

COUNCIL

Report title	Scrutiny Progress Report
Chief Executive or Director	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Date	22 September 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 28 July and 8 September 2021.

At the 28 July 2021 meeting, the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Chief Executive's Update
- Children's Services Update – Finance and Performance
- Scrutiny Work Programme Report 2021/2022
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates

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

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Mayor's attendance at OSB
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates
- Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel – Final Report – Behaviour, Discipline & Bullying in Schools
- Executive Forward Work Programme
- Chief Executive's Update

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

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

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 1 September 2021.

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration was in attendance at the meeting and provided an update in respect of the Integration of Health and Social Care and Adult Day Care Services.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 13 October 2021; the Panel will receive information in respect of Ageing Better Middlesbrough and Aster Care Home.

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

At the meeting on 26 July 2021, in respect of the Scrutiny Panel's 2020 review of Addressing Poverty Issues and the Impact on Learning, the Head of Achievement, Education, Prevention and Partnerships provided an update on the progress made with the implementation of the agreed recommendations/actions.

The Scrutiny Panel also considered and approved the content of its draft final report on Behaviour, Discipline and Bullying in Schools and determined its recommendations for submission to the Executive.

The last meeting was held on 6 September 2021. At that meeting, the Scrutiny Panel began its new review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Strategic Lead for the Inclusion and Specialist Support Service; the Head of Inclusion, Assessment and Review and the Principal Educational Psychologist were in attendance to provide the Scrutiny Panel with a general overview/introduction of the topic of SEND, including:

- an overview of the legal framework in which statutory agencies must work to support children and young people with SEND;
- an outline of how SEND can affect a child or young person's ability to learn; and
- an update on the local developments within Middlesbrough.

The Scrutiny Panel also continues to receive regular updates on education and COVID-19 recovery.

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

The Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 27 July 2021.

The Executive Director of Children's Services was in attendance at the meeting and provided an overview of the service area.

The Panel discussed and selected topics for the Work Programme 2021/2022 which were forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

A proposed meeting schedule for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year was approved.

The Executive Director also provided updates in relation to the most recent Ofsted focused visit and Covid recovery within Children's Services.

The Panel is scheduled to meet on 21 September at 4.00pm and will receive an introduction to its new scrutiny topic of Locality Working from a Children's Services perspective.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

The Culture and Communities Panel met on 15 July 2021.

The Directors of Environment and Community Services, and Regeneration and Culture were in attendance at the meeting and provided an overview of their service areas.

The Panel discussed and selected topics for the Work Programme 2021/2022 which were forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

The next meeting of the Panel will take place on 23 September 2021 where the Panel will receive an update on selective landlord licensing and discuss the terms of reference of their current review.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure (EDEI) Scrutiny Panel met on 21 July and 8 September 2021.

At the July meeting the Panel received information in relation to business support and grants provided by Middlesbrough Council during the Covid-19 pandemic as part of its current scrutiny review. The Panel also received an update from the Operational Manager, Environment and Community Services in relation to Teesside Crematorium, as agreed by the service area following a scrutiny review by the Panel.

The Director of Environment and Community Services was in attendance at the September meeting and provided an overview of Middlesbrough Council's Green Strategy as an introduction to the Panel's new topic: The Green Strategy and the Council's plans for increasing bio-diversity.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 6 October 2021.

Health Scrutiny Panel

The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 7 September 2021, during which it received an update in respect of COVID-19 from the Director of Public Health (South Tees). During that update the Panel discussed current Covid infection rates and were also advised that increases in infection rates may be seen after schools returned from the summer holidays. The Panel also discussed how to effectively communicate safe Covid practices, particularly in relation to vaccine take-up. The Panel was advised that multi-agency publicity and advertising was being created to achieve this task. The Panel did appreciate, however, that this was challenging in the current climate.

The Panel also received an overview for its investigation into Health Inequalities. Dr Heather Brown from Newcastle University and Chris Thomas of the Institute of Public Policy Research presented their respective research into this area. In general terms, the Panel was advised that areas with higher levels of health inequalities (most notably the North of England) not only had detrimental impacts on people's health outcomes but also economic vitality. For example, the Panel heard how closing gaps in health inequality could equate in billions of pounds of lost economic activity to the UK's economy.

At its next meeting on 5 October the Panel will hear evidence into how economic and regeneration initiatives can help to close gaps in health inequalities from the Council's Director of Regeneration.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

The Committee is next scheduled to meet on 24 September 2021.

Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 15 September 2021 where it considered the following:

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair;

- Tees Valley Combined Authority Declaration of Interests Procedures;
- Overview & Scrutiny Committees – Statutory Powers/Legislation;
- Meetings and Forward Plan 2021/2022;

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

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

7 September 2021 - Final Report – Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel – Members' Communication – 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
CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

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