

## THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 18 November 2025

Dear Member

### COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER, 2025

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 26th November, 2025** at **7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber to transact the following business, namely:-

1. Welcome and Fire Evacuation Procedure

In the event the fire alarm sounds attendees will be advised to evacuate the building via the nearest fire exit and assemble at the Bottle of Notes opposite MIMA.

2. Apologies for Absence

*To receive any apologies for absence*

3. Declarations of Interest

*To receive any declarations of interest*

4. Minutes - Council - 15 October 2025

5 - 10

*To receive the minutes of the last meeting*

5. Announcements

*To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Council or the Chief Executive*

6. Mayor's Report

11 - 16

*To receive a written update from the Mayor and deal with questions and answers arising therefrom*

7. Executive Member reports

17 - 76

*To receive written updates from Executive Members and deal with questions and answers arising therefrom*

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| 8.  | Questions from Members of the Public   | 77 - 78   |
|     | <i>To receive questions from members of the public</i>   |           |
| 9.  | Petitions (if any)   |           |
|     | <i>To receive petitions</i>  |           |
| 10. | Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board  | 79 - 84   |
|     | <i>To receive the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board</i>  |           |
| 11. | Members' Scheme of Allowances  | 85 - 104  |
|     | <i>Report for decision</i>   |           |
| 12. | Approval of the Council's Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2026-2029                                 | 105 - 194 |
|     | <i>Report for decision</i>   |           |
| 13. | Update on Urgent Decisions   | 195 - 198 |
|     | <i>To receive a report on urgent decisions taken since the last Council meeting. Report for noting</i> |           |
| 14. | Members' Questions on Notice (if any)  |           |
|     | <i>To receive questions on notice from Members</i>   |           |
| 15. | Motions on Notice (if any)   |           |
|     | <i>To consider any motions on notice</i>   |           |
| 16. | Urgent Motions on Notice (if any)  |           |
|     | <i>To consider any urgent motions on notice</i>  |           |



Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS RESTRICTED  
DISABLED ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Inspection of Papers – Documents referred to on this Summons may be inspected between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday at the Town Hall, Middlesbrough. Copies may also be downloaded from the Council's Website.

Motions – Details of notices of motion received and not enclosed with the Summons will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Should you have any queries in regard to the items on this agenda please contact Sue Lightwing/Scott Bonner, Democratic Services on: Direct Line 01642 729712/729708 or e-mail on: [sue\\_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:sue_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk)/[scott\\_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk).

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**COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 15 October 2025.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Banks (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), I Blades, D Branson, E Clynch, C Cooke - Elected Mayor, J Cooke, D Coupe, D Davison, J Ewan, T Furness, P Gavigan, TA Grainge, S Hill, B Hubbard, L Hurst, N Hussain, D Jackson, D Jones, T Livingstone, L Mason, J McConnell, J McTigue, T Mohan, I Morrish, M Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, A Romaine, J Rostron, M Saunders, M Smiles, P Storey, Z Uddin, N Walker, G Wilson and L Young

**OFFICERS:** S Bonner, B Carr, A Johnstone, S Lightwing, K Whitmore, R Williams, A Wilson, and L Zipfell

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Cooper, L Henman, L Lewis, D McCabe, M McClintock, J Nicholson, J Ryles, J Thompson and S Tranter

25/55 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and read out the Fire Evacuation Procedure.

25/56 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

25/57 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 10 SEPTEMBER 2025**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 September 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

25/58 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair reminded Council that in October 2024 a Motion was carried that recognised the importance of supporting those who had experienced the loss of a baby. In keeping with that commitment, Middlesbrough Council wished to acknowledge that today, 15 October, was National Baby Loss Awareness Day. This day culminated in a wave of light at 7 pm, where people across the globe would light candles and leave them burning for at least one hour. The symbolic gesture honoured and remembered babies who died during pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy and offered a moment of reflection and solidarity to all those affected.

25/59 **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor moved his report as written whilst highlighting two approaching deadlines as follows:

- Pride and Place Funding – the Mayor hoped to have further details to announce at the November Council meeting.
- The Fair Funding Formula and changes – the Mayor was expecting further details by the end of October 2025.

*Questions in relation to the Mayor's Report*

Councillor Saunders on Supporting Young People.

The Mayor explained that the Youth Fund was open to applications from other partners and not just Middlesbrough Council. The Mayor commented that he thought the Council had applied to the Fund but would confirm this.

Councillor Saunders on regeneration funding for East Middlesbrough.

The Mayor explained that meetings would need to take place with representatives from the

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to understand the boundaries of the funded area. The current information supplied was based on output areas from 2021 and were unclear. The funding would have a capital/revenue split – 37% revenue, 63% capital. A management board to allocate the funding would need to be established by next spring and conversations would take place to decide who the partners should be. The Mayor also commented that the project needed to be community led.

Councillor Branson on Area Care Teams.

The Mayor stated that with the additional investment that had been allocated to area care, problems that residents had been facing for a long time had started to be tackled. Overgrown areas or play parks that were not up to standard were now being addressed and tidied up. The Mayor reminded Councillors of the investment made in last year's budget and the trajectory of travel, to ensure that the Council continued to invest in areas such as Environment, wherever possible.

Councillor L Young on Community Caretakers.

The Mayor explained that the Community Caretakers had undertaken approximately 120 jobs and activities across the town to date. It was vital to ensure that the Council continued this investment. The next project was the refurbishment of Saltwells Park. The Mayor commended the Community Caretakers and the Area Care staff for the work they had undertaken.

Councillor Clynych on Fair Funding Review.

The Mayor stated that members of the Council had lobbied very hard to ensure that Middlesbrough received a fair share of funding. The Mayor was fairly confident that Middlesbrough would receive an improved settlement but urged all Councillors to continue to lobby the Government to ensure the best outcome for Middlesbrough.

25/60

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATES**

*Question in relation to the update of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care – Councillor Rostron.*

Councillor Clynych on the Middlesbrough Independent Living Services.

The Executive Member thanked Councillor Clynych for complimenting the Connect Service and agreed to pass on his thanks to all staff for work undertaken recently. The Independent Living Service had also been recognised nationally as exemplary, which was a great achievement and the Executive Member added her thanks to all staff. The Independent Living Service was vital to the community and vulnerable residents. The number of people who were able to remain in their own homes was largely down to the work of this Service. For service users, their families and carers, there was the reassurance of access to 24/7 assistance. The Executive Member also highlighted a link in her update to videos produced by the staff which provided further details of the services provided, which included the Affordable Warmth Team. Councillors' attention was drawn to information leaflets provided by the Affordable Warmth Team that were available at the meeting.

*Question in relation to the update of the Executive Member for Children's Services – Councillor Henman.*

Councillor Jones agreed to email her question to Councillor Henman.

*Questions in relation to the update of the Executive Member for Development – Councillor Furness*

Councillor Morrish on empty shops.

The Executive Member concurred that the Government had granted some local authorities enforcement powers to tackle empty shops by putting vacant commercial properties up for rental auction. Middlesbrough Council was currently offering grants of up to £5000 to local businesses to assist with signage and lighting, as well as improvements to doors and

windows. The Executive Member agreed to forward further information on the scheme to all Councillors and asked them to encourage eligible businesses to apply.

Councillor Uddin on the criteria for applying for grants to improvement shop fronts.

The Executive Member explained that a pot of £180,000 was available from the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund. Applications would be accepted from business owners and quotations would be required. The Executive Member agreed to forward further information on the scheme to all Councillors and asked them to encourage eligible businesses to apply.

*Questions in relation to the update of the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability.*

Councillor Saunders on a damaged culvert on Ladgate Lane.

The Executive Member informed Council that a contract had been awarded for the remedial work required and the contractor had started investigatory work. Whilst it was acknowledged that it was inconvenient, temporary traffic lights were in place as a safety measure. Ward Councillors would be given an update on the timescale for completion of the works once the information was available.

Councillor Jones on collection of side waste.

It was confirmed that there had been no policy change in relation to the collection of side waste. Expected tonnage did not include side waste and its collection would interfere with the rounds being completed on time. Therefore, the Area Care teams collected side waste. It was hoped that next year's recycling changes would improve the situation.

Councillor Wilson on the purchase of black bins.

The Executive Member asked Councillor Wilson to email the details of the specific case he had raised and stated that he would resolve the issue.

Councillor Hubbard on the costs and funding for new bins.

The Executive Member confirmed that the Council had received grants for food waste collection and enhanced recycling costs. The Executive Member agreed to email the detailed costs to Councillor Hubbard.

25/61 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY)**

No valid questions had been submitted by members of the public, within the required timescale for this meeting.

25/62 **PETITIONS (IF ANY)**

No valid petitions had been submitted for this meeting.

25/63 **REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) presented a report, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the current position regarding progress made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the individual Scrutiny Panels.

The Chair informed Council that arrangements had been made for the Chair of the Middlesbrough Development Corporation (MDC) to attend the next meeting of OSB. However, due to Middlesbrough Council having representation on the Tees Valley Combined Authority's scrutiny panels, the MDC had subsequently declined the invitation. The Chair stated that the invitation remained open and hoped that it would be taken up in future.

The Chair invited Members to note the report.

**ORDERED** that the report was noted.

25/64

**LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION MODIFICATIONS - DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

A joint report of the Director of Regeneration and Executive Member for Development was presented to seek confirmation that the Council formally requests the appointed Planning Inspector to recommend modifications to the Middlesbrough Local Plan, where necessary, in order for it to be found sound during the Independent Examination. The report also sought approval to delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Development, to agree a list of proposed modifications with the Planning Inspector and undertake the consultation associated with this process.

The implications of the recommendations had been considered by the appropriate Council Officers and were set out in the submitted report.

Members sought assurance that Councillors would be informed and consulted on any major changes that might affect ward areas. The Executive Member confirmed that Councillors would be consulted.

**ORDERED** that Council approved:

1. A formal request from the appointed Planning Inspector, under Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to recommend modifications to the Middlesbrough Local Plan, where necessary, in order for it to be found sound during the Independent Examination; and
2. The delegation of authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Development, to agree with the Planning Inspector a list of proposed modifications and undertake the consultation associated with this process.

25/65

**SOUTH TEES YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE PLAN 2025-2026**

A joint report of the Interim Director of Education and Partnerships and the Executive Member for Education and Culture was presented to seek Council approval of the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26.

The Youth Justice Plan was a legally required strategic document as set down by Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and by National Standards for Youth Justice. Section 40 stated that it was the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partners, to formulate a youth justice plan which outlined how youth justice services in the area were to be provided and funded. The plan provided an overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service over the previous year, including an overview of performance against the 3 main Youth Justice National Indicators. The Plan also outlined the priorities for South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) in 2025/26 and how those priorities would be achieved.

The Deputy Mayor highlighted that following a recent inspection, the service had been graded as "Good".

**ORDERED** that Council approved the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26.

25/66

**REVISED POLITICAL BALANCE**

A report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer) was presented to seek approval for the revised allocation of places on committees and sub committees for the Municipal Year 2025-2026 in accordance with the current political balance of the Council.

A report was presented to Full Council at the meeting held on 9 July 2025 detailing the revised political balance of the authority. Since that time, there had been a change in group membership and the political balance of the Council therefore needed to be revised. The rules, duties, and principles outlined in the report to the Annual Meeting remained applicable.

The report sought Full Council approval for the revised allocation of places on committees and sub committees for the Municipal Year 2025-2026 in accordance with the current political balance of the Council. The decision was recommended to ensure that places on committees were allocated in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

**ORDERED** as follows that Council approved:

1. the revised allocation of seats on Committees that are subject to the rules relating to political balance as follows:

Labour - 69 places

Conservative - 11 places

Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA) - 26 places

Liberal Democrat - 6 places

Marton East Independent Group (MEIG) - 6 places

Unallocated - 14 places

2. that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 4.4 of the report and make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace Members where directed by the relevant Group or Member.

3. that nominations for the vacant places be sought and, where necessary voted upon.

4. that any committee established prior to the next review be appointed on the basis of the places shown in Appendix 1, Table 3, attached to the submitted report.

5. the following appointment was approved:

Audit Committee – Councillor Morrish.

25/67

#### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Chair of the Audit Committee presented the first Annual Report of the Audit Committee. This report included details of the range of work undertaken over the period under review, the key issues identified and discussed, and a summary of the recommendations from the effectiveness review undertaken by the Local Government Association.

The Chair thanked the Audit Committee Members and two Councillors who had substituted at meetings during the last year. Eleven meetings had been held over the course of the year and the Committee had turned around three years of accounts for the Council and the Teesside Pension Fund.

The Audit Committee would continue with business as usual for the forthcoming year and work through the recommendations included in the report.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Morrish, who had been appointed to the membership of the Audit Committee earlier in the Council meeting.

**ORDERED** as follows that Council noted the:

1. Content of the first Annual Report of the Audit Committee, set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.
2. Issues that had been considered by the Committee and the outcome of the review of its effectiveness and the proposed actions to further strengthen audit arrangements.

25/68

#### **UPDATE ON URGENT DECISIONS (IF ANY)**

No Urgent Decisions had been taken since the last report to Council.

25/69

#### **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ON NOTICE (IF ANY)**

No Members' Questions on Notice had been submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

25/70

#### **MOTIONS ON NOTICE (IF ANY)**

No Motions on Notice had been submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

25/71 **URGENT MOTIONS ON NOTICE (IF ANY)**

No Urgent Motions on Notice had been submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Mayor Chris Cooke

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

### COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

*The details outlined in this report support delivery of the Council's strategic priorities:*

- **A successful and ambitious town** - Maximising economic growth, employment and prosperity in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable way
- **A healthy place** - Helping our residents to live longer, healthier lives
- **Safe and resilient communities** - Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives
- **Delivering best value** - Changing how we operate, to deliver affordable and cost-effective outcomes for residents and businesses

#### **Update:**

- We continue to make progress on our commitment to recover, reset and deliver.
- Over recent weeks, we've advanced major regeneration plans, invested in youth opportunities, and strengthened support for vulnerable residents.
- Our transformation programme continues to move forward, with neighbourhood working entering the design stage and the LGA peer challenge providing valuable external insight.
- Alongside this, targeted funding through the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund and new national allocations are helping us tackle homelessness, improve community infrastructure and support local businesses.
- These actions reflect our focus on getting the basics right while building a stronger, fairer and more ambitious Middlesbrough.

## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

### Update:

#### 1.1 Corporate Peer Challenge - Follow-Up Visit

- 1.1.1 We recently welcomed the Local Government Association (LGA) team back to Middlesbrough for a follow-up visit as part of our Corporate Peer Challenge. This follows their initial review earlier in the year and forms an important part of our continuous improvement journey.
- 1.1.2 The process was constructive and worthwhile, providing an opportunity to reflect on progress and identify areas for further development. It's good practice to open ourselves up to scrutiny, and this engagement demonstrates our commitment to transparency and improvement.
- 1.1.3 The peer team brings a wealth of experience from other councils across the country, offering valuable insights and practical advice that will help us strengthen governance, build capacity and deliver better outcomes for residents.
- 1.1.4 A full report from the LGA will be available shortly, and we will continue to share progress with Members as we implement the recommendations.

#### 1.2 Middlesbrough Priorities Fund - Delivery Snapshot

- 1.2.1 We've continued to use the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund to make a real difference for families, businesses and communities across the town.
- 1.2.2 **Bring it on Boro Extended:** Our acclaimed Holiday Activities and Food programme ran during the October half term for the first time, thanks to a £250,000 investment from the Priorities Fund. This extension means children can now access free food and activities during Easter, summer, Christmas and half terms, supporting our Middlesbrough Childhood Guarantee to raise aspirations and break down barriers for young people.
- 1.2.3 **10 x 10 Example - Newport Primary Residential Experience:** As part of the 10 x 10 pilot funded through the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund, Year 4 pupils from Newport Primary School took part in a sleepover where they learned fire safety and camping skills - a fantastic residential experience that builds confidence and life skills. Residential is one of the ten life enriching experiences we want every child to access by age 10, regardless of their background.



- 1.2.4 **Shopfront Improvement Grants:** Applications have now closed for our £180,000 grant scheme to help improve the look and feel of small businesses in Middlesbrough. Grants of up to £5,000 will support eligible businesses in hospitality, leisure, personal care and non-essential retail sectors with improvements such as signage, lighting, doors and windows. A grant panel will



convene in the coming weeks to review the 75 applications received and allocate funding.

- 1.2.5 **Bollard Installation Completed:** A practical improvement funded through Ward Councillor Priorities has also been delivered, with five new bollards installed to improve safety and access:

- Two at the entrance of Rosedale Court
- Two at the Lytton Street end of Breckon Hill Road (park side)
- One on the Breckon Hill Road / Lytton Street corner

The installation was completed on 21 October 2025 and reflects our commitment to investing in neighbourhood safety and infrastructure

- 1.2.6 These projects show how the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund is being used to respond to local needs - from creating safe spaces for children and improving neighbourhoods to supporting independent businesses and boosting trade.

## 2. THE TIME AHEAD

### Update:

#### 2.1.1 **Middlehaven Regeneration**

Middlehaven is one of the most important regeneration sites in Middlesbrough, and I'm pleased to report a major step forward in delivering its potential.

- 2.1.2 The Executive has approved the appointment of Capital and Centric as our development partner for Middlehaven. This decision enables detailed design work up to RIBA Stage 4, funded by £3.6 million from the Towns Fund Urban Living and Placemaking allocation. This is a proportionate investment (around 1% of the anticipated gross development value) and a vital step towards securing external funding and starting construction.

#### 2.1.3 Why this matters:

- Middlehaven could ultimately deliver around 3,400 homes, alongside high-quality public spaces and leisure facilities.
- The scheme will create vibrant, sustainable neighbourhoods that meet the needs of young professionals and families, supporting our growing digital sector and reversing population decline.
- Capital and Centric bring a proven track record of award-winning regeneration projects and will act not only as development partner but as an end user, ensuring long-term stewardship of the site.

#### 2.1.4 What's next

- Concept design and site investigations will begin early next year, with planning submission targeted for September 2026.
- This work will allow procurement of a main contractor and open the door to significant external investment from Homes England and private partners.
- The Council will retain land ownership and control through a series of Gateway approvals, protecting our financial position.

- 2.1.5 Middlehaven is critical to our ambition for a successful and ambitious town. This is about creating a destination that complements our town centre, attracts talent, and delivers new communities for generations to come.

## 2.2 Neighbourhoods Model - Moving into Design Stage

- 2.2.1 We are now progressing to the design stage of the Neighbourhoods Model, which is a key part of the Council's transformation programme and our ambition for safe and resilient communities.

- 2.2.2 This stage focuses on identifying hub locations and assessing their potential impact within each of the four neighbourhood areas - North, South, East and West.
- 2.2.3 The hubs will act as bases for multi-agency teams and provide a local front door for residents, enabling joined-up support and early intervention.
- 2.2.4 The design process will consider how hubs can best serve local needs, strengthen community resilience, and deliver integrated services in partnership with organisations such as health, police, housing, and the voluntary sector.
- 2.2.5 This work builds on the success of the locality working pilot, which demonstrated significant improvements in community engagement, perceptions of safety, and early help outcomes.
- 2.2.6 Once designs are finalised, neighbourhood plans will be developed to tackle long-term issues such as housing, employment, health inequalities, and community safety.

### **2.3 Future Middlesbrough - A Vision for Young People**

- 2.3.1 Work is progressing on Middlesbrough's new Place Strategy, which aims to make our town the UK's most creative place for young people to live, learn and realise their future.
- 2.3.2 The Place Leaders Partnership, which brings together key stakeholders including education providers, Cleveland Police, arts organisations, the NHS and major employers, is shaping this strategy to connect culture, business and community for shared prosperity.
- 2.3.3 The vision focuses on:
  - Providing young people with positive, multicultural and shareable experiences
  - Building a bold, future-focused offer anchored in Middlesbrough's digital, engineering and cultural strengths
  - Linking to our 2030 Bicentenary ambitions
- 2.3.4 Key principles include Create-in-Place, civic co-creation, low-cost high-impact initiatives, and storytelling as strategy.
- 2.3.5 Next steps will see the strategy finalised, game-changing projects identified, and public consultation launched as we build momentum towards Middlesbrough's Bicentenary celebrations.

### **2.4 Levick Court - Transforming Respite Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities**

- 2.4.1 As part of the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme, Levick Court has been identified for re-provision to ensure a sustainable, high-quality respite service for adults with learning disabilities and their families.
- 2.4.2 The new model will deliver 8 health respite beds and 8 social care respite beds, in partnership with the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV).
- 2.4.3 This integrated approach will provide clinical oversight and nursing input alongside social care support, reducing crisis situations for families and promoting independence.
- 2.4.4 The re-provision safeguards a vital local service, prevents out-of-area placements, and supports carers with essential breaks, contributing to safe and resilient communities and a healthy place.
- 2.4.5 Mobilisation of the new service is scheduled to begin in January 2026, following completion of the procurement process and staff transition arrangements.
- 2.4.6 This collaborative model also supports the Council's financial sustainability, delivering efficiencies and embedding social value through improved outcomes for residents.

## **2.5 £590,000 Secured to Tackle Homelessness**

2.5.1 On World Homeless Day, Middlesbrough was confirmed as a recipient of £590,238 from the Government's £84 million national package to prevent and reduce homelessness.

2.5.2 The funding includes:

- Nearly £70 million for the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant
- £11 million to support children experiencing homelessness
- £3 million for drug and alcohol treatment
- £200,000 for voluntary and frontline sector support

2.5.3 This investment will help the Council and partners provide vital support to those at risk of homelessness, strengthen prevention work, and save lives.

2.5.4 I met with the team at Depaul to share the news and discuss how this funding will make a real difference in Middlesbrough.



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# **Executive Member Reports and additional Executive decision information**

**Council Meeting: 26 November 2025**

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## INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **26 November 2025**.

The booklet, in addition to containing details of Executive Member activities covering the period following the last Council meeting (section 1), also details those Executive decisions taken since the last booklet was published (section 2) together with those decisions planned to be taken from dispatch of this booklet up until the date of the Council meeting (section 3) and those decisions planned to be taken following the Council meeting (section 4).

The table at section 2 contains details of decisions taken by individual Executive Members, the full Executive, Executive Sub-Committees and Joint Archives Committee. The public reports that were considered are also available through the Modern Gov system.

The tables at section 3 and 4 contain details of the decisions to be taken by individual Executive Members, the full Executive, Executive Sub-Committees and Joint Archives Committee. Further details on key decisions that are to be taken can also be found on the Modern Gov Forward Plan.

The Executive Member reports and the additional decision-making information will hopefully assist Members when considering any questions they may have for Executive Members at Council, which can be asked within accordance of the Council's procedure rules.

Details of those decisions to be taken, as outlined in Section 3 and 4, may sometimes be subject to change (e.g. dates of meetings may alter). Members are therefore advised to check with the Democratic Services should they have an interest in specific issues.

Charlotte Benjamin  
**Director of Legal and Governance Services**  
(01642) 729024

### Contact details:

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**Democratic Services Manager**  
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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### COUNCIL MEETING: 26 NOVEMBER 2025

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#### SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

• Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture <i>Councillor Philippa Storey</i>
• Executive Member for Adult Social Care <i>Councillor Julia Rostron</i>
• Executive Member for Children's Services <i>Councillor Luke Henman</i>
• Executive Member for Development <i>Councillor Theo Furness</i>
• Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability <i>Councillor Peter Gavigan</i>
• Executive Member for Finance <i>Councillor Nicky Walker</i>
• Executive Member for Neighbourhoods <i>Councillor Ian Blades</i>
• Executive Member for Public Health <i>Councillor Jan Ryles</i>

**SECTION 2** – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 7 October 2025.

**SECTION 3** – Table of Executive decisions planned to be taken from dispatch of this booklet up until the date of the Council meeting.

**SECTION 4** – Table of Executive decisions planned to be taken following the Council meeting.

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## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Philippa Storey - Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture

**DATE OF MEETING: 26 November 2025**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

### **COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES**

- *Successful & Ambitious Town*
- *A Healthy Place*

#### **Update:**

- Family Hubs
- Education Alliance Board
- Suspension and Exclusions
- Grants
- Museums
- Town Hall
- Theatre
- Events

## **1. HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Update:**

### ***Education and Partnerships***

#### ***1.1 Family Hubs Autumn 2025***

1.1.1 Exciting times presently as we transition towards the Best Start Family Hub in April 2026 bringing together a clear direction of travel aimed at supporting all of Middlesbrough's children and families from conception up to aged 25. Governed by both the Education Alliance and Children's Trust Board, a School Readiness workstream has implemented actions which aim to secure the best start for our children. The key focus going forward is based on achieving greater proportions of children who are school ready; going onto to achieve improved Good Level of Development (GLD) by the end of Reception (EYFS). The transition to the new model has allowed the team to reflect on current practice and work with partners, including Parent Champions to understand need and establish new ways of working.

1.1.2 Underpinning the vision: Every child in Middlesbrough will Start Well – nurtured, confident, and supported from birth – and Achieve Well by developing the foundations needed for lifelong learning, work will be achieved through shared commitment and

partnership working across families, Thrive at 5, early years settings, schools, health services, voluntary agencies, and the local authority.

1.1.3 Work is progressing to develop key actions to:

- Strengthen parenting and family resilience.
- Improve home learning and communication environments pre school.
- Enhance children's language, self-care, and emotional wellbeing.
- Embed seamless multi-agency collaboration and accountability.

1.1.4 These actions will:

- Seek the voice of communities and families to ensure the right support is delivered.
- Services have eyes on the child and family encouraging them to them to be the best version they can by offering a constant range of support which builds trusted relationships.
- Strengthen parental confidence as the right support is provided at the right time.
- Promote learning at home.
- Allow for early speech and language identification of need and secure language rich talking environments.
- Build emotional resilience and self-care.

1.1.5 We have great participation from a range of partners within the sector who are all appreciating the value of shared ownership where each jigsaw piece forms the larger jigsaw; avoids duplication and allowing the next stage of a child's journey to be successful. Meetings, held every 6 weeks, monitor progress and provides opportunity for stakeholders to challenge actions and reflect – this has secured a shared ambition and the co-production of action planning.

## **1.2 Inclusion**

1.2.1 We continue to drive forward developments to support our children and young people with SEND and those who might require alternative provision. As we await the School's White Paper which will outline the next steps for the SEND Reforms, we know that a greater focus will be on inclusion within mainstream settings for all our children and young people. We will provide further information once these are published. We continue work with schools to reduce the number of exclusions and suspensions. The rate of exclusions remains similar to that of last year and has not increased. For children who are suspended they are facing less days lost due to the suspension which means the child is back into school sooner and in the learning environment.

## **1.3 Community Learning**

1.3.1 Middlesbrough Community Learning is going to be moving premises into the new employment and skills hub within the Cleveland Centre and this move is expected to take place in early 2026. The support delivered will be for ESOL, Maths and English, employment support and bespoke employer led provision (BELP) mainly within the new premises but also within communities.

1.3.2 Current work is ongoing with a range of partners to establish local need and the best approach to widen access to our classes and courses. We are also aiming to work with more partner organisations to use and provide services from within the employment and skills hub to provide more holistic support for individuals.

1.3.3 The new venue will be very close to the Live Well Centre and therefore create closer working relationship with health. A review of branding to provide clarity to the people that we aim to engage with and will be known as Middlesbrough Community Learning but will have locality venues such as The Employment and Skills Hub, Lingfield College and Martonside Alternative Provision will sit under the MCL umbrella. A review and update of social media content and website content to reflect an up to date and accessible offer of MCL services. To make access easier, an online booking system will be incorporated to the website, making getting in touch an easier process for communities.

1.3.4 Further and deeper collaboration with Middlesbrough College is taking place so that we can work together to provide classes and courses that are needed in the community. We are also looking to ensure that we have a course prospectus each year in digital and paper format and are reviewing timetables and content of classes and courses but will aim to do so with community consultation for things like learning for inclusion and implement some of these changes in the next academic year.

1.3.5 **Trailblazer** – has now commenced with approximately 36 young people now in paid placements or work trials, Middlesbrough Community Learning has placed a young person to be a marketing support role and they are currently reviewing our marketing and social media content and working closely with MBC staff too.

1.3.6 **Outreach events** – the service will be attending the Tees Skills Careers Fair in December and also the family hub event at North Ormesby Community Hub on 9<sup>th</sup> December, with more outreach events in the future.

1.3.7 **Work well** - a new employment focussed contract to support people with a fit note (in last 6 months) to help them to access support to help them to return to the workplace or to help them to look for alternative employment - this is a one year funded project and will commence in next few weeks.

1.3.8 **Connect to Work** – marketplace event took place on 12<sup>th</sup> November in Middlesbrough for potential subcontractors to attend, this will be a five year contract and Local Authorities have to subcontract 40% of the contract value out.

1.3.9 **Alternative Provision** – We are now delivering AP at Martonside and currently have 26 places with plans to extend this offer to 32 in the coming months, there are also discussions to grow the service and looking at Whinney Banks as another area of delivery.

1.3.10 **Employment Hub Coordinator** – Role is now live! Interviews to take place at the end of November.

## **Culture**

### **1.4 Middlesbrough Town Hall**

1.4.1 Shows highlights from October included: Jodie Nicholson in the Courtroom, Sherlock Holmes Theatre Go Round with Middlesbrough Theatre, Jason Manford, Twisterella, Iain Stirling, Lightning Seeds, Taste of Africa Showcase, Simon Yates, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Jimeoin, Elvana, Family Theatre Pirates of Buccaneer Bay and Bernie Slaven – This Is Your Life; a celebration of Bernie's career.



*Tomorrow Street by Stellar Creates*

1.4.2 During October Half Term, the Firestation was transformed into *Tomorrow Street*, an imaginary avenue full of playful shops and inspiring spaces for families to enjoy. Produced by Stellar Creates and created by artist Anna Bruder in collaboration with local communities, *Tomorrow Street* offered visitors the opportunity to be creative including a trip to the florist to colour in a flower to take home for a loved one, design a favourite meal in the café and visit the garage and build a cardboard car. The experience was incredibly popular with over 1,100 visitors being welcomed into the space across the week.

1.4.3 Other community events which took place in October included: MBC's Older People's Day in the Crypt, Fenwicks Christmas Rehearsals, School & College Tours, October Half Term HAF & Stagestruck Workshops, and TeesDance rehearsals. Regular community sessions also continued including MTH Community Choir, Andy's Man Club, Senior Citizens Forum, and Unison Retired Members.

## **1.5 Musinc**

### *Funding:*

- We're delighted to report that our application to Youth Music Catalyser for another two years of funding for our music inclusion programme has been successful. Youth Music have approved a grant of £50K a year for 2026/27 and 2027/28. The programme will be supplemented by additional £75K from the Mayoral Priorities Fund and the Town Hall NPO.
- Musinc has also been successful in securing £99,547 from the Better Youth Spaces fund, which will resource a professional studio and recording space for young people in Middlesbrough.

### *Activity:*

- Careers Panel for Secondary School students
- Schools Big Gig: Rockin' Christmas is on track to sell out again (as of 27/10 we have 700 attendees)
- Our regular activity continues to be in high demand, with waiting lists in place for a number of groups
- Young people from our groups will perform at the Christmas Light Switch On event, inside Middlesbrough Town Hall, and at Amplify; our termly open mic night on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

### *Partnerships:*

- We are working closely with Sonic Futures (Generator) and Tees Music Alliance to provide stronger pathways into the music industry – ensuring young people attending our programmes have the skills and confidence to forge careers in the music industry in Teesside.

## **1.6 Middlesbrough Theatre**



Bookings in November are strong, with one of our regular tribute bands having already reached target and the other not far behind. The team regularly receives very positive feedback from visiting companies and this month have had fulsome praise from a local dance school who were first-time users of the theatre (and hopefully not the last!).

