

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

**Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme
2021/22**

15 July 2021

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Culture and Communities scrutiny panel to consider its work programme for the 2020/2021 municipal year.

BACKGROUND

2. At the start of every municipal year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
3. 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.
4. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Below is a list of topics which are anticipated to be of particular interest to the scrutiny panel. Members are advised that the list of possible topics is not exhaustive and that additional topics can be added and considered at the scrutiny panel meeting.

Topics completed in 2020/21

- Social Cohesion- Scheduled for Executive on 13 July 2021

Topic carried over from 2020/21

- Cultural events in Middlesbrough– at the panel's meeting on 7 January 2021 and 21 January 2021, evidence was received in relation to Cultural events but also British Esports Association provided information. A report will be drawn up in the next few months and circulated for approval.

Topics agreed in 2020/21, which have not been investigated

- Neighbourhood warden service – following a presentation on 18 February 2021, the panel were provided with some draft terms of reference to investigate the Neighbourhood warden service. The Panel may like to readdress this or look the wider policing polices within Middlesbrough to combat anti-social behaviour.

Topical and local Issues

Topic	Details
<p>Integrated Enforcement Team and Anti-Social Behaviour.</p>	<p>One of the Mayor’s cornerstone pledges was to tackle anti-social behaviour, which appears to be a problem in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>The Council’s Strategic priority SR11 looks to improving community life, working with local residents to ensure that all adults and children and young people feel safer and happier with the place that they live, and to reduce loneliness and social isolation.</p> <p>There have been a number of initiatives launched to try and tackle anti-social behaviour, including the expansion of the Street Warden Service, and the introduction of the Public Space Protection Order and a revamp of the community safety plan (due to be considered by the Executive on 13 July 2021).</p> <p>The Panel may want to examine how such initiatives have addressed anti-social behaviour in the Town and examine good practice in terms of addressing this further.</p>
<p>Impact of COVID-19 on Cultural Venues.</p>	<p>The Town Hall was renovated in 2018 following £7.7 million of investment with the intention of attracting a more diverse range of entertainment acts and to increase visitor numbers.</p> <p>In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Panel may want to assess if the renovation of the Town Hall has achieved these objectives as well as looking at the recovery plan set in place.</p>
<p>Tees Valley City of Culture bid 2025.</p>	<p>The Council’s Strategic priority under social regeneration (SR12) outlined that the Council will be developing a new Culture Strategy for the town, investing in our museums and other cultural assets, and leading the Tees Valley’s 2025 UK City of Culture bid.</p> <p>Middlesbrough has also entered the Civic Honours competition as part of celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022, which will mean Middlesbrough will be</p>

	<p>crowned with City Status. The Civic Honours competition aims to provide local authorities with the chance to showcase their civic pride, interesting heritage and record of innovation - putting their hometowns on the map and bringing greater prosperity of opportunity.</p> <p>The Panel may like to have further information on the Strategy and how this will impact the town as well as learning more about how Middlesbrough intend to apply for the city status.</p>
The Domestic Abuse Act 2021	<p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 became law on 29 April 2021. The Act includes a new statutory duty on Local authorities to deliver accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse (Tier one to deliver services and Tier 2 to collaborate).</p> <p>What is the Local Authority doing to meet these new demands made by the Act and how are they working with partners to ensure the aims of the Act are delivered?</p>

Review Topic Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
<p>Communities</p> <p>Alcohol misuse in the community</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from a Councillor</i></p> <p>.</p>
<p>Middleborough's struggling high street in the retail sector?</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from a Councillor</i></p> <p>.</p>
<p>The impact of private rented properties on areas of owner occupied properties and areas of social housing and what can be done to mitigate negative effects.</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Councillor</i></p> <p>There has been a massive increase in the number of private rented properties in wards across Middlesbrough. The increase has been more noticeable since landlord licensing was introduced in Newport and North Ormesby. Unfortunately some landlords are irresponsible which causes numerous problems for the local communities. People have started moving away and stable communities are deteriorating.</p>
<p>Anti social behavior</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from member of the public</i></p>

Community Safety and enforcement	<i>Suggestion from Councillor</i>
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Possible updates

Topic	Details
CLEVELAND POLICE Operation Phoenix	In July 2019, Cleveland Police launched a major campaign to prevent crime, protect communities and tackle serious crime (domestic abuse). The Panel last received an update on 15 April 2021 and the Panel may like to consider receiving an annual update on the Operation's progress.
Selective Landlord Licensing	The Panel completed their review in 2018 after receiving extensive evidence regarding the scheme in North Ormesby. The scheme now operates in Newport and North Ormesby was redesigned in March 2021 with the consultation responses being reported back to the Executive on 16 February 2021. The Panel may wish to receive an update on the scheme and learn of the impact it has had on the area and residents.

