

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

Scrutiny Review – Muslim and Faith Burial Services	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Committee received evidence in May from North East Muslim Funeral Services who explained burial customs in the Muslim faith and their views on burial chambers. They believed that there was a demand for burial chambers in the Muslim Community and burial rings was the preferred option.</p> <p>The Committee also received evidence from Officers at the May meeting outlining the different options for burial chambers which included concrete burial chambers, concrete burial rings, and plastic burial chambers.</p> <p>At the June meeting the Committee received evidence from Thornaby Funeral Services, accompanied by an Imam and chair of two Mosques in the Middlesbrough area. They stated their view that there was not a requirement in Islam for burial chambers, there was little demand in the communities that they served for burial chambers, and that the chambers/rings created issues due to the water table and terrain of the cemeteries in this area.</p> <p>The Committee also received evidence from Middlesbrough Council Burial services regarding the use of burial chambers/rings in their cemeteries at the June meeting.</p> <p>Imam's and a chair of three mosques within the Borough were invited to the July meeting to give their views on burial services and the need for burial chambers. The Committee also received a summary of burial services, including a more detailed breakdown of the cost of concrete burial rings.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The next meeting will be the informal meeting where the Committee will review the evidence received and formulate draft recommendations.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>A progress update was presented for the Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space review at the May meeting, and there was one outstanding action to be completed, introducing a mapping layer to enhance maps@stockton. The Committee believed that the recommendation had been partially achieved and no further updates were required.</p> <p>A progress update was also presented for the Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections review at the May meeting. One action, regarding the implementation of the green waste collection service, had been fully achieved. All remaining actions were on track, with</p>

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	<p>communication plans in place to ensure residents are fully aware of the changes to collections.</p> <p>The Action Plan for Affordable Housing was agreed at the June meeting. It was noted that the outcomes of Affordable Housing Option Appraisal which the review supported would be presented to Cabinet in June 2025, and it was confirmed that the changes to the Common Allocation Policy would be implanted in July 2025. Members believed that the letter to Government regarding Local Housing Allowance Rates should be sent as a matter of urgency and the date to complete this action was brought forward to end of June.</p> <p>Progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial Provision (September) • Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections (November 2025) • Affordable Housing (TBC)
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	No reports received since previous update.
Requests for more information	None

Next Scrutiny Review

- Governance of Capital Projects

Remaining 2024-2025 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)

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