

THE EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the Executive was held on 3 September 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Mandela Room, Town Hall, Middlesbrough.

PRESENT: Mayor A Preston (Chair) and Councillors B Cooper, D Davison, A High, C Hobson, D McCabe, M L Smiles and A Waters

PRESENT AS OBSERVERS: J Cain and A Pain

INVITEES: Councillors A Hellaoui, T Higgins and J Thompson

OFFICIALS: J Bromiley, R Brown, G Field, E Kunonga, S Reynolds and E Scollay

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest made by Members at this point in the meeting.

19/21 **SOUTH TEES YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE INSPECTION**

The Executive Member for Children's Services and the Director of Prevention and Partnerships submitted a report for the Executive's consideration.

The purpose of the report was to inform the Executive of the outcome of an inspection of youth offending services in South Tees, which was undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP).

On 1 April 2019, HMIP conducted a one-week single inspection of South Tees Youth Offending Service (STYOS). STYOS was a shared service that was managed by Middlesbrough Council and covered two local authority areas (Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland).

Following the inspection, HMIP awarded STYOS an overall 'Good' rating. That rating had been determined by inspecting the youth offending services in three domains of their work (organisational delivery, court disposals and out-of-court disposals). The findings in those domains were outlined in the inspection report, which was attached at Appendix 1 of the submitted report. It was noted that in seven of the 12 areas, STYOS was rated as 'Outstanding'.

As a result of HMIP's inspection findings, seven recommendations were proposed that, once implemented, planned to - have a positive impact on the quality of youth offending services in South Tees, improve the lives of the children in contact with youth offending services, and better protect the public.

The recommendations included:

- To ensure that there was specialist education provision in the Youth Offending Service to meet the needs of children and young people who were not accessing suitable education;
- To ensure that the voice and views of the victim were integrated into young people's assessments and plans;
- To develop a wider range of reparation placements which were engaging and educational for children and young people;
- To address access rights for case managers to the relevant children's social care case management system;
- To make better use of police checks on home addresses for assessments of young people and staff safety;
- To ensure that there was an education representative on the management board; and
- To work with the police and other local Youth Offending Teams to review and amend the Cleveland Police triage policy.

To address the proposed recommendations, STYOS had developed an action plan (see Appendix 2 of the submitted report). The plan had been endorsed by HMIP and its delivery would be overseen by the STYOS Board.

ORDERED

That the content of the report, for information purposes, be noted.

19/22

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-22 - PROGRESS AT QUARTER ONE 2019/20

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Strategic Director of Finance, Governance and Support submitted a report for the Executive's consideration.

The report advised the Executive of progress against the 2019-22 Strategic Plan, and the Council's projected year-end financial position at Quarter One 2019/20. It recommended a number of mitigating actions to address financial issues identified during the Quarter One review.

The Council's Scheme of Delegation provided the Executive with 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.

The Quarter One 2019/20 report, attached at Appendix 1 of the submitted report, provided the necessary information to enable the Executive to discharge its performance and financial management responsibilities, setting out for quarter one 2019/20:

- a progress update against the 2019-22 Strategic Plan;
- revenue and capital budget predicted outturns at Quarter One;
- 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 had taken to address performance issues.

A revised Investment Strategy for the period to 2021/22 was also attached (see Appendix 6 of the submitted report) for consideration and approval.

The 2019/20 Quarter One Results (see Appendix 1 of the submitted report) set out positive performance in many areas. Notably, 23 of the 30 priorities (77%) within the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan were assessed as on target to be achieved, with 9 of 28 measures of success showing improvement at the end of Quarter One and only three worsening.

Priorities rated Red at Quarter One were broadly unchanged from Year-End 2018/19 and included the local crime rate, life expectancy and looked after children. Those matters clearly related to the priorities of the newly-elected Mayor of Middlesbrough and it was anticipated that the revised Vision for Middlesbrough (scheduled to be presented to Council in September 2019) planned to provide fresh impetus to address those long-term issues.

