

## **Culture, Communities and Communications**

### **Scrutiny Panel Briefing – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

#### **Introduction**

The services are key to delivering both the Physical Regeneration Strategy for Middlesbrough and the evolving Social Regeneration Strategy.

Culture is key in cementing our position as the city centre of the Tees valley.

The existing infrastructure is strong with MIMA, the Theatre and major events such as the Mela. The Town Hall significantly raises the cultural offer and it will attract a wider audience both demographically and geographically. Our approach of making it a Town Hall for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and for the people of Middlesbrough will ensure that it has a community focus whilst our work with the Arts Council, which is a major funder will allow us to provide a high quality programme of exciting work.

Whilst our major cultural focus will be on the Town Hall we will also be looking at development plans for the Middlesbrough theatre, the Dorman Museum and the Central Library.

Stronger Communities continues to focus on those issues most important to residents, namely feeling safe in their communities. The Scrutiny review of Selective Landlord Licensing is being implemented and we are looking to expand this approach and the integrated enforcement teams from the Town Centre to across the Borough. We are also looking to expand the approach to focus more heavily on prevention by including our colleagues from Public Health, Children's and Adults services.

Cohesive communities are a key focus, both for our existing diverse communities but also for those new arrivals such as Asylum Seekers. Through our hosting of the North East Migration Partnership we have a major influence in the national policy for Asylum Seekers and this has benefited Middlesbrough in discussions with the Home Office to effectively manage the placement of those asylum seekers on bail. Balancing our social responsibility in this area whilst minimising any negative impacts is essential.

Adult Learning provided by the service is of high quality and we hope that the Ofsted inspection early next year will reflect this. The service has expanded to provide learning for excluded school children and it also manages the Councils' Apprenticeships and their associated learning.

Telling the story of Middlesbrough is a vital part of the services we provide. Not just our heritage through museums and archives, but also the future by telling people of our aspirations and potential. We will develop a branding for Middlesbrough this year that will support investment and tourism to the town.

Working in partnership with the Combined Authority will be a key element of this.

## Challenges for the Coming Year

Some of the key challenges for the coming year, can be summarised as follows:

- Developing community capacity and working with communities on co-design and coproduction.
- Expanding our integrated working and focusing on complex issues of individuals rather than traditional service constructs.
- Re-Commissioning service to support the vulnerable
- The Introduction of Universal Credit
- Addressing ASB effectively
- The introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act
- Resourcing a very ambitious cultural and events programme
- Protecting our historical assets and cultural infrastructure such as the un-refurbished part of the Town Hall, our Archives, Central Library, Middlesbrough Theatre and our Museums.

Suggestions have been provided for possible scrutiny projects, these are included within the full report and are summarised below:

Suggestion	Details
<p><b>Culture</b></p> <p>Art organisations and Artists</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Growth and Place.</i></p> <p>How the Council support individual arts organisations and artists in Middlesbrough</p>
<p><b>Communities</b></p> <p>Pilot integrated community safety and prevention model (town centre)</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i></p> <p>The Panel has been made aware of a new approach which is to take place in community safety.</p> <p>The panel may like to consider what we currently have, how it can be made smarter and review other community safety models across the country that have been successful.</p>
<p><b>Communities</b></p> <p>Domestic abuse support</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i></p> <p>The Panel recently received an update in April 2018 on preventing domestic abuse in Middlesbrough. Within the update it discussed recommendations from the impact assessment. Within these recommendations, it recommended ways to improve domestic abuse support, for example developing a single point of contact.</p>
<p><b>Communities</b></p> <p>Update on roll out of selective landlord licensing to other locations across Middlesbrough and future of the scheme (including exit strategy for existing locations)</p>	<p><i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i></p> <p>The Panel concluded their review on Selective Landlord Licensing in May 2018. Within the report, the panel recommends a 6 month update. This update would include information on future roll out</p>

	and the panel has asked to be kept informed on the exit strategy from North Ormesby.
<b>Communities</b> Homelessness provision	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> Impact of changes re: Homeless Reduction Act (later in the year)
<b>Communities</b> Council's partnership working with VCS.	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> How does the Council engage/ support VCS e.g. MVDA and how successful is this partnership?
<b>Communities</b> Adult Education Budget	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> The Panel could potentially consider how effective the budget is used to meet local priorities/stakeholder requirements in preparation for the handover to Tees Valley Combined Authority
<b>Communications</b> Events programme	<i>Suggestion from Growth and Place</i> Opportunity to examine and focus on which events are most important.

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