### 1.7 Middlesbrough Museums

1.7.1 October proved to be a particularly busy and rewarding month at the museums. Captain Cook Birthplace Museum opened its doors on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October unveiling a new pirate themed playscape designed to engage and inspire younger visitors to the museum, and the Dorman Museum commenced with 'Spooked' an evening of murder, mystery and magic. This was our first attempt of hosting such an event and was met with encouraging success, selling out one week prior to event.



*Spooked @ The Dorman*



*Curious: A Night at the Museum*

1.7.2 Following this we hosted Curious: A Night at the Museum. A celebration of Teesside's LGBTQIA+ community. The event highlighted the regions rich diversity and commitment to inclusion, and featured a silent disco, Curious Bingo, and a special exhibition with on-set photography and props from the BBC Three show Smoggie Queens. During the half term week, the Dorman welcomed families with a wide range of events and activities designed to **educate** Reptile Encounter, Big Science, Rockpool School, Spooky Book Club, **entertain** Monster Magic Show, Pop up Cardboard Museum, Togetherfest, Big Science show, **engage** Monster Circus, Museum Trail, Craft sessions.

### 1.8 Events

The Events Team supported the delivery of Diwali on 25 October. Diwali is one of the major festivals mainly celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains all over the world. This free, fun event for all the family took place on Centre Square and featured live music and dance along with mouth-watering street food, children's activities, a funfair and a Bollywood-themed fireworks finale.



*Diwali on Centre Square*

The events team are also gearing up for the Christmas Parade and Lights switch on.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Julia Rostron - Executive Member for Adult Social Care

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

### COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

- A Healthy Place
- Safe & Resilient Communities

## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

### Update:

- 1.1 On the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Executive approved the delivery of Health respite at Levick Court. Levick Court is a 16 bed respite scheme for adults with learning disabilities. It was originally purpose built for the delivery of health and social care respite, however health services withdrew from the scheme just prior to its first opening. It does therefore, have the majority of facilities needed to accommodate a health respite service. Demand for social care respite has reduced following covid, and it is estimated we require on average 8 beds, therefore we have sought an agreement with the ICB (Integrated Care Board) for Health respite to be delivered in the remaining 8 beds. Clinical support to this service will be provided by TEWV (Tees Esk & Wear Valley Trust). The mobilisation phase will now be progressed with a projected opening date of April 2026. Families and carers have been involved and kept updated throughout the process. This will ensure the efficient use of our resource, and also provide reassurance that both social care and health respite for adults with a learning disability will be retained locally, prevent families from having to travel out of area.
- 1.2 The 2025 annual rough sleeper count was carried out on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025. This date was agreed across the region so there was a clear snapshot of need. Staff and volunteers met at Stages Academy at 3:30am ready for the count to take place between 4am and 6am. This was followed by a 30 minute debrief. 13 people supported the annual count including the Mayor, Councillor Morish, MBC staff and two members of staff from Depaul. Four teams of three people covered four key areas across Middlesbrough. These areas had been identified as places where it was known that there was a high concentration of people rough sleeping and where previous annual counts had covered so we had an accurate basis of comparison to previous years. No other areas were covered as there had been no recent reports of rough sleeping from our weekly sweeps. During the count, 23 people were found rough sleeping. Of these, 20

were male and 3 were female. The areas covered and the number of people found were as follows:

- St. Hildas and surrounding area – 14 people
- Central Middlesbrough – 4 people
- Linthorpe Cemetery & Newport - 0
- Linthorpe Road & Albert Park – 5 people

All rough sleepers were directed to DePaul drop-in on the morning of the sweep for additional support and food. No major incidents reported during the count. My thanks go to all the volunteers who participated in this year annual count.

For context annual Count numbers for Middlesbrough over the last three years are:

2023 - 19

2024 - 25

2025 – 23

Middlesbrough Council is in the processing of setting up a scheme with DePaul for further outreach support, to help build relationships and deliver further support to anyone sleeping rough in the town.

1.3 In November we have seen the start to the new commissioning model for the provision of homecare across the Borough. This model brings a new approach, establishing geographical working in four distinct clusters with eight partner provider organisations. This work aims to support the work of the neighbourhood model by working on a locality basis. This is the culmination of over 18 months in planning and procurement processes, impact to individuals has been minimal with existing clients retaining the same provider if they choose to do so, however as we move forward over subsequent years providers will start to form that geographical footprint with the aim of connecting into community assets and building understanding across the communities in which they operate.

### ***Veterans Community Initiative – Supporting Local Need***

1.4 Middlesbrough Council's Staying Included service has launched the Veterans & Armed Forces Community Club, a monthly breakfast group designed to bring together veterans and serving personnel in a welcoming, social environment. The initiative was developed by Staying Included Officer Linda Ford in response to feedback highlighting the need for local peer support and opportunities to connect. The first meeting attracted over 20 attendees and received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with future sessions scheduled into 2026. Supported by partners including The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes, the club provides a safe space to share experiences, build friendships, and access information on services and support.

1.5 This initiative demonstrates the Council's commitment to addressing community needs and reducing isolation among veterans. By creating a regular, accessible forum, the Staying Included service is helping to strengthen local networks and improve wellbeing for those who have served. The club also aligns with the Council's Armed Forces Covenant obligations, ensuring veterans feel valued and supported within their community. Early success suggests the group will continue to grow, offering practical advice, social connection, and a sense of belonging for Middlesbrough's armed forces community.

Link to a recent Gazette article that highlighted the new provision:-

[New veterans community club in Middlesbrough off to a flying start - Teesside Live](#)

1.6 On the 18<sup>th</sup> November an event took place at the Town Hall “Our Place, Our Say”. This event was for people with learning disabilities and autistic people, families, friends and supporters with the following aims:

- Meet staff from local organisations whom provide support and advice
- Find out what can help people and their families
- Find out about local health and community services
- Encourage people to have their say, tell us what they think about health and care near them

The event included stalls and activities, workshop, crafts and live entertainment and was well attended.

1.7 Week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> November was Adult Social Care Safeguarding week, with a focus on prevention. This was a time for ourselves and our partners to join forces to raise awareness of key safeguarding issues, start important conversations about safeguarding, learn how to recognise signs of abuse and neglect and develop confidence in recording and reporting safeguarding themes. There was a full programme of activities during the course of the week including how engagement with local communities can help, investment in trauma informed practice and videos for users with lived experience on the difference effective safeguarding made to their lives.

1.8 On the 24<sup>th</sup> November we formally launched the revised guidance for Adults and Children services on effective working together to support domestic abuse victims, survivors and their children. This follows an in dept internal audit report with subsequent recommendations on areas for improvement. The launch will be attended, and is supported by providers of specialist domestic abuse support services and sexual violence services.

1.9 Working with Healthwatch Middlesbrough, two podcasts have been completed promoting the valuable work of IRIS (Identification and referral to improve safety) project in Middlesbrough. The IRIS Programme provides training, support, referral, and advocacy model to support General Practice to better support their patients affected by domestic abuse. To listen to the podcasts click the following link:

[Podcasts | Healthwatch Middlesbrough](#)

## **2. THE TIME AHEAD**

### **Update:**

2.1 Following the completion of our domestic abuse needs assessment, our Domestic Abuse Strategy will be presented to executive in December outlining the areas of focus and the commissioning plan for support services locally.

2.2 Work is progressing with the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) to de-escalate the monitoring of Middlesbrough Council following the “Requires Improvement” rating from the Care Quality Commission earlier in the year. Indications are that the improvement work has progressed sufficiently well and DHSC are

confident that this will continue, as such quarterly monitoring arrangements are no longer required. Formal confirmation of this is expected in December.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Luke Henman – Executive Member for Children's Services

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

### COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

*We will show Middlesbrough's children that they matter and work to make our town safe and welcoming and to improve outcomes for all children and young people.*

#### Update:

- **Number of children accessing early help via Middlesbrough Council:** 545.
- **Number of foster carers with Middlesbrough Council:** 71 foster carers, 26 connected carers.
- **Number of children in our care:** 509.
- **Percentage of children in our care attending school (since the start of the school year):** all children 86.5%, primary-aged children 94.3%, secondary-aged children 78.5%, post-16 65.8%.

## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

### 1.1 Leadership within Children's Services

- 1.1.1 Our permanent Executive Director of Children's Services started with us on 13 October and has been working with leaders across her teams, colleagues across the Council and our partners to review service delivery and identify immediate and long-term priorities. I'm pleased to welcome her to Middlesbrough Council and I am looking forward to working with her – we have had opportunity to sit down several times so far and discuss how we continue our improvement journey and improve outcomes for young people in our care.
- 1.1.2 Over coming months leaders will continue to implement the new practice model across children's services, to ensure that all children and young people in Middlesbrough have access to high quality support and care.

### 1.2 Early Help via the Stronger Families Service

- 1.2.1 We deliver early help to children via our Stronger Families Service. The service supports families early in order to reduce the number of young people being taken into care. Providing early help to families in order to keep children in a safe home is better for the child's wellbeing and it improves their long-term outcomes.
- 1.2.2 All children coming into early help are allocated and access support in a timely manner.

- 1.2.3 In September 95 children opened to the early help service and involvement with 136 children closed. Of those children where involvement closed, 90% had positive outcomes achieved. The other 10% were all children that moved out of area prior to closing. In those cases, the service referred the families to early help service within the receiving local authority.
- 1.2.4 Most of our early help cases (67%) are held by the partnership. The cases held by partners are tracked by the early help team so that we can effectively coordinate the proportion of children being supported at an early help threshold. In September 2025, 1121 children were receiving early help support from the following services: health partners, schools and education settings, The Junction, Seen Heard Believed, Recovery Solutions, Housing, Middlesbrough Football Club and other community partners.
- 1.2.5 The Stronger Families service currently commissions the following support services: The Junction, Middlesbrough Football Club and Linx. These services provide youth provision, targeted support and transitions support to young people.
- 1.2.6 The service is currently undertaking a consultation with young people to inform the new youth offer for 2027, which will be informed by the voice of young people. The consultation will also involve stakeholders and families. This is a collaborative consultation which includes partners such as health, neighborhoods, schools and the youth mutual.
- 1.2.7 The service also commissions services from We are Amity. The organisation has trained staff within children's services in factors relating to parental conflict and the impact it can have on children and young people. Over the next six months teams within schools and the voluntary sector will also receive training.

### ***1.3 Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH) and Assessment***

- 1.3.1 Within the MACH improvement work with the partnership is focused on increasing the physical presence in the front door. Our Department for Education assigned Sector Led Improvement Partners have audited 10 files in the front door and early reporting highlights that there continue to be some inconsistencies around threshold from the partnership. Threshold briefings on behalf of the local safeguarding children's partnership in order to improve practice and partnership ways of working.
- 1.3.2 The MACH strategic board is meeting regularly, with strong buy in at a strategic level of the partnership. Improving the impact of the strategic board remains an area of improvement.
- 1.3.3 Within the assessment service significant work is being undertaken around practice improvement, as part of the development of our new practice model. A clear plan is in place and improvements are being made which are being measured through audit.
- 1.3.4 Leaders report that they feel safer in their practice and well held by management, with the approach of high support and high challenge. A managers' away day has been held to support with developing clear plans and having a shared vision for the service.

### ***1.4 Safeguarding & Care Planning, Children with Disabilities, Aspire and Pre-birth Team***

- 1.4.1 The Safeguarding & Care Planning team support children on a Child in Need and Child Protection plans, as well as children that are looked after for up to six months.

Our Aspire team sits within this team and focusses on supporting children who are vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking or falling into criminal activity.

- 1.4.2 The number of children being allocated plans remains high. Children coming from the assessment service continue to be allocated in a timely way to ensure there is no gap in provision, and that risk and need are clearly managed. Reallocation of duties has enabled us to increase time available for social workers to work with children. Although these changes have led to improvements, the volume of family time that social workers are undertaking is still significant and impacting on delivery of other aspects of their work such as direct work with children and undertaking interventions with families.
- 1.4.3 At the end of October, we held our service wide Promoting Purposeful Practice session for Autumn. Here we revisited work to be undertaken with children to increase their awareness of why they have a social worker and how they influence their plans and planning going forward. We are seeing growing evidence of children writing their own plans on their files. The next step is to involve the Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) in this work, so that children's plans are discussed and considered in key conferences and reviews. Within this session we focused on review points, decision-making and communication with children.
- 1.4.4 In December we will commence training for Social Workers and IROs around harm outside the home conferencing, an approach that will ensure we adapt and utilise the child protection process for those children at risk of, or experiencing, exploitation. This is in line with the Tees Valley approach.

### ***Fostering***

- 1.4.5 The kinship team has now launched. We continue to progress moves for children to kinship carers, when their plan identifies this as appropriate. The support is being seen as positive by carers. We are seeing high demand for initial assessment of kinship carers.
- 1.4.6 Collaboration with Foster with North East will continue until end of March 2026, and a regional review of the future approach is underway. The development of a Regional Care Collaborative is being discussed by the Department for Education and DCS's across the region.

### ***1.5 Cared for Children***

- 1.5.1 Within Middlesbrough there are currently 514 children who are cared for across our teams, including Safeguarding and Care Planning and Assessment. Reunification continues with children progressing to Court change Orders. The panel which reviews children moves the plan to actively look at reunification or lesser Orders when the time is right for the child. Plans for all cared for children are reviewed at a monthly panel.
- 1.5.2 Lower caseloads for social workers have been maintained. All team manager posts are staffed by permanent workers, which is providing significant stability to the service. We have seen an increase in positive feedback from partners and stakeholders, including from judges and children's guardians. We continue to focus on increasing permanency of social workers.

### ***1.6 Pathways team - supporting our young people moving into adulthood***

- 1.6.1 We continue to have a consistent workforce in our pathways team. Demand in this service has continued to increase and additional team members will be added to



the structure this month. Currently a temporary care leavers hub is in place with a permanent venue being explored.

- 1.6.2 November is National Care Leavers Month, an opportunity to celebrate our care experienced young people and highlight their aspirations and achievements. Various events for and with our young people are taking place to raise the profile of care leavers in Middlesbrough. I organised an opportunity for several young people in our care to raise the issues that matter to them with Andy McDonald MP, the Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough and Thornaby East and Mayor Cooke. The questions raised touched on housing, the justice system, jobs, regeneration and much more. The young people were extremely articulate and put the experiences of care experienced young people front and centre. I was extremely proud of everyone who took part.



- 1.6.3 Young people also produced short film which premiered in Roxy Movies in Captain Cook Square. Over the past six months, the group aged 18–25 have worked with Middlesbrough Council's Pathways team and the Voice and Influence Manager to record their version of 'Dreams' by The Cranberries. Grass Roots Music helped coordinate the project and supported the group to develop their creative skills throughout. It was great to attend the premiere and see the film, which summed up perfectly the hope and ambition our young people have and underlined our duty as corporate parents to support them to achieve their dreams.

### ***1.7 Residential and Supported Accommodation***

- 1.7.1 An action plan is in place to address demand and cost within the Residential service. A new permanent head of service will join the team in January 2026, and they will play a key role in delivering the action plan.
- 1.7.2 Impartial internal audits of a number of residential services will be carried out by the quality support team over the coming months in order to monitor quality and support for children.
- 1.7.3 We anticipate some delays in delivery of Family Group Conferencing in the short term, as we work towards developing permanency within the team.

### ***1.8 Learning, Review and Development***

- 1.8.1 The quality assurance (QA) team continues to deliver training informed by audit findings, alongside audit activities and the implementation of our QA Framework.



- 1.8.2 All Newly Qualified Social Workers have successfully obtained their Social Work England registration. They are now fully qualified and registered and are beginning to take on increasingly complex and varied work as they progress through their Approved and Supported Year of Employment.
- 1.8.3 Our two Frontline units are settling in well and getting to know our services and local area. With the right support in place, they are beginning to develop their relational practice as they embark on the first steps of their social work careers.
- 1.8.4 I was pleased to attend the main face-to-face event of our latest Practice Week, which was held in October. The event was well attended and positively received. The overarching theme of collaboration was reflected in some strong engagement across the service, particularly at the main event, which brought together practitioners to share learning and strengthen connections. It was fantastic to see this example of our culture of reflection and improvement in action and to speak at the event, where I reiterated how proud our Council is of our staff.
- 1.8.5 The Participation Team recently delivered the annual Halloween party for our cared-for young people and is actively working across services to develop plans for Care Experienced Month in November. Alongside this, the team is focused on developing the ambassador and volunteer roles to build overall capacity and extend their reach.

## **2. THE TIME AHEAD**

- I will continue to support Children's Services with its work to improve practice and outcomes for children and young people in Middlesbrough. I am currently working with the Executive Director of Children's Services to review our Improvement Plan and the work of the Children's Services Improvement Board.
- I will ensure that improvements being made in stabilising leadership and workforce within Children's Services are having a direct impact on service delivery, positive outcomes for children and young people, and developing sustainable strategic plans for the future.
- I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work in keeping young people safe and giving them the best start in life.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Theo Furness - Executive Member for Development

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

### COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

*Place & People*

**Update:**

#### **1. Executive Decisions**

##### **1.1 Middlehaven Housing - Passed**

1.1.1 The Middlehaven site has been a derelict brown field site for decades with many proposals and ideas put forward in the past that have not materialised for various reasons. We believe by the appointment of Capital and Centric as the Council's development partner to lead the regeneration and development of Middlehaven is a way we can ensure this massive task can be realised for the betterment of the whole of the town.

1.1.2 We will use £3.6m from the Towns Fund grant allocation for Urban Living and Placemaking to develop designs up to RIBA Stage 4 to enable the procurement of a main contractor.

1.1.3 The proposed redevelopment could ultimately deliver around 3,400 housing units and provide high quality public space as well as retail and leisure facilities, which will contribute to the achievement of the Council's ambitions for Middlehaven. To be a thriving part of the town once again.

1.1.4 Capital and Centric have a track record of delivering award-winning developments that demonstrate their ability to combine expertise in creating a masterplan vision, with a commitment to long term community creation and curation. Their appointment as development partner for Middlehaven could positively impact residents and visitors for generations to come.

1.1.5 Uniquely, Capital and Centric are both a Development Partner and End User who will be invested in the area and ensure the sustainability of the site in the long-term. This contrasts with previous historic proposals, which were to act solely as the Council's Development Partner.

1.1.6 This decision will not directly deliver the redevelopment of Middlehaven but by the the appointment of Capital and Centric as the Council's Development Partner will enable the feasibility work to be undertaken and planning approval to be secured that will be required to bring forward a sound business case for investment.

## **2. HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Update:**

#### ***2.1 MFC Foundation Southlands***

2.1.1 The Southlands project is progressing well with no delays and is anticipated to be delivered within budget. The natural turf pitch work is complete, with an establishment and maintenance plan in place. The main building is progressing well and expected to be watertight soon, with the access road and carpark work well underway. The playing field to the South of the site has been treated ahead of levelling and reseeding, with the 3g pitch stripped ready for refurbishment early next year. Weather depending, the site is expected to be completed by May/June 2026

#### ***2.2 Nunthorpe Community Centre***

2.2.1 The appointed contractor, Hobson Smith, started work on the development of the Nunthorpe Community Centre on the 15th September 2025 and good progress is being made. The steel frame has been erected and the work on the roof is underway. The work is scheduled to be complete by April 26 and the project is expected to be delivered within budget. Heads of Terms have been agreed with Nunthorpe Parish Council, who have been selected to manage the facility, and a formal lease agreement will be put in place in the coming months.

#### ***2.3 Local Plan***

2.3.1 Following the submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State, Inspectors C Mulloy BSc (Hons) DipTP MRTPI and L Hughes BA (Hons) MTP MRTPI have been appointed to hold the independent examination. The Inspectors have conducted an initial review of the submitted documentation and have written to the Council setting to out their preliminary matters and initial questions. The timetable for the examination will be determined by the Inspectors over the coming weeks.

#### ***2.4 Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan***

2.4.1 The Examination of the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan has concluded with the publication of the Examiner's Report, received by the Council on 10<sup>th</sup> November. The Report includes a number of proposed modifications that the Examiner considers necessary for the Plan to meet the Basic Conditions and Legal Requirements. The Council will be asked to consider the proposed modifications at a future meeting, before the Plan is subject to a referendum of Coulby Newham Ward residents. The Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for area (alongside the Local Plan) should a majority of those voting in the referendum vote in favour of the Plan.

#### ***2.5 Old Town Hall***

2.5.1 A contractor has been selected following a tender process via the Pagabo framework, and a start on site date is likely to be confirmed for early January 2026. Stopping Up Order notices have been displayed on site with a 28 day consultation period running from 20th November. As part of the heritage funded work a company has been selected to undertake work on the digitalisation of the St Hilda's model currently housed in the Town Hall, a 50 Futures Placement is currently underway looking at a Roaming Archive display as part of the public engagement work and Oral Histories are being promoted for participants to contribute to between October and April 2026.

### **3. THE TIME AHEAD**

#### **Update:**

#### ***Upcoming Executive Reports***

##### ***3.1 Investment in Temporary Accommodation***

3.1.1 The increase in Temporary accommodation usage and lack of move on accommodation has increased in Middlesbrough in last few years. To address this challenge, the Councils Transformation Programme sets out a clear action to align housing supply to demand.

3.1.2 Within this action there are three work areas:

- Develop a Strategic Housing Needs Assessment (Town).
- Develop an information / data process and "Demand Plan" to assess and understand the demand and projected demand for accommodation.
- Develop a "Demand Reduction Plan" including sourcing options for increasing housing supply, developing new working initiatives.

The report will set out some options for increasing housing options for clients moving forward, we have set up working groups to start the planning for the SHMA, Demand Plan and Demand Reduction Plan. We need to establish the clientele needs as to what we want and where. This does link into the EH work but presently we need to understand our data so we can plan for developing housing solutions that match what we currently need and what we can project into the future.

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## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Peter Gavigan - Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

**DATE OF MEETING: 26 November 2025**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

### **COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES**

- *A healthy place - Protect and improve our environment*
- *Safe and resilient communities - Improved transport and digital connectivity*

#### **Update:**

- *I continue to work on policy proposals for the short, medium and long-term.*
- *We will continue to work closely with local communities to protect our green spaces, and make sure that our roads and open spaces are well-designed, clean and safe.*

## **1. HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Update:**

- *I attended the Grove Hill “Big Clean” on 28th October.*
- *I attended a Community Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November to discuss issues affecting Linthorpe Village.*
- *I had an on-site play area planning conversation at Lansdowne Road Park on 7<sup>th</sup> November.*
- *I had a site tour of Hartlepool Power Station on 26<sup>th</sup> November.*

## **2. THE TIME AHEAD**

#### **Update:**

### **2.1 Traffic Signals/UTMC**

Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2025/26:

- All complete, however Albert Rd / Corporation Rd due in shortly via Yunex Traffic to complete this year

Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2025/26:

- CFL / Leamington Grove complete and switched on 5/11/25

- Ormesby Rd / TAD Centre due in next week
- Ormesby Rd / Kelvin Grove due following week
- Southfield Rd / Abingdon Rd Due this financial year
- Stokesly Rd / Laurel Rd Due this financial year
- CFL / B1380 Due this year
- Ormesby Rd / Crossfell Rd Due this year

## **2.2 Highways**

Verge replacement and footway improvement work programmes have been developed, and we are underway with implementation of the programme for 2025/26.

Verge works complete so far are **7** of the planned 13 schemes.

Footway Works complete so far are **11** of the planned 22 schemes.

## **2.3 Bridges and Structures**

### **2.3.1 Emergency Repairs to Ormesby Beck Culvert**

Following the development of a significant defect at Ormesby Beck Culvert on Ladgate Lane, the decision was taken to close the westbound carriageway to reduce the risk of further damage. We are prioritising the repairs and engaged early with a civil engineering contractor to undertake the necessary works. A suitable repair may take several months. A contract is now in place and we are looking at the design options/design work stage for the structure.

### **2.3.2 Transporter Bridge**

Preliminary design of the repair and strengthening works is progressing. The council is currently tendering for a contractor to provide ECI (early contractor involvement) services to support this process and provide a refined cost estimate for the works. It is expected that they will be appointed in January, with completion of preliminary design works in Q2 of 2026. Clarification of funding streams available for the detailed design phase is required to prevent project delay.

### **2.3.3 Newport Bridge**

The additional bearing works that took place in the summer holidays are now completed. The works were led by Stockton on Tees Borough Council in collaboration with Middlesbrough Council.

### **2.3.4 Newport Approach Road Bridge & Structures**

We have installed a semi-permanent vehicle restraint safety (VRS) barrier to both sides of the approach road and main bridges along with a new lane layout. The VRS works were co-ordinated with the bearing works on the main Newport Bridge span.

Future programme: Works to replace/rebuild the footways on the main part of the approach structures will be programmed over the next 2-3 years subject to funding.



Temporary netting is required to the underneath of the footways to ensure the safety of the rail infrastructure – these works will be undertaken in collaboration with Network Rail, and we are negotiating rail possession with a works start date to be confirmed. Consultation with Network Rail has started and is ongoing.

### ***2.3.5 Principal and General Bridge Inspections***

We are awaiting the final reports on the A66 Station Viaduct and are carrying out checks on all of the submitted reports.

### ***2.3.6 Longlands Road overbridge***

We are awaiting the structural assessment report which is imminent. The outcome of the report will inform on the current 7.5 tonne weight restriction. Major works are likely to be programmed for 2026/27 subject to the necessary funding being in place.

### ***2.3.7 A66 Structures***

A tender is due to be published in the coming weeks for a works programme to the bridges at Cannon Park Interchange (Newport Roundabout), Hartington Interchange, and All Saints Viaduct. Once approved we can begin to engage and procure contractors for design plans and works. These works are programmed to take place over three years. Year 1 2026-27 will see abnormal loads assessments and options reports for the works. Year 2 2027-28 will be the design phase, and Year 3 2028-29 will be the construction phase.

### ***2.3.8 Borough Road Flyover***

Concrete testing works and report due to be undertaken. Works on the design, Approval in Principle, Principal Designer and technical approval for replacement of the bridge joints, bearings, and carrying out localised hydro demolition and concrete repairs, will likely take place in year 2026-27 based on current budget projections. No further update at this stage.

### ***2.3.9 A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge***

A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge includes replacing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets.

Work has been delayed due to contractual reasons, a new draft programme is being reviewed, with works due to start in January 2026. The contract with the contractor awaiting signature.

### ***2.3.10 Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges***

Painting; installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages; structural repairs to piers and decks; new bearings; concrete repairs; other repairs; and install lighting. We are undertaking ground testing works in December and expect this report in January, this will feed into the final design stage, which is coming to a close. The next stage is to undertake the works. This work will progress after year 2025/26. Ongoing.

### ***2.3.11 Bridges Small Schemes***

Several minor footbridge railing repairs are due to take place within the next two months at Kader Primary Footbridge (Blue Bell Beck), and the footbridges at Stainton Way/Newham Way. No further update.

## **2.4 Carriageways**

A contract is now in place for the main resurfacing of the classified and unclassified roads. Notification to residents and advanced notice boards are being placed, with works to begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2025. The first two weeks schemes have been published on the weekly road works reports and we have a programme in place for the full set of schemes due to complete at the end of March.

Stand out classified road schemes involve three eastbound sections of the A66, a further phase on Marton Road, and a large phase on Longlands Road. The unclassified roads programme will see eighty-two thousand m<sup>2</sup> of asphalt laid; covering 12.6km (7.8 miles) of the road network.

A surface dressing schemes at Stokesley Road, Coulby Newham, and Brass Castle Lane are now complete. The lining and cats eyes will be installed imminently.

The micro asphalt contract has been awarded, and we are currently undertaking the necessary procurement processes and legal contract stage with works to start as soon as practicably possible. Ongoing.

A full list of resurfacing schemes is published on the Councils website and is available via the following link: <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/media/hh2hn2ch/highway-infrastructure-maintenance-plan-sept20.pdf>

The weekly road works report will regularly update start and duration dates of all the works, and this can also be viewed on the Council's website.

## **2.5 Flood Management**

The Gully Cleansing Programme has been implemented, and we continue to work through the Gullies in line with this programme's schedules. We continue to work proactively on flood risk management through joint working with EA and NWL and increasing our knowledge of the network and improving the long-term planning for reducing flood risk. We are currently looking at the potential impact of surface water in the Marton East Ward.

The new surface water flood maps have been published, and we continue to review them to identify any new areas affected by flooding and if a flood protection scheme is required. Work also continues reviewing and updating the Flood Risk Asset Register and in identifying potential flood risk of Culverts.

## **2.6 Public Rights of Way**

A full survey of the currently recorded Public Rights of Way network continues to be undertaken.

A small number of furniture improvements and drainage works are due during 2025.

## **2.7 Highway Licences**

Work continues to make more applications available online along with payments. The migration of highway licence management to our updated Asset Management Software System is complete.

The Highway Improvement works licenced on Keith Road, The Vale, Marton Burn Road, Ashfield Avenue as part of the development continue as advertised.

## **2.8 Street Lighting**

The 2025/26 column replacement programme is underway in various wards throughout the town.

Works are ongoing to upgrade the street lighting and subway lighting in TS1 & TS3 with funding from DLUHC.

We are also installing new street lighting on behalf of Esh Construction/Thirteen in Grove Hill and Union Street.

We have nearly completed the installation of the town's Christmas motifs and garlands, the tree is currently being dressed in preparation for the switch on, on 23/11/25.

## **2.9 Environmental Enforcement**

**All information within this report relates to activity between 1/10/2025 – 31/10/2025**

2.9.1 Middlesbrough Council Environmental Enforcement Officers are responsible for investigating all matters of environmental crime. This includes Fly Tipping, Littering, Waste Presentation at both domestic and commercial premises. The team are also responsible for responding to enforcement of untaxed and abandoned vehicles, stray dogs and matters relating to repairing or selling vehicles on a highway.

2.9.2 The team when at full capacity has 8 x Environmental Enforcement Officers, 1 x Senior officer, 5 x Area Care Operatives that form the flying squad. We have 4 x Pest Control Technicians and a Central administrative team that assists with allocation of service requests, invoicing, release of untaxed and abandoned vehicles and taking calls from the public relating to our service area.

2.9.3 In the month of October, the team investigated a total of **766 service requests**. These requests were made up of **551 waste related, 113 vehicles related and 61 Dog related (35 stray reports) 41 Pest control related**.

2.9.4 In comparison to the same period for 2024 it has seen an overall increase of **219 reports** to the service.

Actions:

- 9 stray dogs recovered and returned to owners and 4 dogs taken to the kennels from the 35 reports
- 4 vehicles seized for being either untaxed or abandoned
- 8 Fixed penalty notice issued for commercial, household duty of care and fly tipping offences

- 5 Commercial duty of care inspections undertaken, and notices served for businesses to provide waste transfer notes
- 1 case file prepared and passed to legal for review and listed for hearing in January
- 5 successful court prosecutions between September and October totalling to amount in fines of **£4,868.75** and criminal convictions

Mr Jawad was fined £207.00 Surcharge: £83.00 Costs £725.00

Mr Hamad was fined £660 with a victim surcharge of £264 and ordered to pay costs of £665.25, making a total of £1,589.25

Mr Owens fined £400 with a victim surcharge of £160 and ordered to pay costs of £661.50, making a combined total of £1,221.50.

Mr Rumble was fined £475 with a £190 surcharge and ordered pay £250 costs, making a total of £915

Mr Timlin was fined £120 with a £48 surcharge and ordered to pay £250 costs, totalling £418.

