

## THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Monday 5 January 2026

Dear Member

### COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY, 2026

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 14th January, 2026 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 - 26 November 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 Updates

17 - 76

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

8. Questions from Members of the Public (if any)  
*To receive questions from members of the public*
9. Petitions (if any)  
*To receive petitions*
10. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board 77 - 82  
*To receive the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board*
11. Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan – Approval of the Recommendations of the Examiner’s Report and Referendum 83 - 154
12. Constitution Update 155 – 164
13. Update on Urgent Decisions (if any)  
*To receive a report on any urgent decisions taken since the last Council meeting*
14. Members' Questions on Notice (if any)  
*To receive questions on notice from Members*
15. Motions on Notice (if any) 165 - 166  
*To consider any motions on notice*
16. Urgent Motions on Notice (if any)  
*To consider any urgent motions on notice*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'CJ Benjamin', is displayed on a light grey rectangular background.

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.

Questions / Motions – Details of questions or 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 26 November 2025.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Banks (Chair), D Branson, E Clynych, C Cooke - Elected Mayor, C Cooper, D Coupe, D Davison, J Ewan, T Furness, P Gavigan, TA Grainge, L Henman, S Hill, B Hubbard, L Hurst, D Jackson, L Lewis, T Livingstone, L Mason, D McCabe, J McConnell, J McTigue, T Mohan, I Morrish, M Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, A Romaine, J Rostron, M Smiles, P Storey, J Thompson, Z Uddin, N Walker, J Young and L Young

**OFFICERS:** C Benjamin, S Bonner, S Lightwing, B Carr, G Field, A Humble, E Scollay, K Whitmore, R Williams, A Wilson and A Hoy

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors J Kabuye, I Blades, J Cooke, N Hussain, D Jones, J Nicholson, J Ryles, M Saunders, S Tranter and G Wilson

25/72 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

25/73 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 15 OCTOBER 2025**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 October 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

25/74 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

25/75 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Announcements for this meeting.

25/76 **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor moved his report as written.

*Questions in relation to the Mayor's Report*

Councillor L Young on Bring It On Boro

The Mayor explained that "Bring It on Boro" ran during October half term thanks to £250K of investment from the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund. Over 20 organisations had taken part in activities and over 2000 places had been taken up by children aged 5 to 16. The Mayor was pleased that the project would be extended, enabling children to access free food and activities during Easter, Summer, Christmas and Half Term holidays.

Councillor Clynych on 10 x 10

The Mayor confirmed that the Newport Primary Residential Experience had been a pilot scheme as part of the 10 x 10 project funded through the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund.

The project would be reviewed in January 2026 with a gap analysis undertaken in schools. One such gap in provision that had been identified was music-related experiences. The Mayor invited all Councillors to nominate any schools that would benefit from the project. New funding would be allocated following the budget settlement.

25/77 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS**

*Question in relation to the update of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture – Councillor Storey.*

Councillor Hubbard on Inclusion.

The Deputy Mayor stated that there was a good range of specialist provision across Middlesbrough which included: early years, outreach, inclusion and assessment provision, a number of special schools, resource and registered alternate provision. The Council had applied to the Department for Education (DFE) for approval to open a new special school at Stainsby Road. The Deputy Mayor acknowledged that SEND was a national issue and explained that the Council was awaiting the publication of the Government's School White Paper and the SEND Reforms which had been due in the autumn but had now been delayed until spring 2026.

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

Councillor Morrish on Homelessness.

The Executive Member agreed with the Councillor's comments in relation to the Council's caring, committed and hard working Homelessness Team. In relation to the accuracy of the recent count of homeless in Middlesbrough, the Executive Member commented that the Team often picked up information on rough sleepers from other people who were sleeping rough. The Executive Member stated that it was not possible to say whether the numbers were properly accurate and that she would ask the Team whether they had any information on people who were sofa surfing rather than rough sleeping. With regard to providing accommodation for all those who were homeless in Middlesbrough, the Executive Member confirmed that this was possible. However, some people did not want to be accommodated and refused to engage or accept support. The Homelessness Team were persistent and visited rough sleepers weekly to continue to offer help and support.

