

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

8 JANUARY 2019

FEEDBACK FROM EXECUTIVE – 18 DECEMBER 2018

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To receive the decisions of the Executive on Scrutiny Final reports and updates on other Executive matters.

BACKGROUND

2. The Board will be aware that as part of the scrutiny processes, the Executive at its meeting on 18 December 2018 considered the findings of the following Scrutiny Panel Reports:
 - Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel: Council Tax Processes in Middlesbrough.
3. In addition to the Panel's final report, the Executive also considered the Executive report and Service Response, which have been attached as Appendix A and B respectively.
4. Councillor Jean Sharrocks, Chair of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel presented the final report.
5. The Executive supported the service response in respect of the report, and that for recommendation c) the Financial Inclusion Group be consulted and its input be sought when reviewing collection processes.
6. Other matters considered by Executive included:

Agenda Item	Summary
Civic Community Awards	Tying in with the Council's Social Regeneration Agenda and incorporating the Citizen of the year Awards, the Civic Community Awards seek to involve and recognise those communities, businesses and extraordinary people living in Middlesbrough who tirelessly supported their friends, neighbours and their communities. They would also provide inspirational stories that would be used to generate different perceptions of Middlesbrough and create ambition in its communities. The Community Awards would link with the Council's Place Brand strategy.
"50 Futures": A new approach to work experience.	In response to the public's perception that opportunities to access employment were unequal and there was an over reliance on zero hours contracts, the 50 Futures

	<p>programme will provide over 50 new and meaningful adult work experience placements within the Council, which will run several times a year. It will provide opportunities for a minimum of 100 people per year and it is hoped that other employers will join the programme. It was envisaged that the programme would be launched early in the New Year and promoted through a series of media avenues, with the first intake of people in March 2019.</p> <p>It was recognised that this is a start and the programme will hopefully grow, and that some placements will need to be tailored to their service areas.</p>
Middlesbrough Place Brand	<p>In order to meet the Council's objective of launching a place brand, the Council commissioned Hemingway Design to create a place brand that represents the past but also aligns with Middlesbrough's ambitious Physical and Social Regeneration agendas. The brand's objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe Middlesbrough, consistently and comprehensively • Change the perceptions of Middlesbrough; • Increase the recognition of Middlesbrough; • Create desire and demand for Middlesbrough; and • Instil confidence and excitement in Middlesbrough. <p>The launch of the brand will be rolled out over a 12 month period, with the first event being the 130th Anniversary of the Town Hall at the end of January 2019.</p>
Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2019/20.	<p>In order for the Council to meet its obligations under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Council calculated its Council Tax base as 33,608 with Nunthorpe and Stainton and Thornton parishes having bases of 2,120 and 779 respectively.</p>
Local Council Tax Support 2019/20	<p>The executive agreed that the current Council Tax Support Scheme (whereby residents pay a minimum of 15% towards their Council Tax bill) be continued.</p>
Middlesbrough Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2018	<p>Given populations have grown in Middlesbrough for the first time in generations, due to opportunities in the growing economy and housing and commercial developments, consideration has to be given to the impact upon Middlesbrough's transport network. It was therefore vital that an appropriate transport strategy was in place to support it.</p> <p>The strategy identified how different modes of travel could be integrated together to provide a seamless transport network, which would facilitate economic growth.</p>
Housing Delivery Vehicle – Preferred Model	<p>Following an options appraisal, a Wholly Owned Company Limited by Shares was considered to be the most effective delivery model for successfully developing and operating a Housing Delivery Vehicle.</p> <p>An experienced consultant had been appointed who had led the development of the HDV to that point, subject to due diligence by Council officers and the Shadow Board. It was considered imperative that the Managing Director was</p>

	<p>in post when the Company starts trading in April 2019.</p> <p>The Council's Housing Strategy (2017-20) referred to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2016), which identified a need for an additional 200 affordable homes per annum over the period 2016-34. The HDV would help achieve the need for more good quality affordable housing in the town.</p>
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RECOMMENDATION

9. That the decisions of the Executive be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. Minutes of the Executive held on 18 December 2018.

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