[Pair fined over illegal waste dumping | Middlesbrough Council](#)



[Fly-tipper and litter bug hit with hefty court fines | Middlesbrough Council](#)





## **2.10 Waste Services**

- New food waste rounds and paper and recycling rounds are now built
- All of the food waste caddies have been delivered along with the compostable liners, and we will be commencing deliveries from March 26
- Member briefings have been prepared for all members and briefings will start in the coming weeks

## **2.11 Area Care**

2.11.1 Area Care have now ceased grass cutting and have commenced our winter works programme. Hedge maintenance commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> October and will continue through to 31<sup>st</sup> March. This work will be carried out using Tractor mounted Flail machinery along with powered hand tools.

2.11.2 Tree maintenance has also commenced in all areas removing low branches in preparation for next year's grass cutting season. We have a number of larger projects being carried out by external contractors to assist Area Care.

2.11.3 Bonfire site clearance will commence on the 20<sup>th</sup> November and continue until all sites are cleared. These sites are prioritised by our Neighbourhood teams and our Neighbourhood Caretakers will be assisting Area Care with this clean up.

2.11.4 The last planned road closure on the A174 Longlands to the A66 will take place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November. This will include tree and Hedge maintenance, road sweeping and silt removal.

2.11.5 Our cleansing teams are continuing to clear fallen leaves from footpaths and roads across Middlesbrough.

## **2.12 Transport Planning and Road Safety**

### **2.12.1 Linthorpe Road Cycleway removal**

- Good progress made, awaiting decision to implement further design to retain safety features

### **2.12.2 Newport Road sustainable transport corridor**

- Aiming to commence delivery in early 2026

#### 2.12.3 Green Lane Sustainable transport corridor

- Design on-going

#### 2.12.4 Marton Road Sustainable transport corridor

- Design on-going
- To consult in early 2026

#### 2.12.5 Capital Programme

- Stainton Way Cycleway/PUFFIN crossing due to commence 19/11/25
- Ormesby Beck cycleway design on-going

#### 2.12.6 Travel planning

- Working with James Cook University Hospital to identify solutions to their parking issues. These include promoting alternate existing modes, identifying demand for shuttle/supported public transport services and other key information dissemination
- TVCA were successful in a bid application to install on-street EV charging channels in the town. The application process is currently in development and is set to go live for Jan 2026

#### 2.13 Road Safety

- Pedestrian safety improvement projects are also on-going at x3 Primary schools in the area (Pallister Park, Park End and Thorntree)
- The current Bikeability Training delivery contract is due to expire so we are currently working on the appropriate documentation to allow a tender for the contract to go live Jan 2026
- On-going liaison with Cleveland Casualty Reduction Group and Northeast Road Safety Partnership
- Provided neighbourhood safety wardens with information fliers for when patrolling around schools (following request from team in East Middlesbrough)
- Child centred road safety campaign released (via press/social media/schools filmed using students from a local drama school see <https://www.lookoutroadsafety.co.uk> for further information)

#### 2.14 School Crossing Patrols

- Several casual employees have been recruited who will be able to cover sickness at short notice, reducing the number of crossings un-patrolled for the coming school year
- Refresher training delivered for all colleagues in September
- Two colleagues are retiring from the St Joseph's crossing in January after both being in post since 2002 (Marton/Clairville Rd junction)
- Increased numbers of inconsiderate driving incidents (parking on zig zags/failing to stop for SCPO) being reported, especially around Linthorpe and Nunthorpe

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Nicky Walker - Executive Member for Finance

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

### COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

Delivering Best Value

#### 1. HIGHLIGHTS

##### Update:

##### ***1.1 2026/27 Budget update***

1.1.1 I referred in my previous report to Council that timescales around government announcements on the Fair Funding Review and the Provisional Local Government Settlement had moved back and the Settlement will not have been announced before our budget report goes to Executive at the beginning of December.

1.1.2 However, in advance of this the Government will release a long-awaited Policy Statement on the Fair Funding Review which is expected to set out the final government position on the Fair Funding Review and allow for some accurate modelling of funding changes over the multi-year settlement period. At the time of writing this report, this is currently scheduled to be published on Thursday 20 November, but due to the work subsequently needed on the modelling of the impact on Middlesbrough it is not clear if it will be in time for the information to be reflected in the Executive Report on the budget which is due to be published on 25 November.

1.1.3 The Mayor and I attend member meetings of the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA) of which Middlesbrough is a member, which aims to lobby the government in order to secure sufficient, sustainable and fair funding.

1.1.4 Through these meetings it has become clear that while Middlesbrough likely to benefit from the Fair Funding Review, due to high service demand and historical underfunding, other authorities which are predicted to fare less favourably have been themselves putting pressure on Government for the criteria to be changed. The Mayor and I have met with our local MPs who have ensured that Middlesbrough's case has continued to be made, in addition to the representations the Mayor himself has been making to government ministers.



1.1.5 It should be remembered that whatever ground we do make up through the Fair Funding Review in this respect, this will only partly redress the savage cuts Middlesbrough has had to endure during the period of austerity under the previous Government. We have had to make over £100million of savings during that time.

1.1.6 Middlesbrough Council has suffered a significant reduction in general Government funding in the form of RSG and Business Rates Top Up Grant with a reduction of £35m (43%) from £81.2m received in 2013/14 to £46.2m in 2025/26, not taking into account inflation.

1.1.7 Therefore, the Fair Funding Review which recognises that deprived areas have been disadvantaged the most and seeks to reform the funding system to allocate funding on the basis of need and the ability to raise revenue locally is very much welcomed.

## ***1.2 All Member Briefing on the Budget***

1.2.1 All members have been invited to a briefing at 5pm on Tuesday 25 November, hosted by the Mayor.

1.2.2 The session will provide an overview of the initial details of our proposed budget for 2026–2027, which will be published on Tuesday 25 November and presented to the Executive on Wednesday 3 December 2025, ahead of the public consultation process.

## ***1.3 Household Support Fund and Pensioners***

1.3.1 Pensioner households receiving Council Tax Reduction and who are eligible for the government's Winter Fuel Payment will be eligible for additional help this year of £100 from the council's Household Support Fund (double the £50 of last year).

1.3.2 Where the council already holds bank details they will be paid automatically, where this is not the case people will need to be contacted by letter.

1.3.3 Automatic payments, letters confirming payment and letters to others who may be eligible should have been received in the week beginning 10 November 2025. Those who think they may be eligible but have not heard anything by 17 November are encouraged to visit the council website to apply or call 01642 726541.

1.3.4 Pensioners who do not qualify due to being on Council Tax Reduction may still qualify for a payment if they are on a low income. A single person with up to £30,000 per year before tax, or £40,000 for a couple before tax without dependent children may still be eligible for a payment of £100. The income levels are higher for those with children. Applications can be made online or by phoning 01642 726541.

### **[Household Pensioner Support Fund - Application Form - My Middlesbrough](#)**

1.3.5 Those on Attendance Allowance who do not qualify for the government's Winter Fuel Payment (without clawback from HMRC) may be able to claim the full amount of the government's Winter Fuel Payment, either £200 or £300 depending on age, from the Household Support Fund again by applying online through the council website or by phoning 01642 726541.

1.3.6 I would be grateful if councillors could share this information with pensioners, or their friends or relatives in their ward.



## **1.4 Councillor Gateway**

1.4.1 Work continues to resolve issues with Councillor Gateway as part of the Gateway Project Team of which Cllr Gavigan and I attend still meeting to resolve issues.

1.4.2 I am pleased to report that we now have a Councillor Gateway Support Officer, Symone Garvey in place and Symone is reviewing all open enquiries in the Planned Work Category to check whether work has been completed and chase up any outstanding actions. Symone is also available to meet with individual councillors on request and provide support with any queries you have in relation to the Councillor Gateway.

1.4.3 An issue that some councillors had raised with me was where an update was provided on a case but then closure requested of the councillor before the work was completed. This would happen for example when a councillor was informed that work would be carried out at a future date. To try and resolve this advice has been issued to officers on the following process:

- Requests for Closure should only be sent to Councillors once the enquiry has been answered/resolved or the work requested has been completed.
- Where there is no date planned for completion, enquiries should be put "On Hold".
- If the work cannot be completed or the enquiry resolved within a reasonable period of time, Officers should advise Councillors of the date for completion and the enquiry should be forwarded to "Planned Work".

1.4.4 There has also been a problem regarding reminders for officers where the date for planned works has passed without the case being resolved. An auto-reminder has been added to Gateway so that an email is sent to the Officer once the date of the planned work has expired. Officers will then be able to action the enquiry, such as send for councillor closure, provide an update, add a new completion date etc as appropriate.

1.4.5 In order to provide clarity on which enquiries still require action as opposed to those which have been actioned but the councillor has left in the system and not responded to or closed, all councillors were asked in an email of 14 November to review their open cases that pre-date 31 March 2025 and identify any that they are not happy to be closed by 12 December 2025. Those cases where a councillor has responded indicating they are not satisfied and do not wish the case to be closed will remain open and reviewed in order that appropriate action is taken. Those where the councillor has not provided any response to a request by either requesting further action or information or to indicate they are happy with closure will be closed after that date.

## **2. THE TIME AHEAD**

### **Update:**

### **2.1 Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring**

2.1.1 The Quarter 2 Budget Clinics which I chair and are attended by the relevant Executive Members and key officers took place in October. There is an improved position from Quarter 1 but a smaller overspend is still projected at year end if actions are not successful in bringing this down further to within budget as we did last year, which of course remain my aim.

2.1.2 Directors have been required to submit recovery plans and mitigations aimed at reducing their forecast overspends, and there is an ongoing requirement for them to continue to refine and implement these plans to work towards achieving a balanced budget for their Directorate by the end of 2025/26. In support of this, corporate revenue budget spending controls will continue to be applied throughout 2025/26 to help manage financial pressures and reinforce budget discipline.

2.1.3 Further details of this will be included in a report to Executive on 03 December and I will provide a further update in my next report to Council.

## ***2.2 Members Small Scheme (Capital)***

2.2.1 The Members Small Schemes allocation was agreed by Executive to the value of £150,000 for the 2025/26 financial year, as part of the approved Council Capital Programme. This allocation allows Members to apply for grant funding up to the value of £15,000 to make improvements within their ward. Match funding from service areas could be sought where the project cost exceeded the £15,000 limit, to further enhance the value of proposed projects.

2.2.2 Applications were received and assessed by Council Officers to identify the suitability, affordability and deliverability of the proposals.

2.2.3 The total value of funding requested from the Members Small Scheme allocation was £143,400. Following Officer assessment, it was identified that two of the projects could not be delivered. Therefore, the proposed schemes recommended by officers for approval by the Executive Subcommittee for Property which will meet on 19 November 2025 is £113,400 all of which could be met within the available capital of £150,000.

2.2.4 If officer recommendations are accepted the balance of £36,600 will be added to the £130,000 approved for 2026/27. I intend that proposals for 2026/27 are invited at a much earlier stage so that they are more likely to be delivered within that financial year.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Ian Blades – Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

### COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

- Neighbourhoods
- Neighbourhood Safety
- Community Cohesion

### 1. HIGHLIGHTS

**Update:**

#### ***Bonfire Night***

- 1.1 As always in the lead up to Halloween and Bonfire Night, the Neighbourhood teams across Middlesbrough have been working with internal and external partners such as, colleagues across environment and community services, Thirteen Housing, Fire Service, Police and our amazing community who did lots of work in the lead up to the night's that typically cause issues and again on mornings that require clean up.
- 1.2 In total we had 59 bonfires across Middlesbrough, some large, some small. All will need clearing and the teams have been busy assessing them and planning the clear up. The Fire service advised us that the fire sites themselves are toxic and should not be touched for 2 weeks. You will have notices that the teams have been conducting litter picks and clearing any debris around the surrounding areas and they will not be starting the clear up programme until the 2 weeks are up and it is safe for staff to begin the work. Some of the larger sites will need heavy machinery and then will need to be followed up with grass seeding etc. this will all be planned in as part of the programme.
- 1.3 The newly appointed Community Development Officers have been out in the community getting to know key community members and supporting residents to develop community projects. They aim to support residents who do amazing work and help them to access what they need to do even more. They can also help people who might be thinking of getting involved in something. If you know of someone who wants to get involved in a community project, you can direct them to their local library or community hub and they will help link them up to the team.

## ***East Middlesbrough Community Engagement***

- 1.4 The amazing work our communities do is shown below when an art project brings neighbours together to transform alleyway.
- 1.5 The once-neglected alleyway in North Ormesby has been transformed into a colourful community space thanks to the creativity and hard work of local residents. Families living on Beaumont Road, Peaton Street and Edward Street had long faced problems with fly-tipping behind their homes. But over the summer, neighbours came together to clean up the space, design murals and share ideas for how the alley could be brought back to life.
- 1.6 On Halloween, neighbours gathered in the alleyway. Now complete with murals, planters and seating. To celebrate everything they had achieved together.
- 1.7 Families shared food including the Kurdish delicacy kuba, prepared by Rezhna who moved to the UK just over a year ago from the city of Ranya in Kurdistan, where she worked as an art supervisor. Rezhna became involved after meeting JoJo – their children attend school together - and said taking part in the project helped her feel settled and welcomed in North Ormesby.
- 1.8 The Neighbourhood Development Officer based at the nearby North Ormesby Hub, visited with community development officers Darren Daniels and Jessica Taylor and praised what residents had achieved. He said: “It’s fantastic to see the work that’s gone on here. This is a community coming together and taking ownership of where they live. We’ve supported residents where we can, but they deserve the credit.”



## ***Enforcement***

- 1.9 Middlesbrough Council’s East Neighbourhood team led efforts to obtain a court-backed Closure Order to shut down a property on Elkington Walk in Netherfields for three months. The property had been linked with serious wrongdoing including suspected drug dealing, fighting with weapons and off-road motorbikes.
- 1.10 This closure sends a clear message that Middlesbrough Council and our neighbourhood officers will always stand beside the vast majority of decent residents who simply want to live their lives in peace.
- 1.11 The behaviour linked to this property was unacceptable and has blighted the community for far too long and I commend our neighbourhood officers, Cleveland

Police and other partner agencies for their hard work. We just will not tolerate behaviour that undermines our neighbourhoods or makes life a misery for others.

### **South Middlesbrough**

- 1.12 Partner organisations and local councillors came together to give the Viewley Centre a clean and tidy up, LINX youth group completed litter picks and Neighbourhood Caretakers cut back bushes and painted railings, weeding and cleaned litter bins. The community are looking forward to introducing some hanging baskets and developing a memorial garden in the Viewley Centre in the New Year.



- 1.13 The Neighbourhood team have also been working with communities to respond to issues in other areas across the locality including dealing with fly tipping in Marton East, arranging for dog fouling signs to be erected in Pheonix Park, Hemlington and the Removal of Untaxed Vehicles in Coulby Newham.



### **North Middlesbrough**

- 1.14 The consultation for extending the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the TS1 area concluded and the report was approved at Executive on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025. This means that the order has been extended for a further 3 years. The team are now looking at other areas across Middlesbrough that might benefit from a PSPO and I will update you with a further report in due course.

### **Enforcement**



- 1.15 Three people have been banned from Middlesbrough town centre by Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) due to persistent begging and related issues. The orders, prohibit them from begging, sitting on the floor outside licensed premises, or causing public nuisance, and the latest two-year ban was given to one of them who regularly used drugs in public, caused a nuisance by begging for money and had been verbally abusive to Council staff.
- 1.16 This latest order bans him from entering the shopping area of Middlesbrough town centre and from begging or sitting on the floor outside licensed premises, food outlets or cash machines. Disobeying the order is a criminal offence and can lead to a prison sentence.
- 1.17 This sort of behaviour can blight the town centre and our officers work incredibly hard, alongside Cleveland Police and other partners, to stamp it out. We will do everything we can to help those in need access the necessary support, and obtaining this type of order is always a last resort. But when the behaviour is persistent, we will waste no time in taking firm and robust action.
- 1.18 I want to commend everyone involved in securing these orders – including the efforts of those neighbourhood officers who work tirelessly to improve our town centre for all in Middlesbrough.

### ***Neighbourhood Caretakers***

- 1.19 Neighbourhood Caretakers are making a real impact in north Middlesbrough with a programme of repairs and refurbishment work being carried out at parks and open spaces. They trimmed back trees and bushes, fixed fencing and painted railings and street furniture to completely refresh the play park at Outram Street in Newport before moving onto the park on Saltwells Road.



### ***West Middlesbrough***

- 1.20 Neighbourhood Caretakers worked with, Community Payback and Community Champions who cleared a Memorial Park on Acklam Road. All grass edging and bushes were cut back due to reports of antisocial behaviour in the area. This allowed the Community Champion volunteers to plant daffodils which will be a lovely burst of colour in Spring when in bloom.



1.21 In Easterside the Neighbourhoods Caretakers have been busy clearing alley ways and grassed areas making a big difference to the local community. Residents have commented how well the areas they have attended are looking to the rear of Brettenham Ave residents reported that they could not use the alley due to overhanging bushes from private properties with dog fouling and weeds being left to grow. The pictures below show the before and after results.



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## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Jan Ryles - Executive Member for Public Health

**DATE OF MEETING:** 26 November 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

### **COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES**

*A healthy place:*

- *Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities*
- *Promote inclusivity for all*
- *Reduce poverty*

### **1. HIGHLIGHTS**

**Update:**

***Healthy Environments:***

#### ***1.1 Healthy Placemaking***

Colleagues from Public Health, Planning, and Transport Planning presented to the ASC & Health Scrutiny Committee to update Council on the Healthy Placemaking programme. Key topics included the adoption of a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach in the emerging Local Plan (currently under Examination), the integration of Public Health strategy and data assets into the planning process, and efforts to address the obesogenic environment through transport planning.

#### ***1.2 Sports Gifted and Talented Identification Programme***

Three east Middlesbrough primary schools have committed to taking in part in a sport gifted and talented programme. This programme will work with all Year 5 and 6 children in each of the primary schools delivering a series of assessments designed to indicate who may have the core competences to excel in sport. The top 10% of boys and girls identified in each school will be invited to a holiday programme to link them and their parents with opportunities and sports clubs at Middlesbrough Sports Village.

#### ***1.3 Holiday Activities & Food Programme***

The HAF programme continues to offer a great programme to our children and young people in receipt of benefit related FSM, with a good and consistent number of providers delivering programmes across Middlesbrough.

The first HAF programme has been delivered over October half term. Overall, the programme went well, and data will be available next month.

## ***Vulnerabilities:***

### ***1.4 Substance Use Updates***

- The new prehabilitation unit at Cromwell House, South Bank opened in September 2025. This is for South Tees residents who are in a poor housing situation but are engaged with substance use support services. This will serve as a pathway into detoxification and residential rehabilitation, preparing people for a greater chance of success in sustainable recovery;
- The South Tees residential rehabilitation services have operated at full capacity throughout quarter 2 of 25/26, achieving five successful completions – people who have been through the full 24-week programme and moved on to independent accommodation;
- Members of the in-house Recovery Solutions team worked with The Longlands Club to extend harm minimisation into licensed premises. They are now the first pub in Middlesbrough to have staff trained to use Naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse opioid overdoses. This received positive coverage on Tyne Tees news: <https://www.itv.com/watch/news/the-middlesbrough-pub-training-its-staff-to-use-life-saving-treatment-for-opioid-overdoses/npvbf4x>
- Slight reduction in deaths in drug and alcohol treatment, which have gone down from 9 in the first quarter of 25/26 to 7 in quarter two;
- Increased numbers in treatment across adults using opiates, non-opiates and alcohol. Following a slight reduction across 2024/25, we have increased the total number of adults in treatment up from 1,969 in quarter one to 2,046 in quarter two;
- We have developed and implemented the South Tees Challenging Stigma Forum with attendance from the Cleveland PCC and key partners. This is being supported by academics who lead the evaluation of the national programme, which is the first of its kind in Europe.

### ***1.5 NE Regional Gambling Updates***

- Continued to push the Making Every Contact Count Gambling training across the region, including services and partners in Middlesbrough. Approximately 150 people have already been trained in what is a unique module led by the team hosted by Middlesbrough;
- Growth of the Gambling Harms Lived Experience Forum continues with representation from Middlesbrough residents. This group helps to shape the regional programme approach and provides important feedback to support services;
- The team has also published the Stakeholder Impact Report for the programme, supported development of gambling resources on the Public Health South Tees website and provides ongoing communications via the Programme Newsletter.

## ***Best Start in Life:***

### ***1.6 Middlesbrough 0-19 Service***

The contract for the Middlesbrough 0-11 service was awarded to Harrogate and District Foundation Trust on 1st August 2025. Work is now underway to develop service spec and

staffing model, timescales are tight to get service mobilised by 1st April 2026 and presently having weekly meetings to develop staff model service spec and KPIs.

Presently out to advert for Project Manager to develop 11+ service with interview due on 10th November. Service is expected to commence on 1st April 2027. Presently working with early help to look access requirements for services for adolescents.

### ***1.7 Oral Health***

Procurement process for the fluoride varnish programme has been completed. The schools being targeted in Middlesbrough have full coverage with dental practices (17 schools in total). The Colgate toothbrushing resources have begun to be distributed with schools across South Tees. Further schools will receive their resources once the second delivery has been made in December 2025. All nurseries and early years settings have received their resources or been contacted to collect them. Further work is underway to finalise the spend on the toothbrushing funding received from government to add value to the existing Supervised Toothbrushing Programme across South Tees.

### ***1.8 Infant Feeding***

The “Mamazing” breastfeeding campaign continues to deliver momentum. Currently work is in progress to identify and confirm various media opportunities to showcase the campaign and the key message to ensure breastfeeding gets off to a good start.

Quarter two data continues to remain really positive:

Q2 initiation breastfeeding rates – 68%  
Q2 10-14 days breastfeeding rates – 59%  
Q2 6-8 weeks breastfeeding rates – 49%  
Q2 12 weeks breastfeeding rates – 47%

The current Infant Feeding Strategy is being reviewed. The updated strategy will focus on key achievements, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to increase breastfeeding rates across South Tees over the next 5 years.

## ***III Health Prevention:***

### ***1.9 Live Well Centre***

The Live Well centre is approaching one year opening anniversary in The Cleveland Centre and is successfully meeting income targets with the vision to open late nights and weekends in the coming months. A wide range of VCSE, and private sector organisations are now utilising this space, with a potential expansion alongside STHFT being considered.

The Live Well Centre/Public Health South Tees received a Highly Commended award at the National Government property awards for Transforming Places.

There has been approval for a service expansion for Recovery Solutions within Public Health, to expand their property footprint to Park House, in the Linthorpe area of the town to expand their prescribing and treatment offer.

Community Defibs are undergoing a full rationalisation exercise to identify locations, guardians and process due to a number of staffing and guardianships changes recently.

### **1.10 CVD - AF (Atrial Fibrillation) Case Finding Project**

Public Health staff partnered up with NHS colleagues during October to attend flu/covid vaccine clinics and offer AF screening to patients over 60. This collaborative approach resulted in good uptake of these important checks to find patients with undiagnosed irregular heart rates which can lead to stroke and heart complications. Awaiting final data results at present.

### **1.11 Age Friendly Middlesbrough Programme**

Middlesbrough is recruiting a 2-year FTE Age Friendly Project Coordinator post to Coordinate project activities that contribute to supporting older people to Age Well in Middlesbrough, as well as providing outreach and engagement, to Identify isolated older people in the community, promote services, improve relationships and improve access and participation.

### **1.12 Middlesbrough Sensory Drop-in Clinic**

Staff celebrated 4 years on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October since the clinic launched and data shows it has supported over 500 residents who are either blind, deaf, hearing impaired or vision impaired or have dual sensory loss. Outcomes achieved include improved independence and resilience through access to specialist equipment, assessments and improved physical health and mental wellbeing.

### **1.13 International Day of Older Person 2025**

Middlesbrough celebrated IDOP with a free, inclusive event at Middlesbrough Town Hall with access to 37 service information stalls including council services, voluntary organisations and charities. Older people had access to BP checks, hearing checks, chair exercise sessions and cyber-crime prevention workshops. Over 200 older residents attended on the day and some services spoke to over 70 people during the event and there were multiple onward referrals for ongoing support such as the Staying put agency, DWP, bereavement support, carers support and Mental health support services.

### **1.14 Health Protection:**

The health protection team have been involved in shaping local pandemic preparedness plans through a series of workshops and exercises designed to assess the UK's ability to respond to future pandemic situations.

Health Protection Assurance Workshops were held for adults (24/09/2025) and for children (25/09/2025). The workshops covered all elements of the health protection programme and was well attended, with participants finding the sessions very useful.

<b>Element of HP Programme</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
Environment	Housing standards and affordable warmth	Nutrition in schools – the eat well award

Communicable Diseases	What workplaces and care settings need to know	Infection Prevention control and improving attendance
Community Resilience	Pandemic preparedness	Young people and relationships
Immunisations	Flu, covid-19, shingles, PCV and RSV	MMR, Flu, HPV, Td/IPV and MenACWY
Screening / other	Cancer screening programmes	Substances in school Intro to HeadStart

### **1.14 Immunisation**

Extensive work to increase uptake of vaccinations continues with the development and sharing of resources through the Tees Valley Local Immunisation Steering Group. In Middlesbrough, engagement and co-production workshops are being held with non-English speaking communities to understand their barriers to accessing immunisations. It is anticipated that standard materials will be translated into other languages. Surveys are also being completed with these groups and also with pregnant women.

### **1.15 Screening**

The team worked with Arch to produce resources to encourage women who have experienced sexual abuse access cervical screening. Targeted lung health check surveys have been completed with the local community. The team helped organise events for breast cancer awareness month including lighting up local landmarks pink (02/10/25), a lunch and learn webinar, a staff walk and talk, wear it pink day, a piece on local CVFM radio station.

Additional work - head and neck cancer resources have been distributed and surveys completed across Middlesbrough. The team have also attended a range of community events to disseminate information and materials on immunisations and screening programmes.

### ***Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing:***

#### **1.16 HeadStart Targeted Secondary Pilot**

Work has commenced on the new targeted secondary offer which is aimed at supporting pupils with emotional needs to improve their attendance and reduce escalation into more severe absence. The pilot work will support 3 secondary schools. Cohorts of pupils have been identified, and work will commence immediately after October half term. Working alongside education colleagues the pilot will focus on building the resilience of pupils using evidence-based practice.

#### **1.17 World Mental Health Day 2025**

World Mental Health Day is celebrated every year on 10 October and provides a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and encourage open conversations about mental health. To mark this day the council held staff wellbeing sessions, the sharing of positive messages and support across social media, and the Tees Mental Health Training Hub hosted its annual event for the local workforce in Middlesbrough. This event aimed to enhance knowledge and skills to help individuals support both themselves and others.

The introduction of a new bereavement support pathway, alongside coordinated multi-agency action, has led to an increase in the number of individuals accessing support following drug and alcohol-related deaths. This support is delivered by Cruse Bereavement Support through a specialist bereavement service commissioned by Public Health across South Tees

### **1.18 Creative End of Lives Project Creative End of Lives (CEOL) Project**

The CEOL Project is a partnership between Borderlands, Public Health, and Linthorpe Methodist Church, supporting people affected by end-of-life experiences, whether personally, professionally, or as carers. Through storytelling and creative activities, the project helps individuals connect and share what matters most to them. An CEOL UnConference was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October to creatively explore death, dying and grief, with insights from practitioners on practical aspects of end-of-life care. The learning from this project will inform the South Tees JSNA end of life goal recommendations and guide local commissioning decisions.

## **Health Determinants Research Collaboration South Tees**

### **1.19 Research Support Process and Coordination Workstream**

Middlesbrough Council staff submitted 25 research ideas and Public Health South Tees 27. We are delighted to have a Middlesbrough elected member submit an idea.

Securing research funding for the ideas that progress is a challenge and there is stiff competition (on average 20% of submissions nationally are successful). Below is a table of the status of the 27 research ideas from council staff:

In progress	Not progressed	SUBMITTED FOR FUNDING		
		Unsuccessful	Successful	Waiting outcome
16	7	2	1	1

### **1.21 Culture Change Workstream**

We are moving to Phase 2 sandpits working with local authority staff to identify research priorities. These will begin in the New Year.

We continue to offer online research skills training sessions through our HDRC ST Training and Development Programme. Further information about the HDRC ST is available here <https://hdrcsouthtees.co.uk/>.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN THAT HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE CALL-IN PERIOD

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DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>The Mayor</b>				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Information Strategy 2025-2029	To set out a proposed Information Strategy for the Council.	No
<b>Deputy Mayor and Executive Member - Education and Culture</b>				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	People Scrutiny Panel Report on Children Missing Education (CME)	<b>The purpose of the report was for Executive to consider the Final Report of the former People Scrutiny Panel and the associated Service Action Plan.</b>	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Adult Social Care</b>				
<b>Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability</b>				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Place Scrutiny Report – Home to School Transport Service	<b>For Executive to consider the Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel and the associated Service Action Plan.</b>	Yes

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Waste Disposal Options	The purpose of the report was to set out the decisions and delegations the Council needed to take to be able to work with the other authorities in respect of undertaking financial close with the preferred bidder and the subsequent structures for managing the disposal contract.	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Finance</b>				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Household Support Fund 2025/26	The purpose of the report sought approval for changes required to the Household Support Fund (HSF scheme previously approved for the 2025/26 financial year).	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Public Health</b>				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Recovery Solutions Delivery Model	The purpose of the report sought Executive approval for the reconfiguration of Recovery Solutions delivery sites, ensuring safe, accessible, and compliant service provision.	Yes



## **SECTION 3 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN UP UNTIL THE COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>Executive Member - Finance</b>				
19 Nov 2025	Executive Sub-Committee for Property	Members Small Scheme Allocations	To approve the appropriate schemes that applied to Members Small Scheme Allocation	No

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## **SECTION 4 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>The Mayor</b>				
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Corporate Performance Quarter Two 2025/2026	That Executive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notes the progress and position of the corporate performance disciplines, including activity within the Transformation Portfolio</li> <li>• approves proposed changes to the Executive actions, detailed at Appendix 1</li> <li>• notes delivery status of the Council Plan 2024-27 supporting workplan, detailed at Appendix 2</li> <li>• approves the proposed changes to the Council Plan 2024-27 supporting workplan actions, detailed at Appendix 3</li> <li>• notes the Strategic Risk Register, at Appendix 4</li> </ul>	No
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Council Plan 2026/27-29: Outcomes Refresh	This report seeks the Executive's endorsement of the proposed revised Council Plan workplan for the period 2026-27.	Yes
18 Dec 2025	Executive Member - The Mayor	Data Management Policy	To complete the triennial review - the policy forms part of the Information Governance Policy Framework	No
18 Dec 2025	Executive Member - The Mayor	Surveillance Policy 2026/7	To complete an annual review of the Council's Surveillance policy	No

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
18 Dec 2025	Executive Member - The Mayor	Artificial Intelligence Policy	To seek approval of the first AI policy which will articulate how the Council will exploit AI potential through an ethical, lawful framework	No
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Council Plan 2026/27-29: Workplan Refresh	This report seeks the Executive's endorsement of the proposed revised Council Plan workplan for the period 2026-27.	No
11 Mar 2026	Executive	Council Plan 2026/27-29: Service Plans	This report seeks the Executive's endorsement of the proposed revised Council Plan workplan for the period 2026-27.	No
<b>Deputy Mayor and Executive Member - Education and Culture</b>				
3 Dec 2025	Executive	SHiFT Programme Progress Update	To present findings from the Annual Partnership Review	No
<b>Executive Member - Adult Social Care</b>				
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028	For executive approval of Domestic Abuse Strategy developed by Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership to fulfil statutory duties within Domestic Abuse Act 2021	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Development</b>				
21 Jan 2026	Executive	Investment in Temporary Accommodation	Proposals for investment alongside a social investor to purchase properties to reduce the expenditure on temporary accommodation	Yes
21 Jan 2026	Executive	Neighbourhood Hubs Investment	The purpose of this report is to seek Executive Approval for the headline specifications for plans to adapt the four North, South, East and West Neighbourhood Hubs, as well as investment in the surrounding localities.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability</b>				
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Cemetery Provision - Middlesbrough	To update and inform on the current and proposed plans to ensure current and future burial plots supply	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Finance</b>				
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget - Forecast Year-end Outturn position at Quarter Two 2025/26	The report advises the Executive of the Council's financial position as at Quarter Two 2025/26	Yes
3 Dec 2025	Executive	2026/27 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2029/30	The report provides an update to the Executive on the budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) development process for 2026/27 to 2029/30 that will conclude with consideration and approval of the budget by Council in February 2026. The recommendations in the report will be for formal noting and endorsing by Executive of a range of budget proposals aimed to balance the budget and MTFP. Subject to endorsement by the Executive, the draft budget will progress to the consultation phase of the budget development process during the planned period 4 December 2025 to 7 January 2026.	No
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2026/27	The Council has a legal obligation to calculate a council tax base each financial year. The calculation of the council tax base is a part of the Council's budget strategy which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. This report is part of the process to set the council tax base for the financial year 2026/27 by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2026.	Yes

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DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2025/26	The report provides an update to the Executive on performance in relation to the Council's borrowing, investments, cash-flow, and prudential indicators, for the 2025/26 financial year to meet the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Local Government Act 2003.	No
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Service Response to Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel "Empty Properties	Respond to Panel Recommendations	No
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2026/27 to 2029/30	The report outlines the Council's prudential indicators for the financial years 2026/27 – 2029/30 regarding the affordability of the capital programme, and sets the framework and approves the limits within which the treasury management operations for this period will work. It fulfils key legislative and guidance requirements in this area and is an essential part of the annual budget setting process.	Yes
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Forecast Year-end Outturn position at Quarter Three 2025/26	The report advises the Executive of the Council's forecast year-end financial outturn position as at Quarter Three 2025/26	Yes
4 Feb 2026	Executive	2026/27 Revenue Budget, Medium Term Finance Plan, and Council Tax Setting	This report provides information and advice to the Executive in terms of the proposed budget for 2026/27, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2029/30, and the proposed Council Tax for 2026/27. It requests that Executive approves that several items are forwarded for approval by Full Council on 18 February 2026. Council approval of the 2026/27 budget and proposed Council Tax is required by the statutory deadline of 11 March 2026.	Yes
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Section 13A (1) (a) (Exceptional Hardship	This report seeks approval to amend the Council's Section 13A (1) (a)	No

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
		Fund) Policy	policy, under the Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1992 (as amended).	
6 May 2026	Executive	2025/26 Revenue and Capital Year-end Outturn	The report advises the Executive of the Council's year-end financial outturn position for 2025/26	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Public Health</b>				
11 Dec 2025	Executive Member Adult Social Care and Public Health	Middlesbrough Environment City (MEC) Healthy Living, Nutrition and Food Poverty Grant Review	Present findings from the review of the Health Living, Nutrition and Food Poverty Grant delivered by MEC to determine the continuation of funding to MEC	Yes
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Advertising Policy	Propose implementation of new advertising policy	Yes

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 26 NOVEMBER 2025**  
**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**  
**COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 4.8.15**

<b>QUESTION NO.</b>	<b>QUESTION FROM</b>	<b>QUESTION TO</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>
1/25	Sean Calvert	The Mayor – Chris Cooke	How can you all as Corporate Parents increase your understanding of Middlesbrough cared for and care experienced young people?

