

COUNCIL

Report title	Scrutiny Progress Report
Chief Executive or Director	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Date	7 July 2021

Summary

Proposed decision(s)

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.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential/Exempt:	Is the report urgent?
To be noted	No	No	Non-urgent report

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan

People	Place	Business
N/A	N/A	Members will be able to keep abreast of the work carried out through the Scrutiny Process

Ward(s) affected

No wards in Middlesbrough are directly affected.

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels.

Why is this report necessary?

2. The report is necessary so that Members are aware of the work being carried out by the individual Scrutiny Panels and the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

3. That Council note the report.
4. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 11 March 2021 and 8 April 2021.

At the 11 March 2021 meeting, the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Executive Member Update: The Mayor;
- Middlesbrough Council's Response to COVID-19;
- Final Report - Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Pest Control Services (findings and recommendations were endorsed for referral to the Executive);
- Final Report - Health Scrutiny Panel - Opioid Dependency: What Happens Next? (findings and recommendations were endorsed for referral to the Executive);
- Overview and Scrutiny Board Call-in Outcome: Nunthorpe Grange Farm Disposal; and
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates.

At the 8 April 2021 meeting, the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Middlesbrough Council's Response to COVID-19;
- Executive Member Update: Executive Member for Communities and Education;
- Strategic Plan 2020-23 - Progress at Quarter Three 2020-21;
- Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn Position as at Quarter Three 2020/21; and
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

The updated position in respect of the work of each of the Council's scrutiny panels is shown below.

Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel

The Panel met on 27 January 2021 at which Members were provided with an overview of Council communications and how this related to elected Members. The Panel heard that the Marketing and Communications team were developing a Communications strategy that was more aligned with the Council's strategic objectives.

The Panel also heard that Member engagement with Council communications could be beneficial for Middlesbrough as they act as brand ambassadors. However, the Panel also discussed that, in some cases, Members were not using Council communications in the most effective way. A report for the Panel is currently being drafted.

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

At the meeting on 14 April 2021, the Panel received a verbal update from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health integration regarding an overview of 2021. The

Director gave information on the challenges faced during the year which was predominantly Covid 19 focused and provided some insight to the year ahead.

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met on 22 March and 19 April 2021 to continue gathering evidence in respect of its current review of Behaviour, Discipline and Bullying in Schools.

On 22 March, the Panel considered written evidence from Acklam Grange School, Kings Academy, Park End Primary School, Outwood Academy Acklam and Unity City Academy. The information submitted highlighted:

- the challenges faced by schools in dealing with poor behaviour;
- the causes of pupil behaviour problems e.g. unmet educational or other needs;
- the types of sanctions used by schools that can impact on a pupil's educational outcomes and life chances; and
- the successful and proactive strategies and solutions used to promote positive behaviour, manage poor behaviour and prevent and tackle bullying.

On 19 April, the Head of North Ormesby Primary Academy presented information on the successful and proactive strategies and solutions used to prevent and tackle bullying. In addition, as part of the update on Education and Covid-19 Recovery, the Head of Access to Education and Alternative Provision provided information on the Vulnerable Children's Attendance Project.

The Panel's first meeting of the 2021/2022 Municipal Year is scheduled to take place on 28 June 2021.

Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met on 22 March and 19 April 2021.

On 22 March, the Policy and Participation Manager from Become Charity – the national charity for children in care and young care leavers – attended the meeting to provide an overview of the work undertaken by Become, particularly in relation to tackling the stigma and negative perceptions faced by care experienced children and young people and care leavers.

The Service Manager from Adoption Tees Valley was also in attendance and provided Members with information regarding how Adoption Tees Valley worked with the five Local Authority partners, particularly Middlesbrough; the key pressures and challenges for the service; and the positive work that was taking place. The Panel was also provided with a copy of ATV's Bi-annual Report.

At its meeting on 19 April 2021, the Principal Social Worker, was in attendance to provide the Panel with a briefing in relation to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, which included the scope and aims of the review and how Members could contribute should they wish to do so.

The Panel also considered a briefing note recapping the evidence received at each of its meetings in respect of its current review, together with the Terms of Reference, and was asked how it wished to proceed.

The Executive Director of Children's Services provided a verbal update on Covid recovery in Children's Services at both meetings and on 19 April 2021, it was agreed that this item would be presented to future Scrutiny Panel meetings by exception.

The Panel's first meeting of the 2021/2022 Municipal Year is provisionally scheduled to take place on 5 July 2021 at 4.00pm.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

The Panel's meeting scheduled for March 18 2021 had to be cancelled due to the unavailability of required guests.

At the Panel's meeting of the 15 April 2021 members received an update regarding the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) and on Cleveland Police's Operation Phoenix. With regards to RIPA; Members were informed about the policy background and operational activity of RIPA as well as future policy developments. Members were advised that when those policy developments were realised a further update would be provided.

In respect of Operation Phoenix the Panel was provided with the background and development of the operation between 2019 and 2021. Members heard that the operation's key results included £500k of illegal drugs being recovered, 304 arrests and 124 vehicles being seized. Due to its successes, the operation has been extended until November 2021.

The Panel also received, and approved, draft terms of reference for its next review into the Neighbourhood Warden Service which would begin in the next municipal year.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure (EDEI) Scrutiny Panel met on 24 March and 21 April 2021.

As part of the current review of Middlesbrough Regeneration Post Covid-19, the Panel received two presentations at the March meeting:

The Council's Transport and Infrastructure Manager and Infrastructure Programme Manager provided an overview of the Middlesbrough Local Implementation Plan (LIP) and the plans for public consultation.

The Head of Economic Growth updated the Panel on Middlesbrough Council's successful bids for the High Streets Fund and Towns Fund.

At the April meeting, the Panel continued its current review with presentations in relation to Waltham Forest Council's Liveable Neighbourhoods Programme and the Middlehaven Masterplan.

Health Scrutiny Panel

The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 23 March 2021, 20 April and 22 June 2021. At the March meeting the Panel discussed the recently published CFGS paper on scrutiny's perspective on the Government's Health and Care White Paper, established its terms

of reference for its current review on the topic of Inclusive growth – alignment of town regeneration and health goals – ‘Health for Wealth’ and received a regional health scrutiny update.

At the April meeting the Panel discussed the findings of the recently published CQC report in respect of Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust and the progress made by the Trust since the inspection. The Panel also received an update from the Director of Public Health (South Tees) and the Director of Commissioning and Medical Director at Tees Valley CCG on the local Public Health / NHS response to COVID.

At the 22 June 2021 meeting the panel received an update in respect of COVID-19 from the Director of Public Health (South Tees), a presentation in relation to the various services commissioned / delivered by Public Health (South Tees) and considered its work programme for 2021/22.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

The Committee met on 22 June 2021 and considered the following:-

- Protocol for the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust - Quality Accounts 2020/21

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

Since the last update to Council, the following Scrutiny Panel reports have been submitted to Executive:

16 February 2021 – Final Report - Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel - Physical Activity for Older People (aged 65 plus) – Service Response

27 May 2021 – Final Report - Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Pest Control Services – Service Response

27 May 2021 - Final Report - Health Scrutiny Panel - Opioid Dependency: What Happens Next? – Service Response

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

5. No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

6. There are no legal implications as a result of the proposed appointments.

Financial

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

The Mayor’s Vision for Middlesbrough

8. The report is line with the Mayor's vision for Middlesbrough.

Policy Framework

9. The report does not impact on the overall budget and policy framework.

Wards

10. The report does not impact on wards.

Risk

11. Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity

12. An Impact Assessment has not been completed, as it is not applicable.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

13. Not applicable.

Background papers

14. No unpublished background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**COUNCILLOR M SAUNDERS
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