

THE EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the Executive was held on 4 September 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in Mandela Room, Town Hall, Middlesbrough.

PRESENT: Councillors Mayor Budd (Chair), Councillors J Brunton Dobson, M Carr, C Rooney, D Rooney, J Rostron, M Thompson, N Walker and L Young.

PRESENT AS OBSERVERS: Councillor V Walkington.

INVITEES: Councillors J McGee and M Storey.

OFFICIALS: J Bromiley, L Henman, A Hoy, D Johnson, A Pain, K Parkes, T Parkinson, S Reynolds, E Scollay and H Watson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor J Sharrocks.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/Nature of Interest
Councillor C Rooney	Non-pecuniary	Agenda Item 5 - Stainsby Masterplan (including Stainsby North) - Resident
Councillor D Rooney	Non-pecuniary	Agenda Item 5 - Stainsby Masterplan (including Stainsby North) - Resident

18/20 **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2018 AND THE SPECIAL EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2018**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 10 July 2018 and the Special Executive meeting held on 1 August 2018 were submitted and agreed as a correct record.

18/21 **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR PROPERTY MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2018**

The minutes of the Executive Sub-Committee for Property meeting held on 13 June 2018 were noted.

18/22 **STAINSBY MASTERPLAN (INCLUDING STAINSBY NORTH)**

The Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure and the Executive Director for Growth and Place submitted a report, the purpose of which was to set out the vision for the Stainsby scheme, including the creation of a country park, and the process for developing a draft masterplan in consultation with the local community.

Stabilising the population was essential if Middlesbrough was to consolidate its status as the city-centre of the Tees Valley. Stabilising the population would help to support and improve viability of local services such as schools and shops. The objective would be achieved through a combination of providing housing in locations, and of the type, that people wanted, and through improvements to the local environment and investment in facilities and infrastructure.

The Stainsby scheme situated in West Middlesbrough was allocated for housing in the Local Plan adopted in 2014. The 130 hectare site was designated for a minimum of 1,670 dwellings in a mixed and balanced residential community.

The report provided details of the proposed vision for the Stainsby area and how this would be achieved. It was estimated that of the 140 hectares, 72 hectares (52%) would be improved and retained as green open space, creating a new country park. The approximate percentage breakdown for the remaining elements of the scheme were as follows: Housing

development - 43%; School / Local Centre - 3%; and Road and Infrastructure - 2%.

The report detailed the proposals and requirements regarding the creation of a country park, together with information in respect of: Landscaping; Open Space; Green Corridors; Stainton Way Western Extension; Road Improvements; Ease of Movement; Pedestrian and Cycleway Links; The Built Environment; and Residential Amenity.

A Plan showing Stainsby Scheme ownership was shown at Appendix 1; An Indicative Plan showing link road placement and potential green spaces at Appendix 2; and a Wider Context Map at Appendix 3.

Regarding the proposed process, the report provided details of consultation work that would be undertaken locally in September and October. This would involve the completion of workshops and the proposals being made available on the Council's website, with comments being encouraged over a six-week period. This engagement would feed into the preparation of the draft masterplan, which would be put out for further consultation in November, prior to any formal steps being taken to progress development on the site. The draft masterplan would be confirmed in December.

Councillor Walkington delivered a statement as a Ward Councillor to ensure that the consultation in relation to this large and significant development would take residents views and concerns into account. There was a lot of use of green space now and he would be encouraging residents to participate in the consultation.

OPTIONS

Other potential decisions and why these had not been recommended

- There was no obligation for the Council to undertake consultation on a draft masterplan for the whole site, but this was not the preferred route as it would not allow local communities the opportunity to influence the overall look of the development.
- As the largest single site in the town, not taking forward the development at all would have a catastrophic impact on the town's overall housing growth plans, and have economic consequences for both the town and the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

ORDERED

That the vision of the Stainsby scheme and the process for engaging the local community in the master planning be approved.

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reason:

The increased public engagement in the master planning process would enable a more robust and locally accepted scheme to emerge than would otherwise be possible.

18/23

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-22 – PROGRESS AT QUARTER ONE 2018/19

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support presented a report, the purpose of which was to advise the Executive of progress against the 2018-22 Strategic Plan, and the Council's projected year-end financial position at Quarter One 2018/19.

The Council's Scheme of Delegation gave the Executive collective responsibility for corporate strategic performance and financial management/monitoring, together with associated action. Standing Orders and Financial Procedures required the Executive's approval for major virements between revenue budgets, and in-year changes to the Council's Capital Investment Strategy.

On 12 June 2018, the Executive agreed a revised, streamlined approach for reporting progress against the Strategic Plan and the Council's financial position, the format of which had subsequently been agreed by Executive Members and the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

The first report in this format, which was shown at Appendix 1, provided the necessary information to enable the Executive to discharge its performance and financial management responsibilities, setting out for Quarter One 2018/19:

- A progress update against the 2018-22 Strategic Plan;
- Revenue and capital budget projections and proposed amendments;
- Position statements in relation to the Council's borrowing and its reserves;
- An update on the Council's Strategic Risk Register; and
- Actions that the Council would take in the next quarter to address performance issues.

Revenue budget virements above £150,000 and a revised Investment Strategy for the period to 2020/21 were attached at Appendices 2 and 3 for approval.

Reference was made to page 7 of the Council's Quarter One 2018/19 Results report (Appendix 1). The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration advised that a 17% rise in residential care admissions had not been seen. An update would be provided to enable this statistical note to be amended.

OPTIONS

Other potential decisions and why these had not been recommended

No alternative options were discussed as they were not applicable to the report.

ORDERED

1. **That the Council's Quarter One 2018/19 Results report (Appendix 1) and the actions to be taken to address the issues set out within it be noted.**
2. **That the proposed revenue budget virements of over £150,000 (Appendix 2) and the proposed revised Investment Strategy to 2020/21 (Appendix 3) be approved.**
3. **That the utilisation of £392,000 of the Social Care Demand Risk Reserve to cover one-off increased demand in Adult Social Care Services in 2018/19 be approved.**
4. **That the statistics shown on page 17 of Appendix 1, in respect of residential care admissions, be updated following receipt of further information from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration.**

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reason:

Finances, performance and risk would be managed in line with the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance, the Scheme of Delegation and agreed corporate financial regulations, and effective mitigating action would be delivered to address areas of underperformance.

18/24

UNIVERSAL CREDIT - FULL SERVICE

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support presented a report, the purpose of which was to provide the Executive with an update in respect of the Government's roll out of the full Universal Credit service in Middlesbrough from 3 October 2018.

Universal Credit was part of the Government's welfare reforms and replaced six state benefits and merged them into one monthly payment for those of working age. Pensioners were not currently included in Universal Credit and remained unaffected by the changes. DWP had indicated that Pensioners would not be affected by any changes until at least 2023.

The report detailed the implementation of the full Universal Credit service from 3 October 2018, highlighting the phased implementation work that had been undertaken to date.

There were a number of issues associated with Universal Credit for residents, the Council and partner organisations. As a result of this, the benefit service, in conjunction with other internal departments, had been extremely pro-active in looking at the potential problems and how to address these. All of the actions taken had followed the Council's Project Management Framework to ensure effective implementation.

The report provided examples of the work undertaken, which included: Meetings with the DWP; Universal Credit Steering Group; Briefing Sessions; Personal Budgeting Support; Community Bank; Digital Support; Digital Map; Frequently Asked Questions; Thirteen Group Seminar; Information for Landlords; and Financial Inclusion Group.

Regarding Frequently Asked Questions, the benefit service had drawn up a "top 10" list of the questions which it was felt would be most frequently asked once Universal Credit was implemented in October 2018. The document provided local solutions to such problems and could be used as a point of reference for Members, staff and public if any of these questions were raised. The document was attached at Appendix A and had been widely distributed at all of the briefing sessions held in July and August. A number of these leaflets would also be made available in the Council's Hubs and Customer Service Centre. The DWP had also advised the benefit service that this document, devised by Middlesbrough, had now been widely promoted within their organisation as an area of best practice, with local versions being used by a number of other Authorities throughout the country.

OPTIONS

Other potential decisions and why these had not been recommended

The Council had no option around the Government's decision to implement Universal Credit. The Council did have the option to not provide training/updates to internal staff or partner organisations, although this was felt not to be an option in reality given the significant impact this would have across the town.

ORDERED

- 1. That the actions taken by Middlesbrough Council's benefit service to mitigate the impacts of Universal Credit be noted.**
- 2. That a further update report be submitted at the end of May 2019, which would provide a detailed overview of the impacts on residents following the first 6 months of the full Universal Credit roll out.**

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reason:

Members would have confidence that all internal staff and partner organisations had been fully briefed in preparation for the roll out of the full Universal Credit service on 3 October 2018. In addition, Members would receive an update as to the actual impact of Universal Credit within a short period of time in early 2019. All actions and decisions made take into account the aims and objectives of social and physical regeneration of the town.

There were no items for consideration.

18/26 AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL - COUNCIL BUDGET 2018-2019 AND PROPOSED SAVINGS - SERVICE RESPONSE

The Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel had undertaken a review of the Council Budget 2018-2019 and Proposed Savings. A copy of the full report was attached at Appendix 1.

The Scrutiny Panel made two recommendations upon which a response was sought from the relevant service area. The Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support submitted a service response to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel. A copy of the response was attached at Appendix 2.

The Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board presented the final report to the Executive.

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance presented the service response.

It was agreed that the suggestion regarding the hosting of roadshow events would not be taken forward due to low attendance and suitability of social media. In addition, press releases were already undertaken and regular meetings with the media carried out. It was not proposed to take these further unless more information was provided. Regarding the Youth Participation Officer, as there was only one with a specific role in the Council (i.e. to ensure that the voice of the child was heard in relation to the delivery of services), Councillor Walker suggested that other organisations could be utilised to assist with this.

OPTIONS**Other potential decisions and why these had not been recommended**

The option to reject these recommendations was not recommended because the Panel's ambition to encourage more people to participate in local democratic processes should be welcomed, and a commitment to take the additional steps outlined in the proposed response could be made at this point in time, within existing resources.

ORDERED

1. That Executive approves the directorate response to the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel's review of the 2018-2019 budget setting process.
2. That the information, as presented, be noted.

REASON

The Executive needed to take a decision on the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations in light of the response from the service area.

18/27 SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - REDUCING LONELINESS AND/OR SOCIAL ISOLATION IN LATER LIFE - SERVICE RESPONSE

The Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel had undertaken a review of Reducing Loneliness and/or Social Isolation in Later Life. A copy of the full report was attached.

The Scrutiny Panel made nine recommendations upon which a response was sought from the relevant service area. The Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration submitted a service response to the recommendations of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel. A copy of the response was attached.

The Chair of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel presented the final report to the Executive.

The Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health presented the service response.

OPTIONS

Other potential decisions and why these had not been recommended

No alternative decisions were considered as the recommendations by the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel were straightforward to implement and there were no significant resource implications.

ORDERED

That the attached action plan be approved.

REASON

Actions would be implemented to reduce social isolation and loneliness in later life for the people of Middlesbrough.

The decision(s) will come into force five working days following the day the decision(s) was published unless the decision becomes subject to the call in procedures.