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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Councillor L Young, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)
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<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	The Mayor
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
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<b>Date:</b>	26 November 2025
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<b>Title:</b>	Scrutiny Progress Report
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<b>Report for:</b>	Information
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
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<b>Key decision:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Report is for information only
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<b>Subject to call in?:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Why:</b>	Not Applicable      Council Report for information only
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<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That Council note the report.

<b>Executive summary</b>
To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

1. **Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions**
  - 1.1 To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels.

1.2

<b>Our ambitions</b>	<b>Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims</b>
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	By responding effectively and efficiently to constitutional requirements the Council will maintain effective and robust governance arrangements. Robust governance arrangements will allow for effective decisions which inform all the Council's ambitions.
<b>A healthy Place</b>	
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	
<b>Delivering best value</b>	

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council note the report.

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

## 4. Background and relevant information:

### Overview and Scrutiny Board

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 22 October 2025. The Executive Member for Children's Services and the Interim Executive Director were in attendance. The Executive Member provided an update on activity within his portfolio. The Executive Member outlined the priorities that Children's Services were focussing on to drive up results for young people which included:

- Leadership, Vision and Culture.
- Quality of Practice.
- Partnerships.
- Workforce Stability and Development.
- Corporate Parenting and Care Leavers Support.

4.2 At the next meeting the Board will receive an update from the Executive Member for Finance, and hear from the Deputy Mayor, Joint Director of Public Health, and Head of Resident and Business Support as part of the Board's review into poverty and efforts to tackle it. The Board will also hear from the Mayor who will be presenting the Continuous Improvement Report.

## 5. Scrutiny Panel Updates

5.1 The updated position in respect of the work of each of the Council's scrutiny panels is shown below.

## **Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel**

- 5.2 The Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel met on 20 October 2025 and focussed on the review of Healthy Placemaking with a Focus on Childhood Obesity. Terms of Reference were approved for the review and members heard further evidence in regard to the place element of the topic, as follows;
- The Strategic Policy Manager (Planning) and the Creating Active & Healthy Places Lead (Public Health South Tees) delivered a presentation on Healthy Placemaking through Planning.
  - The Head of Transport & Infrastructure and the Principal Transport Planning Officer delivered a presentation on Healthy Placemaking through Transport and Infrastructure.
- 5.3 At the next meeting scheduled for 1 December 2025, the Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board will be in attendance to present the Annual Report. Members will also hear concluding evidence for the Healthy Placemaking review, with representatives from Public Health in attendance to present information on the Healthy Weight Declaration.

## **Children's Scrutiny Panel**

- 5.4 The Children's Scrutiny Panel met on 27 October 2025 and received further evidence in respect of its current scrutiny topic "Out of Area Specialist Provision", specifically in relation to SEND and Inclusion Workforce Development and its impact on maintaining in children in Middlesbrough education provision.
- 5.5 The Panel touched upon developing terms of reference for the review and agreed to consider these at its next meeting on 8 December 2025.

## **Place Scrutiny Panel**

- 5.6 The Place Scrutiny Panel met on 27 October 2025 and received evidence from representatives from Locus who presented the early findings of the latest economic assessment of Middlesbrough. The assessment focused on the town's current position and its response to emerging trends, although only initial findings were presented and a full report would be produced in future.
- 5.7 It was advised that a previous economic assessment had been carried out in 2018 and Members were advised of the findings of the previous assessment. Work carried out since the 2018 assessment was also highlighted and this included the following:
- Redevelopment (Centre Square and Gresham)
  - Focus on Anti-Social Behaviour
  - High Street Heritage Action Zone
  - Town Centre Masterplan
  - Shift towards increased office space
- 5.8 During the meeting, a summary of the principal conclusions from the economic assessment so far were presented.

- 5.9 At the next meeting on 17 November 2025, the Director of Regeneration will be in attendance to provide an update on the work of the Place Leaders Partnership followed by a presentation on the work of the Creative Factory delivered by the Director of the Creative Factory and the Head of Culture, which will explore how culture can be used to regenerate our town.

## **Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

- 5.10 The next meeting is scheduled for 11 December 2025.

## **Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive**

- 5.11 No final reports have been submitted since the last report to Council.

## **6. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate.**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

## **7. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended**

- 7.1 That an update on the work of the scrutiny function is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for updates on the scrutiny function, to be reported to full Council.

## **8. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications or impact on any budgets or the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) arising from the content of this report.
Legal	The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.
Risk	Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.  If updates on the work of the scrutiny function were not provided to Council, this would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Children and Young People Cared for by	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.

the Authority and Care Leavers	
Data Protection	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

### **Appendices**

1	
2	
3	

### **Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

**Contact: Charlotte Benjamin**

**Email: [charlotte\\_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Legal & Governance Services, Charlotte Benjamin on behalf of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	26 November 2025
<b>Title:</b>	Members' Scheme of Allowances
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Subject to call in?</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That Council consider the recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration outlined in its report at Appendix 1, and agree or reject those recommendations, namely that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Basic Allowance be increased from its current level of £7,608 to the Teesside Average of £8,999.</li> <li>2. All other allowances, including Special Responsibility Allowances, remain at 2024 levels.</li> </ol>

Executive summary
<p><b>This report was previously considered by Council on 10 September 2025 and the debate on the report was adjourned; the effect of this was that the matter was deferred for decision. Council is requested to make a decision as per the 'proposed decision(s)', above.</b></p> <p>Following its 2025 review of Members' allowances, the Independent Panel on Members'</p>

Remuneration recommend an increase to the Basic Allowance from £7,608 to £8,999 (the Teesside Average). The Panel also recommend freezing Special Responsibility Allowances, and all other allowances, at their current levels. Neither Basic nor Special Responsibility Allowances should reflect Staff Pay Awards.

The Council is asked to consider the Panel's recommendations and either accept or reject them. If, after having due regard of the Panel's recommendations, the Council reject the Panel's proposals it will need to create its own Scheme of Allowances.

## **Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions**

1.1 To provide Members with the opportunity to consider the proposals of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration and adopt the Scheme of Allowances.

<b>Our ambitions</b>	<b>Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims</b>
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	<i>Allowances offered to elected Members recognise the work they carry out under the well-established principle of voluntary unpaid public service. The work carried out by elected Members, both as community champions and representatives of Middlesbrough, actively contribute to the Council's ambitions as detailed in the Council Plan 2024-2027.</i>
<b>A healthy Place</b>	
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	
<b>Delivering best value</b>	

## **2. Recommendations**

That Council consider the recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration outlined in its report at Appendix 1, and agree or reject those recommendations, namely that:

1. The Basic Allowance be increased from its current level of £7,608 to the Teesside Average of £8,999.
2. All other allowances, including Special Responsibility Allowances, remain at 2024 levels.

## **3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

3.1 The Council are required under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to publish a Members Scheme of Allowances on an annual basis.

3.2 The allowances should reflect the level of work, time and commitment of the role of Councillor and to provide a reasoned approach the impact the recommendations will have on the Council.

## **4. Background and relevant information**

- 4.1 The establishment of an Independent Panel on Members Remuneration, and its resultant recommendations is required under sections 20 and 21 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The Panel consists of three members (with two vacancies) and meets on an annual basis to review Members Remuneration. The membership of the Panel for the 2025 review was Dr. S Green, Mr. P Thompson and Mr. M White.
- 4.2 The Panel is keen to stress that in its deliberations it has carefully reviewed all the relevant quantitative information; is sensitive to wider socioeconomic factors affecting Middlesbrough and the Council and have acted independently of all other considerations.
- 4.3 The Panel wants to convey to Members that when considering allowances, it has strong regard for the current socioeconomic conditions for local authorities; recent pay settlements for Middlesbrough Council employees; whether the levels of remuneration reflect the responsibilities and commitment expected of Members and if they are set at levels which also recognise the well-established principle of voluntary unpaid public service.
- 4.4 The Panel was provided with background information which included the Executive Scheme of Delegation, an overview of all roles currently receiving a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) and comparator information for other local and Mayoral authorities to assist the Panel with their deliberations. Providing comparator information against the other Tees, and North East, Councils was not possible on an exact like-for-like basis, as each authority has a different political structure and committee make-up. However, data was examined on a best fit basis.
- 4.5 The Panel's 2024 recommendation was to increase the Basic Allowance to meet the Teesside average and not reflect staff inflationary pay awards. However, this recommendation was rejected by Council and the Basic Allowance has remained static since 2022.
- 4.6 The Panel felt those roles attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance were all still relevant, recognising the time commitment and responsibilities involved. It was also recognised that, generally, the rates afforded to Special Responsibility Allowances in Middlesbrough were comparable to other Teesside Authorities. As the Council had not undergone any governance changes since the last review the Panel were confident that the comparators used in their deliberations continued to be relevant.

## **5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate**

- 5.1 An open consultation for all elected Members ran between 21 March and 18 April 2025 where all Members were invited to put written representations to the Panel. In addition, Group Leaders were invited to meet with the Panel. As part of the wider consultation, four individual one group representations were received. One Group Leader attended a meeting of the Panel and offered their views.

## 6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

6.1 The Council could reject the Panel's recommendations and propose its own Scheme of Allowances having had due regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members Remuneration.

## 7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	<p>Should Council agree the recommendations this would increase Basic Allowance spending from £357,576 to £422,953 an increase of £65,377. Importantly, the Independent Panel act independently from the Council and neither Council officers nor elected Members have any influence over its recommendations.</p> <p>While not directly related to the recommendations in the report, the spend for SRAs has increased by £27,975 between May 2024 and May 2025 (owing to the appointment of additional Executive Members and the creation of an additional Scrutiny Panel). As such if the recommendations are approved the combined Allowances spend would be £655,087. The Members Allowance budget is held within the Legal and Governance Directorate. The increase will be met from the corporate contingency budget for this financial year and will be included as growth within the Medium-Term Financial Plan in future years.</p>
Legal	The Council are required under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to publish a Members Scheme of Allowances on an annual basis and to have due regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members Remuneration.
Risk	Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement. A potential consequence of not having a comparable Scheme of Allowances with other Tees Valley authorities is that it may discourage a wider demographic for standing for Council.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.

Reducing Poverty	The proposed recommendations in this report do not directly impact on Reducing Poverty.
Climate Change / Environmental	The proposed recommendations in this report do not directly impact on Climate Change/Environmental issues.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	The proposed recommendations in this report do not directly impact on Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers.
Data Protection	The proposed recommendations in this report do not directly impact on Data Protection issues

### **Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Any changes to the Scheme of Allowances will be communicated to payroll	Head of Legal Services (People)	Within 28 days of the decision.

### **Appendices**

1	IRP Report
2	Proposed Scheme of Allowances 2025
3	

### **Background papers**

<b>Body</b>	<b>Report title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Legislation	The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003	

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## **MEMBERS' REMUNERATION – APPENDIX 1**

### **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' REMUNERATION**

#### **Context and Panel Membership**

1. The establishment of an Independent Panel on Members Remuneration, and its resultant recommendations is required under sections 20 and 21 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The Panel consists of three members (with two vacancies) and meets on an annual basis to review Members Remuneration.
2. The Panel is keen to stress that in its deliberations it has carefully reviewed all the relevant quantitative information; is sensitive to wider socioeconomic factors affecting Middlesbrough and the Council and have acted independently of all other considerations.
3. The membership of the Panel for the 2025 review was Dr. S Green, Mr. P Thompson and Mr. M White.

#### **Annual Review - 2025**

4. The Panel was informed that an annual review of the Members' Scheme of Allowances was required for the municipal year 2025-2026. The review considers the level of allowances paid to elected Members.

#### **Methodology**

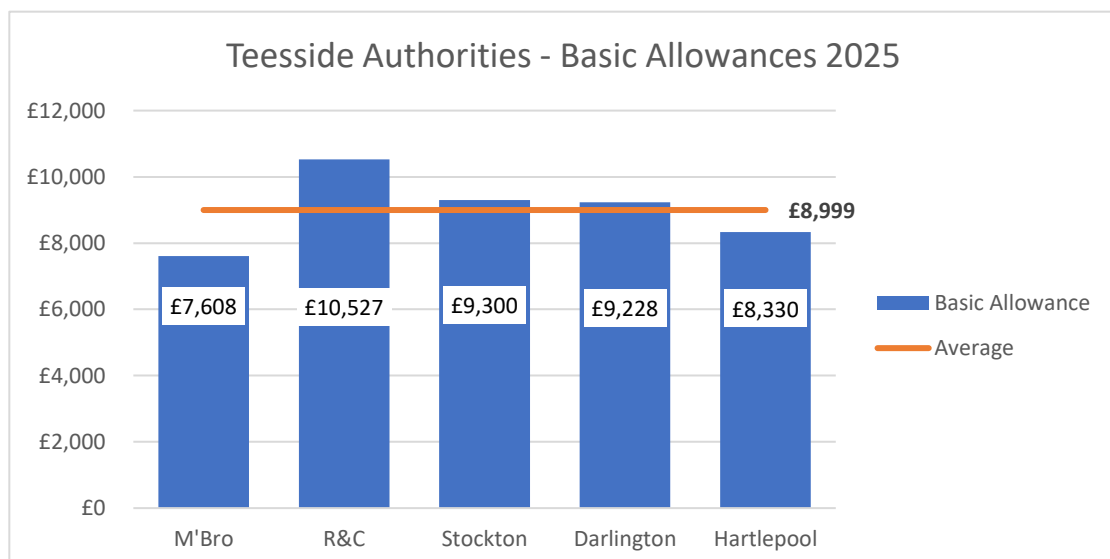
5. The Panel wants to convey to Members that when considering allowances, it has strong regard for the current socioeconomic conditions for local authorities; recent pay settlements for Middlesbrough Council employees; whether the levels of remuneration reflect the responsibilities and commitment expected of Members and if they are set at levels which also recognise the well-established principle of voluntary unpaid public service.
6. The Council has previously utilised a banding scheme index model, based on multiples of the Basic Allowance. That system was suspended following the 2018 review, initially for a period of four years. However, given that rates of allowances have remained static for several years, the indexing system has not yet been reinstated. In conducting the 2025 review, the Panel examined the levels of the Basic Allowance in line with the 2024 review.
7. The Panel was provided with background information which included the Executive Scheme of Delegation, an overview of all roles currently receiving a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) and comparator information for other local and Mayoral authorities to assist the Panel with their deliberations. Providing comparator information against the other Tees, and North East, Councils was not possible on an exact like-for-like basis, as each authority has a different political structure and committee make-up. However, data was examined on a best fit basis.
8. An open consultation for all elected Members ran between 21 March and 18 April

2025 where all Members were invited to put written representations to the Panel. In addition, Group Leaders were invited to meet with the Panel. As part of the wider consultation, four individual one group representations were received. One Group Leader attended a meeting of the Panel and offered their views.

9. In general terms, responses highlighted the significant amount of work and time commitments involved in being an elected Member. Such commitment applied to both Ward and Committee work. It was also highlighted such time commitment was compounded if Members were in full time employment.
10. Some consultation responses recognised the relatively low levels of Middlesbrough's Basic Allowance and the need to bring it in line with neighbouring authorities, while others stated no increases should be made considering other challenging economic considerations, such as the cost of living. In terms of SRAs; respondents felt some SRAs needed to be increased in order to attract the appropriate skill levels (such as Executive roles) while Chairs of committees should be afforded the allowance on an attendance basis. The Panel recognised that how allowances are afforded was not within its remit, only if remuneration levels were commensurate to the role.
11. All responses to the consultation were carefully considered as part of the Panel's deliberations.

## Basic Allowance

12. The Panel's 2024 recommendation was to increase the Basic Allowance to meet the Teesside average and not reflect staff inflationary pay awards. However, this recommendation was rejected by Council and the Basic Allowance has remained static since 2022.
13. The Panel noted that, because of this, Middlesbrough Council's Basic Allowance remains below the Teesside average (£8,999 in 2025) and the North East average (£11,127 in 2025) and continues to drift from its neighbours, as demonstrated in the table below. Potential consequences of keeping the Basic Allowance at current levels include discouraging a wider demographic for standing for Council.





14. Given the work and time commitment in being an elected Member, and despite the wider socioeconomic factors facing the Council, the Panel feel the Basic Allowance is too low compared to other Teesside and North East Councils. The Panel therefore recommend the Basic Allowance should be increased to meet the 2025 Teesside average of £8,999.

### Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA)

Authority	Mayoral Allowance
Hackney	£95,003
Newham	£93,575
Lewisham	£85,989
Salford	£80,890
Tower Hamlets	£80,579
Watford	£73,607
North Tyneside	£68,499
Leicester	£66,938
Bedford	£66,480
Doncaster	£59,586
Middlesbrough	£55,952*
Mansfield	£49,377

\*Excluding Basic Allowance

15. The Panel were advised that the ‘Guidance on Consolidated Regulations for Local Authority Allowances’ stated that SRAs should only be paid when elected Members have “significant additional responsibilities” over and above the generally accepted responsibilities of an elected Member.
16. Previously, the method of determining SRAs was based on a ‘multiplier’, using the Basic Allowance as a base then multiplying it by a factor ranging from 0.5 to 10, depending on the role. This system has been suspended since 2018.
17. In their deliberations the Panel could only consider the level of responsibility and commitment required for the role, they could not consider personal perceptions of a person appointed to a post.
18. The Panel were keen to express that when considering SRAs they look at a role in its entirety and that an allowance was not solely based on the number of meetings held/attended. For example, it took into consideration the depth and range of the portfolio; the level of responsibility; policy development; work with senior officers; level of accountability, decision making, and the time commitment required. For Overview and Scrutiny other commitments were also considered, e.g. researching topics, site visits, external meetings with contributors to Panels, effective challenge and the coordination and selection of topics for review and call ins etc.
19. Regarding the elected Mayor, the Panel examined the responsibilities of the Mayor and considered comparators with other Mayoral authorities. As with the Basic Allowance, the Panel found the allowance afforded to the Mayor was below the average of other Mayoral authorities. It was also felt that regardless of the population or the size of an authority, the time, commitment, and responsibilities of an elected Mayor are comparable. The Panel was advised the Mayor was carrying the responsibility of a portfolio (Governance) as well as the role of Mayor. Despite

this, the Panel felt the Mayor's SRA was adequate when supplemented with the Basic Allowance.

20. The Panel felt those roles attracting an SRA were all still relevant, recognising the time commitment and responsibilities involved. It was also recognised that, generally, the rates afforded to Special Responsibility Allowances in Middlesbrough were comparable to other Teesside Authorities. As the Council had not undergone any governance changes since the last review the Panel were confident that the comparators used in their deliberations continued to be relevant.
21. The Panel continue to recommend that during this period any future staff pay awards should not be applied to SRAs.
22. The Panel recognise the valued work and commitment provided by all elected Members.

### **Travel & Subsistence**

23. The Panel considered that the legislation allowed for travel and felt no changes were necessary.
24. The Panel considered the rates for mileage that are currently based on His Majesty's Revenues and Customs national rates i.e. 45p per mile; and subsistence in line with those paid to staff. The Panel recommend no change.
25. The Panel agreed that Co-Opted Members should be allowed to make claims for allowances based on the fact that they are acting voluntarily and that the current £10 per meeting rate remained reasonable and that no changes should be made.

### **Dependent Carer's Allowance**

26. Members can claim an allowance for dependents that they care for (adults or children). This is to allow their attendance at Council meetings. This rate of allowance is currently based on the national living wage and limited to seven hours per week. The Panel recommend no change.

### **Pensions**

27. The 'Scheme of Allowances' sets out which Members of the authority are to be entitled to pensions in accordance with a scheme made under Section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972.
28. In making that provision an authority may only include someone who has first been recommended by the Independent Panel. The current position is that no members receive a pension. The Panel recommended no change.

### **The Panel's Recommendations**

29. For the reasons cited above, the Panel recommends that the Basic Allowance should be increased to £8,999. The Panel also recommends that Special Responsibility Allowances should remain frozen as agreed by Council in 2024.

### **Why is this being recommended?**

30. Notwithstanding the legal requirements for the Panel making its recommendations, Members' allowances should reflect the level of work, time and commitment of the role of Councillor.
31. The recommendations of the Panel have been made following consideration of all socioeconomic factors affecting Middlesbrough, such as the Council's financial position and cost of living pressures facing Middlesbrough's residents.

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## APPENDIX 2

### MEMBERS SCHEMES OF ALLOWANCE 2025/26

Middlesbrough Borough Council, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 hereby makes the following Scheme:

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Middlesbrough Borough Council Members' Scheme of Allowances', and shall have effect for the year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and subsequent years, unless amended by the Council.

2. In this Scheme:

"Year" means the 12 months ending with 31<sup>st</sup> March.

#### **3. Basic Allowance**

- 3.1 All Elected members including the Mayor of Middlesbrough Council receive a basic allowance to recognise the time devoted to carry out their work as Members. It is also intended to cover incidental costs such as use of members' homes, attendance at meetings with officers, community meetings, and ward activities.
- 3.2 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provide for the payment of a basic allowance in respect of each year to each member of an authority, and the amount of such an allowance shall be the same for each such member. Subject to paragraphs, 10 and 11 the allowance will be paid to each elected Councillor for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- 3.3 For 2025/26 the basic allowance of £8,999 will be paid in equal monthly instalments.
- 3.4 The Basic Allowance will not be increased in line with staff pay rises.

#### **4. Special Responsibility Allowances**

- 4.1 Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) are paid in addition to the basic allowance to members who hold positions with significant responsibilities over and above the general duties of a councillor and are also paid in equal monthly instalments.
- 4.2 For each year a special responsibility allowance shall also be paid to those Members who hold the special responsibilities in relation to the Authority that are specified in Schedule 1, PROVIDED THAT no Member shall be entitled to receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance. SRA allowances will remain static and shall not be increased in line with any subsequent annual staff pay award.
- 4.3 Special Responsibility Allowances were originally arrived at by an agreed multiple of the basic allowance. This process has been suspended since 1 April 2019.

- 4.4 Subject to paragraphs 10 & 11.1 the amount of each such allowances shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in Schedule1.
- 4.5 A special responsibility allowance relating to the duties of a Political Group Leader shall be payable to the leader of the overall majority group and to the leaders of the two largest minority Groups, where each of the minority Groups comprise at least 10% of the total number of Members of the Council.
- 4.6 Where there is no over-all majority group, the two largest political group leaders will receive a minority special responsibility allowance. Where only one of the two largest minority Groups comprise at least 10% of the total number of Members of the Council, a special responsibility allowance relating to the duties of Political Group Leader shall be payable to the leader of the next largest minority Group.

**5. Travelling and Subsistence Allowance – Councillors**

- 5.1 A Councillor shall be entitled to receive appropriate travel and subsistence allowances where he/she necessarily incurs expenditure on travel or subsistence in order to perform an approved duty.
- 5.2 The amount of the allowance payable to a Member in respect of subsistence shall be the same as that approved by the Authority in respect of officers of the Council who are paid officer rates.
- 5.3 The subsistence allowance payable shall be increased or decreased to the same extent as determined by the Authority in respect of officers.
- 5.4 The allowance payable to a Member in respect of travel mileage shall be paid at the Inland Revenue rate (45p per mile).
- 5.5 For the purposes of this paragraph, approved duties shall include all those duties, which are specified in Part I of Schedule 2 to this Scheme.

**6. Travelling and Subsistence – Co-opted Members**

- 6.1 A Co-opted Member shall be entitled to receive appropriate travel and subsistence allowances as specified in Part II of Schedule 2 to this Scheme.

**7. Dependent Carers Allowance**

- 7.1 A Councillor or Co-opted Member shall be entitled to receive a dependent carers allowance to provide for children or adult care, where he/she has necessarily incurred that expenditure in respect of a dependent who is looked after by a registered provider whilst the Councillor or Co-opted Member is carrying out an approved duty.
- 7.2 The dependent carers allowance referred to in paragraph 7.1 above shall be paid per hour and be in line with the national living wage and limited to 7 hours per week.

- 7.3 The allowance will not be payable to a member of the claimant's own household.
- 7.4 For the purposes of this paragraph, an approved duty is any duty listed in Part I of Schedule 2 to this Scheme.

**8. Telephone / Broadband Allowance**

- 8.1 A member is entitled to a communications allowance of a £15 contribution towards their telephone connections and a £10 contribution towards broadband connections. One claim per household, subject to annual proof of service.

**9. Pensions**

- 9.1 No councillor shall be entitled to pensions in accordance with this scheme

**10. Renunciation**

- 10.1 A Member may by giving notice in writing to the Director of Legal and Governance, or the Head of Legal Services (People) elect to forego all or part of their entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme. Where such a declaration is made, it remains in force until a further notice in writing is given to the Director of Legal and Governance or the Head of Legal Services (People) to withdraw it.

**11. Part-year Entitlements**

- 11.1 The provision of this paragraph shall have effect to regulate the entitlements of a Councillor to basic and special responsibility where, in the course of a year, this Scheme is amended or that Councillor becomes, or ceases to be, a Councillor, or accepts or relinquishes a special responsibility in respect of which a special responsibility allowance is payable.
- 11.2 If an amendment to this Scheme changes the amount to which a Councillor is entitled by way of a basic allowances or a special responsibility allowance, then in relation to each of the periods:
- a) beginning with the year and ending with the day before that on which the first amendment in that year takes effect, or
  - b) beginning with the day on which an amendment takes effect and ending with the day that on which the next amendment takes effect, or (if none) with the year,

The entitlement to such an allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the amount of the allowance under this Scheme as it has effect during the relevant period as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of the days in the period bears to the number of days in the year.

- 11.3 Where the term of office of a Councillor begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year, the entitlement of that Councillor to a basic allowance shall be to the payment to such part of the basic allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his/her term of office subsists bears to the number of days in that year.
- 11.4 Where this Scheme is amended as mentioned in sub-paragraph 11.2, and the term of office of a Councillor does not subsist throughout the period mentioned in sub-paragraph 11.2a, the entitlement of any such Councillor to a basic allowance shall be to the payment of such part of the basic allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that sub-paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his term of office as a Councillor subsists bears to the number of days in that period.
- 11.5 Where a Councillor has during part of, but not throughout, a year such special responsibilities as entitle him or her to a special responsibility allowance, that Councillor's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of that allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which he has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that year.
- 11.6 Where a remunerated person has been absent due to exceptional circumstances, and another Member acts as chair for more than 50% of the meetings in any Municipal Year or chairperson is absent for more than two consecutive months, then the person who has acted as chair shall be remunerated in place of the appointed chairperson (on a pro rata basis).
- 11.7 Where payment of any allowance has already been made to the initially appointed person, the authority may require that such part of the allowances paid to the appointed person for any such period to be repaid to the authority (determined by the Monitoring Officer).
- 11.8 Where this Scheme is amended as mentioned in sub-paragraph 11.2 and a Councillor has during part, but does not have throughout the whole, of any period mentioned in sub-paragraph 11.2a of that paragraph any such responsibilities as entitle him or her to a special responsibility allowance, that Councillor's entitlement shall be to payment of such part of the allowance referable to each such period (ascertained in accordance with that sub-paragraph) as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days in that period during which he or she has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that period.
- 11.9 Where a scheme of allowances is amended, the Council can choose to apply any amendment retrospectively to the beginning of the financial year in which the amendment is made.

## **12 Claims and Payments**



- 12.1 Payments of allowances shall be made as follows:
- a) Basic Allowances: Automatically Paid Monthly
  - b) Special Responsibility Allowances: Automatically Paid Monthly
  - c) Travel and Subsistence Allowance: Monthly (Claim)
  - d) Dependent Carers Allowance: Monthly (Claim)
  - e) Co-optees Allowance: Monthly (Claim)
- 12.2 All payments shall be made direct to a Bank or Building Society.
- 12.3 A claim for expenses/subsistence under this scheme shall be made within two months of the date of the meeting in respect of which the claim is made.
- 12.4 Claims for travel and subsistence (other than mileage for approved duties) shall only be approved where receipts of expenditure have been provided and have been incurred in relation to an approved duty or with the approval of the Head of Democratic Services.
- 12.5 For each claim, Members shall submit an electronic claim acknowledging that they are entitled to claim the expenses and where appropriate that they hold the appropriate valid driving documentation.
- 12.6 Members should submit their claims by the 7th day of the month
- 12.7 The Director of Legal & Governance Services shall have authority to agree a different frequency of payment with an individual Member on request.

**SCHEDULE 1****BASIC 2025/26 - £8,999 x 47 Members (including Mayor)**

These allowances are **not** subject to the inflationary increase in line with staff pay awards.

**SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES (SRAs)**

The following roles are specified as those designated as receiving a special responsibility allowances, and the amounts of those allowances. These allowances are **not** subject to the inflationary increase in line with staff pay awards.

<b><u>OFFICE</u></b>	<b>No of Positions</b>	<b>ALLOWANCE</b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Mayor	1	£55,952	£55,952
Deputy Mayor & Executive Member	1	£19,518	£19,518
Executive Members	7	£11,190	£78,330
Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Board	1	£11,190	£11,190
Chair of Licensing Committee	1	£8,393	£8,393
Chair of Planning & Development Committee	1	£8,393	£8,393
Chair of the Council	1	£5,595	£5,595
Chair of Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	1	£5,595	£5,595
Chairs of Scrutiny Panels	3	£5,595	£16,785
Chair of Standards Committee	1	£2,798	£2,798
Chair of Staff Appeals Committee	1	£2,798	£2,798
Chair of Teesside Pension Fund Committee	1	£2,798	£2,798
<b>Political Group Leaders:</b>			
Majority Group (currently not claimed)	1	£8,393	£8,393
Largest Minority Groups – maximum x 2 providing they have 10% of Council membership	2	£2,798	£5,596
<b>Total cost of SRA</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>£232,134</b>

**Banding Scheme Index** – The Council's "Multiplier" System of calculating Special Responsibility Allowances has been suspended since April 2019.

## **SCHEDULE 2**

### **TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES**

#### **Part 1      Duties that may qualify for Travelling & Subsistence Allowances**

- a) the attendance at a meeting of the Authority or of any Committee or Sub Committee of the Authority, or of any other body to which a member has been appointed to by the authority, or of any Committee or Sub Committee of such a body;
- b) the attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the Authority, or a Committee or Sub Committee of the Authority, or a Joint Committee of the Authority and one or more Local Authority within the meaning of Section 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, or a Sub Committee of such a Joint Committee provided that:
  - (i) where the Authority is divided into two or more political groups it is a meeting to which Members of at least two such groups have been invited, or
  - (ii) if the Authority is not so divided, it is a meeting to which at least two Members of the Authority have been invited;
- c) the attendance at a meeting of any association of Authorities of which the Authority is a Member providing no other attendance / mileage allowance is paid;
- d) the attendance at a meeting of the Executive or a meeting of any of its Committees, where the Authority is operating executive arrangements;
- e) the performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the Authority conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises;
- f) the carrying out of any other duty approved by the Authority, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Authority or of any of its Committees or Sub Committees. For the purpose of this Section approved duties shall include the following:
  - i) travel in connection with Scrutiny site visits or investigations
  - ii) authorised attendance at Seminars or Conferences
- g) In cases of urgency, the Monitoring Officer is authorised to approve duties.

Travelling allowances may not be claimed for political group meetings;

## **Part 2 - Subsistence**

1. Subsistence allowances for meals and accommodation can be reimbursed to Middlesbrough Members' for duties undertaken outside the unitary authority. This allowance reflects the scheme in place for officers of Middlesbrough Council.
2. Members are entitled to claim subsistence if their duties mean that they are away from the authority for at least 5 hours, preventing them from following their normal meal arrangements AND they have to incur expenditure which is in addition to their normal outlay.
3. Any claims for subsistence costs must be for the actual amount paid (up to the maximum amount claimable) and supporting receipts of this cost must be kept by the Member. The reimbursement of costs associated with alcohol will not be paid under any circumstances.

## **Part 3. Telephone / Broadband Allowance**

1. A member is entitled to a communications allowance of a £15 contribution towards their telephone connections and a £10 contribution towards broadband connections. One claim per household, subject to annual proof of service.

## **Part 4. Co-opted Members Travelling & Subsistence Allowances**

1. Co-opted Members of the following Council bodies shall be entitled to receive a combined travel & subsistence allowance as specified in paragraph (b) following production of a signed declaration that expenses had been incurred:
  - Scrutiny Committees (including Overview & Scrutiny Board, Scrutiny Panels and Scrutiny Working Groups);
  - Standards Committee (including Sub Committees and Panels)
  - The Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration,
  - Teesside Pension Fund Committee
  - School Appeal Panels
2. The amount of the combined Travel & Subsistence Allowance shall be £10 per meeting.

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Environment and Community Services – Geoff Field
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Executive Member for Environment and Community Services – Cllr Ian Blades
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	26 November 2025
<b>Title:</b>	Approval of the Council's Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2026-2029
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Safe and resilient communities
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Why:</b>	Decision(s) will have a significant impact in two or more wards
<b>Subject to call in?:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Why:</b>	The matter is a decision for Council and not subject to call in.

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That Council approves the revised Draft Statement of Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) 2026-2029.

<b>Executive summary</b>
<p>This report seeks Council approval of the Statement of Gambling Policy 2026-2029 attached at Appendix 2 to this report.</p> <p>The Council is required to have a three-year policy statement setting out the principles that it proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act") (s349). In preparing its Statement of Gambling Policy, the Council is required to consult the Police and persons who represent the interests of those carrying on gambling businesses and those who are likely to be affected by gambling activities in its area. The draft policy was approved by Council on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and a period of consultation of 8 weeks was carried out from 11 August until 6 October 2025. The Statement of Gambling Policy is required to be in place as soon as practicable to ensure compliance and to assess applications and other processes under the Act.</p>

The Statement of Gambling Policy also contains the policy and principles in relation to the application process and issuing of a large casino licence. Under the Act, only 8 large casino premises licences are permitted in England. Middlesbrough was one of the authorities awarded the ability to issue a large casino licence by Order (The Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008). Under the Act, this enables the Council to hold a competition for a large casino premises licence to determine which application would provide the greatest benefit to Middlesbrough. In 2012 following a competition, a provisional statement was awarded to Gurney Casinos Ltd, however, the proposed casino was not developed and a large casino premises licence had not been granted.

The implications of the recommendation have been considered by the appropriate officers of the Council and are set out in the main body of the report.

## 1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 To seek Council approval of the Statement of Gambling Policy 2026-2029.

<b>Our ambitions</b>	<b>Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims</b>
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	This Policy will ensure that gambling premises operate in a legal and responsible manner.
<b>A healthy Place</b>	This Policy will ensure that gambling premises operate in such a manner that vulnerable people are not put at risk. Gambling legislation operates under the objective of protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling. Since April 2016 there has been a requirement for all gambling premises operators to carry out a local area risk assessment to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at their premises, and have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks.
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	The gambling legislation operates under an objective of preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime.
<b>Delivering best value</b>	The annual fee levels paid by licensed gambling premises are set by the Secretary of State to provide for full cost recovery of all licensing functions including the preparation and publication of the Statement of Gambling Policy.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 Council approves the revised Draft Statement of Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) 2026 – 2029 (Appendix 2).

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The Council is required to have a three-year policy statement setting out the principles that it proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Act (S349). In preparing its policy statement the Council is required to consult the Police and persons who represent the interests of those carrying on gambling businesses and those who are likely to be affected by gambling activities in its area. A period of consultation of 8 weeks was carried out from 11 August until 6 October 2025. The Statement of Gambling Policy is required to be in place as soon as practicable to ensure compliance and to assess applications and other processes under the Act.

3.2 Appendix F and Appendix G to the draft Policy contain the general principles, the application process and principles for selection for the large casino licence. Under the Act, 8 large casino premises licences are permitted in England and Middlesbrough was one of the authorities awarded the ability to issue a large casino licence by Order (The

Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008). The Council are enabled to hold a competition for a large casino premises licence to determine which application would provide the greatest benefit to Middlesbrough. Following a competition held in 2012, a provisional statement was awarded to Gurney Casinos Ltd, however, the proposed casino was not developed and a large casino premises licence had not been granted. If the Council wish to do so, they can choose to launch a further competition for a large casino licence. There are currently no plans to do so however, should circumstances change in the future, the Council currently retains the ability to recommence the competition process

#### **4. Background and relevant information**

- 4.1 The Act gives powers and responsibilities to licensing authorities to issue licences for gambling premises. This legislation came into full effect on September 2007 and effectively modernised gambling legislation, providing an improved structure for gambling regulation.
- 4.2 The Act also created a new independent regulatory body; The Gambling Commission. The Gambling Commission regulates operators and deals with national gambling issues.
- 4.3 The Act contains three licensing objectives underpinning the function that the Gambling Commission and local authorities will perform. The objectives are:-
  - Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;
  - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and
  - Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
- 4.4 The Act provides for three types of licences:
  - Operating and Personal licences which are issued by the Gambling Commission.
  - Premises Licences which are issued by the Council and they authorise the provision of gambling facilities on certain premises including casino premises, bingo premises, betting premises, adult gaming centres and family entertainment centres. Councils may attach conditions to premises licences.
- 4.5 The Council as a licensing authority is required to prepare and publish a Gambling Act 2005: Licensing Policy Statement of Principles that it proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Act.
- 4.6 The Licensing Authority is required to keep their Statement of Gambling Policy under review and is required as a minimum to review it every three years, or sooner if the authority considers it to be necessary. The Council has not had a Statement of Gambling Policy in place since Jan 2022. The review of the policy was primarily delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing discussion in relation to the casino developments. The legislation provides a robust framework for the administration of the Gambling Act 2005 and decisions can and have continued to be made.
- 4.7 The Licensing Policy has two important functions:



- It provides the foundation for decisions made by the Licensing Authority and Licensing Committee
- It provides guidance and direction to prospective applicants for licences in Middlesbrough.

#### 4.8 Licensed Premises and other permits issued under The Gambling Act 2005

The table below shows the numbers and type of licensed premises/permits in Middlesbrough.

Provisional Large Casino	1
Casino (Gambling Act 1968)	1
Betting Premises	29
Track Betting	1
Bingo Premises	2
Adult Gaming Centre	8
Family Entertainment Centre	1
Club Gaming Machine Permit	24
Alcohol Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit	19
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Notification	64
Small Society Lotteries	42

#### 4.9 Since Jan 2019 there have been 6 new licences issued or processed for gambling premises in Middlesbrough:

- 3 adult gaming centres
- 1 family entertainment centre
- 1 betting premises
- 1 relocation of a 1968 casino licence

#### 4.10 Middlesbrough's Large Casino licence

The general principles, the application process and principles for selection for the large casino licence are detailed at Appendix F and Appendix G to the draft Policy. On 15 May 2008 the Categories of Casino Regulations 2008 and the Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008 were approved. This specified which Licensing Authorities could issue large and small casino licences. Middlesbrough Borough Council, having previously submitted a proposal to the Casino Advisory Panel for a regional or large casino licence, was approved as one of the authorities permitted to issue a large casino premises licence.

- 4.12 In developing a large casino for Middlesbrough there were expected significant benefits in relation to employment, local businesses, regeneration in terms of physical, strategic, community and non-gaming, and financial contributions. The approval process for a large casino is a two-stage process. On 4 April 2011, following a competition inviting applications for the large casino licence, Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Committee considered 2 applications for a provisional statement which were received as a result of the invitation. Both applications were approved at stage 1. One of these applications was subsequently withdrawn.
- 4.13 On 30 May 2012, Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Committee granted a provisional statement to Gurney Casinos LTD. A full casino licence is granted when the details of the development are finalised. In terms of benefits the applicant proposed that Gurney House would be developed into a casino and hotel complex. In the last 12 years there has been no movement to progress the provisional statement to a full licence. The provisional statement holders have stated that they still intend to do this, however they have not given any indication of the timescale. It is unlikely that the provisional statement can be progressed to a large casino licence as the proposed scheme is unable to be developed in line with the original plan submitted with the application.
- 4.14 On this basis, it is considered if the Council wish to do so, they can choose to launch a further competition for a large casino licence. There are currently no plans to do so however, should circumstances change in the future, the Council currently retains the ability to recommence the competition process.
- 4.15 **No Casino Resolution.**  
There is provision within the Act for Council to pass a No Casino Resolution which would prohibit issuing any new casino licences. The decision to pass such a resolution may only be taken by Council. When deciding to pass a resolution the authority can consider any principle or matter, not just the licensing objectives. If such a resolution is passed, it must be published by the authority in its Statement of Gambling Policy. Any proposal for a No Casino Resolution must be consulted on.
- 4.16 A No Casino Resolution does not apply to any existing casino licences issued under the Gaming Act 1968. In Middlesbrough, there is one licence issued under the Gaming Act 1968 legislation which applies to a premises at 20-22 Newport Road.
- 4.17 A No Casino Resolution also does not apply to any casino premises licence or Provisional Statement issued under Gambling Act 2005 before a resolution is passed. However, in relation to Middlesbrough and as stated above in paragraph 4.13, it is unlikely that the Provisional Statement issued for the large casino licence is able to be developed.
- 4.18 Under the previous administration the Government produced a White Paper setting how they wanted gambling regulation to change. They considered reallocation of small and large casino licences where they had not been developed. Since the new government has been in place we have not received any further information on their intention to reallocate licences.

#### **4.19 The Changes to the Statement of Gambling Policy.**

The draft amended Policy prepared for consultation was based on the previous 2019-2022 policy. There were only minor amendments proposed in the draft Policy:

- Updated statistics from the Gambling Commissions Gambling Participation Survey 2023 and the proposed change to the Large Casino: Principles for Selection and Application Process.
- Changes to Appendix F in relation to the preferred location for the large casino, should the Council choose to launch a large casino competition in the future. The previous Principles referred to the town centre in general terms as the preferred location and the revised wording identifies the development as a leisure hub being Captain Cook's Square or near to or adjacent to that area is likely to bring the greatest benefit to the town. If there any changes to the preferred location the Director of Regeneration and Culture, in consultation with the Head of Public Protection (or any successor role) has the authority to identify any preferred location which is considered to bring the greatest benefit.

#### **Consultation**

4.20 Following an eight-week period of consultation from 11 August until 6 October 2025, one response was received from the Middlesbrough Council's Public Health South Tees which makes references to matters concerned with gambling related harms and the Council's public health principles in relation to gambling. Details of this submission and the council's responses are shown in Appendix 1.

4.21 In consideration of the above response to the consultation certain amendments have been made to the Statement of Gambling Policy.

#### **5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate**

5.1 Gambling premises are located across the whole area of the town and a briefing on the draft policy was held for all ward members on 2 July 2025 .

#### **6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended**

6.1 The Act requires Licensing Authorities to review and publish their Statement of Gambling Policy every 3 years. It is a legal requirement to have a Statement of Gambling Policy in place and whilst the authority has not had a policy since Jan 2022 no legal difficulties have arisen.

#### **7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

7.1 The impact of this decision is to ensure that Middlesbrough Council is compliant with the statutory requirement to have a Statement of Gambling Policy in place and to be able to consider the option of developing a large casino in the future.

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	<p>There are no financial implications in relation to this report. The annual fee levels paid by licensed gambling premises are set by the Secretary of State to provide for full cost recovery of all licensing functions including the preparation and publication of the Statement of Gambling Policy.</p> <p>There are no procurement implications.</p>
Legal	<p>The Gambling Act 2005, section 349 requires the Council to have a statement of principles that it proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Act which is required to be published. This is known as the Statement of Gambling Policy. That Policy is required to be reviewed at least every three years and the Council must consult the Police, and persons representing the interests of those carrying on gambling businesses and those likely to be affected by gambling activities in Middlesbrough. The decision to approve the Policy is a Council decision and cannot be further delegated under the Act.</p> <p>The Council is under a legal duty to formally approve the adoption of its Statement of Gambling Policy. The policy is required to be reviewed every 3 years. A decision by full Council to approve a new policy will remedy the current position of being without a policy.</p>
Risk	<p>Whilst there is currently no Statement of Gambling Policy in place the legislation provides a robust framework for the administration of the Gambling Act 2005 and decisions can and have still been made. In determining applications the Licensing Authority should consider the legislation contained in the Gambling Act 2005, Statutory Guidance and Codes of Practice issued by The Gambling Commission whether applications are reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and in accordance with the Policy (which is not currently in place).</p> <p>The Statement of Gambling Policy forms part of the Council's policy framework.</p> <p>The Statement of Gambling Policy is a requirement of the Gambling Act 2005 to support the Council in assessing applications and other processes under this legislation.</p>
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	<p>Protected groups will not be adversely affected by the decision. An initial Impact Assessment has been carried out and no negative or adverse impacts have been identified.</p>
Reducing Poverty	<p>The Statement of Gambling Policy sets out how applicants can support the following objectives:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;</li> <li>• Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and</li> <li>• Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</li> </ul>
Climate Change / Environmental	There are no climate change or environmental issues in relation to this report.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	One of the objectives of the set out in the Gambling Act relates to “Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.” This objective underpins the Statement of Gambling Policy and those premises which are licensed under the Act
Data Protection	This proposed decision does not involve the collation and use of personal data.

### Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Publication of final Statement of Gambling Policy.	Judith Hedgley	Within one month of approval by Full Council.

### Appendices

1	Table of responses to consultation on Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2026-2029.
2	Final Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2026-29.
3	

### Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

**Contact:** Judith Hedgley/Tim Hodgkinson  
**Email:** [Judith.Hedgley@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:Judith.Hedgley@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

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## Gambling Statement of Principles Consultation Responses October 2025

No.	Consultee/ Respondent	Response/Comments	Officer response
1.	Head of Health Inclusion, Public Health South Tees	<p><b>Recommended Language Changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please can the phrase 'problem gambling' be change to 'gambling harms'</li> <li>- You can find guidance on these language choice recommendations in the language guide linked here: <a href="#">Words can hurt – Language guide for gambling harms   North East</a></li> <li>- This will help to remove stigmatising language</li> </ul> <p><b>Definition of gambling harm:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please can this be added to the glossary section</li> <li>- Gambling harms: The negative impacts from gambling on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, community and society.</li> </ul> <p><b>Please can estimated levels of harm be included:</b> 'In the North East, in 2023, it was estimated that 4.9% of the population (aged 16+) are at-risk gamblers, where they experience some level of negative consequences due to gambling. This is the highest regional estimated prevalence of at-risk gambling in England (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023). In Middlesbrough it is estimated that 5,958 people aged 16+ are experiencing gambling harms (negative consequences due to gambling) (based on figures from the Office for National Statistics from July 2024).'</p> <p><b>Please can the scope of harms be included:</b> Gambling can be highly addictive, and many may suffer extreme ill health as a result. Gambling harms are any negative consequence or side effect experienced as a result of gambling. Gambling harms are not only felt by the person who gambles but also affected others. There is a vast scope of harms that come from gambling.</p> <p>Gambling harms can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial challenges: Many people experiencing gambling related harms are also from backgrounds of socioeconomic disadvantage (Rintoul, et al., 2013). Debts and financial hardship can be experienced by gamblers and affected others. These harms can often be severe and impact the children of gamblers (Darbyshire, et al., 2001).</li> </ul>	<p>Recommended language changes accepted. Final draft policy amended accordingly.</p> <p>The definition of gambling harm has now been included in the glossary section.</p> <p>This information relating to the estimated levels of harm has been included in the Final draft policy.</p> <p>This information relating to the scope of harms has been included in the Final draft policy.</p>

## Gambling Statement of Principles Consultation Responses October 2025

- Relationship harms: Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) have also been identified as a harmful impact of gambling (Roberts, et al., 2016). Studies have found an increased risk of intimate partner violence among people experiencing gambling addiction (Dowling, et al., 2016). Studies have reported that adult gamblers can neglect their duties to their children such as failing to provide food or collect them from school (Public Health England, 2021).
- Crime: Gambling at harmful levels has been linked to fraud, theft, embezzlement, domestic abuse, blackmail, and harassment (Dougherty, et al., 2021). These crimes can happen when people try to raise funds to support a gambling habit (Arthur, et al., 2014).
- Criminal Justice System: There is a relationship between gambling harms and people within the criminal justice system. Research indicates that 5.4% of male and 3% of female prisoners believe that their current sentence was linked to gambling (May-Chahal, et al., 2015).
- Suicide: There is an established link between gambling addiction and suicide attempts and ideation, represented in the national suicide prevention strategy 2023-2028. Studies of young people show people (aged 16 – 24) who have experienced gambling addiction found men were 9 times and women 5 times more likely to attempt suicide than those who have not experienced any problems with their gambling (Wardle & McManus, 2021).
- Depression: In England, it is estimated that there are 69,099 people with depression associated with moderate-risk and harmful gambling (Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, 2023).
- Employment: Gambling is associated with higher risk of future unemployment in the UK (Muggleton, et al., 2021). There is an estimated 22,932 unemployment benefit claims associated with gambling related harms (Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, 2023).
- Education: Absenteeism can also impact the children of gamblers whose school attendance and therefore educational attainment can suffer as a consequence of being in a home environment impacted by gambling harms. This then links to under-performance at places of education or employment which can be a consequence of gambling harms (Shaw, et al., 2007).

**Please can PH principles be included:**



## Gambling Statement of Principles Consultation Responses October 2025

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 117</p>		<p>Middlesbrough Council recognises that gambling-related harms are a public health issue, not solely a matter of regulation or crime, affecting individuals, families, and the wider community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This Statement of Principles adopts a public health approach with emphasis on prevention, early intervention and reducing inequalities. This aims to ensure that licensing decisions contribute to the health, wellbeing and social resilience of our residents.</li> <li>- The Council will work in partnership with Public Health South Tees, health and the voluntary/community sector to monitor and mitigate gambling harms.</li> <li>- In areas identified as high deprivation or with higher vulnerability, the Council may require additional or enhanced harm-prevention measures, over and above baseline licensing requirements.</li> <li>- Operators must include in their local risk assessments how they will avoid exacerbating inequalities, especially in wards with high deprivation.</li> <li>- Required measures may include (but are not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Licensed operators will be expected to contribute to local public health efforts to raise awareness of gambling harms, including partnering in local campaigns, supporting education/prevention initiatives, and contributing data for local monitoring where possible.</li> <li>o There is an expectation that operators support with independent research and impact assessments regarding applications for new premises;</li> <li>o Staff training around identifying and supporting customers showing signs of gambling harm, particularly in vulnerable populations;</li> <li>o Mandatory display of public health / safer gambling messages in premises, along with signposting to local support (e.g. GamCare, local mental health services);</li> <li>o Use of self-exclusion mechanisms which are robust and easy to access, with active monitoring of usage and follow-up;</li> <li>o Marketing, promotions, and advertising should avoid targeting or disproportionately reaching vulnerable persons, including children, people experiencing unemployment or poverty, and those in recovery from addiction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- This policy aligns with Middlesbrough's Council Plan 2024-2027 priority of "A Healthy Place" and the Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030, which aims to</li> </ul>	<p>This information regarding the Public Health principles has been included to the Final draft policy.</p>
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## Gambling Statement of Principles Consultation Responses October 2025

		reduce health inequalities, support people to live healthier, longer lives and provide early intervention services.	
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## Appendix 2



# Statement of Principles in relation to the Gambling Act 2005 2026-2029

Middlesbrough Council Tel: 01642 728010  
e-mail: [licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk)  
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## Part A

### **Introduction**

1. Middlesbrough sits in the heart of the Tees Valley conurbation with an economy which is largely service based. The town is the main urban centre within the Tees Valley city-region and has a culturally diverse population with the highest concentration of ethnic minorities in the North East. The Council area has a population of approximately 139000 making it the second biggest borough in the Tees Valley in this regard. In terms of area however it is the smallest at approximately 21 square miles. A map is provided as Appendix A.
2. Across the Borough there is a unique social and economic mix, with areas of acute disadvantage situated alongside areas of affluence. Using Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019, Middlesbrough still remains the local authority with the largest proportions of highly deprived neighbourhoods in England (49%)
3. Middlesbrough is the most ethnically diverse local authority area in the Tees Valley and second in the North East behind Newcastle with a British Minority Ethnic population of 11.7% identified at Census 2011.
  - 88.18% of Middlesbrough's resident population were classed as White (with various sub-groups).
  - 7.78% were classed as Asian/Asian British (with sub-groups)
  - 1.71% of the population were identified as Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups (with sub-groups).
  - 1.25% of the population were identified as Black/Africa/Caribbean/Black British.
  - 1.08% of the population were identified as Other Ethnic Group.
4. By virtue of section 2(1)a of the Gambling Act 2005 Middlesbrough Council is a Licensing Authority. The Licensing Authority's Statement of Principles for premises licensed for gambling sets out the issues which the licensing authority will take into consideration when determining Premises Licences for establishments in the borough. In exercising functions under the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act"), the Licensing Authority will have regard to the licensing objectives in section 1 of the Act. These are:
  - Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
  - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
  - Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or

exploited by gambling.

5. The Licensing Authority is aware that, having regard to Section 153 of the Act in making decisions about premises licences and temporary use notices, it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
- in accordance with the Licensing Authority's statement of licensing policy

6. **Gambling Participation Surveys 2023 Findings**

The Gambling Commissions research found that overall, gambling participation has increased with 44% of people having participated in at least one form of gambling in the past four weeks in 2023 (42 in 2021).

Research in November 2023 showed that –

- Overall participation in any gambling activity (in the last 4 weeks) was 48 percent.
- Over one fifth of respondents (21 percent) only took part in lottery draws (either National Lottery or other charity lottery draws) in the last 4 weeks. If you exclude those respondents who have only taken part in lottery draws, gambling participation was 27 percent.
- Overall gambling participation is highest for males aged 45 to 54 years old, however, removing lottery only draw players, shifts the age profile downwards, resulting in males aged 18 to 44 having the highest gambling participation rates.
- The online gambling participation rate (in the last four weeks) was 38 percent and falls to 16 percent when lottery draw only players are removed. This highlights the large proportion of online gamblers that only gamble on lottery draws.
- The in-person gambling participation rate (in the last four weeks) was 29 percent. Excluding lottery draw only players, the participation rate was 18 percent.
- The most popular gambling activities (in the last 4 weeks) were lotteries including the National Lottery draws (31 percent) and other

charity lottery draws (16 percent). Following lotteries, the next 3 most popular activities were scratch cards (13 percent), betting (10 percent) and instant wins (7 percent).

- The most popular reasons given as to why respondents gambled was for the fun and/or enjoyment factor or for monetary reasons.

## **Gambling Harms Estimates**

In the North East, in 2023, it was estimated that 4.9% of the population (aged 16+) are at-risk gamblers, where they experience some level of negative consequences due to gambling. This is the highest regional estimated prevalence of at-risk gambling in England (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, 2023). In Middlesbrough it is estimated that 5,958 people aged 16+ are experiencing gambling harms (negative consequences due to gambling) (based on figures from the Office for National Statistics from July 2024).

## **Scope of Gambling Harms**

Gambling can be highly addictive, and many may suffer extreme ill health as a result. Gambling harms are any negative consequence or side effect experienced as a result of gambling. Gambling harms are not only felt by the person who gambles but also affected others. There is a vast scope of harms that come from gambling.

Gambling harms can include:

- Financial challenges: Many people experiencing gambling related harms are also from backgrounds of socioeconomic disadvantage (Rintoul, et al., 2013). Debts and financial hardship can be experienced by gamblers and affected others. These harms can often be severe and impact the children of gamblers (Darbyshire, et al., 2001).
- Relationship harms: Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) have also been identified as a harmful impact of gambling (Roberts, et al., 2016). Studies have found an increased risk of intimate partner violence among people experiencing gambling addiction (Dowling, et al., 2016). Studies have reported that adult gamblers can neglect their duties to their children such as failing to provide food or collect them from school (Public Health England, 2021).
- Crime: Gambling at harmful levels has been linked to fraud, theft, embezzlement, domestic abuse, blackmail, and harassment (Dougherty, et al., 2021). These crimes can happen when people try to raise funds to support a gambling habit (Arthur, et al., 2014).
- Criminal Justice System: There is a relationship between gambling harms and people within the criminal justice system. Research indicates that 5.4% of

male and 3% of female prisoners believe that their current sentence was linked to gambling (May-Chahal, et al., 2015).

- Suicide: There is an established link between gambling addiction and suicide attempts and ideation, represented in the national suicide prevention strategy 2023-2028. Studies of young people show people (aged 16 – 24) who have experienced gambling addiction found men were 9 times and women 5 times more likely to attempt suicide than those who have not experienced any problems with their gambling (Wardle & McManus, 2021).
- Depression: In England, it is estimated that there are 69,099 people with depression associated with moderate-risk and harmful gambling (Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, 2023).
- Employment: Gambling is associated with higher risk of future unemployment in the UK (Muggleton, et al., 2021). There is an estimated 22,932 unemployment benefit claims associated with gambling related harms (Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, 2023).
- Education: Absenteeism can also impact the children of gamblers whose school attendance and therefore educational attainment can suffer as a consequence of being in a home environment impacted by gambling harms. This then links to under-performance at places of education or employment which can be a consequence of gambling harms (Shaw, et al., 2007).

7. The statement of principles is to enable a good understanding of all the harms and benefits of gambling to society. The legislative framework for gambling provides for it as a legitimate leisure activity that many people enjoy. It generates income, employment and tax revenue for the local economy.

8. However, gambling also generates significant harms such as working days lost through disordered gambling and the cost of treatment for ill-health caused by stress related to gambling debt. There are also less easily measured significant impacts such as the negative effects of some gambling on family relationships, and the psychological and social development of children.

## **9. Public Health Principles**

- Middlesbrough Council recognises that gambling-related harms are a public health issue, not solely a matter of regulation or crime, affecting individuals, families, and the wider community.
- This Statement of Principles adopts a public health approach with emphasis on prevention, early intervention and reducing inequalities. This aims to ensure that licensing decisions contribute to the health, wellbeing and social resilience of our residents.
- The Council will work in partnership with Public Health South Tees, health and the voluntary/community sector to monitor and mitigate gambling harms.
- In areas identified as high deprivation or with higher vulnerability, the Council may require additional or enhanced harm-prevention measures, over and above baseline licensing requirements.



- Operators must include in their local risk assessments how they will avoid exacerbating inequalities, especially in wards with high deprivation.
  - Required measures may include (but are not limited to):
    - o Licensed operators will be expected to contribute to local public health efforts to raise awareness of gambling harms, including partnering in local campaigns, supporting education/prevention initiatives, and contributing data for local monitoring where possible.
    - o There is an expectation that operators support independent research and impact assessments regarding premises licences;
    - o Staff training around identifying and supporting customers showing signs of gambling harm, particularly in vulnerable populations;
    - o Mandatory display of public health / safer gambling messages in premises, along with signposting to local support (e.g. GamCare, local mental health services);
    - o Use of self-exclusion mechanisms which are robust and easy to access, with active monitoring of usage and follow-up;
    - o Marketing, promotions, and advertising should avoid targeting or disproportionately reaching vulnerable persons, including children, people experiencing unemployment or poverty, and those in recovery from addiction.
  - This policy aligns with Middlesbrough's Council Plan 2024-2027 priority of "A Healthy Place" and the Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030, which aims to reduce health inequalities, support people to live healthier, longer lives and provide early intervention services.
10. The statement of principles is underpinned by a profile of Middlesbrough to ensure an awareness of local risks and to facilitate constructive engagement with licensees and a coordinated response to local risks. The profile will help to inform specific risks that operators will need to address in their risk assessment.

