside wider priorities around safe and resilient communities and delivering best value.

Our ambitions	Priorities
A successful and ambitious town	• We will grow businesses and employment opportunities within the town. • We will close attainment gaps and work with education providers to increase the number of students who achieve their expected grades Ensure housing supply meets local demand. • We will ensure housing supply meets local demand. • sustainable accommodation. • Transport connectivity will improve
A healthy place	• People will live healthier lives for longer, and health inequalities will be reduced

	• The look and feel of the physical space in Middlesbrough will improve. • We will be closer to our communities and involve them in decision making. • We will reduce and alleviate the impact of poverty to improve lives and life chances for people in Middlesbrough
Safe and resilient communities	• All adults will be supported through strength-based practice to live the lives they choose • We will support digital inclusion • We will continue to work with voluntary and community groups and individuals to improve the resilience of our communities. • Residents will feel safer
Delivering best value	• We will be a well-run Council that provides Value for Money Services. • We will set a balanced budget and medium-term financial plan.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel:

- Considers the shortlist of Scrutiny Investigation Topics presented at Appendix One;
- Selects one Public Health Scrutiny Investigation Topic and one Adult Social Care Scrutiny Investigation Topic for inclusion in the 2026–2027 work programme; and
- Agrees that the selected topics be incorporated into the finalised work programme for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 Scrutiny panels play a key role in supporting community leadership and improving outcomes for residents through reviewing services, influencing policy, and holding decision-makers to account.

3.2 Agreeing a focused and deliverable work programme ensures that the Panel's activity is prioritised and aligned to areas of greatest impact.

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 At its meeting on 23 June 2026, the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel considered a report on the development of its work programme for the 2026–2027 municipal year. Members received overview presentations from Public Health, Adult Social Care and the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and considered a range of potential Scrutiny Investigation Topics identified through consultation

4.2 Following discussion, Members agreed a shortlist of topics for further consideration. In order to support a final decision, the Panel requested additional information on each shortlisted topic to provide greater context regarding the issue, potential scope for review and the value that scrutiny could add.

4.3 Members also agreed that the Panel's scrutiny activity for 2026–2027 should comprise of one Public Health Scrutiny Investigation Topic; and one Adult Social Care Scrutiny Investigation Topic.

4.4 Appendix One provides further information on each of the shortlisted topics identified by Members. This includes:

- why the topic is important;
- potential lines of enquiry for a scrutiny investigation;
- the potential value that scrutiny could add; and
- details of current work being undertaken by the Council and its partners.

4.5 The additional information provided is intended to assist Members in comparing the shortlisted topics and identifying those areas where a scrutiny investigation is most likely to contribute to improved outcomes for residents.

4.6 Members are therefore asked to consider the shortlisted topics set out in Appendix One and agree one Public Health Scrutiny Investigation Topic and one Adult Social Care Scrutiny Investigation Topic for inclusion in the Panel's 2026–2027 Work Programme

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

Ward Members were invited to submit topic suggestions as part of the consultation.

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

No other alternatives are 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 Financial impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Legal	Details of Legal impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Risk	Details of Risk impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	Details of Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Reducing Poverty	Details of Reducing Poverty impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Climate Change / Environmental	Details of Climate Change / Environmental impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.

Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Details of Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Data Protection	Details of Data Protection impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Approved recommendations to be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Board	Democratic Services Officer	

Appendices

1	Shortlisted Topics
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Claire Jones

Email: claire_jones@middlesbrough.gov.uk