The Mayor added that annual rough sleepers count did not include anyone who was on the waiting list for accommodation or sofa surfing. The Government Definition for was the count was those people that were bedded down. Therefore, in the Mayor's opinion, the numbers could not be relied upon to be wholly accurate, although thankfully they were decreasing. The Mayor commented that it was difficult to say that the Council could house everyone every time as people had different needs and for example, some homes might require adaptations to make them suitable. There were however, approximately 2000 empty properties in Middlesbrough that needed to be brought back into use to ensure that everyone had a home.

Councillor Morrish on Veterans Community Initiative.

The Executive Member agreed with Councillor Morrish that the Veterans and Armed Forces Community Club set up by Linda Ford and others was very important. The Executive Member added that whilst she was not aware how many Councillors had helped with this initiative, the Council's Armed Forces Champion had been involved. The Executive Member commented that when leaving the Armed Forces, veterans returning to their home town often found that people they knew previously were no longer there or they had lost touch with them. It was important that there was a supportive community available to them. The Executive Member noted the suggestion by Councillor Morrish that the Clubs should be rolled out to other areas of the town in addition to central Middlesbrough.

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

Councillor Uddin on School Attendance for Children in Care.

The Executive Member agreed that the 78.5% attendance figure for children in care, who were Key Stage 4 pupils, attending school since the start of the school year was too low. This was an important issue for the Virtual School Head, the Virtual School Governing Body, and at the top of the Executive Member's Update. A lot of work was taking place to support young people to stay in school including an Engagement Hub for Key Stage 4 pupils. Education, Social Care and Health were working together to provide support as well as emotionally available adults in schools who built relationships with young people who were at risk of poor attendance. The Council endeavoured to wrap support around young people to ensure they received the education they deserved.

Councillor Clynych on Giving Young People the Best Start

The Executive Member stated that the lifting of the two child benefit cap would have a huge impact in Middlesbrough and he was thrilled to hear the Chancellor's announcement today. The Executive Member went on to comment that under the cap, 70,000 children in the region had been driven into poverty. The lifting of the cap would have a massive impact on children and on some of the work that Middlesbrough Council was doing in relation to issues such as safeguarding, early help and the Mayor's 10 x 10 initiative.

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

Councillor Morrish on Nunthorpe Community Centre.

The Executive Member explained that the issues raised by Councillor Morrish did not fall within his remit and were being dealt with by Officers which was the appropriate route for them at the current time. The Executive Member invited Councillor Morrish to email him with the details that he wished to discuss about the Nunthorpe Community Centre and he would be willing to meet with him. The Executive Member also stated that the new Community Centre was long overdue and he was looking forward to the building being available for Nunthorpe residents. Councillor Morrish agreed with the Executive Member's comments in respect of the Community Centre being long overdue and undertook to email him as suggested.

Councillor Branson on Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.

The Executive Member was unable to confirm the date of the Referendum. The Executive Member added his thanks to Councillor Branson and Council Officers who had contributed to the Neighbourhood Plan. Middlesbrough Council was proud to be facilitating the development of new homes for the residents of the town.

It was highlighted that during his response, the Executive Member had referred to Newham Hall being in Coulby Newham Ward which was incorrect as Newham Hall was in Marton West Ward. The Executive Member clarified that he was referring to the Newham Hall Development, rather than the Hall itself.

*Question in relation to the update of the Executive Member for Environment – Councillor Gavigan.*

Councillor Morrish on Marton Interchange Overbridge.

The Executive Member explained that the main contractor for the project had been selected and was due to commence work in March 2026. Works to be carried out included installation of a vehicle restraint system, installation of suicide prevention structures, renewal of waterproofing, re-surfacing and lining. The duration of works was expected to be 26 weeks. Residents would be informed of forthcoming activity via letters, advance notice boards, variable message boards and press releases. Unfortunately the project had taken longer to arrange than would have been preferred due to contractual issues.

25/78

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY).**

The following question for the Mayor had been submitted by a Member of the Public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.8.15:

*How can you all as Corporate Parents increase your understanding of Middlesbrough cared for and care experienced young people?*

The Mayor responded that the Council Plan and its performance measures were being reviewed. Currently there was no formal process in place for consulting with those in the Local Authority's care or for care leavers. The Mayor extended an invitation to young people to meet with him and the Participation Team to discuss ideas and suggestions that could be woven into the Plan, with clear descriptors, so that young people would be at the heart of everything the Council delivers.