### **Functions.**

11. The Licensing Authority's main functions under the Act are:
- a. To be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place.
  - b. To issue Provisional Statements
  - c. To regulate Members' Clubs wishing to undertake certain gaming activities by issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
  - d. To issue Club Machine Permits to Commercial Clubs
  - e. To grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres

- f. To receive notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) of the use of two or fewer gaming machines
  - g. To grant Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where more than two machines are required
  - h. To register Small Society Lotteries below prescribed thresholds
  - i. To issue Prize Gaming Permits
  - j. To receive and endorse Temporary Use Notices
  - k. To receive Occasional Use Notices
  - l. To provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding licences issued
  - m. To maintain a register of the Permits and Licences that are issued under these functions.
12. It should be noted that local licensing authorities will not be involved in licensing remote gambling. This function falls to the Gambling Commission under its responsibility for operating licences.
13. The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a “Statement of Licensing Policy” which sets out the policies that the Licensing Authority will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions on applications made under the Act. This statement will be reviewed as necessary and republished at least every three years. Any amended parts must be consulted upon.
14. This Statement of Licensing Policy has been prepared having regard to the provisions of the Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission and to the responses from a formal consultation exercise. All references to the Gambling Commission Guidance in this document refer to the latest edition of the Guidance, published in April 2021 (updated in July 2025).
15. The Gambling Act requires that the following parties are consulted by licensing authorities on their licensing policy statement or any subsequent revision:
- a. The Chief Officer of Police;
  - b. One or more persons who appear to the Licensing Authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the Licensing Authority’s area;
  - c. One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority’s functions under the Gambling Act 2005.
16. Middlesbrough Council consulted widely upon this revised statement before publishing. Consultation took place between 11 August and 6 October 2025.

A list of those persons consulted is provided in Appendix B. Due consideration has been given to all responses in the production of this Policy.

17. This policy is effective from xxxx 2026 and will be reviewed as necessary, and at least every three years from the date of adoption.
18. The policy was approved at a meeting of the Council on xxxxxx and, as required by the Act, was subsequently published and advertised for a period in excess of four weeks prior to its implementation.
19. This Policy has been prepared with the view that no statement will override the right of any person to make a licence application under the Act and will not undermine the right of any person to make representations on an application or to seek a review of that licence.
20. The Licensing Authority when considering applications will not take into account whether or not there is an unfulfilled demand for gambling facilities within the borough of Middlesbrough. Every application for a premises licence to the Licensing Authority will be considered on its merits and will be treated fairly and objectively in accordance with the three licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority will consult with responsible authorities on all applications.
21. Should you have any comments regarding this policy statement, please send them via e-mail or letter to the following contact:

Tim Hodgkinson  
Public Protection Manager  
Public Protection Service  
Fountain Court, 119 Grange Road  
Middlesbrough, TS1 2DT  
E-mail: [Licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

22. The Glossary in Appendix C at the back of this Policy sets out definitions appropriate to the Gambling Act 2005

### **Declaration**

23. In producing the final statement, the Licensing Authority declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the statement.

### **Responsible Authorities**

24. The Applicant will be required to notify all Responsible Authorities of their applications and these bodies will be entitled to make representations to the Licensing Authority in relation to applications for, and in relation to premises licences.
25. The contact details of all Responsible Authorities under the Gambling Act 2005 are shown in Appendix D. They are also available via the Council's web-site at [www.middlesbrough.gov.uk](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk) or by contacting the Licensing Team via telephone on 01642 728011 or via e-mail at [licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk).

### **Body representing Children from Harm**

26. The Licensing Authority has designated in writing the body it considers competent to advise the Licensing Authority on the protection of children from harm. This relevant contact is:

Risk and Resilience Manager (and any successor role)  
Childrens Services,  
Middlesbrough Council, Fountain Court, 119 Grange Road  
Middlesbrough, TS1 2DT

27. The reasons the Licensing Authority has chosen the above as a responsible authority competent to advise it on the protection of children from harm are:
- a. That this body is answerable to democratically elected persons and is not answerable to a particular vested interest group
  - b. That this body is responsible for the area covered by the Licensing Authority and this Policy
  - c. That this body is experienced in dealing with the protection of children.

### **Interested parties**

28. Interested parties can make representations about licence applications, or apply for a review of an existing licence. These parties are defined in the Gambling Act 2005 as follows:

“... a person is an interested party in relation to an application for or in respect of a premises licence if, in the opinion of the Licensing Authority which issues the licence or to which the applications is made, the person

- a) lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the gambling activities,
- b) has business interests that might be affected by the gambling activities, or
- c) represents persons who satisfy paragraph (a) or (b)”

For the purposes of the casino application process, all applicants for a casino licence are treated as interested parties.

29. The Licensing Authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to determine whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:

- a. Each case will be decided upon its merits. This authority will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making. It will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities at Part 8.

30. Interested parties can be people who are democratically elected such as Councillors and MPs. Parish or community councils likely to be affected will also be considered to be interested parties. The Licensing Authority also accepts that people or bodies such as MPs, Councillors, trade unions, trade associations and residents and tenants associations may represent interested parties. Other than these however, this Licensing Authority will generally require written evidence that a person/body (e.g. an advocate / relative) 'represents' someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the gambling activities and/or has business interests that might be affected by the gambling activities. A letter from one of these persons, requesting the representation is sufficient.

31. If individuals wish to approach Councillors to represent their views, care should be taken that the Councillors are not part of the Licensing Committee dealing with the licence application. If there are any doubts, then please contact the Licensing Team.

### **Exchange of Information**

32. Licensing Authorities are required to include in their statements the principles to be applied by the Authority in exercising the functions under sections 29 and 30 of the Act with respect to the exchange of information between it and the Gambling Commission, and the functions under section 350 of the Act with the respect to the exchange of information between it and the other persons listed in Schedule 6 to the Act.

33. The principle that this Licensing Authority applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information which includes the provision that the Data Protection Act 1998 will not be contravened. The Licensing Authority will also have regard to any

Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to local authorities on this matter when it is published, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Gambling Act 2005.

## **Enforcement**

34. Licensing Authorities are required by regulation under the Gambling Act 2005 to state the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under Part 15 of the Act with respect to the inspection of premises; and the powers under section 346 of the Act to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the offences specified.
35. This Authority will be guided by the Regulator's Code and the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities. As a result we will endeavor to be:
- Proportionate – we will only intervene when necessary, remedies will be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised
  - Accountable – our decisions will be justifiable, and be subject to public scrutiny.
  - Consistent – rules and standards will be joined up and implemented fairly.
  - Transparent and Open – licence conditions will be kept simple and user friendly.
  - Targeted – our regulation will be focused on the problem, and minimise side effects.
36. In line with the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities this Licensing Authority will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible.
37. This Licensing Authority has, as recommended by the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, adopted a risk-based approach to inspection and enforcement of the gambling permissions that it issues. This approach is based around the risk towards the licensing objectives, relevant codes of practice, guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and the principles included in this document.
38. The main enforcement and compliance role for this Licensing Authority in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 will be to ensure compliance with the premises licences and other permissions, which it authorizes. The Gambling Commission is the enforcement body for operating and personal licences. Concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines will not be dealt with by the Licensing Authority but will be notified to the Gambling Commission.

39. This Licensing Authority will also keep itself informed of developments regarding the work of the Better Regulation Executive in its consideration of the regulatory functions of local authorities.
40. Bearing in mind the principle of transparency, this Licensing Authority's enforcement policy will be available upon request to the Licensing Service. Our risk methodology will also be available upon request.

### **Fees**

41. Fees will be set in accordance with the Gambling Commission's Guidance and will be limited to cost recovery. Fees for permits and other services will be as set by the Secretary of State.
42. Information regarding the fees to be charged, including the level of fees, for applications for premises licences and other permissions under the Act will be made available to the public via the Council's website or in writing upon request.

### **Licensing Committee**

43. Appendix E shows the summary of Licensing Authority delegations permitted under the Gambling Act, except for those functions in relation to the large casino. Such decisions may be delegated in accordance with section 154 of the Gambling Act, 2005.
44. In Middlesbrough the Licensing Committee can consist of up to 14 Members. Licensing Sub-Committees consisting of 3 Committee Members will hear any relevant representations from applicants, responsible authorities and interested parties. Any of these individuals or groups may specifically request a representative to make representations on their behalf. This could be a legal representative, a friend, an MP or a Ward Councillor. However, the Licensing Committee will determine whether it or its Sub-Committees will hear such relevant representations in relation to an application for a Large Casino Premise Licence.
45. The Licensing Committee and Sub Committees will not place themselves in situations where their honesty or integrity may be questioned, they will make decisions on merit and will reach their own conclusions on the issues laid before them. They will then act in accordance with those conclusions taking into account, as necessary and proper, the views of others.

46. The decision determined by the Licensing Committee or its Sub-Committee will be accompanied with clear, cogent reasons for that decision within the time limits required by legislation, having had due regard to the Human Rights Act 1998 and all other legislative requirements. The decision and reasons will be submitted to all parties concerned within the time limits required.

## **Reviews**

47. Prior to an application for a review by the Licensing Authority, every effort will be made to work with the operator to achieve compliance and resolve any issues at the premises. A formal Review would not normally be undertaken without this process of ensuring compliance by the operator.
48. A premises licence may be reviewed by the Licensing Authority itself following an application or on its own volition. Requests for a review can also be made by interested parties or responsible authorities, however, it is for the Licensing Authority to decide whether or not the review is to be carried out. This will be on the basis of whether the request for the review is relevant to the matters listed below. It will also consider whether the request is frivolous, vexatious, will certainly not cause the Authority to alter/revoke/suspend the licence or whether it is substantially the same as previous requests for review.
49. The conduct of the review will be:
  - a. In accordance with any relevant Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission
  - b. In accordance with any relevant Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
  - c. Reasonably consistent with the Licensing Objectives, and
  - d. In accordance with the Licensing Policy statement except in relation to paragraph 43 below.
50. Where a premise licence has been granted by the Licensing Authority but an operator has not used the licence for a period of at least twelve months from the date of grant, the Licensing Authority may initiate a review of the premises licence and may take action on the ground that the licensee has not used the licence in accordance with Section 202(3) of the Act. However, each case will be considered on its own merits.
51. The Licensing Authority will endeavour to process review applications without delay.

## **Appeals**



52. An applicant may appeal a decision to reject an application, impose a condition or take action following a review of the Premises Licence. An interested party or responsible authority may appeal if an application is granted, or if they are aggrieved at the action taken, if any, following a review. This appeal must be lodged within a period of 21 days from the day on which the applicant was notified by the Licensing Authority of the decision and must be made to Teesside Magistrates' Court. When an appeal notice is sent by first class post it will be deemed to be served 2 working days after it is posted or 4 working days if it is sent by second- class post. Teesside Magistrates' Court will take into account the Licensing Authority's Licensing Policy, Gambling Commission's Guidance, any relevant Codes of Practice and licensing objectives.
53. The Licensing Authority will give clear and comprehensive reasons for any rejection of an application and in accordance with good practice will give reasons in relation to all decisions it reaches. These reasons will address the extent to which the decision has been made with regard to the Licensing Policy and the Gambling Commission's Guidance and the reasons will be submitted to all parties concerned within the time limits required.
54. Once an appeal decision has been made the Licensing Authority will implement this without delay unless ordered by the Court to suspend such action or if an application is made to the High Court in relation to a point of law.

### **Complaints**

55. All complaints in the first instance should be addressed to the:  
Public Protection Manager,  
Public Protection Service  
Fountain Court, 119 Grange Road  
Middlesbrough, TS1 2DT
56. The Licensing Authority will investigate all relevant complaints.

Complainants will initially be encouraged to raise the complaint directly with the permit/licence holder. The Licensing Authority will endeavour to seek a resolution through informal means. Complaints may be progressed further through the Council's formal Complaints and Appeals procedure.

## **PART B**

### **PREMISES LICENCES**

#### **General Principles**

57. Premises licences utilises the provision of gambling facilities on the following:
- a. Casino Premises
  - b. Bingo Premises
  - c. Betting Premises, including race tracks used by betting intermediaries
  - d. Adult Gaming Centres (for Category B3, B4, C and D machines)
  - e. Family Entertainment Centres (for Category C and D machines).

Except in the case of tracks (where the occupier may not be the person offering gambling), premises licences will only be issued to people with the relevant operating licences.

58. Other forms of authorisations are as follows:
- a. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres
  - b. Prize Gaming
  - c. Gaming machines on alcohol-licensed premises
  - d. Club Gaming
  - e. Club Gaming Machines
59. Premises licences will be subject to the requirement set out in the Gambling Act 2005 and regulations, as well as specific mandatory and default conditions, which will be detailed in regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Licensing authorities are able to exclude default conditions and also attach others, where it is believed to be appropriate.
60. This Licensing Authority is aware that in making decisions about premises licences it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it:
- a. in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
  - b. in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission ;
  - c. reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
  - d. in accordance with the Licensing Authority's Statement of Principles.

61. It is appreciated that as stated in the Gambling Commission's Guidance

for local authorities “moral or ethical objections to gambling are not a valid reason to reject applications for premises licences” and also that unmet demand is not a criterion for a Licensing Authority.

### **Definition of “premises”**

62. Premises is defined in the Act as “any place”. Different premises licences cannot apply in respect of single premises at different times. However, it is possible for a single building to be subject to more than one premises licence, provided they are for different parts of the building and the different parts of the building can be reasonably regarded as being different premises. Whether different parts of a building can properly be regarded as being separate premises will always be a question of fact in the circumstances. However, the Licensing Authority does not consider that areas of a building that are artificially or temporarily separate can be properly regarded as different premises. Each application for a premises licence will be considered on its own merits and the Licensing Authority recognises that different layouts may be appropriate under different circumstances. However, the crux of the matter is whether the proposed premises are genuinely separate premises that merit their licence, with the machines entitlement that that brings. They should not be artificially created from part of what is readily identifiable as a single premises.

63. The Licensing Authority takes particular note of the Gambling Commission’s Guidance for local authorities, which states that:

Licensing authorities should take particular care in considering applications for multiple premises licences for a building and those relating to a discrete part of a building used for other (non-gambling) purposes. In particular, they should be aware of the following:

- the third licensing objective seeks to protect children from being harmed or exploited by gambling. In practice this means not only preventing them from taking part in gambling, but also prevents them from being in close proximity to gambling. Therefore, premises should be configured so that children are not invited to participate in, have accidental access to or closely observe gambling where they are prohibited from participating.
- entrances to and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more premises licences should be separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised and people do not ‘drift’ into a gambling area. In this context it should normally be possible to access the premises without going through another licensed premises or premises with a permit
- customers should be able to participate in the activity named on the premises licence

In determining whether two or more proposed premises are truly separate, the licensing authority should consider factors which could assist them in making their decision, including:

- Is a separate registration for business rates in place for the premises?
- Is the premises' neighbouring premises owned by the same person or someone else?
- Can each of the premises be accessed from the street or a public passageway?
- Can the premises only be accessed from any other gambling premises?

Further guidance and factors to determine whether two or more premises are truly separate is available in the Gambling Commission Guidance to Local Authorities.

64. If an operator applies for a premises licence in respect of a premises which has still to be constructed or altered, the Licensing Authority will have regard to the Gambling Commission's Guidance when considering whether or not to issue a notice of grant or the premises licence, with or without conditions.

### **Location**

65. This Licensing Authority is aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives can. As advised in the Gambling Commission's Guidance for licensing authorities, this Licensing Authority will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as issues of crime and disorder.

### **Local Risk Assessments**

66. Operators are required to produce a Local Risk Assessment as part of their application for a premises licence in accordance with the Gambling Commission's Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP). This should reflect factors such as:-
- whether neighbouring facilities may present risks when located near gambling premises (e.g. schools, hospitals, community centres, homeless centres, addiction treatment and rehabilitation centres);
  - whether the premises is located in an area of deprivation;
  - whether the premises is located in an area which is subject to high levels of crime and/or disorder;

67. Operators should also include control measures to mitigate the risks that have been identified. Control measures could include;

- Staff training with regards to excessive gambling
- Updated policies and procedures
- The use of security personnel
- Age verification schemes
- Installation of CCTV
- Provision of signage relating to gambling care
- The layout of the premises to ensure staff have, where possible, unobstructed views of persons using the premises

Local Risk Assessments should give due consideration to the Local Area Profile and a copy of the risk assessment must be kept on the premises.

### **Local Area Profile**

68 Although not a statutory requirement, a Local Area Profile will increase awareness of any identified risks in order to inform operators in order to provide sufficient detail when completing their risk assessments. This will facilitate constructive engagement with operators and enable them to provide greater consideration and a more coordinated response to any identified local risks.

69. It is our view that the inclusion of a Local Area Profile within the Policy will bring the following benefits:

- enable us to better serve our local community, by better reflecting the community and the risks within it,
- enable us to make robust decisions, based on a clear, published set of factors and risks, which are therefore less susceptible to challenge and;
- encourage operators and applicants to take a proactive approach to risk that is likely to result in reduced compliance and enforcement action.

Information in relation to Middlesbrough's Local Area Profile can be found at Appendix H.

### **Duplication with other regulatory regimes**

70. The Licensing Authority will seek to avoid any duplication with other statutory / regulatory systems where possible, including planning. This authority will not consider whether a licence application is likely to be awarded planning permission or building regulations approval, in its consideration of it. It will however listen to, and consider carefully, any concerns about conditions which are not able to be met by licensees due to planning restrictions, should

such a situation arise.

### **Licensing objectives**

71. Premises licences granted must be reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives. With regard to these objectives, the Licensing Authority has considered the Gambling Commission's Guidance to local authorities and some comments are made below.

### **Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime**

72. The Licensing Authority is aware that the Gambling Commission will be taking a leading role in preventing gambling from being a source of crime. The Gambling Commission's Guidance does however envisage that licensing authorities should pay attention to the proposed location of gambling premises in terms of this licensing objective. This Licensing Authority will, when determining applications consider whether the grant of a premises licence will result in an increase in crime and disorder. Thus, where an area has known high levels of organised crime this authority will consider carefully whether gambling premises are suitable to be located there and whether conditions may be suitable such as the provision of door supervisors. This Licensing Authority is aware of the distinction between instances of disorder and nuisance and will consider factors such as whether police assistance was required and how threatening the behaviour was to those who could see it, so as to make that distinction. The Gambling Commission guidance states that Licensing Authorities should generally consider disorder as activity that is more serious and disruptive than mere nuisance. Issues of nuisance cannot be addressed via the Gambling Act provisions. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the crime prevention procedures in their premises with the Council and/or Middlesbrough Police before making a formal application.

### **Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way**

73. The Licensing Authority has noted that the Gambling Commission has stated that it would generally not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be addressed via operating and personal licences, both of which are the responsibility of the Gambling Commission.

### **Protecting Children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling**

74. The Licensing Authority has noted that the Gambling Commission's Guidance

for local authorities states that this objective means preventing children from taking part in gambling (as well as the restriction of advertising so that gambling products are not aimed at or are particularly attractive to children). The Licensing Authority will therefore consider, as suggested in the Gambling Commission's Guidance, whether specific measures are required at particular premises, with regard to this licensing objective. This may include such measures as:

- a. supervision of entrances
- b. segregation of gambling areas from areas frequented by children
- c. supervision of gaming machines in non-adult gambling specific premises.

There is however, more of a role with regard to tracks, which is explained in more detail in the 'tracks' section of the Gambling Commission's Guidance.

75. This Licensing Authority will also make itself aware of the codes of practice, which the Gambling Commission issues as regards this licensing objective, in relation to specific premises such as casinos.

### **Vulnerable Persons:**

76. The Licensing Authority will assume for regulatory purposes, that vulnerable persons include:

- a. people who gamble more than they want to;
- b. people who gamble beyond their means; and
- c. people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to, for example, mental health, a learning disability or substance misuse relating to alcohol or drugs.

77. The Licensing Authority will consider this licensing objective on a case by case basis. Should a practical definition prove possible in future then this policy statement will be updated with it, by way of a revision.
78. Middlesbrough Council is committed to working in partnership with GamCare and NECA (North East Council of Addiction) to ensure that local support services are available for the victims of gambling
79. Middlesbrough council is also aware of the Gambling Commission's National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms and will work with its partners to apply any advice from the Advisory Board For Safer Gambling

### **Conditions**

80. Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and will be:

- a. relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility;
- b. directly related to the premises and/or the type of licence applied for;
- c. fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises; and
- d. reasonable in all other respects.

81. Decisions upon individual conditions will be made on a case by case basis, although there will be a number of measures this Licensing Authority will consider utilising should there be a perceived need; such as the use of supervisors, appropriate signage for adult only areas etc. There are specific comments made in regard to this under some of the licence types below. This Licensing Authority will also expect the licence applicant to offer their own suggestions as to how the licensing objectives can be met effectively.

82. In pursuing the licensing objectives, the Licensing Authority will also consider specific measures, which may be required for buildings, which are subject to multiple premises licences. Such measures may include:

- a. the supervision of entrances;
- b. segregation of gambling from non-gambling areas frequented by children; and
- c. the supervision of gaming machines in non-adult gambling specific premises

These matters are in accordance with the Gambling Commission's Guidance.

83. This Licensing Authority will also ensure that where category C or above machines are on offer in premises to which children are admitted:

- a. all such machines are located in an area of the premises which is separated from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance;
- b. only adults are admitted to the area where these machines are located;
- c. access to the area where the machines are located is supervised;
- d. the area where these machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by the staff or the licence holder; and
- e. at the entrance to and inside any such areas, there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the area is prohibited to persons under 18.

These considerations will apply to premises including buildings where multiple premises licences are applicable.

84. The Licensing Authority is aware that tracks may be subject to one or more than one premises licence, provided each licence relates to a specified area



of the track. In line with the Gambling Commission's Guidance, this Licensing Authority will consider the impact upon the third licensing objective and the need to ensure that entrances to each type of premises are distinct and that children are excluded from gambling areas where they are not permitted to enter.

85. It is noted that there are conditions which the Licensing Authority cannot attach to premises licences which are:
- a. any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition;
  - b. conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation;
  - c. conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated); and
  - d. conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winning or prizes.

### **Door Supervisors**

86. The Gambling Commission advises in its Guidance for licensing authorities that licensing authorities may consider whether there is a need for door supervisors if it is concerned that the premises may attract disorder or be subject to attempts at unauthorized access by children and young persons. It is noted that in-house employees working as door supervisors at casinos or bingo premises are exempt from the requirement to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). However, where contract staff are employed as door supervisors in casino or bingo premises, such staff are required to be licensed by the SIA.

### **Adult Gaming Centres**

87. The Licensing Authority will have specific regard to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from harm or exploitation through gambling and will expect applicants to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to, for example, ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to these premises.
88. The Licensing Authority will expect applicants to offer their own measures to meet the licensing objectives however, appropriate measures /licence conditions may cover issues such as:
- a. Proof of age schemes
  - b. CCTV

- c. Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- d. Physical separation of areas
- e. Location of entry
- f. Notices/signage
- g. Specific opening hours
- h. Self- exclusion schemes
- i. Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

Where an operator of an existing AGC premises licence applies to vary the licence to acquire additional AGC premises licences (so that the area that was the subject of a single licence will become divided between a number of separate licensed premises), it is not permissible for all of the gaming machines to which each of the licences bring an entitlement to be grouped together in one of the licensed premises.

**(Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres (FEC):**

- 89. There are two classes of Family Entertainment Centres. Licensed FECs provide category C and D machines and require a premises licence. Unlicensed FECs provide Category D machines only and are regulated through FEC Gaming Machine Permits and these are dealt with on page 32.
- 90. Children and young persons may enter FECs but are not permitted to play Category C machines. The Licensing authority may consider measures to meet the licensing objectives such as:
  - a. CCTV
  - b. Supervision of entrances / machine areas
  - c. Physical separation of areas
  - d. Location of entry
  - e. Notices / signage
  - f. Specific opening hours
  - g. Self-exclusion schemes
  - h. Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.
  - i. Measures / training for staff on how to deal with suspected truant school children on the premises

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

- 91. The Licensing Authority will, as advised in the Gambling Commission's

guidance, refer to the Commission's website to see any conditions that apply to operating licences covering the way in which the area containing the category C machines should be delineated. This Licensing Authority will also make itself aware of the mandatory or default conditions on these premises licences.

## **Casinos**

92. On 15 May 2008 the Categories of Casino Regulations 2008 and the Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008 were approved. This specified which Licensing Authorities could issue Large and Small Casinos. Middlesbrough Borough Council, having previously submitted a proposal to the Casino Advisory Panel for a Regional or Large Casino Licence, was approved as one of the authorities permitted to issue a large Casino Premises Licence.
93. On 26 February 2008 the Secretary of State issued the Code of Practice on Determinations relating to large and small Casinos. The Licensing Authority is required to comply with this Code which sets out:
  - a) the procedure to be followed in making any determinations required under Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Schedule 9 to the Gambling Act 2005; and
  - b) matters to which the Licensing Authority should have regard in making those determinations.
94. Where there are a number of applications made by operators to operate the large Casino, legislation requires that the Licensing Authority will stage a 'competition' under Schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005 and will run such a competition in line with The Gambling (Inviting Competing Applications for Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Regulations 2008 and the DCMS Code of Practice issued by the Secretary of State.
95. Where the Licensing Authority receives a number of applications for a Casino Premises Licence, legislation requires the Licensing Authority to follow a two-stage application process in accordance with the DCMS Code of Practice issued by the Secretary of State.
96. On 27 October 2010, Middlesbrough Council published an invitation calling for applications for the large casino premises licence or provisional statement in accordance with the Gambling (Inviting Competing Applications for Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Regulations 2008.
97. On 4 April 2011, Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Committee considered 2

applications for a provisional statement which were received as a result of the invitation. Both applications were approved at stage 1.

98. On 30 May 2012, Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Committee granted a provisional statement to the successful applicant. However, the development of a large casino did not take place and there is no premises licence in place for a large casino in Middlesbrough.
99. There are currently no plans to issue further premises licences for a Large Casinos in Middlesbrough. However, should circumstances change in future the Licensing Authority may be required to recommence the application process. The general principles, the application process and principles for selection for the large casino licence are detailed at Appendix F and Appendix G. The Council has not passed a "no casino" resolution under Section 166 of the Act. However, it may choose to exercise this option should there be only one application for a large casino premises licence or provisional statement or where there is more than one application, those applications fail to meet the Council's aspirations for the benefit of Middlesbrough.
100. In addition to the provisional statement issued in respect of the large casino under the Gambling Act 2005 there is 1 other converted casino licence which was previously issued under the Gaming Act 1968.

### **Bingo Premises**

101. This Licensing Authority notes that the Gambling Commission's Guidance states:

It is important that if children are allowed to enter premises licensed for bingo that they do not participate in gambling, other than on category D machines. Where category C or above machines are available in premises to which children are admitted licensing authorities should ensure that these machines are separated from areas where children and people are allowed.

102. The Licensing Authority will need to be satisfied that bingo can be played in any bingo premises for which they issue a premises licence. This will be a relevant consideration where the operator of an existing bingo premises applies to vary their licence to exclude an area of the existing premises from its ambit and then applies for a new premises licence, or multiple licences, for excluded areas.

### **Betting premises**

103. The Licensing Authority is responsible for issuing and monitoring premises licences for all betting premises and children will not be permitted entry to a premise with a Betting Premises licence. They may however be permitted entry to tracks and special rules apply.

The Licensing authority may consider measures to meet the licensing objectives such as:

- a. Proof of age schemes
- b. CCTV
- c. Notices/signage
- d. Self-exclusion Schemes
- e. Provision of information/leaflets for organisations such as Gamcare.

The Licensing Authority will need to be satisfied that betting can be undertaken in any betting premises for which it issues a premises licence. The Licensing Authority will not look favourably upon an application where it is established that an applicant is seeking a betting premises licence with the sole intention of placing four Fixed Odds Betting Terminals in the premises, with no provision for betting facilities. The Licensing Authority does not consider this to be within the spirit of the Act.

### **Tracks**

104. This Licensing Authority is aware that tracks may be subject to more than one premises licence, provided each licence relates to a specified area of the track. With regard to the Gambling Commission's Guidance, the Licensing Authority will give particular consideration to the impact upon the third licensing objective (the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling) and the need to ensure entrances to each type of premises are distinct and that children are excluded from gambling areas where they are not permitted to enter.
105. This Licensing Authority will therefore expect the premises licence applicant to demonstrate suitable measures to ensure that children do not have access to adult only gaming facilities. It is noted that children and young persons will be permitted to enter track areas where facilities for betting are provided on days when dog-racing and/or horse racing takes place, but that they are still prevented from entering areas where gaming machines (other than category D machines) are provided.
106. The Licensing authority may consider measures to meet the licensing objectives such as:

- a. Proof of age schemes
- b. CCTV
- c. Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- d. Physical separation of areas
- e. Location of entry
- f. Notices / signage
- g. Specific opening hours
- h. Self-exclusion schemes
- i. Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

### **Gaming machines on tracks**

107. This Licensing Authority notes the Commission's Guidance that licensing authorities therefore need to consider the location of gaming machines at tracks, and applicants for track premises licences will need to demonstrate that, where the applicant holds a pool betting operating licence and utilises the entitlement to provide four gaming machines (of categories B2 to D), these machines are located in areas from which children are excluded (other than category D machines which children and young persons are not prohibited from playing on a track).

### **Condition on rules being displayed**

108. The Licensing Authority notes the guidance relating to the mandatory condition requiring the display of rules at track betting premises and agrees that the rules should be prominently displayed on or near the betting areas and that other measures are taken to ensure that they are made available to the public, such as, printing them in the race card or programme. The requirement could also be met by making a copy of the rules available in a leaflet available from the main track office from where they could be issued to customers upon request. (in accordance with guidance and mandatory condition).

### **Applications and plans for Tracks.**

109. The Gambling Act (s151) requires applicants to submit plans of the premises with their application, in order to ensure that the licensing authority has the necessary information to make an informed judgement about whether the premises are fit for gambling. The plan will also be used for the licensing authority to plan future premises inspection activity.

Plans for tracks do not need to be in a particular scale but should be

drawn to scale and should be sufficiently detailed to include the information required by regulations.

110. Some tracks may be situated on agricultural land where the perimeter is not defined by virtue of an outer wall or fence, such as point-to-point racetracks. In such instances, where an entry fee is levied, track premises licence holders may erect temporary structures to restrict access to premises.
111. In the rare cases where the outer perimeter cannot be defined, it is likely that the track in question will not be specifically designed for the frequent holding of sporting events or races. In such cases betting facilities may be better provided through occasional use notices where the boundary premises do not need to be defined.
112. This authority appreciates that it is sometimes difficult to define the precise location of betting areas on tracks. The precise location of where betting facilities are provided is not required to be shown on track plans, both by virtue of the fact that betting is permitted anywhere on the premises and because of the difficulties associated with pinpointing exact locations for some types of track. Applicants should provide sufficient information that this authority can satisfy itself that the plan indicates the main areas where betting might take place. For racecourses in particular, any betting areas subject to the “five times rule” (commonly known as betting rings) must be indicated on the plan.

### **Travelling Fairs**

113. It will fall to this Licensing Authority to decide whether, where category D machines and / or equal chance prize gaming without a permit is to be made available for use at travelling fairs, the statutory requirement that the facilities for gambling amount to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair is met.

The Licensing Authority will also consider whether the applicant falls within the statutory definition of a travelling fair.

114. It has been noted that the 27-day statutory maximum for the land being used as a fair, is per calendar year, and that it applies to the piece of land on which the fairs are held, regardless of whether it is the same or different travelling fairs occupying the land. This Licensing Authority will work with its neighbouring authorities to ensure that land, which crosses our boundaries, is monitored so that the statutory limits are not exceeded.

## **Provisional Statements**

115. Developers may wish to apply to this authority for provisional statements before entering into a contract to buy or lease property or land to judge whether a development is worth taking forward in light of the need to obtain a premises licence. There is no need for the applicant to hold an operating licence in order to apply for a provisional statement.
116. s.204 of the Gambling Act provides for a person to make an application to the licensing authority for a provisional statement in respect of premises that he or she:
- a. expects to be constructed;
  - b. expects to be altered; or
  - c. expects to acquire a right to occupy.

The process for considering an application for a provisional statement is the same as that for a premises licence application. The applicant is obliged to give notice of the application in the same way as applying for a premises licence. Responsible authorities and interested parties may make representations and there are rights of appeal.

