

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL

<p>Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2018/2019</p>

13 JUNE 2018

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel to consider its work programme for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

REVIEW OF 2017-2018

2. The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel has been constituted for the Municipal Year 2018-2019, by merging the remits of two scrutiny panels: Economic Development and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel and Environment Scrutiny Panel.
3. The topics considered by each Panel in 2017-2018 are listed below for Members' information:

Economic Development and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

- Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan including Bus Franchising – Full Review with Final Report.
- LED Lighting – Full Review with Final Report.
- Orange Pip Market – Update.
- Albert Road Regeneration – Update.
- The Crown, Linthorpe Road – Update.
- Car Parking Review – Update.
- Housing Delivery Vehicles – Full Review – currently ongoing.

Topics agreed in 2017/2018 – not investigated

- Business Growth.
- Middlesbrough's Historic Buildings.
- Teesside Media and Innovation Village.

Environment Scrutiny Panel

- Previous Scrutiny Review: Education, Enforcement and Environmental Issues (2015) – Update.
- Fly-tipping and Enforcement – Full Review and Final Report.
- Flood Risk Management – Update.
- Previous Scrutiny Review: Commercialisation – Update.
- Previous Scrutiny Review: No Ball Games Signs – Update.

Topics agreed in 2017/2018 – not investigated

- Tackling fuel poverty/affordable warmth. This topic was later withdrawn from the Work Programme as it was considered that this issue was adequately covered by a variety of other forums, involving the Council.

BACKGROUND

4. At the start of every Municipal Year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
5. 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.
6. 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.

Topical issues

Topic	Details
Air Pollution	<p>The main cause of pollution in Middlesbrough is traffic. Although emission limits set for new cars are reducing the pollutants being emitted this is counteracted by the increasing number of cars on our roads. Controls on industry place limits on the emissions produced, and permits, regulation and enforcement ensure that these limits are adhered to.¹</p> <p>On 17 May 2018 the European Commission launched legal proceedings against the governments of Britain and five other countries for repeatedly breaching legally binding EU air pollution rules.²</p> <p>In the event that measured levels of pollutants exceed the air quality objectives set by the government, an Air Quality Management Area must be declared. Middlesbrough's air quality has always met the objectives set and the town has never needed to declare an Air Quality Management Area. Monitoring will continue in order to ensure that current and future standards are met.</p>

¹ www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

² The Independent – 17 May 2018

	It is also an objective of Middlesbrough Council to reduce pollution. Everyone can help by taking a few minutes to think of ways they can reduce pollution by making small changes to their lifestyle. ³
Integrated Transport	<p>Integrated transport involves the combining of different modes of transport to maximise ease and efficiency for the user in terms of time, cost, comfort, safety, accessibility and convenience. A successful integrated transport system should result in higher demand for public transport, with a knock-on reduction in congestion and pollution.⁴</p> <p>Priorities in the Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan include an additional strategic road crossing of the River Tees, a major upgrade of the rail line between Northallerton and Middlesbrough/Teesport, developing a Liverpool to Teesport rail route and development of a Rail Gateway at Middlesbrough Station.⁵</p>

Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
Affordable Housing Provision	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
Regenerating the Historic Quarter	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
Rail Station	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
Rail Franchising	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
Park and Ride	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
City Centre Future Direction	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
Recycling	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
Integrated Transport Unit (ITU)	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
Environmental Education	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
One Planet Living	Suggestion from Growth and Place.
Shared Spaces	Suggestion from member of the public.
Keep Albert Park Tidy – signage	Suggestion from member of the public.

³ www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

⁴ Designing Buildings Ltd. 2018

⁵ Tees Valley Combined Authority – Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan 2016-2026

Road safety for people with sensory loss including pedestrian crossings/rotating indicators/parking signs/	Suggestion from Ageing Better Middlesbrough's Action Group.
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Updates

Fly-tipping and Enforcement
 Crematorium
 Flood Risk
 Car Parking Review

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.

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 2018/19 municipal year. To assist in this task, Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration and Geoff Field, Director of Environment and Commercial Services, will be in attendance to provide an overview of the main services within the scrutiny panel's remit and an outline of priorities, key issues and challenges for the year ahead.
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.
 - 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 topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2018/19, for consideration/approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. Throughout the report, reference is made to documents published by Middlesbrough Council, the Tees Valley Combined Authority, the Independent newspaper and Designing Buildings Ltd.

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APPENDIX 1