The Council was reporting a predicted overspend of £336,000 on its 2019/20 revenue budget at the end of Quarter One, due principally to continued pressures in Children's Care. Strong action was planned to continue during 2019/20 to mitigate those ongoing spending pressures.

During Quarter One, an assurance exercise was carried out on planned savings for 2019/20 and it was identified that £2.475m of those savings would not have been achieved during the current financial year. Those were detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report. The majority of those savings were in Children's Care.

In order to mitigate the effects of those and other delayed savings, additional savings

proposals totalling £2.771m (see Appendix 3 of the submitted report) had been developed for approval by the Executive for delivery during 2019/20.

The Equality and Diversity section of the submitted report (see paragraphs 35 to 39), and the impact assessments attached at Appendix 4, set out the impacts from approving those savings. Of the 18 proposals, only two were considered to have potential negative differential impact on diverse groups and communities. Those were the early cessation of School Improvement Strategy and Programme (see paragraph 15 of the submitted report) and the proposed closure of Berwick Hills Children's Centre (see paragraphs 16 to 23 of the submitted report).

OPTIONS

The Council had a legal duty to address its financial challenges. If not approved, savings proposals outlined in Appendix 3 would have needed to be replaced by other proposals. It was considered that the combination of proposals put forward, offered the most effective means of addressing the underachievement of planned savings for 2019/20, while mitigating the impact on local communities.

ORDERED

- That the Council's Quarter One 2019/20 Results report (Appendix 1), and the actions proposed to address the issues set out within it, be noted.
- That the £2.475m of 2019/20 savings identified as being unachievable in the current year (Appendix 2) be noted and that the £2.771m additional savings proposed to mitigate the non-achievement (Appendix 3) be approved, taking account the impact assessments undertaken (Appendix 4).
- That a formal consultation process be undertaken with the public and key stakeholders on the future of Berwick Hills Children's Centre.
- That the proposed revenue budget virements of over £150,000 (Appendix 5) be approved.
- That the proposed revised Investment Strategy to 2021/22 (Appendix 6) be approved.

REASONS

To enable the effective management of finances, performance and risk in line with the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance, the Scheme of Delegation and agreed corporate financial regulations.

19/23

BUS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The Executive Member of Regeneration and the Director of Regeneration submitted a report for the Executive's consideration.

The purpose of the report was to put forward proposals for improving bus travel (demonstrating the strategic importance of public transport in Middlesbrough) and to outline the specific improvements proposed to provide better connectivity and accessibility to employment, education, training and leisure opportunities.

The changing demographics, national trends, predicted economic growth and increasing focus on expanding urban living provided an opportunity to increase public transport usage. Securing the right investment in the bus network infrastructure planned to ensure negative patronage trends reversed.

The current situation of declining patronage meant that bus companies inevitably reduced service provision and were less keen to invest in new fleet and facilities. A vicious negative cycle would have continued and therefore, there was a need for a change.

Increasing bus patronage/services planned to:

- Reduce emissions as a consequence of reduced car dependency;
- Enhance accessibility to those without cars.

A number of challenges had been identified by stakeholders that needed to be addressed if bus patronage was to grow. Those challenges were detailed in the table at paragraph 17 of the submitted report.

To improve the bus offer in Middlesbrough, a range of measures had been identified in conjunction with stakeholders and bus companies. It was planned that improvements to the bus network could be delivered quickly and cost effectively. The Council commissioned a bus study, by Civic Engineers, to review current bus provision and identify what was required for it to develop with an objective of growing patronage and services.

It was anticipated that improvements would have been funded by Tees Valley Combined Authority's Transforming Cities Funding for public transport or through development contributions. The proposals identified included:

- Passenger facilities / superstops - A network of 'superstops' were planned across the town, in locations reflecting strategic points where people access buses. The nature of each superstop planned to reflect the expected footfall in that area and would be equipped with improved passenger waiting facilities, CCTV, Wi-Fi, new seating and electronic journey timetable information. Each also planned to provide additional possibilities, such as safe cycling options/routes. The proposed superstop locations and estimated costs were detailed at paragraphs 22 and 23 of the submitted report. Appendix I showed the superstop locations.
- Network improvements / bus priorities - Improving the flow of buses around the road network required investment in bus priority measures, such as designated lanes and signal timing changes to enable the buses to reduce journey times. The identified investments were contained in the table at paragraph 25 of the submitted report.
- New infrastructure - To enable new and existing housing areas to be fully-connected to the wider bus network, a potential bus only link was proposed from the B1365 to Stainton Way, (see Appendix II of the submitted report). That link planned to enable bus connectivity between new housing developments and employment, education and leisure opportunities. Having a designated bus link (with adjacent pedestrian / cycleway) planned to improve journey time, reliability and increase the attractiveness of service.

The table contained at paragraph 28 of the submitted, provided the overall estimated costs of the proposals (further financial information was detailed at paragraphs 45 and 46 of the submitted report).

OPTIONS

Do nothing. That would not have made the improvements to removing transport as a barrier to accessing services, and bus patronage would continue to fall.

Do something. Implementing partial improvements would have allowed some of the benefits to be realised. However, it would not have provided the overall holistic package of measures to generate success.

Invest solely in private vehicle infrastructure. That would have limited benefits and required significant public investment, in terms of new highway infrastructure and potential loss of green space to facilitate it.

ORDERED

That the report be approved and the Council supported to commence working in partnership with all stakeholders to deliver the ambitious vision for improving bus travel in Middlesbrough; including outline designs and the necessary work to secure further funding for their delivery.

REASON

To support the ambitions of the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy and approve the Council to bid for the necessary funding to make public transport more accessible, convenient and integrated into daily life and to support the ambitions for the Council's economic and housing growth plans. It planned to result in improved services, increased patronage and assist in meeting environmental sustainability objectives. The report and decision was based on engagement with the public transport providers.

19/24 COUNCIL, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - MATTERS FOR RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for consideration.

19/25 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL - EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION SERVICES IN MIDDLESBROUGH - SERVICE RESPONSE

The Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel had undertaken a review of Early Help and Prevention Services in Middlesbrough. A copy of the full report was attached.

The scrutiny panel made 15 recommendations upon which a response was sought from the relevant service area. The Executive Member for Children's Services and the Director of Prevention and Partnerships submitted a service response to the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel. A copy of the Action Plan was attached.

The 2018/19 Chair of the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel presented the final report to the Executive. The Executive Member for Children's Services presented the service response.

ORDERED

That the content of the Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel's Final Report, on Early Help and Prevention Services in Middlesbrough, be noted.

That the Action Plan, developed in response to the scrutiny panel's recommendations, be approved.

REASON

It was a requirement that Executive formally considered the Scrutiny Panel's report and confirmed the Service Area's response to the Panel's accompanying plan.

19/26 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL - MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS - SERVICE RESPONSE

The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel had undertaken a review of Mental Health in Schools. A copy of the full report was attached.

The scrutiny panel made 21 recommendations upon which a response was sought from the relevant service area. The Executive Member for Children's Services and the Director of Education submitted a service response to the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel. A copy of the Action Plan was attached.

The 2018/19 Chair of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel presented the final report to the Executive. The Executive Member for Children's Services presented the service response.

ORDERED

That the content of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel's Final Report, on Mental Health in Schools, be noted.

That the Action Plan, developed in response to the scrutiny panel's recommendations, be approved.

REASON

It was a requirement that Executive formally considered the Scrutiny Panel's report and confirmed the Service Area's response to the Panel's accompanying plan.

19/27 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

ORDERED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that, if present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

19/28 **CONFIDENTIAL - FUTURE MUNICIPAL RESIDUAL WASTE SERVICES**

The Executive Member for Environment and the Director of Environment and Commercial Services submitted a report on the delivery of future municipal residual waste services.

ORDERED

That the recommendations of the report be approved.

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reason:

For reasons outlined in the report

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