117. In contrast to the premises licence application, the applicant does not have to hold or have applied for an operating licence from the Gambling Commission (except in the case of a track) and they do not have to have a right to occupy the premises in respect of which their provisional application is made. The holder of a provisional statement may then apply for a premises licence once the premises are constructed, altered or acquired and they have obtained or applied for an operator licence. The licensing authority will be constrained in the matters it can consider when determining the premises licence application, and in terms of representations about premises licence applications that follow the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from relevant authorities or interested parties can be taken into account unless:
- a. they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage, or
  - b. they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances.
118. In addition, the authority may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different to those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:
- a. which could not have been raised by objectors at the provisional statement stage;
  - b. which in the authority's opinion reflect a change in the operator's circumstances; or



- c. where the premises have not been constructed in accordance with the plan submitted with the application.

## **PART C**

### **Permits / Temporary & Occasional Use Notices**

119. The Act introduces a range of permits for gambling. Permits are required when premises provide a gambling facility but either the stakes and prizes are very low or gambling is not the main function of the premises. The permits regulate gambling and the use of gaming machines in a specific premises.
120. The Licensing Authority may only grant or reject an application for a permit and cannot impose or attach any conditions. There are different considerations to be taken into account when considering the different types of permit applications.
121. Where a permit is granted, the Licensing Authority will issue the permit as soon, as is reasonably practicable.

### **Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits (Statement of Principles on Permits - Schedule 10 paragraph 7)**

122. Where a premise does not hold a premises licence but wishes to provide gaming machines, it may apply to the Licensing Authority for this permit.
123. The Licensing Authority must be satisfied that the premises will be used wholly or mainly as an unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre and the Chief Officer of Cleveland Police must be consulted on the application.
124. As unlicensed gaming centres are not subject to scrutiny by the Gambling Commission applicants are expected to demonstrate:
  - a. that they have a full understanding of maximum stakes and prizes that are permissible in unlicensed FECs;
  - b. their staff are trained to have a full understanding of these issues; and
  - c. that neither they nor their staff have any relevant convictions.
125. When determining a permit, the Licensing Authority will have regard to the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities and although not required to, will have regard to the three licensing objectives.
126. The Gambling Commission's Guidance for Licensing Authorities also states **that: licensing authorities may include a statement of principles in their licensing policy** that they propose to apply when exercising their functions in considering applications for permits. Licensing authorities will want to give weight to child protection issues.

**Statement of Principles for Unlicensed Family Entertainment Premises:**

127. The Licensing Authority will expect the applicant to show:

- a. that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations. The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits, however they may include appropriate measures / training for staff regarding suspected truant school children on the premises, measures/training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises or children causing perceived problems on and around the premises.
- b. a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is permissible in unlicensed FECs;
- c. that the applicant and staff have no relevant convictions (those that are set out in Schedule 7 of the Act)
- d. that staff are trained to have a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes.

**(Alcohol) Licensed premises gaming machine permits - (Schedule 13 paragraph 4(1))**

128. There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to automatically have 2 gaming machines, of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the Licensing Authority.

129. The Licensing Authority can remove the automatic authorisation in respect of any particular premises if:

- a. provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives;
- b. gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of section 282 of the Gambling Act (i.e. the gaming machines have been made available in such a way that does not comply with the requirements on the location and operation of gaming machines.
- c. the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
- d. an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises.

130. If a premises wishes to have more than 2 machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the Licensing Authority must consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling

Commission issued under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, and “*such matters as they think relevant.*” This Licensing Authority considers that “such matters” will be decided on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to:

- a. protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or being exploited by gambling, and
- b. that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machines.

Measures, which will satisfy the authority that there will be no access, may include:

- c. the adult machines being in sight of the bar, or in the sight of staff that will monitor that the machines are not being used by those under 18.
- d. Notices and signage may also be of help.

With regards to the protection of vulnerable persons, applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets /helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

131. It should be noted that the Licensing Authority can decide to grant the application with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied for. Conditions (other than these) cannot be attached.

132. It should also be noted that the holder of a permit must comply with any Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine.

#### **Permitted and Exempt Gaming in Clubs and Alcohol licensed premises.**

133. There are certain types of gaming permitted in these premises without the need for a permit, temporary use or occasional use notices. However, this exemption is subject to limits on stakes and prizes. Reference should be made to the Guidance, which provided detailed information on this matter

#### **Prize Gaming Permits - (Statement of Principles on Permits - Schedule 14 paragraph 8 (3))**

134. The Gambling Act 2005 states that a Licensing Authority may “prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Schedule” which “may, in particular, specify matters that the Licensing Authority propose to consider in determining the suitability of the applicant for a permit”.

The Licensing Authority has prepared a Statement of Principles which is that

the applicant should set out the types of gaming that he or she is intending to offer and that the applicant should be able to demonstrate:

- a. that they understand the limits to stakes and prizes that are set out in Regulations;
- b. that the gaming offered is within the law.

135. In making its decision on an application for this permit the Licensing Authority does not need to have regard to the licensing objectives but must have regard to any Gambling Commission Guidance.
136. It should be noted that there are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 by which the permit holder must comply, but that the Licensing Authority cannot attach conditions. The conditions in the Act are:
- a. the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with;
  - b. all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played;
  - c. the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize); and
  - d. participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

### **Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits**

137. Members Clubs and Miners' welfare institutes (but not Commercial Clubs) may apply for a Club Gaming Permit. The Club Gaming Permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B3A, B4, C or D, but only one B3A machine can be sited as part of this entitlement), equal chance gaming and games of chance as set-out in regulations.
138. Members Clubs and Miner's welfare institutes – and also Commercial Clubs – may apply for a Club Machine Permit. A Club Machine permit will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of categories B3A, B4, C and D). NB Commercial Clubs may not site category B3A gaming machines offering lottery games in their club.
139. Gambling Commission Guidance states: "Members clubs must have at least 25 members and be established and conducted "wholly or mainly" for purposes other than gaming, unless the gaming is restricted to bridge and whist. A members' club must be permanent in nature, but there is no requirement for a club to have an alcohol licence. (reflects amended guidance)

140. The Commission Guidance also notes that "licensing authorities may only refuse an application on the grounds that:

- a. the applicant does not fulfil the requirements for a members' or commercial club or miners' welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied;
- b. the applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons;
- c. an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities;
- d. a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years; or
- e. an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the police.

141. There is also a 'fast-track' procedure available under the Act for premises, which hold a Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003 (Schedule 12 paragraph 10). As the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities states: "Under the fast-track procedure there is no opportunity for objections to be made by the Commission or the police, and the grounds upon which an authority can refuse a permit are reduced." and "the grounds on which an application under the process may be refused are:

- a. that the club is established primarily for gaming, other than gaming prescribed under schedule 12;
- b. that in addition to the prescribed gaming, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming; or
- c. that a club gaming permit or club machine permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled."

142. The gambling provided under the authority of a club gaming permit must also meet the following conditions:

- a. in respect of gaming machines:
  - No child or young person may use a category B or C machine on the premises
  - That the holder must comply with any relevant provision of a code of practice about the location and operation of gaming machines.
- b. the public, children and young persons must be excluded from any area of the premises where the gaming is taking place.

The Licensing Authority notes the Gambling Commission's amended guidance in relation to factors to be considered when:-

- a. Granting a Club Gaming Permit
- b. Considering gaming under a Club Machine Permit
- c. Monitoring Club Machine Permits (to reflect amended guidance)

### **Temporary Use Notices (TUN's)**

143. A Temporary Use Notice may only be granted to a person or company holding a relevant operating licence and there are a number of statutory limits as regards TUNs. Section 218 of the Act refers to a 'set of premises' and provides that a set of premises is the subject of a temporary use notice if 'any part' of the premises is the subject of a notice. The reference to a 'set of premises' prevents one large premise from having a temporary use notice in effect for more than 21 days in a year by giving notification in relation to different parts of the premises and re-setting the clock. The Licensing Authority will decide what constitutes a 'set of premises' where Temporary Use Notices are received relating to the same building / site.
144. In considering whether a place falls within the definition of a 'set of premises' the Licensing Authority will look at the ownership/occupation and control of the premises and the Licensing Authority will consider whether different units are in fact different 'sets of premises'. An example would be a large exhibition centre with different exhibition halls. This would be considered properly as one premise and would not be granted a temporary use notice for each of its exhibition halls.
145. The Licensing Authority may object to a TUN where it appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises. The Licensing Authority and other bodies to which the notice is copied may give notice of objection but they must have regard to the licensing objectives and where there are such objections, they must give a notice of objection to the person who gave the TUN, such notice will be copied to the Licensing Authority.

### **Occasional Use Notices (OUN).**

146. An Occasional Use Notice may be used where there is betting on a track on 8 days or less in a calendar year. The OUN dispenses with the need for a Betting Premises Licence for a track and the Licensing Authority will maintain a register of all applications.
147. The Licensing Authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. This Licensing Authority will though consider the definition of a 'track' and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice.

### **Small Society Lottery Registration**

148. A lottery generally refers to schemes under which prizes are distributed by chance among entrants who have given some form of value for their chance to take part.

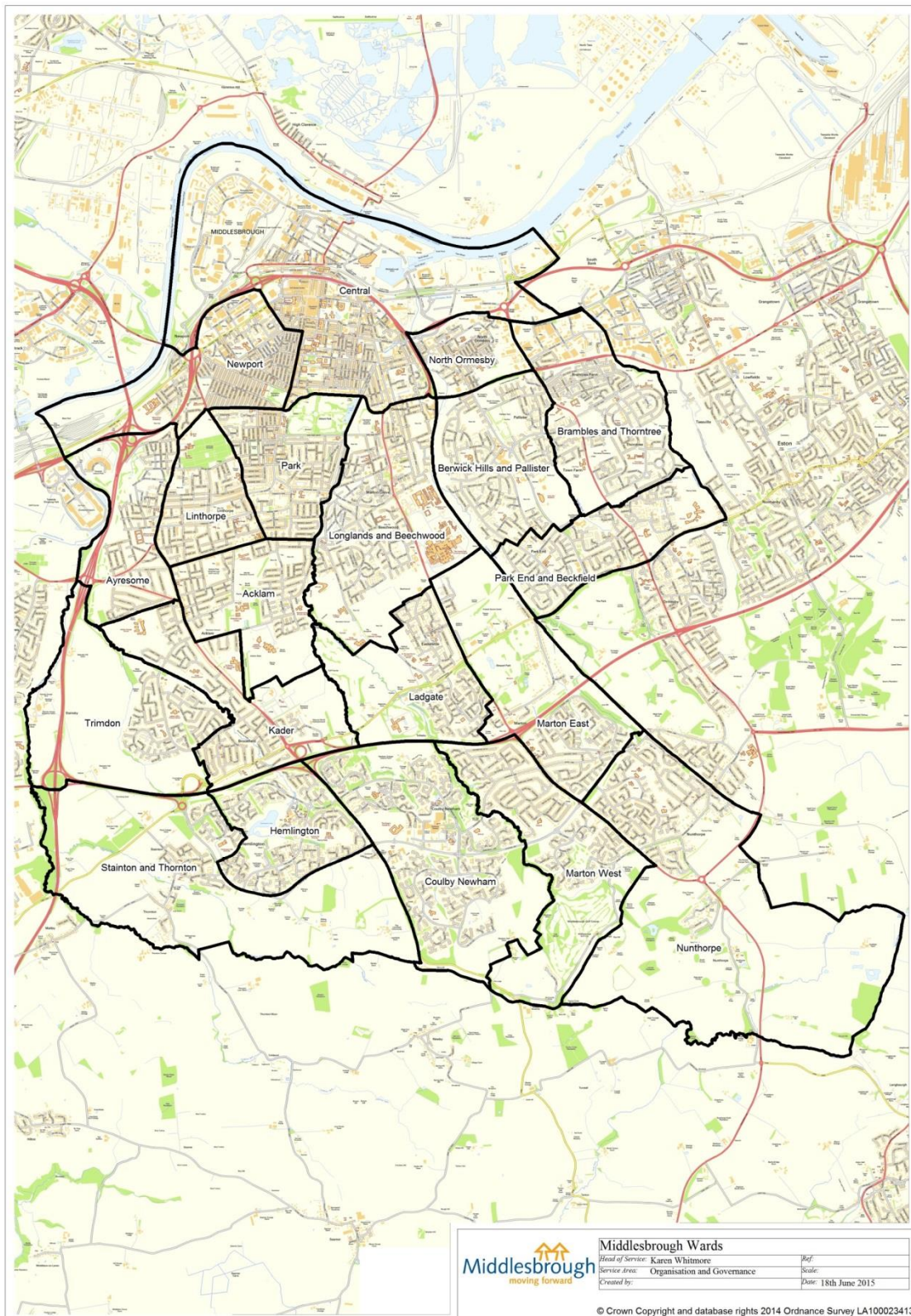
149. The Act creates two principal classes of lotteries: Licensed lotteries and exempt lotteries. Licensed lotteries are large society lotteries and lotteries run for the benefit of local authorities. These are regulated by the Gambling Commission.
150. Within the class of exempt lotteries there are four sub-classes, one of which are small society lotteries which require registration with the council.
151. A small society lottery is a lottery promoted on behalf of a non-commercial society as defined in the Act which also meets specific financial requirements set out in the Act. These will be administered by the council for small societies who have a principal office in Middlesbrough and want to run such a lottery.
152. To be 'non-commercial' a society must be established and conducted:
- For charitable purposes;
  - For the purpose of enabling participation in, or supporting sport, athletics or a cultural activity; or
  - For any other non-commercial purpose other than that of private gain.
153. A lottery is 'small' if the total value of the tickets put on sale in a single lottery is £20,000 or less and the aggregate value of the tickets put on sale in a calendar year is £250,000 or less.
154. The other types of exempt lotteries are 'incidental non-commercial lotteries', 'private lotteries' and 'customer lotteries'. This includes raffles held at non-commercial events such as school fetes. Guidance on the different categories can be obtained from the Licensing Department.
155. The National Lottery is not licensed by the Gambling Act 2005 and is authorised under separate National Lottery Acts which are administered by the Gambling Commission.



## APPENDICES

## **APPENDIX A**

### **MAP OF MIDDLESBROUGH**



## **APPENDIX B**

### **CONSULTEES TO GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY**

The Gambling Act requires that the following parties be consulted on the Licensing Policy:

- The Chief Officer of Police
- One or more persons who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses in the Authority's area
- One or more persons who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the Authority's functions under the Gambling Act 2005.

Middlesbrough Council has consulted the following bodies:

- Gambling Commission
- GamCare
- Local Government Association

The following Responsible Authorities

- *The Gambling Commission*  
*Victoria Square House*  
*Victoria Square*  
*Birmingham*  
*B2 4BP*
- The Chief Officer of Police in whose area the premises is partly or wholly situated:

Chief Constable  
Shared Service Centre  
Ash House  
III Acre  
Princeton Drive  
Thornaby  
Stockton on Tees  
TS17 6AJ

and

Cleveland Police  
Middlesbrough District Licensing Unit  
Middlesbrough HQ  
Bridge Street West

Middlesbrough  
TS2 1AB

- The Fire and Rescue Authority for the same area:

Cleveland Fire Brigade  
Endeavour House  
Stockton Road  
Hartlepool  
TS25 5TB

- In England and Wales the local Planning Authority:

Middlesbrough Council Development Control Service  
Fountain Court, 119 Grange Road  
Middlesbrough, TS1 2DT

- An authority which has functions in relation to pollution to the environment or harm to human health:

Middlesbrough Council  
Public Protection Service  
Fountain Court, 119 Grange Road  
Middlesbrough, TS1 2DT

Middlesbrough Council  
Environmental Protection Team  
Address as above

- Anybody, designated in writing by the Licensing Authority as competent to advise about the protection of children from harm:

*The Designated Licensing Officer (Safeguarding)*

Risk and Resilience Manager  
Childrens Services,  
Middlesbrough Council, Fountain Court, 119 Grange Road  
Middlesbrough, TS1 2DT

- HM Revenue & Customs  
Benton Park View  
Newcastle  
NE98 1ZZ

- Any other person prescribed in regulations by the Secretary of State  
Vessels only

- Navigation Authority whose statutory functions are in relation to waters

where the vessel is usually moored or berthed, i.e.

Environment Agency

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

- British Waterways Board  
Navigation Way  
Thornaby  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS17 6QA
- Responsible Gambling Trust
- Middlesbrough Council Staff
- NHS Middlesbrough
- Voluntary, Vulnerable and Community Groups (e.g. Mencap, Gamblers Anonymous, Citizen's Advice Bureau, etc.) through the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) –
- Current Licensees

**Bodies representing persons living sufficiently close and having business interests that may be affected**

- Association of British Bookmakers
- BACTA
- British Casino Association
- Casino Operators' Association – British Casino Association
- Remote Gambling Association
- Responsibility in Gambling Trust
- The Bingo Association
- The Football Association
- The Lotteries Council
- The Working Men's Club & Institute Union

**Bodies representing Residents**

- Gamblers Anonymous
- Middlesbrough Elected Members
- Community Councils
- Town and Parish Councils:  
Parish Clerk for Stainton and  
Thornton  
J Holmes  
13 Strait Lane  
Stainton  
Middlesbrough  
TS8 9BB

Clerk for Nunthorpe Parish  
Council

Angela Livingstone  
1 Muirfield Road  
Nunthorpe  
Middlesbrough

**Reasons why the above groups were chosen as consultees:**

The above have been chosen as consultees as they represent the interests of persons carrying on gambling businesses or the interests of persons likely to be affected by gambling businesses in the Middlesbrough area.

The Licensing Authority has developed its own consultation practices, has undertaken a comprehensive consultation exercise and has used a variety of methods. The consultation took place between 11 August and 6 October 2025.

The full list of comments made and the consideration by the Council of those comments will be available on the Council's web site at [www.middlesbrough.gov.uk](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk) or by e-mailing: [licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

**APPENDIX C****GLOSSARY**

<b>Admissible Representations</b>	Representations submitted by a Responsible Authority or Interested Party
<b>Adult Gaming Centre</b>	Premises where category B3, B4, C and D gaming machines may be made available with an Operator Licence and a Premises Licence
<b>Authorised Local Authority Officer</b>	A Licensing Authority Officer who is an authorised person for a purpose relating to premises in that authority's area.
<b>Authorised Person</b>	A Licensing Officer and an officer of an authority other than a Licensing Authority, both of whom have been authorised for a purpose relating to premises in that authority's area. The following are considered authorised persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspectors appointed under the Fire Precautions Act 1971;</li> <li>• Inspectors appointed under the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974</li> <li>• Inspectors or Surveyors of ships appointed under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995;</li> <li>• A person in a class prescribed in regulations by the Secretary of State.</li> </ul>
<b>Automated Roulette Equipment</b>	2 types: 1) Linked to a live game of chance, e.g. Roulette 2) Plays live automated game, i.e. operates without human intervention
<b>Automatic Conditions</b>	Conditions attached automatically to premises licences or authorisations. The Licensing Authority has no discretion not to include or modify them.
<b>AWP machines</b>	Amusement with Prizes Machines
<b>BACTA</b>	British Amusement Catering Trade Association
<b>Betting Intermediary</b>	Offers services via remote communication, such as the internet.
<b>Betting Premises</b>	For betting that takes place other than at a track (off course betting)

<b>Betting Ring</b>	An area that is used for temporary 'on course' betting facilities.
<b>Betting Machines</b>	A machine designed or adapted for use to bet on future real events (not a Gaming Machine).
<b>Bingo</b>	A game of equal chance.
<b>Bingo Premises</b>	Premises where cash and prize bingo may be permitted with an operator licence and a premises licence
<b>Casino</b>	An arrangement whereby people are given an opportunity to participate in one or more casino games.
<b>Casino Games</b>	Games of chance that are not equal chance gaming.
<b>Casino Premises Licence Categories</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Regional Casino Premises Licence</li> <li>b) Large Casino Premises Licence</li> <li>c) Small Casino Premises Licence</li> <li>d) Casinos permitted under transitional arrangements</li> </ul>
<b>Casino Resolution</b>	Resolution to issue monitor and regulate Casino Premises Licences
<b>Child</b>	Individual who is less than 16 years old.
<b>Christmas Day Period</b>	Covers the period of 24 hours from midnight on 24 December.
<b>Club Gaming Machine Permit</b>	Permit to enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of Categories B3A, B4, C or D)
<b>Club Gaming Permit</b>	Permit to enable the premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of Categories B3A, B4, C or D), equal chance gaming and games of chance.
<b>Commercial Club</b>	Clubs with the same characteristics as a Members Club except that they are established with a view to making a profit e.g. snooker club. Permit to enable premises to provide gaming machines (3 machines of Categories B4, C or D)
<b>Complex Lottery</b>	<p>An arrangement where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons are required to pay to participate in the arrangement;</li> <li>• In the course of the arrangement, one or more prizes are allocated to one or more members of a class;</li> <li>• The prizes are allocated by a series of processes; and</li> <li>• The first of those processes relies wholly on chance.</li> </ul>



<b>Conditions</b>	<p>Conditions to be attached to licences by way of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automatic provision</li> <li>• Regulations provided by Secretary of State</li> <li>• Conditions provided by Gambling Commission</li> <li>• Conditions provided by Licensing Authority</li> </ul> <p>Conditions may be general in nature (either attached to all licences or all licences of a particular nature) or may be specific to a particular licence.</p>
<b>Customer Lotteries</b>	<p>Lotteries run by the occupiers of business premises who sell tickets only to customers present on their premises. These lotteries may not be conducted on vessels.</p>
<b>Default Conditions</b>	<p>Conditions that will apply unless the licensing authority decide to exclude them. This may apply to all premises licences, to a class of premises licence or licences for specified circumstances.</p>
<b>Delegated Powers</b>	<p>Decisions delegated either to a Licensing Committee, Sub-Committee or Licensing Officers.</p>
<b>Disorder</b>	<p>No set interpretation, however, likely to be connected to the way gambling is being conducted. In the case of gambling premises licences, disorder is intended to mean activity that is more serious and disruptive than mere nuisance.</p>
<b>Domestic Computer</b>	<p>One capable of being used for a purpose not related to gambling that is located in a private dwelling and used only on domestic occasions. Exempt from a Gaming Machine Permit (as per regulations)</p>
<b>Dual Computer Use</b>	<p>One capable of being used for a purpose not related to gambling but must not be knowingly adapted or presented in such a way as to facilitate or draw attention to the possibility of its use for gambling. Exempt from a Gaming Machine Permit (as per regulations)</p>
<b>Equal Chance Gaming</b>	<p>Games that do not involve playing or staking against a bank and where the chances are equally favourable to all participants</p>
<b>EBT</b>	<p>Electronic Bingo Ticket Minders. Electronic equipment operated by a Bingo Operators Licence for the purposes of playing bingo.</p>
<b>Exempt Lotteries</b>	<p>Lotteries specified in the Gambling Act as permitted to be run without a licence from the Gambling Commission. There are 4 types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Society Lottery (required to register with Licensing authorities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incidental Non Commercial Lotteries</li> <li>• Private Lotteries</li> <li>• Customer Lotteries</li> </ul>
<b>External Lottery Manager</b>	An individual, firm or company appointed by the Small Lottery Society to manage a lottery on their behalf. They are consultants who generally take their fees from the expenses of the lottery.
<b>Family Entertainment Centre</b>	<p>Licensed: may provide category C and D machines with a Premises Licence</p> <p>Unlicensed: may provide category D machines only with a family entertainment centre machine permit</p>
<b>Fixed Odds Betting</b>	General betting on tracks.
<b>Gambling Commission</b>	A body established to regulate all commercial gambling in Great Britain, other than spread betting and the National Lottery.
<b>Gambling Harms</b>	The negative impacts from gambling on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, community and society.
<b>Gaming</b>	Prize gaming if the nature and size of the prize is not determined by the number of people playing or the amount paid for or raised by the gaming. The prizes will be determined by the operator before the play commences.
<b>Gaming Machine</b>	<p>Machine covering all types of gambling activity, including betting on virtual events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The categories of gaming machine including stakes and prizes maybe subject to change within the 3 year life of this policy. The current categories, stakes and prizes can be found on the Gambling Commission website.</li> </ul>
<b>Guidance to Licensing authorities</b>	Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission dated xx (date to be inserted, guidance currently under consultation)
<b>Human Rights Act 1998 Articles: 1, 6, 8 and 10</b>	<p>Article 1: Protocol 1 – the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions</p> <p>Article 6: - the right to a fair hearing</p> <p>Article 8: - the right of respect for private and family life</p> <p>Article 10: - the right to freedom of expression</p>
<b>Inadmissible Representation</b>	A representation not made by a Responsible Authority or Interested Party.

<b>Incidental Non Commercial Lottery</b>	A lottery promoted wholly for purposes other than private game, and which are incidental to non-commercial events (commonly charity fund raising events, lottery held at a school fete or at a social event such as a dinner dance).
<b>Information Exchange</b>	Exchanging of information with other regulatory bodies under the Gambling Act.
<b>Interested Party</b>	A person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely affected by the authorised activities,</li> <li>• Has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or</li> <li>• Represents persons in either of the above groups</li> </ul>
<b>Irrelevant Representations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where other legislation can cover the representation</li> <li>• Demand</li> <li>• Competition</li> <li>• Moral or ethical grounds (as per guidance)</li> </ul>
<b>Judicial Review - Orders</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mandatory Order – compels the reviewed body to do something</li> <li>2. Prohibitory Order – compels it to refrain from doing something</li> <li>3. A ‘declaration’ – sets out the court’s view on the legality of a particular course of action</li> <li>4. Quashing Order – nullifies a decision and remits it for reconsideration</li> <li>5. Injunction – similar to Mandatory or Prohibitory Order</li> </ol>
<b>Large Lottery</b>	Where the total value of tickets in any one lottery exceeds £20,000 OR tickets in separate lotteries in one calendar year exceeds £250,000. This requires an Operating Licence.
<b>Licensed Lottery</b>	Large society lotteries and lotteries run for the benefit of local authorities which will be regulated by the Gambling Commission. Operating licences will be required.
<b>Licensing Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;</li> <li>2. Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and</li> <li>3. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</li> </ol>
<b>Licensed Premises</b>	Premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 for the consumption of alcohol on the premises.
<b>Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit</b>	Required for further category C or D machines in addition to the automatic entitlement of 2 category C or D machines by virtue of the alcohol licence.

<b>Live Gaming</b>	Gambling on a live game as it happens.
<b>Lottery</b>	An arrangement which satisfies the statutory description of either a simple lottery or a complex lottery in Section 14 of the Act.
<b>Lottery Tickets</b>	<p>Tickets that must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the promoting society</li> <li>• State the price of the ticket, which must be the same for all tickets</li> <li>• State the name and address of the member of the Society who is designated as having responsibility at the Society for the promotion of the lottery, or, if there is one, the external lottery manager; and</li> <li>• State the date of the draw, or enable the date of the draw to be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>Mandatory Conditions</b>	Conditions that must be attached to a licence. This may apply to all premises licences, to a class of premises licence or licences for specified circumstances.
<b>Members Club</b>	<p>A club that must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have at least 25 members</li> <li>• be established and conducted 'wholly or mainly' for purposes other than gaming</li> <li>• be permanent in nature</li> <li>• not established to make commercial profit</li> <li>• controlled by its members equally.</li> </ul>
<b>Non commercial event</b>	An event where all the money raised at the event, including entrance fees, goes entirely to purposes that are not for private gain.
<b>Non Commercial Society</b>	<p>A society established and conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for charitable purposes</li> <li>• for the purpose of enabling participation in, or of supporting, sport athletics or a cultural activity; or</li> <li>• for any other non-commercial purpose other than that of private gain.</li> </ul>
<b>Occasional Use Notice</b>	Betting may be permitted on a 'track' without the need for a full Premises Licence.
<b>Off Course Betting</b>	Betting that takes place other than at a track, i.e. at a licensed betting shop.
<b>Off Course Betting – Tracks</b>	Betting that takes place in self-contained betting premises within the track premises providing facilities for off course betting, i.e. on other events, not just those taking place on the track. Normally operate only on race days.

<b>On Course Betting - Tracks</b>	Betting that takes place on a track while races are taking place
<b>Operator</b>	An individual or a company who provides facilities for certain types of gambling.
<b>Operating Licences</b>	Licence to permit individuals and companies to provide facilities for certain types of gambling. They may authorise remote or non-remote gambling.
<b>Permits</b>	Authorisation to provide a gambling facility where the stakes and prizes are very low or gambling is not the main function of the premises.
<b>Personal Licence</b>	Formal authorisation to individuals who control facilities for gambling or are able to influence the outcome of gambling. These cannot be held by companies.
<b>Pool Betting – Tracks</b>	Betting offered at a horse racecourse by the Tote and at a dog track by the holder of the premises licence for the track.
<b>Premises</b>	Defined as ‘any place’. It is for the Licensing Authority to decide whether different parts of a building can be properly regarded as being separate premises.
<b>Premises Licence</b>	Licence to authorise the provision of gaming facilities on casino premises, bingo premises, betting premises, including trackss and family entertainment centres.
<b>Private Lotteries</b>	<p>3 Types of Private Lotteries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Private Society Lotteries – tickets may only be sold to members of the Society or persons who are on the premises of the Society</li> <li>2. Work Lotteries – the promoters and purchasers of tickets must all work on a single set of work premises</li> <li>3. Residents’ Lotteries – promoted by, and tickets may only be sold to, people who live at the same set of premises.</li> </ol>
<b>Prize Gaming</b>	Where the nature and size of the prize is not determined by the number of people playing or the amount paid for or raised by the gaming. The prizes will be determined by the operator before play commences.
<b>Prize Gaming Permit</b>	A permit to authorise the provision of facilities for gaming with prizes on specific premises.

<b>Provisional Statement</b>	Where an applicant can make an application to the Licensing Authority in respect of premises that he: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expects to be constructed</li> <li>• Expects to be altered</li> <li>• Expects to acquire a right to occupy.</li> </ul>
<b>Racing</b>	Casino located at a racecourse.
<b>Relevant Representations</b>	Representations that relate to the licensing objectives, or that raise issues under the Licensing Policy Statement or the Gambling Commission's Guidance or Codes of Practice.
<b>Responsible Authorities</b>	Public bodies that must be notified of all applications and who are entitled to make representations in relation to premises licences, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Licensing Authority in whose area the premises is partly or wholly situated</li> <li>• The Gambling Commission</li> <li>• The Chief Officer of Police in whose area the premises is partly or wholly situated</li> <li>• Cleveland Fire &amp; Rescue Service</li> <li>• Middlesbrough Council Planning Authority –</li> <li>• Environmental Health (related to pollution and harm to human health)</li> <li>• Body competent to advise on protection of children from harm, i.e. Children &amp; Young Peoples' Service</li> <li>• HM Revenue &amp; Customs</li> <li>• Vessels only – Navigation Authority whose statutory functions are in relation to waters where the vessel is usually moored or berthed, i.e. Environment Agency, British Waterways Board, Maritime &amp; Coastguard Agency</li> </ul>
<b>SIA</b>	Security Industry Authority
<b>Simple Lottery</b>	An arrangement where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons are required to pay to participate in the arrangement</li> <li>• In the course of the arrangement, one or more prizes are allocated to one or more members of a class; and</li> <li>• The prizes are allocated by a process, which relies wholly on chance.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills Prizes with</b>	A machine on which the winning of a prize is determined only by the player's skill and there is no element of chance, e.g. trivia game machine, Formula 1 simulators, shooting game. Skills machines are unregulated.