Standing Updates

Domestic abuse support (see details of Operation Phoenix above)	The panel has a responsibility for addressing Domestic abuse and examine what Middlesbrough and supporting agencies are doing to combat the raising issue.
Regulatory Investigative Powers (RIPA) Last update received 15 April 2021.	RIPA is the law governing the use of covert surveillance techniques by public authorities, including local Councils. The panel has a duty to assess the intentions of RIPA. At the last update the Panel learnt that the policy would be reviewed and this should be embedded in time for the annual update.
Preventing Terrorism Last Update received 7 January 2021	In 2011, the Prevent strand of the UK's long-term strategy for countering international terrorism, known as CONTEST was explicitly changed by the Government to deal with all forms of terrorism, and

	<p>target not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism. This change in strategic direction was enacted in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The Act, which became law in February 2015, places a duty on specified authorities to have <i>“Due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”</i>. In response an Action Plan for Middlesbrough was developed to respond to the specific elements of the Prevent agenda. The panel hosted a scrutiny seminar on the Prevent agenda in October 2015.</p> <p>In 2018, the Counter-Terrorism Strategy was published and the panel received an update regarding PREVENT actions.</p>
<p>Community Safety Partnership Last Update received 18 February 2021</p>	<p>Middlesbrough’s Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). The powers of the Police and Justice Act 2006 relating to Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require the CDRP to present the partnerships intentions, and actions to Scrutiny on an annual basis. This requirement commenced in 2009 and the panel has met with the CDPR each year since that time.</p>

5. It should be noted that the suggested topics outlined above are exactly that, suggestions. The content of the scrutiny panel’s work programme is entirely a decision for the panel to make. When considering the work programme, the panel is advised to select topics that are of interest to it, as well as topics that the panel feels by considering, it could add value to the Local Authority’s work.
6. In addition to undertaking the agreed work programme, scrutiny panels have also previously responded on an ad-hoc basis to emerging issues - such as considering relevant new legislation, guidance or Government consultation documents. This approach occasionally results in further topics being identified for investigation or review throughout the year.
7. On occasion ad-hoc scrutiny panels may also be established throughout the year to undertake additional investigations, for example to examine areas of work which overlap more than one scrutiny panel.

The panel also had a responsibility to address certain issues each year and these are presented below:

8. The scrutiny panel is also advised that, under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have a responsibility of community leadership and a power to secure the effective promotion of community well-being. Therefore, in addition to the scrutiny panel’s generally recognised powers (of holding the Executive to account, reviewing service provision, developing policy, considering budget plans and performance and financial monitoring), panels also have the power to consider **any** matters which are not the responsibility of the Council but which affect the local

authority **or** the inhabitants of its area. For example, nationally, local authorities have undertaken scrutiny work on issues such as post office closures, rural bus services, policing matters and flood defence schemes.

9. Each year, the panel has responsibility for addressing certain issues, these are as follows:
 - **Community Safety Partnership** See above for details.
 - **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)** See above for details.
 - **Domestic Violence** See above for details.
 - **Preventing Terrorism** See above for details.
10. It should be noted that it is in the panel's gift to identify the time and frequency for when the panel receives updates on the above issues.

Scrutiny work plan prioritisation aid

11. Members may wish to use the aid attached at **Appendix 1** to prioritise issues where scrutiny can make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

12. The scrutiny panel is asked to consider and agree its work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year.
13. When considering its work programme, the scrutiny panel 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; and
 - Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.
14. It is suggested that the scrutiny panel has a mixture of working styles in its programme. This can include detailed and in-depth reviews, shorter topics, or one-off investigations.
15. Once the scrutiny panel has identified the areas of priority, support staff will draw those topics into a programme for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDATION

16. That the scrutiny panel identifies two topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2020/21, for consideration/approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. Throughout the report, reference is made to documents published by the Local Government Association, Cleveland Police and Strategic Plan 2020/21

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