

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Democratic Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Not Applicable
Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
Date:	29 July 2026
Title:	Setting the Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/2027
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable

Proposed decision(s)
That the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the inclusion of the topics listed in the report topics put forward by the Adult Social Care & Health, Children's and Place Scrutiny Panels.

Executive summary
Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and agree individual Panel work programmes for the 2026/27 Municipal Year. When considering the work programme, the Board is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion: • Affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area. • Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence. • Are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the scrutiny panels have considered during the last 12 months. • Do not relate to an individual service complaint. • Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.

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

1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to determine the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2026/2027 ensuring Scrutiny Investigation Topics and standard updates support the delivery of the ambitions of the Middlesbrough Council Plan 2026-29:

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> - 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 - We will ensure housing supply meets local demand - Transport connectivity will improve
A healthy Place	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> - 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	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> - 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	<i>Aims within this ambition are to:</i> - 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 Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2026-2027 by agreeing individual Scrutiny Work Plans detailed in this report.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board is required to consider and approve the Scrutiny Work Programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

4. Background and relevant information

At the start of every Municipal Year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. The topics agreed by each Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2026/2027 are listed below for the Board's approval.

Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel

In Depth Reviews

- Barriers to Immunisation Uptake
- Neighbourhood Health Management

Updates:

- Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) - Annual Report
- Director of Public Health, Annual Report
- Updates from the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee
- University Hospitals Tees NHS Foundation Trust - Draft Quality Account

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

The Children's Scrutiny Panel will be meeting on 27 July where it will decide its work topics. An update will be provided to OSB at its meeting on 29 July.

In Depth Reviews

Updates:

Place Scrutiny Panel

In Depth Reviews

- The Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme/Licensing of Private Rented Properties (Panel wanted to merge two of the suggested topics so formal title to be agreed as Chair & Vice-Chair want to cover a slightly wider scope than just the schemes specifically & the SLL has been reviewed previously)
- Future Plans for Transforming the Town Centre
- Fly-tipping (short review may be more suitable dependant on what comes out of the overview scheduled for September's meeting)

Updates:

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

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

5.1 Not applicable

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

6.1 No other options were 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 impact (if any) will be dependent on recommendations made as part of a chosen review.
Legal	
Risk	
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	
Reducing Poverty	
Climate Change / Environmental	
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	
Data Protection	

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: Scott Bonner/ Tanya Harrison
Email: scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk/
tanya_harrison@middlesbrough.gov.uk