<b>Small Lottery</b>	Where the total value of tickets in a single lottery is £20,000 or less and the aggregate value of the tickets in a calendar year is £250,000 or less.
<b>Small Society Lottery</b>	A lottery promoted on behalf of a non-commercial society, i.e. lotteries intended to raise funds for good causes.
<b>Small Operations</b>	Independent on course betting operators with only one or two employees or a bookmaker running just one shop.
<b>Society</b>	The society or any separate branch of such a society, on whose behalf a lottery is to be promoted.
<b>Statement of Principles</b>	Matters taken into account when considering an applicant's suitability for applications for FEC Permits and Prize Gaming Permits. (as detailed in guidance)
<b>Temporary Use Notice</b>	To allow the use of premises for gambling where there is no premises licence but where a gambling operator wishes to use the premises temporarily for providing facilities for gambling.
<b>Totalisator or Tote</b>	Pool betting on tracks.
<b>Touch Bet Roulette</b>	Where a player gambles on a live game of chance without actually being seated.
<b>Track</b>	Sites where races or other sporting events take place e.g. horse racing, dog racing or any other premises on any part of which a race or other sporting event takes place or is intended to take place.
<b>Travelling Fair</b>	A fair that 'wholly or principally' provides amusements and must be on a site used for fairs for no more than 27 days per calendar year.
<b>Vehicles</b>	Defined trains, aircraft, seaplanes and amphibious vehicles other than hovercraft. No form of commercial betting and gaming is permitted
<b>Vessel</b>	Anything (other than a seaplane or amphibious vehicle) designed or adapted for use on water; a hovercraft; or anything, or part of any place, situated on or in water.
<b>Vessel and Relevant Licensing Authority</b>	The Licensing Authority for the area in which the vessel is usually moored or berthed.
<b>Virtual Betting</b>	Machine that takes bets on virtual races, i.e. images generated by computer to resemble races or other events.

<b>Vulnerable Persons</b>	No set definition but likely to mean group to include people who gamble more than they want to, people who gamble beyond their means; people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs.
<b>Young Person</b>	An individual who is not a child but who is less than 18 years old.



## **APPENDIX D**

### **RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES**

#### Responsible Authorities

- The Licensing Authority in whose area the premises is partly or wholly situated:  
*Middlesbrough Council*  
*Fountain Court*  
*Grange Road*  
*Middlesbrough*  
*TS1 2DT*
- The Gambling  
Commission *Victoria*  
*Square House Victoria*  
*Square Birmingham*  
*B2 4BP*
- The Chief Officer of Police in whose area the premises is partly or wholly situated:  
*Cleveland Police*  
*Middlesbrough District Licensing Unit*  
*Middlesbrough HQ*  
*Bridge Street*  
*West*  
*Middlesbrough*  
*TS2 1AB*
- The Fire and Rescue Authority for the same area:  
*Cleveland Fire*  
*Brigade*  
*Training and*  
*Administration Hub*  
*Endeavour House*  
*Queens Meadow*  
*Business Park*  
*Hartlepool*  
*TS25 5TH*
- In England and Wales the local planning authority:  
*Middlesbrough Council*  
*Development Control*  
*Service*  
*Fountain Court*  
*Grange Road*  
*Middlesbrough*  
*TS1 2DT*

- An authority which has functions in relation to pollution to the environment or harm to human health:

*Middlesbrough Council  
Public Protection Service  
Fountain Court  
Grange Road  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 2DT*

- Anybody, designated in writing by the Licensing Authority as competent to advise about the protection of children from harm:

*Middlesbrough Council  
Children's Family and Learning Service  
Fountain Court  
Grange Road  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 2DT*

- HM Revenue & Customs  
*Benton Park  
View  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE98 1ZZ*

- Any other person prescribed in regulations by the Secretary of State  
Vessels only

- Navigation Authority whose statutory functions are in relation to waters where the vessel is usually moored or berthed, i.e.

*Environment Agency  
North East Area Office  
Tyneside House  
Skinnerburn Road  
Newcastle Business Park  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 7AR*

*Canal and Rivers Trust  
National Waterways Museum  
Ellesmere Port  
South Pier Road  
Ellesmere Port  
Cheshire  
CH65 4FW*

**APPENDIX E****SUMMARY OF LICENSING AUTHORITY DELEGATIONS**

<b>Matter to be dealt with</b>	<b>Full Council</b>	<b>Sub-committee of licensing committee</b>	<b>Officers</b>
Final approval of 3-year licensing policy	X		
Policy not to permit casinos	X		
Fee Setting (when appropriate)			X
Application for premises licences		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where representations received/representations have been withdrawn no
Application for a variation to a licence		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where representations received/representations have been withdrawn no
Application for a transfer of a licence		Where representations have been received from the Commission	Where representations received from the Commission no
Application for a provisional statement		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where representations received/Representations have been withdrawn no
Review of a premises licence		X	
Application for club gaming/club machine permits		Where objections have been made (and not withdrawn)	Where objections made/objections have been withdrawn no

Cancellation of club gaming/club machine permits		X	
Applications for other permits			X
Cancellation of licensed premises gaming machine permits			X
Consideration of temporary use notice			X
Decision to give a counter notice to a temporary use notice		X	

## APPENDIX F

### Large Casino Licence - Application Guidance: Principles for Selection and Application Process

#### **1.0. General Principles**

- 1.1.** The Licensing Authority recognises that applicants may either apply for a full Casino Premises Licence or alternatively a Provisional Statement. Applicants for full Premises Licences however must fulfil certain criteria in that they must:
- (a) hold or have applied for an Operating Licence; or
  - (b) have the right to occupy an eligible premises.
- 1.2.** In making any decision in respect of an application, the Licensing Authority shall not take into account whether or not an applicant has planning permission or building regulation approval and any decision shall not constrain any later decision by the Authority under the law relating to planning or building. The Licensing Authority does, however, strongly recommend that planning permission be sought prior to submitting an application in order to avoid disappointment.
- 1.3.** The Licensing Authority will not consider unmet demand when considering applications for casino premises licences and each application will be taken on its own merit.
- 1.4.** In determining the principles the Licensing Authority intend to apply in making any determination for a Casino Premises Licence the Licensing Authority will pay specific regard to:
- Any provision that is made for the protection of children and other vulnerable people from harm or exploitation arising from gambling, whether in the proposed casino or the wider community. The Licensing Authority does however recognise that persons who gamble beyond their means do not necessarily emanate from Casinos and could come from other gambling premises and therefore this matter is not entirely the responsibility of Casinos.
  - Any provision that is made for preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime.
  - Any provision that is made for ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.
  - The beneficial impacts the proposal will have and, in the Authority's view, which proposal will deliver the greatest benefit to the Authority's area.

The principles that the Authority will use to assess which proposal represents the greatest benefit is set out in Appendix G.

- 1.5.** The Licensing Authority shall ensure that any pre-existing contract, arrangements or other relationship with a company or individual does not affect the principles for determining applications or the procedure for assessing applications so as to make it unfair or perceived to be unfair to any applicant. The Licensing Authority shall therefore disregard any such contract, arrangement or other relationship.
- 1.6.** Following the closing date of the application process, and before considering any applications, the Licensing Authority will prepare a register disclosing their interest in any contract, arrangement or other relationship with an applicant or a person connected or associated with an applicant. A copy of this information in the register of interests will be available free of charge to any person who requests it.
- 1.7.** The Licensing Authority's decision will not be prejudged and where advice is sought this will be impartial advice. In making a decision on both stages the Licensing Authority will take heed of any Codes of Practice and Regulations issued by the Secretary of State, DCMS and Gambling Commission.

## **2.0. Casino Application Stage 1**

- 2.1.** The Large Casino Competition will be started by the Licensing Authority publishing an invitation calling for applications.
- 2.2.** The Licensing Authority shall provide an application pack to all applicants, which will include a Statement of the procedure the Licensing Authority proposes to follow and the principles to be considered in assessing applications for the Casino Premises Licence.
- 2.3.** Stage 1 will be implemented after the closing date for receipt of applications where the Licensing Authority receives one or more applications. Applications received prior to the closing date will be deferred until after this date. The Licensing Authority will consider each application separately on its own merit with no comparison being made to the other applications received.
- 2.4.** At this stage the Licensing Authority cannot accept any additional information other than the information required by the Gambling Act 2005 (Premises Licences and Provisional Statements) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. All such additional information will be disregarded and returned to the applicant.

- 2.5.** With regard to Stage 1, the General Principles as stated at [“Part B Premises Licences, General Principles] in this Gambling Policy shall apply to all casino applications.
- 2.6.** The Licensing Authority recognises that each of the other competing applicants are considered as an ‘interested party’ and as a result may make representations. As such applicants are however reminded that an interested party is defined in paragraph 28-31 of this Statement and each representation will be considered carefully to ensure they meet those principles.

Representations will be treated in the same manner as for a Premises Licence and in accordance with the paragraphs relating to representations and interested parties in this Statement and in the Gambling Commissions Guidance to Local Authorities. Where a Provisional Statement application is successful, the Licensing Authority will limit the period of time for which the Statement will have effect.

### **3.0. Casino Application Stage 2**

Stage 2 will be implemented after the closing date for the competition, if more than one application under Stage 1 has been granted. ▯

- 3.1.** At this stage, the applicant will be required to state the benefit they can bring to the residents of the Middlesbrough and how they can contribute to the wellbeing of this area.
- 3.2.** The Licensing Authority will decide between the competing applications and grant the available licence to the applicant that it considers in its opinion will result in the greatest benefit to Middlesbrough. The competition will be judged on a wide range of issues, reflecting the issues that are of strategic importance in Middlesbrough, reflecting local concerns and local priorities.
- 3.3.** The Licensing Authority may during the second stage engage in discussions or negotiations with each second stage applicant with a view to the application being refined, expanded or altered so as to maximise the benefits to the area.
- 3.4.** The Licensing Authority will not, during stage 2, discuss the details of a person’s application with the other competing applicants without that person’s permission.

- 3.5.** The Licensing Authority will expect the applicants to enter into a written agreement in order to secure the benefits proposed. The Licensing Authority may have regard to this agreement when determining which application would result in the greatest benefit to the Authority's area. The Licensing Authority will attach conditions to a licence granted so as to give effect to any agreement entered into.

**4.0. Principles that apply in determining whether or not to grant a Casino Premises Licence**

- 4.1.** The Licensing Authority has set out in Appendix G the Competition Criteria and shall expect applicants to be fully conversed with this and the Council's policies, strategies and plans referred to therein. In addition the applicant will be expected to have understood and be fully conversant with any Codes of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission or Department of Culture, Media and Sport

**4.2. Preferred Location**

The Licensing Authority considers that a large casino in the town centre area particularly the area identified for development as a leisure hub being Captain Cook's Square or near to or adjacent to that area is likely to bring the greatest benefit to the town.

Should the preferred location or the Council's development proposals change prior to the competition being launched the Director of Regeneration and Culture, in consultation with the Head of Public Protection (or any successor role) has the authority to identify any preferred location which is considered to bring the greatest benefit. Any change in the preferred location will be set out in the application pack.

Notwithstanding the preferred location, it is acknowledged that applicants are entitled to submit an application for any site within Middlesbrough and all applications will be judged on their merits.

**4.3 Deliverability**

The Licensing Authority will wish to consider the assurances the development of the large casino and the benefits to Middlesbrough will be delivered in a timely manner.

The Licensing Authority expect applicants to present a detailed package that will bring the greatest benefit to the Authority's area taking into account the criteria set out in Appendix G. It is expected that the applicants will have undertaken detailed research and liaised with the relevant departments of the Council prior to submitting their application.

Applicants should provide evidence of how the proposal is likely to benefit the Borough, via an assessment of its social, economic and physical



impact. This should be submitted with the application, together with the draft agreement referred to in paragraph 3.5 above. Guidance on local priorities and how proposals could benefit the town and the community is set out in Appendix G. Proposals should address the issues covered in Appendix G namely:

- Social Responsibility – proposals regarding the prevention of gambling harms and crime & disorder;
- Employment – proposals regarding the creation of local training and employment opportunities;
- Local Business Benefits – proposals regarding opportunities that will be available to local businesses via the construction and operation of the casino;
- Regeneration Benefits – Additional Facilities – proposals regarding benefits that will be delivered in terms of non-gaming facilities/services;
- Regeneration Benefits – Physical Development – proposals regarding the benefits that will be delivered in terms of its physical impacts;
- Regeneration Benefits – Strategic links – identifying how the proposals align with the strategic developments in Middlesbrough Town Centre;
- Regeneration Benefits – Community Regeneration – proposals regarding benefits to the local community;
- Financial Contributions – proposals regarding where benefits may take the form of financial contributions;
- Commuted Sums – proposals regarding mechanisms for the handling of commuted sums.

## **5.0. Licensing Authority Process**

**5.1.** The details of the application procedure will be set down and approved by the Licensing Authority in accordance with the DCMS Code of Practice issued by the Secretary of State.

**5.2.** In accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Secretary of State, the Licensing Authority shall ensure that there is a Register of Interests in place disclosing interest in any contract, arrangement or other relationship with an applicant or a person connected or associated with an applicant. The Register will be published on the Council's website, alternatively a hard copy will be made available upon request free of charge. However, applicants should note that this does not apply to any agreement between the Licensing Authority and applicant entered into during the second stage of the competition.

**5.3.** In addition, the Licensing Authority shall have a Protocol governing the storage of confidential information submitted during the second stage so as to maintain confidentiality. This Protocol will be included in the application pack, will be available on the Council's website or a hard copy will be available from the Licensing Service upon request.

## **APPENDIX G**

### **Large Casino Licence – Competition Criteria and Principles for Selection**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1** This Appendix outlines the principle criteria, which will be used by the Licensing Authority to assess applications received for a large casino licence. The criteria include general guidance and specific principles, which will be taken into account by the Licensing Authority in judging the merits of applications. The guidance represents a summary of the objectives of the Licensing Authority in relation to the development of a large casino.
- 1.2** The guidance aims to advise applicants on the positive impacts for economic, physical and social regeneration from a casino that the Licensing Authority will be seeking, and what it will seek in terms of mitigating and minimising any adverse or negative social impact.
- 1.3** The Licensing Authority wishes to maximise, harness or capture the economic benefits of a casino in the public interest. This is an exciting time for Casino operators to consider investing in Middlesbrough because of the major changes which are taking place in the town with increasing investor confidence and major public and privately funded development projects underway which are significantly changing the face of the town. Middlesbrough is a beneficiary of Towns Fund and Future High Streets Funds, which aim to address the market transformation by diversifying the Town Centre economy from sole reliance on traditional retail models. An example would be the redevelopment and repurposing of Captain Cook Square as a leisure destination. Therefore, the Licensing Authority requires the applicant to understand the physical, social and economic issues in the Borough and develop the casino in a way which addresses local problems and opportunities.
- 1.4** The guidance provides an indication of local priorities and which issues are likely to be assessed as providing the greatest benefit to the area.
- 1.5** Whilst the guidance sets out the principles the Licensing Authority will use in assessing applications, it is not intended to be prescriptive and applicants are encouraged to examine the opportunities currently presented by the town and apply their own expertise and creativity in compiling their applications licence.
- 1.6** The Licensing Authority wishes to see lasting, tangible and visible public benefits arising from a casino development. Facilities or capital or revenue should not impose future costs on the community or the Middlesbrough Council that is not shown to be capable of being funded, or mitigated directly, by the casino operator.

## **2.0 Middlesbrough Council's Plan 2024-2027**

Our vision is for Middlesbrough to be a thriving, healthier, safer and more ambitious place where people want to live, work, invest and visit. We will support the people of Middlesbrough to live fulfilling lives to ensure that our communities thrive.

This vision for the town is set out in our Council Plan for 2024-27. The plan was developed by Mayor Chris Cooke, his Executive team and senior staff. It was approved by Full Council in February 2024.

Like many areas, Middlesbrough faces lots of challenges. We're determined to work with local people, our partners and businesses to overcome them. We're also working with government and other bodies to make changes to how we do things. We are addressing problems from the past so we can look to the future with confidence.

Our vision and priorities are:

- **We will thrive.**

Our vision for Middlesbrough is a thriving, healthier, safer and more ambitious place where people want to live, work, invest, and visit. We will support our residents to live fulfilling lives, to ensure that our communities thrive.

- **A successful and ambitious town.**

Maximising economic growth, employment and prosperity in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable way.

- **A healthy place.**

Helping our residents to live longer, healthier lives.

- **Safe and resilient communities**

Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives

- **Delivering best value**

Changing how we operate, to deliver affordable and cost-effective outcomes for residents and businesses.

## **3.0 Middlesbrough's Regeneration Strategy/Regeneration Objectives**

Middlesbrough Council's Town Centre Strategy sets out the Council's vision for Middlesbrough as an attractive, thriving, and competitive place in which to live, work and invest.

**3.1** Prior to Covid-19 Middlesbrough's Town Centre was characterised as being retail dominant, as is the case with many other town centres. Years of outward-migration of traditional town centre functions such as professional services, commercial offices, residential areas, as well as the rise of our of town shopping and online sales, has created a fundamental imbalance in town centre economies.

**3.2** Middlesbrough had adopted a sound approach which focused on increasing the proportion of complementary sectors to sustain a declining retail identity and diversify uses. However, Covid-19 has amplified and accelerated the issues

which have contributed to high street decline. This calls for an expansion of the scale, scope and speed at which transformation is required, to deliver a thriving local economy. It is time to fundamentally rethink the function of town centres and enable a rapid transformation.

- 3.3 The groundwork has been laid for the future of Middlesbrough Town Centre, with compelling bids to the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) and the Towns Fund. These proposals have been shaped on diversification with a greater emphasis on leisure, culture and residential uses in the urban core. But we can go further. By aligning a broader range of civic, educational, employment, leisure and residential uses, alongside a retail base, we can deliver a critical mass of mutually-sustaining activity which will provide a focal point to drive growth.
- 3.4 Covid-19 has delivered a huge economic shock to the businesses and residents of Middlesbrough. It has touched upon every aspect of our lives and has forced us to adapt the way we live and how we continue to trade, travel, meet and communicate; aspects which we have, typically, taken for granted.
- 3.5 The challenges faced by retailers and the high street environment, are not new, but Covid-19 has amplified and accelerated the decline of traditional town centre formats, bringing forward a major structural shift, by as much as five years.
- 3.6 It is more critical than ever that we take bold, decisive and meaningful action to save our town centre, bringing it back into the heart of the community and completely redefining its function and uses, for the future.
- 3.7 Retail will always form a component of the town centre experience, but we need to draw more complementary uses and amenities into the town centre, to make it a thriving hub of activity; creating a new urban community.
- 3.8 To achieve this, Middlesbrough's approach will be to build a new economy based on multiple, diverse uses which will drive business, employment, living and leisure into central Middlesbrough. This policy will deliver mutually-sustaining zones and clusters of activity which will create critical mass and give a new purpose to our economy. This will include:
- I. Living: building residential communities in central Middlesbrough
  - II. Skills and Learning: integrating our educational services and institutions
  - III. Working: Bringing employment and commercial uses to the centre
  - IV. Health & Wellbeing: providing the facilities and amenities to improve quality of life
  - V. Civic: bringing together public services in central areas
  - VI. Culture and Leisure: Providing entertainment and spaces for people to enjoy
  - VII. Retail: Maintaining a strong retail component in the high street

- 3.9** Cross Cutting Themes – the diversification of the town centre will be underpinned by the cross cutting objectives of:
- I. Transport – delivering excellent transport and connectivity
  - II. Digital – digitising our town centre and building The Digital City
  - III. Environment – providing green spaces and public places which promote activity and wellbeing
  - IV. Welcoming to all – families, children, people with dementia etc. should feel safe and welcome
- 3.10** Middlesbrough will not sit idly by and wait for these things to come. We will enshrine our goals in our policies and actively pursue these sectors, encouraging them to develop and thrive in central Middlesbrough; building strength and resilience in the new town centre economy.
- 3.11** The new Town Centre Strategy has broader ambitions and provides a framework for delivery which will give businesses and investors certainty. The approach capitalises on a footfall base of those services which are less sensitive to market shocks (public sector) and build a healthier mix of uses which feed into one another.
- 3.12** By targeting investment to central areas, the aim is not to diminish the role and significance of district centres. Indeed, the approach will provide economic growth opportunities for all areas as employment, business, commercial, residential and talent is increasingly drawn into the wider Middlesbrough ecosystem.

## **4.0 Principles**

### **4.1 The following are the key principles/criteria that the Licensing Authority will consider in assessing which casino submission provides the greatest benefit to the area.**

#### **4.2 Social Responsibility**

- 4.2.1 Prior to the issuing of any premises licences operators will have reached the required standards in social responsibility laid down by the Gambling Commission via the application process for operating and personal licences.
- 4.2.2 Stage 2 will consider proposals over and above the social responsibility standards laid down by the Gambling Commission, which in the Licensing Authority's view will confer the greater levels of benefit to the area/best minimise harm, including:
- a) proposals for preventing gambling from becoming a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime and disorder being associated with the sex industry, or being used to support crime;
  - b) proposals to identify and mitigate gambling harms including policies on access restrictions, provision of safe practice zones etc.; and

- c) financial contributions that will be made by the casino operator to support the provision of services to support those suffering from problem gambling, over and above payments currently provided via the RIGT levy (additional note: Financial Contributions see section 4.8).

### **4.3 Employment**

- 4.3.1 The Licensing Authority wishes to see training and employment opportunities maximised for local residents with staff training within Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley. Proposals should include opportunities that will be created for local employment including:
  - a) the number of jobs created during construction of the casino;
  - b) the number and types of jobs directly created within the new casino;
  - c) training to be provided for staff, including recognised accredited qualifications.
  - d) the number and types of jobs created in ancillary, non-casino activities;
  - e) in both cases job 'types' should include indication of pay levels, and levels of qualification required;
  - f) proposals to maximise local recruitment to jobs (i.e. from Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley city-region areas);
  - g) proposals to maximise local training opportunities (Middlesbrough and Tees Valley); and
  - h) investment in local training provision/infrastructure to enhance capacity to deliver training opportunities.

#### **4.3.2 Discussions can be held with casino proposers with regards to making links with local employment and training initiatives in relation to f) to h)**

### **4.4 Local Business Benefits**

- 4.4.1 Opportunities that will be available to local businesses / supply chains / employment markets to compete for work related to the construction and operation of the casino, including:
  - a) proposals for local (Middlesbrough and Tees Valley city-region) contractors/sub-contractors/suppliers to be involved in the construction phase;
  - b) proposals for local (Middlesbrough and Tees Valley city-region) contractors/sub-contractors/suppliers to be involved in the casino and associated activities operation.
- 4.4.2 Discussions can be held with casino proposers with regard to making links with local businesses and local supply chains in relation to a) and b).

#### **4.5** Regeneration benefits – additional facilities

What additional benefits will be delivered in terms of non-gaming facilities/services including:

- a) associated on-site leisure facilities/services including restaurants and bars (including destination quality restaurant), retail, performance space, etc. included in proposals;
- b) hotel development supported by the casino (either off-site or on-site) including hotel star rating and associated hotel facilities such as conference, health-spa, etc.;
- c) overall impact/contribution of the proposed casino to Middlesbrough's role as a city-region centre in terms of
  - its night-time economy offer;
  - its cultural offer;
  - its retail offer;
  - its overall city-regional role;
  - the positive image and perception of Middlesbrough.

(see additional note – Financial contributions section 4.8)

#### **4.6** Regeneration benefits – physical development

4.6.1 What benefits the proposal will give the area in terms of its physical impact including:

- a) the capital value of the proposed development;
- b) the quality of the proposed design;
- c) the impact of the proposal on the immediate surrounding area/environment, including other investment attracted due to the casino;
- d) the impact on Middlesbrough's image through additional high quality development;
- e) the environmental/carbon reduction/ net Zero qualities of the proposals;
- f) proposals for access, public transport and parking and any additional benefits these provide other than for immediate casino use/access;
- g) any other benefits or added value which will accrue to the area from the proposal/location of the casino.

#### **4.7** Regeneration benefits – Social regeneration

4.7.1 In addition to the benefits already outlined, any other benefits of the proposal to the community of Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley city-region, including:

- a) any contributions to general community benefit funds or endowments.  
(see additional note – Financial contributions, section 4.8)

#### **4.8** Financial contributions

- 4.8.1 There are a number of areas highlighted (and there may be other areas proposers identify) where benefits may take the form of financial contributions by the license-holder to the Licensing Authority for a number of purposes. If these types of benefits are included in proposals then proposers are requested to identify either the flat rate sums involved, or appropriate methods for determining the levels of these contributions based on profit share or other formulae.

#### **4.9** **Commuted Sums**

- 4.9.1 Where appropriate the Licensing Authority will also require that commuted sums be payable in lieu of regeneration benefits proposed which are subsequently not delivered.
- 4.9.2 Proposals are sought as to the value of commuted sums, suggested mechanisms for the handling of commuted sums, etc.



## APPENDIX H

### Local Area Profile

The Gambling Commission recommends that licensing authorities provide a 'local area profile' to assist gambling operators to understand the risks, or potential risks, associated with particular geographical areas.

Middlesbrough Council refers licence holders, or potential applicants, to the following sources of information about Middlesbrough:-

Middlesbrough Council's Website – Demographic and Socioeconomic make up of the 20 wards in Middlesbrough (2015) which includes information relating to:-

- 2021 Census
- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019
- Local Population Diversity
- Ward Profiles

<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/open-data-foi-and-have-your-say/about-middlesbrough-and-local-statistics>

GIS Map of Middlesbrough showing the location of gambling premises and educational establishments can be viewed at:

[Gambling policy and licensing \(Gambling Act 2005\) | Middlesbrough Council](#)

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## Template for Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

<b>Subject of assessment:</b>	Review of Gambling Policy 2026-29			
<b>Coverage:</b>	State the extent or scope e.g. overarching/crosscutting or service-specific.			
<b>This is a decision relating to:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
<b>It is a:</b>	<b>New approach:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Revision of an existing approach:</b>	X
<b>It is driven by:</b>	<b>Legislation:</b>	X	<b>Local or corporate requirements:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Description:</b>	<p>This report seeks Executive approval for the draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028. The report policy sets out the proposed Statement of Gambling Policy following a period of consultation. It is a statutory requirement for each local authority to have in place a Statement of Gambling Policy and that they are reviewed every three years. It is a statutory requirement that Executive approve the policy prior to the period of consultation. It is the decision of Full Council to approve the final Policy.</p> <p>The Statement of Gambling Policy also contains the policy and principles in relation to the application process and issuing of a large casino licence. In 2008 the Categories of Casino Regulations 2008 and the Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008 specified which Licensing Authorities could issue Large and Small Casinos. In 2012 Middlesbrough Borough Council, having previously submitted a proposal to the Casino Advisory Panel for a Regional or Large Casino Licence, was approved as one of the authorities permitted to issue a large Casino Premises Licence. At this time there were significant benefits for the area in terms of financial, developmental and regeneration associated with the development of a large casino. A competition was undertaken in Middlesbrough and a provisional statement was awarded, however the casino has never been developed.</p> <p>The implications of the recommendation(s) have been considered by the appropriate officers of the Council and are set out in the main body of the report.</p>			
<b>Live date:</b>	January 2026			
<b>Lifespan:</b>	2026-2029			
<b>Date of next review:</b>	June 2028			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
<b>Human Rights</b> Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not impact on human rights. It ensures that the issuing of licences under the Gambling Act is in accordance with the gambling licensing objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;</li> <li>Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and</li> <li>Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</li> </ul> This policy has been in place since 2007 and there have been no negative impacts on human rights.
<b>Equality</b> Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not impact negatively on disadvantaged groups. It ensures that the issuing of licences under the Gambling Act is in accordance with the gambling licensing objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;</li> <li>Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and</li> <li>Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.</li> </ul> This policy has been in place since 2007 and there have been no negative impacts on human rights.
<b>Community cohesion</b> Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy does not impact negatively on these relationships. Community Council and local Councillors are included in the consultation on licensing applications and are able to make relevant representation based on the licensing objectives.

\* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response	Evidence
<p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <p>➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed.</p> <p>➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.</p>		

<b>Assessment completed by:</b>	Tim Hodgkinson	<b>Head of Service:</b>	Judith Hedgley
<b>Date:</b>	07/11/25	<b>Date:</b>	07/11/25

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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Councillor L Young, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)
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<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	n/a
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
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<b>Date:</b>	26 November 2025
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<b>Title:</b>	Update on Urgent Decisions
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<b>Report for:</b>	Information
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
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<b>Key decision:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Report is for information only
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<b>Subject to call in?</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable – Council Report for information only
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<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
<p>That Council notes:</p> <p>the decision that has been taken under urgency rules.</p>

<b>Executive summary</b>
<p>The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with regular updates with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.</p>

# **1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions**

- 1.1 The report provides details of a decision that has been taken under the urgency rules.

## 1.2

<b>Our ambitions</b>	<b>Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims</b>
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	In specific circumstances, it is necessary to make urgent decisions to facilitate the actions required to achieve our ambitions. To ensure openness and transparency, these decisions are documented and reported to the Council.
<b>A healthy Place</b>	
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	
<b>Delivering best value</b>	This report will contribute towards the Council Plan ambition to deliver best value by ensuring robust and effective corporate governance.

## 2. Recommendation

## 2.1 That Council notes:

the decision that has been taken under urgency rules.

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

## 3.1 The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.

## 4. Background and relevant information

## 4.1 Urgent Decisions

An urgent decision is where the required statutory notice of the proposed decision can be given but due to urgent deadlines for implementing those decisions, the Scrutiny call-in procedure does not apply. Agreement is always sought from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board or relevant Scrutiny Panel to exempt the proposed decision from the call-in process. The decision then becomes a public record. The information is also available on the Modern Gov system or via the Council website. There has been one urgent decision taken since the last report to Council on 9 July 2025.

<b>Date:</b>	12 November 2025
<b>Decision Maker</b>	Executive
<b>Decision</b>	That Executive approved the request to extend the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) that covers the TS1 area for a further 3 years from the 25 November 2025.
<b>Reason for Urgency</b>	The PSPO for the TS1 Area of Middlesbrough came into force for a period of three years on the 26 November 2019.



	<p>The PSPO for the TS1 Area of Middlesbrough was varied and extended for three years on the 25 November 2022.</p> <p>If Executive approve the second Extension of the PSPO for the TS1 Area of Middlesbrough an Extension Order is required to be made prior to the previous Extension Order expiring.</p> <p>If the call-in procedure and steps to be taken under Paragraph 7.6.17 to 7.6.24 of the Constitution were to apply the time frame would result in the Extension Order expiring before a further Extension Order could be made.</p> <p>Therefore, the decision is required to be implemented as soon as practicable and call-in is therefore not possible. However, it should be noted that the notice requirements for the proposal to be publicised on the forward plan were complied with.</p> <p>The delay likely to be caused by a call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's and the public's interest. The restrictions in that Order would no longer apply and would be likely to recur or increase in frequency and seriousness, which would leave the public unprotected.</p> <p>If the second extension order was not made prior to the expiration of the current Extension Order was in place, a new Public Spaces Protection Order would be required to be made, which would leave a significant period of time whereby no restrictions or protections to the public would be in place which is likely to have a detrimental effect on the community and the public.</p>
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## **5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate**

5.1 Not applicable.

## **6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended**

6.1 Do Nothing: That an update on urgent decisions is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for details of any urgent decisions that have been taken and the reasons for urgency, to be reported to full Council.

## **7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications or impact on any budgets or the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) arising from the content of this report.

Legal	The Constitution requires regular updates on urgent decisions that have been taken to be submitted to full Council for noting.
Risk	Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.  If updates on urgent decisions were not provided to Council, this would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.
Reducing Poverty	The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised.
Climate Change / Environmental	The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised.
Data Protection	The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised.

### Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
No action required		

### Appendices

1	
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### Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Executive	TS1 PSPO Extension – Consultation Results	12 November 2025

**Contact:** Charlotte Benjamin

**Email:** charlotte\_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk