

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**7 DECEMBER 2021**

<p><b>ATTENDANCE OF DEPUTY MAYOR / EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AT THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD</b></p>
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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To provide information in respect of the scheduled attendance of Members of the Executive at the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB).

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. It is **RECOMMENDED** as follows:
  1. That Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are appraised of the work of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities.
  2. That Board Members question the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities in respect of her portfolio and any issues which arise at the meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

3. Arrangements are in place in the Council to ensure that potential issues for consideration via the scrutiny process (i.e. by the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the relevant scrutiny panel) are highlighted and brought forward as necessary.
4. Overview and Scrutiny also has a responsibility of “holding the Executive to account.” This can happen in a number of different ways and at different stages in the decision-making process. In terms of decision making, this can be:
  - Before decisions are made - such as by examining policy options or considering issues included in the Council’s forward work programme.
  - Immediately after decisions are made, but prior to their implementation, through the call-in process; and
  - After decisions are implemented, through monitoring and evaluation of their effects.

5. Overview and Scrutiny can be involved in holding the Executive to account as a whole, by using the methods outlined in the preceding paragraph, or on an individual basis. The OSB's role in this area has been strengthened in recent years, with arrangements having been made for individual Members of the Executive to attend OSB.
6. This has given OSB Members the opportunity to hear directly from each Executive Member on matters such as their aims and aspirations, progress made, objectives and priorities and also any emerging issues or pressure areas relating to their portfolio.
7. The process has also presented an opportunity for OSB to highlight and question any issues of concern or difficulty (for example in respect of service areas where targets have not been reached or where objectives have not been achieved) and to question what action will be taken to address such issues.
8. Arrangements have been made for the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities to be in attendance at today's meeting. Details of the relevant portfolio are attached at **Appendix 1**.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9. There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

### **Contact Officer:**

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<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	<b>Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Mieka Smiles
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Director of Regeneration and Culture/Director of Environment and Community Services
<b>SCOPE OF PORTFOLIO</b>	
<p>The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities, particularly in relation to the role of Deputy Mayor will support the Mayor in the development and promotion of Council activities, policies and performance and to lead on managing the business of the Council. The Deputy Mayor will Chair meetings of the Executive in the absence of the Mayor. If for any reason the Mayor is unable to act, the Deputy Mayor will act in his place until the Mayor is again able to act.</p> <p>In relation to the responsibilities for Culture and Communities, the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities has responsibility for strengthening the town's cultural sector and creating safer communities, in accordance with the Mayor's Priorities. The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities will also have responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services to support vulnerable people</li> <li>• Community Safety and Community Development</li> <li>• Empowering communities and individuals to access opportunities</li> <li>• Supporting people into employment</li> <li>• Cultural Strategy</li> <li>• Migration and Asylum Seekers</li> <li>• Welfare Rights</li> <li>• Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy Framework – Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary Sector</li> <li>• Strategic Approach to Addressing Poverty</li> <li>• Community Safety including Law and Order Issues</li> <li>• Community Development</li> <li>• Community Hub Development</li> <li>• Civil Contingencies Act 2004</li> <li>• Crime and Policing Act 2014</li> <li>• Human Rights Act</li> <li>• Cultural Strategy</li> </ul>	

## **Service Functions – Communities**

- Myplace
- Community Hubs
- Libraries and Archives
- Community Safety
- Street Wardens
- Neighbourhood Safety
- Migration and Asylum Seekers
- Volunteering
- Welfare Reform
- Diversity (including Asylum Seekers / Refugees and Community Cohesion)
- Neighbourhood Working
- Events Management
- Town Hall and Theatre
- Museums
- Marketing and Communications

In circumstances where it is considered that an Executive Member would have a prejudicial interest the matter will be referred to the Deputy Mayor.