

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO  
EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**20 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD  
OF DEMOCRATIC  
SERVICES**

**SCRUTINY UPDATE AND ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

**SUMMARY**

This report presents the Scrutiny Annual Report (infographic) for 2021/22.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the report be noted.

**SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

1. The Scrutiny Annual Report Infographic summarising work in 2021/22 is attached at Appendix 1.
2. The infographic will form an appendix to the more comprehensive four-year end-of-term report which will include outcomes for the reviews completed over the term.

**FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

3. None directly arising from this report.

**RISK ASSESSMENT**

4. The scrutiny function meets legislative requirements and is an important internal mechanism to ensure the safety and quality of key services.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Jonathan Nertney  
**Telephone No:** 01642 526312  
**Email Address:** [jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk)

Background Papers: None  
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward Specific  
Property Implications: None

# Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Scrutiny Challenge for a better Borough 2021-22

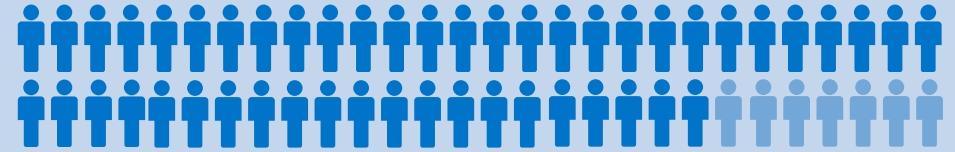


## What is overview and scrutiny?

Scrutiny helps to ensure that local people receive high quality services through the Council's Scrutiny Committees checking that the services and policies meet the needs of local people. It involves Councillors working with local people, the community, Council services and other organisations.

## Checks and Balances

The Council's Cabinet make decisions and decide on priorities, and the Scrutiny Committees ensure that they are held to account for delivering them and that any public concerns are represented.



We have **56** Councillors **7** are on Cabinet and the remaining **49** can take part in overview and scrutiny

## 5 Select Committees



Adult Social  
Care and Health

Children and  
Young People

Crime and  
Disorder

People

Place

## What they do

- Service Reviews
- Performance Reviews
- Frontline Service Visits
- Emerging Trends and Issues
- Scrutinise External Organisations

## Executive Scrutiny Committee

- Co-ordinates the overall scrutiny work programme
- Oversight of Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)
- Considered executive summaries from completed Select Committee reviews

## Focus on Health

- Performance and quality of local hospital Trusts
- Regional health service changes and reconfiguration of acute services
- Monitoring of CQC care home ratings
- Overview of Adult and Public Health Services

## Focus on Police and Crime

For most of 2021-22 we supported the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel:

- Scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Comment on the Police and Crime Plan
- Collate and produce the Panel's Annual Report

## 11 Scrutiny Reviews

- **Hospital Discharge (Phase 2):** looked at the discharge process from local hospitals to an individual's own home (not care homes), learned the key issues around discharge from both NHS Trust and patient viewpoints, and explored how carers were identified when needing hospital treatment.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att40837.pdf>
- **Multi-Agency Support to Care Homes during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Task & Finish):** examined the overall interplay between local care homes and their various health and care partners since the pandemic began, as well as analysing relevant data and intelligence to assess the impact of the support provided.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att41523.pdf>
- **Care Leavers EET:** assessed education, employment or training (EET) support for care leavers and explored whether the Council was doing enough and if more needed to be done to further improve performance and outcomes for young people.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att40870.doc>
- **Fraud Awareness (Personal):** ascertained the ways in which local victims of this crime were identified and supported, and sought to understand the process for reporting (personal) fraud offences, including the role of key stakeholders in the handling of cases and how the public were made aware of the required reporting mechanisms.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att40515.pdf>
- **Police Communications in Stockton-on-Tees (Task & Finish):** focused on information-sharing and communications in Stockton-on-Tees between neighbourhood policing, local Ward Councillors, local residents and other key stakeholders to ensure that appropriate and effective engagement mechanisms were in place.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att41976.pdf>
- **Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs):** considered the potential benefits and challenges from introducing a PSPO within the Borough, and the process which needs to be followed should the Council wish to implement such a measure to address existing anti-social behaviour.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att42178.pdf>
- **Carbon Monoxide Awareness:** aimed to gain a wider understanding of the Council's role in raising awareness of Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning and the installation of CO alarms, as well as external organisations' responsibilities/ actions.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att40853.pdf>
- **Local Government Pension Scheme (Task & Finish):** investigated the reasons why a portion of the Council's workforce had chosen not to be members of the Teesside Local Government Pension Scheme and considered what steps might be needed to address it.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att42383.pdf>
- **Disability Inclusive Borough:** explored how the Council could contribute to a more disability inclusive Borough.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att41988.doc>
- **Burial Provision:** recognised the importance of making sure the Council provided sufficient burial space within the Borough, the impact on the Council if it were unable to provide the appropriate choice to residents, and considered the allocation of appropriate resources to ensure that any future demand was met and was delivered in a timely manner.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att40517.pdf>
- **Highways Asset Management (inc. Potholes & Flooding):** assessed the opportunities for maintaining the Highways Infrastructure Asset as efficiently as possible (currently and in the future), set within the context of increasing demands, financial pressures, and climate change issues.  
<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att41985.pdf>
- Several other reviews began during 2021-22 and will be completed in 2022-23 - these involve **Day Opportunities for Adults, Child Poverty, Bonfires on Public Land, Tees Credit Union and Residents Parking Zones.**