

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

<p style="text-align: center;">Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2021/2022</p>

28 July 2021

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Overview and Scrutiny Board to consider Individual Scrutiny Panel's work programmes for the 2021/22 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 were agreed at the relevant scrutiny panel.

WORKPLAN FOR 2021-2022

5. The agreed topics for each Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2021/2022 are listed below for the Board's information:

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- Adult Social Care Finance - Residential Care and ensuring Value for Money
- The Role of the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) in Supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on COVID-19 recovery)
- Support for Carers (postponed from 2020-2021; to be recommenced at the end of the Municipal Year if time allows)

Updates

- Adult Day Care Services
- Ageing Better Middlesbrough (ABM) – Update and Future / Legacy Planning

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- The Impact of COVID-19 on Education and the Council's Recovery Plan

Short Review

- Post-16 Education

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

- The panel is scheduled to meet on 27 July 2021 to determine its work programme and an update will be provided on the topics selected at the OSB meeting.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- Integrated Enforcement and the impact of anti-social behaviour in the Town.
- Middlesbrough's struggling high street

Updates

- RIPA
- Prevent
- Selective Landlord Licensing

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- The Green Strategy and the Council's plans for increasing bio diversity in Middlesbrough

Short Reviews / Updates

- Regeneration of Captain Cook Shopping Centre and House of Fraser
- Fly tipping and bulky waste collection service
- Empty/derelict commercial properties
- Bus Services
- New Waste Disposal Facility
- Broadband Infrastructure

Health Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- Health Inequalities – accessibility to Health Care
- PFI Schemes at James Cook Hospital
- Women’s Health and Infant Feeding
- Dental Health

Short Reviews / Updates

- The impact of the Covid Pandemic on Mental Health.
 - LGBTQ+ accessibility to health care.
6. The topics and updates outlined above have been agreed by the individual Panels. When considering the work programme, the panel was advised to select topics that are of interest to it, as well as topics that the panel feels by considering, could add value to the Local Authority’s work.
 7. 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.
 8. On occasion, the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel 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.
 9. Scrutiny panels are 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 to name a few.

Scrutiny work plan prioritisation aid

10. In deciding their work programme, Panel’s may have used 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 REPORT

11. Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and agree individual Panel work programmes for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.
12. 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.

RECOMMENDATION

13. That in respect of the scrutiny work programme for 2021/2022, the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the inclusion of those topics put forward by the scrutiny panels.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. Scrutiny Panel Work Programme reports 2021/22.

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APPENDIX 1

