

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – March 2025

Scrutiny Review – Affordable Housing	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Committee received evidence at their January meeting regarding returning empty homes back to use as well as proposed changes to the Tees Valley Common Allocation Policy which include adding an extra band priority, Band One Plus. Members received an update on the how the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024 affect affordable housing. The interim findings of the Affordable Housing Option Appraisal were also presented, which suggested that a hybrid approach including enabling, partnerships, and direct delivery is appropriate to address the affordable housing needs of the borough.</p> <p>The committee met informal in February to discuss the summary of evidence and draft recommendations. Members have received evidence not only from officers of the council for the review but also Registered Providers, private developers, a private letting agent, the Northern Housing Consortium, the Local Government Association, and Housing Action Teesside.</p> <p>The Committee's draft recommendations reflect the need to refine the options in the Affordable Housing Option Appraisal, the concern with the lengthy process for returning empty properties back to use, and the pressure being added to the local housing register by factors in the private rental sector. They also ask that the impact of proposed changes to the Common Allocation Policy be reported back to the Committee.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The Committee will meet on 10 March to agree the final report and recommendations
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial Provision (March 2025) • Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space (May 2025) • Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections (May 2025)
Requests for more information	None

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Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	No reports received since previous update.
Requests for more information	None

Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	The final report is being prepared summarising the evidence received and the working groups' recommendations. The working group has taken evidence not only from the community and relevant organisations but also scientists and advisors.
Requests for more information	None

Next Scrutiny Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslim and Faith Burial Provision
Remaining 2025-2026 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)
Monday 14 April 2025 Monday 19 April 2025 Monday 9 June 2025 Monday 14 July 2025 Monday 15 September 2025 Monday 13 October 2025 Monday 10 November 2025 Monday 15 December 2025 Monday 12 January 2026 Monday 16 February 2026 Monday 9 March 2026