

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIONS

The table below summarises actions endorsed by the Council's Executive in April 2009.

MIDDLESBROUGH PARTNERSHIP
Continue to engage with Middlesbrough Partnership Action Groups to further develop response to the economic downturn and contribute to the Middlesbrough Partnership special Economic Downturn Forum on the 28 th April 2009 and subsequent actions.
Continue to publicise advice and support, building on information in Middlesbrough News.
BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND THE LABOUR MARKET
Seek to enhance packages to soften the blow of the recession.
Work closely with Business Link and the University of Teesside to help businesses access the support they need.
Work with businesses experiencing difficulties to help them manage.
Implement multi-agency package of support for individuals either facing redundancy or looking for work.
Reduce the time it takes the Council to pay invoices from 30 to 20 days.
Accelerate planned maintenance of Council buildings and seek views on contract packaging to best meet local business needs.
Look at contract packaging, which would allow more companies to bid for work;
Widely publicise National Non Domestic Rate Hardship Relief and Small Business Relief.
HOUSING MARKET RESPONSE
Bring forward a range of housing opportunities for the period of up to 2021.
Maintain commitment to the delivery of regeneration schemes, including Middlehaven, Trinity Crescent and West Lane.
Explore how house builders might be encouraged/incentivised to continue investment in the town.
Continue to work on master planning and major projects for key sites.
Work with HCA and housebuilders to implement the HomeBuy Direct scheme.
Closely monitor the impact of the economic downturn on planning fee income.

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING ADVICE

Work with partners to monitor and seek to mitigate the impact of rising numbers of homelessness applications and develop an evidence-based suite of services, including a Mortgage Rescue Scheme.

Work with partners to promote the Court Duty Scheme.

Ensure advice and information literature is regularly reviewed and updated.

Deliver a longer term Rent Bond Guarantee Scheme, up to March 2011.

FUEL POVERTY

Maximise opportunities resulting from the Government's increased expenditure on energy efficiency measures.

CULTURE, RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT & INFORMATION

Continue to offer free/low cost options for leisure time through the Council's libraries, museums and galleries and signpost information and support.

SOCIAL CARE

Seek to ensure capacity of money/debt advice services to prioritise vulnerable clients.

Seek to address growing concerns and issues relating to the social care impact of sudden economic deprivation.

Seek to maximise employment opportunities for disabled people.

SCHOOLS AND CHILD POVERTY

Children's Trust event on 11th May 2009, aimed at tackling child poverty.

Review the Children's Plan this year from a child poverty perspective.

Work with young people and their families to make staying on in education more attractive.

Social Care

Look to negotiate price reductions with Independent Fostering Agencies.

Seek to increase early intervention across the safeguarding services to reduce the number of children taken into care.

Look to negotiate an increased management fee for CFL services provided on behalf of other Tees Valley local authorities.

Adult Education

Look to increase the number of return to work courses and adult careers guidance

Middlesbrough Teaching and Learning Centre (MTLC)

Look to offer cheaper packages (lunches, functions, etc) in order to retain customers using the facility.

Stronger Communities Action Group
Seek to support credit unions, ensure advice services are being promoted and seek to secure additional funding to boost capacity. Seek to maximise opportunities for the town in relation to the National Third Sector Recession Fun.
Financial inclusion
Work with Erimus Housing and other partners to develop a financial inclusion plan for Middlesbrough.
ENVIRONMENT
Safer Middlesbrough
Seek to ensure innovative crime reduction schemes and stronger partnership working at a local level. Closely monitor national crime reduction indicators and targets.
Continue to: monitor trends in crime, drugs and alcohol and any match with economic trends locally; commission services and interventions to meet the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged groups arising from economic hardship; and, prioritise access to employment and housing, and seek to improve links with Jobcentre Plus to tackle unemployment amongst drug users locally.
Monitor and seek to respond where services for those disadvantaged through unemployment and economic hardship become overburdened.
Seek to identify those most at risk of turning to crime in times of recession and target responses.
Target communities at large with publicity in relation to them accessing any future black markets and the link with/impact on local crime.
Monitor and seek to respond to the impact of any increase in homelessness, illegal evictions.
Money Advice
Monitor and seek to respond to increased demand for the Money Advice Service.
Transport
Monitor and seek to respond to: loss of income from parking charges; any increase in the workload resulting from illegal parking; reduced activity in licensing, site supervision and coordination works, and decline in the income generated from developer's requesting work.
Other issues
Seek to ensure that sport and leisure services maintain cost-effective programmes.
Monitor and seek to respond to any rise in enviro-crime in the form of fly tipping and rubbish dumping.

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)
Advice, information, guidance and support
Continue to regularly promote FirstAssist.
Explore opportunities to promote appropriate advice and support organisations and measures to increase their capacity.
Work with CAB to offer free financial capability awareness training for front line staff and explore the possibility Financial Services Authority (FSA) courses designed to help people manage their personal finances more effectively.
Look to include stress awareness in the corporate learning and development programme.
Provide a refresher of handling violence and aggression for customer facing staff and how to signpost people to get financial advice.
Work with Middlesbrough College to develop a module for managers on Mental Well-being
STRATEGIC RESOURCES
Strategic investment
Implement the 5 Year Capital Programme (£328M) to produce sustainable assets and create jobs for the long term.
CORPORATE PERFORMANCE & POLICY
Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) framework - find a mechanism to monitor the impact of the downturn on the achievement of outcomes.
Highlight the need for greater innovation in service development and delivery.
Consider enhancing the role of the Integrated Performance and Budget clinics to ensure that downturn issues are identified.
Seek to ensure CAA planning to counteract the impact on the various CAA flags and ratings and work with service areas to look to renegotiate targets where possible, for example LAA targets.