25/79 **PETITIONS (IF ANY)**

No valid petitions had been submitted for this meeting.

25/80 **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 there had been two meetings of the OSB since the last Council meeting, both with substantial agendas. The Mayor, and the Executive Members for Children's and Finance and Officers were thanked for their attendance and input at those meetings. The Executive Member for Adult Social Care was scheduled to attend the December meeting.

The Chair reminded all Members that a Scrutiny Workshop had been arranged at 4.30 pm on Tuesday 9 December 2025 . All Members were invited to attend.

The Chair invited Members to note the report.

**ORDERED** that the report was noted.

25/81 **MEMBERS' SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES**

The Director of Legal and Governance Services, on behalf of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration, presented a report in respect of the Members' Scheme of Allowances.

This report was previously considered by Council on 10 September 2025 and the debate on the report was adjourned and the matter was deferred for decision.

Following its 2025 review of Members' allowances, the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration recommended an increase to the Basic Allowance from £7,608 to £8,999 (the Teesside Average). The Panel also recommended freezing Special Responsibility Allowances, and all other allowances, at their current levels. Neither Basic nor Special Responsibility Allowances should reflect Staff Pay Awards.

Council was asked to consider the Panel's recommendations and either accept or reject them. If, after having due regard of the Panel's recommendations, Council rejected the Panel's proposals, it would need to create its own Scheme of allowances.

On a vote being taken, the recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration, detailed at paragraph 2 of the submitted report, were **REJECTED**.

25/82 **APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY 2026-2029**

A report of the Director of Environment and Community Services was presented by the Mayor. The report sought Council approval of the Statement of Gambling Policy 2026-2029, a copy of which was attached to the submitted report.

The Council was required to have a three-year policy statement setting out the principles that it proposed to apply in exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005 (section 349). In preparing the Statement of Gambling Policy, the Council was required to consult the Police and those persons who represent the interests of those carrying on gambling businesses and those who were likely to be affected by gambling activities in its area.

The draft policy was approved by Council on 9 July 2025 and an 8 week long consultation was undertaken from 11 August until 6 October 2025. Responses to the consultation were included in the submitted report along with background and other relevant information.

**ORDERED** that Council approved the Statement of Gambling Policy 2026-2029

25/83      **UPDATE ON URGENT DECISIONS**

The Director of Legal and Governance Services submitted a report which provided an update with regard to one urgent decision that had been taken under the urgency rules since last reported to Council on 9 July 2025.

**ORDERED** that the report be noted.

25/84      **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ON NOTICE (IF ANY)**

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

25/85      **MOTIONS ON NOTICE (IF ANY)**

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

25/86      **URGENT MOTIONS ON NOTICE (IF ANY)**

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

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Mayor Chris Cooke

**DATE OF MEETING:** 14 January 2026

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** - Driving regeneration, creating jobs and opportunities, and attracting investment
- **A healthy place** - Improving the environment and supporting wellbeing
- **Safe and resilient communities** - Tackling deprivation and building stronger neighbourhoods
- **Delivering best value** - Using resources effectively to deliver better outcomes for residents and make best use of our funding allocation

### Update:

- Middlesbrough is entering a new chapter. For the first time in over a decade, we can propose a budget with no cuts to services and a clear focus on reinvestment.
- Enabled by a fairer funding settlement, our draft 2026/27 budget commits £6.46 million of growth to priorities that matter most: cleaner, safer neighbourhoods; youth opportunities in every ward; better play spaces and cultural events; stronger communities and support for the vulnerable; and growth and jobs in key sectors.
- This is a major milestone for Middlesbrough and reflects the hard work of this Executive and our officers to secure a sustainable financial future.
- Alongside this, we continue to deliver regeneration and opportunity, from Outwood Academy Riverside and STACK's success to expanded holiday activities and new youth provision.
- Middlesbrough is building momentum, and with this positive, forward-looking budget, we can accelerate progress towards a cleaner, safer, fairer and more ambitious town.

## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

### Update:

#### 1.1 Outwood Academy Riverside - Delivering for Young People and Middlehaven

- 1.1.1 Construction of Outwood Academy Riverside is now well underway, marking a major step forward for education and regeneration in Middlesbrough. Six months after work began, drone images show the outer frame of the new three-storey school nearing completion on its prominent Middlehaven site, close to Middlesbrough College and the Old Town Hall.
- 1.1.2 This project follows years of resilience from students and staff who have learned in temporary sites across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. Once complete, the school will provide state-of-the-art facilities for up to 1,200 pupils - a significant investment in our young people and their future.
- 1.1.3 The development is being delivered by the Department for Education and Outwood Grange Academies Trust in partnership with Middlesbrough Council, with construction led by Bowmer + Kirkland. It is on track to welcome students next calendar year.
- 1.1.4 Outwood Academy Riverside is part of a wider vision for Middlehaven. Alongside this project, work will soon start on the multi-million-pound restoration of Middlesbrough's Old Town Hall following a successful National Lottery Heritage Fund bid, and plans are progressing to deliver over 3,000 homes and new leisure and retail spaces. Together, these developments will create vibrant neighbourhoods, attract investment, and provide opportunities for families and businesses.
- 1.1.5 This milestone reflects our commitment, and that of our partners across the town, to making Middlesbrough the most creative place for young people to live, learn and realise their future, while driving regeneration that benefits the whole town.
- 1.1.6 I want to thank all those who have helped get us to this point, from the Department for Education and Outwood Grange Academies Trust to our Council officers, Deputy Mayor Philippa Storey, local councillors, Andy McDonald MP, and other partners. This has been a real team effort and a great example of partnership working to deliver for Middlesbrough.





## **1.2 STACK - A Year of Success in Middlesbrough**

- 1.2.1 STACK has marked its first year in Middlesbrough with incredible numbers, welcoming more than 300,000 visitors since opening in Exchange Square under the A66. The venue has created over 50 jobs and become a major draw for residents and visitors from across the region, helping to revitalise an area of the town centre that was previously underused.
- 1.2.2 Beyond its economic impact, STACK has played an active role in the community - hosting sell-out family events, supporting Middlesbrough Pride, and volunteering time for local clean-up projects. The team has worked closely with neighbouring organisations including Middlesbrough College and Wander Films, and several local staff have progressed into management roles, showing the venue's commitment to career development.
- 1.2.3 STACK's success demonstrates the strong market for leisure and hospitality in Middlesbrough and the importance of creating vibrant destinations that attract people into the town. This is exactly what we set out to achieve through our regeneration plans, and it's encouraging to see businesses like STACK investing in Middlesbrough's future.
- 1.2.4 I want to thank the STACK team, our Council officers, and partners who have supported this journey. Together, we are building momentum for a thriving town centre and a successful, ambitious Middlesbrough.

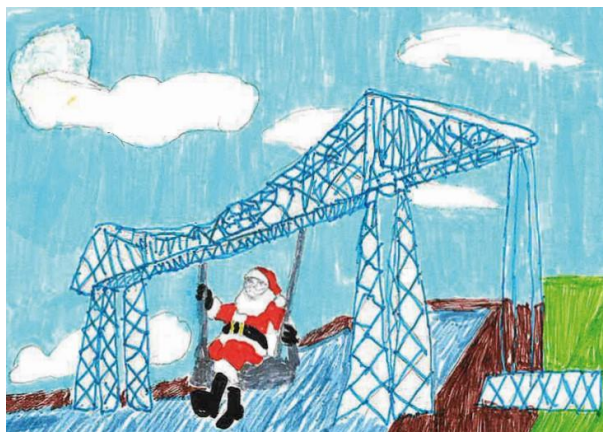


## **1.3 Bring It On Boro - Supporting Families Over Christmas**

- 1.3.1 Our Holiday Activities and Food programme, Bring It On Boro, ran throughout the Christmas school holidays, providing thousands of Middlesbrough children with free activities, experiences and healthy meals. Young people aged five to sixteen enjoyed festive fun including panto trips, Santa's grotto visits, elf workshops, craft sessions, music performances and sports such as football, cheerleading and boxing.
- 1.3.2 Every child who attended received a nutritious meal, helping families at what can be a challenging time of year. Feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive, describing the programme as a "lifeline" that helps children thrive and try new experiences.
- 1.3.3 This Christmas offer built on the success of our October half-term extension, funded by a £250,000 grant from the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund. By running Bring It On Boro during every school holiday period, including Easter, summer and half terms, we are delivering on our commitment to give every child somewhere safe to go, something fun to do and a warm, healthy meal.

## 1.4 Christmas Card Competition - Showcasing Local Creativity

- 1.4.1 Hundreds of Middlesbrough primary school children took part in our Christmas card competition, producing fantastic designs that captured the spirit of the season and celebrated our town. Many entries featured local landmarks such as the Transporter Bridge, and even a nod to our recently departed legend Chris Rea's famous festive hit.
- 1.4.2 The winning design came from Denni, aged 11, at Whinney Banks Primary School, with runners-up Matilda from Whinney Banks, Jake from Lift North Ormesby and Karlia from Archibald Primary School. Their creativity was recognised with prizes presented by Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education, Cllr Philippa Storey.
- 1.4.3 This competition is a great way to showcase the talent of our young people and involve schools in civic life. I want to thank all the pupils, teachers and schools who took part.



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bridge



## 2. THE TIME AHEAD

### Update:

### 2.1 2026/27 Budget - Investing in Middlesbrough's Future

- 2.1.1 Our draft budget for 2026/27 marks a turning point for Middlesbrough. For the first time in over a decade, we are proposing no cuts to services. Instead, we are reinvesting £6.46 million into areas that matter most to residents, thanks to a fairer funding settlement that recognises the challenges our town faces.
- 2.1.2 This budget is built around my priorities to recover, reset and deliver. It includes:

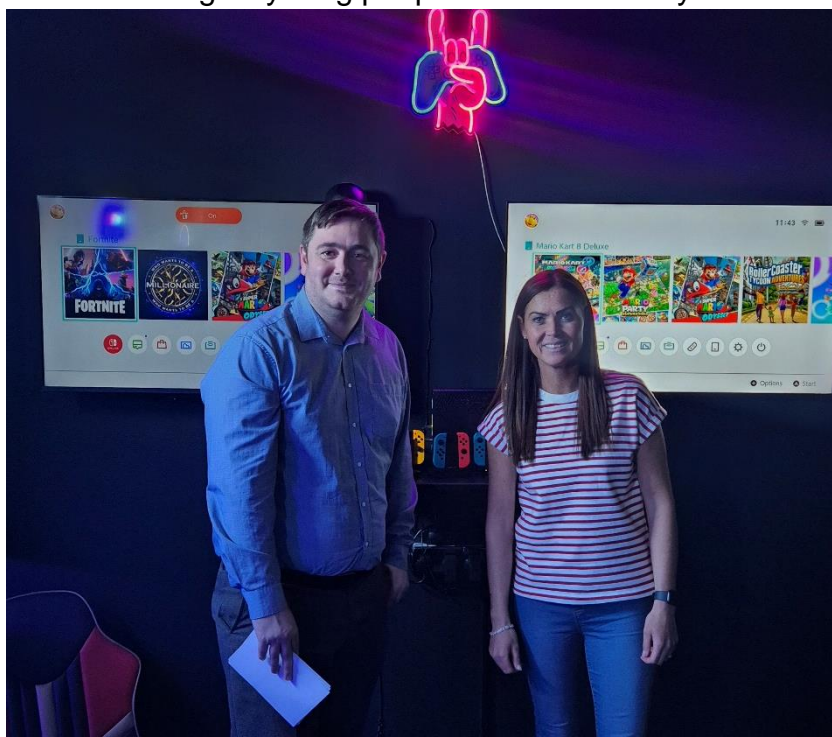


- Cleaner, safer neighbourhoods - doubling our team of neighbourhood caretakers, reinstating park keepers, introducing a dedicated becks team, and adding extra street cleaning rounds
  - Youth opportunities in every ward - funding youth clubs or dedicated activities for young people, expanding the Holiday Activities and Food programme, and investing in the 10 x 10 initiative to give children life-changing experiences
  - Better play spaces and cultural offer - £700,000 for play park improvements alongside £500,000 for new events and museum enhancements
  - Stronger communities and support for the vulnerable - targeted investment in areas most affected by deprivation, improved housing standards, and enhanced social care services to help people live independently for longer
  - Growth and jobs - support for Middlesbrough's tech sector and a dedicated employment coordinator to connect residents with opportunities
- 2.1.3 We are also proposing a lower Council Tax increase than assumed by Government, 2% for the Adult Social Care precept, to help residents and address the injustice of the current system, while meeting statutory duties until wider reforms can be implemented.
- 2.1.4 This is a positive, forward-looking budget that reflects our ambition for Middlesbrough: cleaner streets, safer communities, better opportunities for young people and a stronger local economy. After years of being starved of resources, we can finally invest in the services and projects that will make a real difference.
- 2.1.5 It is thanks to the hard work and prudent forward planning of this Executive, and officers across the Council and particularly in our finance team, that we are in a position to deliver more for our town. Empowered by a new, fairer settlement from the Government, Middlesbrough has a bright future ahead.



## **2.2 Youth Infinity - Investing in Safe Spaces for Young People**

- 2.2.1 Youth Infinity in Pallister Park is proving to be a lifeline for children and families, offering a safe, positive space for young people to spend time together. Launched earlier this year at the East Middlesbrough Events Centre, the club runs two weekly sessions, one for five to eight-year-olds and another for older children, and provides a wide range of activities across seven rooms, including gaming, movies, crafts, healthy eating demonstrations and a disco space.
- 2.2.2 The project has now received £6,800 from the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund, which I established to improve opportunities for children and support youth services. This funding will help Youth Infinity build on its success and continue to provide the kind of environment that keeps young people engaged, active and safe.
- 2.2.3 Improving the lives of young people is one of my top priorities, and this is exactly the type of initiative we want to see in every part of Middlesbrough. In our next budget, we'll go further by investing in youth provision across all wards, ensuring every young person has access to a club or dedicated activities.
- 2.2.4 I want to thank Lindsey Morrow, the founder of Youth Infinity, along with her volunteers, local families and our Council officers for their commitment to making this project a reality. Their work shows what can be achieved when we invest in our communities and give young people the chance they deserve.





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

**Council Meeting: 14 January 2026**

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## INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **14 January 2026**.

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:**

Sue Lightwing  
**Democratic Services Manager**  
(01642) 729712

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**COUNCIL MEETING: 14 JANUARY 2026**

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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 18 November 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:** 14 January 2026

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:

- Education Alliance Board
- Suspension and Exclusions
- Grants for Schools
- Town Hall
- Theatre
- Performing Arts Grants for schools
- Events

## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

#### Update:

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

#### ***1.1 Special Free School***

1.1.1 The DfE announced 11<sup>th</sup> December that it will be investing at least £3bn in high needs capital funding over the next four years. This investment is expected to create at least 50,000 high needs places in mainstream schools across England, as well as special school places where they are needed, ensuring that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can learn, achieve and thrive closer to home. The LA will be notified of our 2026-27 allocation in spring, in line with usual high needs capital allocation cycles.

1.1.2 The DfE also announced they are offering Middlesbrough Council the choice of continuing with the planned special free school or opting for a funding settlement on top of our high needs capital allocation to deliver the same number of places in a different way, instead of a new school. We will be investigating this proposal and consider which is the best option for the children and young people of Middlesbrough. The DfE are asking for a final decision no later than 27th February 2026.

## **1.2 Virtual School**

1.2.1 Attendance remains a key priority across Middlesbrough for all children. While overall attendance for statutory school-age children looked after stands at 86.5%, more than 100 children have achieved 95% or better attendance since September, which is a fantastic achievement for this cohort. However, attendance at Key Stage 4 remains low and the Virtual School will be working with the Attendance Team in the new year to offer enhanced support.

1.2.2 Engagement from social care has been strong, with over 90% of social workers attending scheduled Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings, ensuring co-ordinated planning and joint support.

1.2.3 The Virtual School are seeing encouraging signs in educational outcomes. These improvements highlight the positive impact of stability and sustained support.

1.2.4 This term has seen significant progress across the PROCLAIM and Pre-PROCLAIM workstreams. Two foundation training programmes for schools have been implemented to support those schools that were not yet ready to join PROCLAIM. Through this work the Virtual School are ensuring these schools have the essential groundwork in trauma-informed and relational practice. Alongside this, the Virtual School continue to collaborate with the Rees Centre at Oxford University, working with four other Virtual Schools to deepen research into attachment and trauma and how this learning can be applied in a school setting to best support our children.

## **1.3 Exclusion and Suspension Rates**

1.3.1 Exclusion and suspensions remain a key priority for the local area with officers and schools working together to drive down exclusions and further develop inclusion across all settings to ensure children and young people receive the support that they need.

1.3.2 Improvements in the tracking of data regarding suspensions is now possible. This agreement to share this data was made earlier this academic year. This offers real time tracking for suspensions data which avoid lags in reporting.

1.3.3 Using this data we can see that for the Autumn Term (Sept to Dec) that the position with suspensions remains broadly comparable to the previous academic year:

- 2100 suspensions in total, compared to 2082 in the Autumn Term 24-25
- 3910 days lost to suspension compared to 3944 days in the Autumn Term 24-25

1.3.4 With regard to permanent exclusions, there have been 33 since the start of the 2025-26 academic year in September. This is again broadly comparable to levels in the previous year where there had been 33 permanent exclusions during the same period. There remain high numbers of children in alternative provision as a result of permanent exclusions which continues to present a demand pressure in terms of placement availability.

## **1.4 Middlesbrough Family Hubs: Expansion, Ambition and Expectations**

1.4.1 Middlesbrough's commitment to giving every child the best start in life is being strengthened through the expansion of the Best Start Family Hub model, aligned with the Education Alliance Board (EAB) and School Readiness Strategy. Together, these reforms represent a step change in how the town supports children and families from pregnancy

through the school entry (0-25 for those you people with SEND) with a clear focus on reducing inequality, improving outcomes and closing the school readiness gap.

1.4.2 Middlesbrough's expanded Family Hub network, guided by the Education Alliance Board, represents a collective commitment to children and families. By aligning our strategic vision, delivery and accountability, the town is building a system that supports families earlier, intervenes more effectively and ensures every child arrives at school ready to thrive.

1.4.3 While school readiness starts from birth, the 3-4 age phase is a critical focus of the expansion and Government expectations. Key priorities for Middlesbrough are:

- Empowering parents to be advocates for themselves
- Accelerating communication, language and literacy with a strong focus on vocabulary, listening, attention and early narrative skills
- Supporting emotional regulation and social skills, including turn-taking, resilience and managing transitions
- Developing independence, particularly self-care skills such as toileting, dressing and feeding
- Strengthening early literacy and numeracy foundations, through play based learning and adult interaction
- Ensuring smooth and supported transitions between early years settings into primary school

1.4.4 The expansion of the Family Hub strengthens Middlesbrough's early intervention infrastructure, providing a single trusted access point where families can receive joined-up support. Partnership working is key to success bringing together health visiting, early years education, SEND, Stronger Families services, public health and the voluntary sector.

1.4.5 Under the expanded model, the hubs will:

- Act as the primary delivery platform for school readiness
- Provide universal access alongside targeted outreach to families facing the greatest disadvantage
- Enable earlier identification of need and quicker access to support
- Build services driven by local communities, strengthening Parent Champion roles
- Build parental confidence to support learning at home
- Support for parents to understand child development and respond positively to behaviour - parents are the child's first educator

## **1.5 Community Learning**

1.5.1 The completion of the new employment and skills hub is on schedule and work is due to be complete at the beginning of March 2026. There will be a planned move with minimal disruption to classes and courses around the end of March time. Learning for Inclusion – over 200 learners have been supported since September and now have a full staff team in place to continue delivery.

**1.5.2 Trailblazer** – has now commenced with approximately 36 young people now in paid placements or work trials, funding has been extended until 2027 and we are looking at a delivery model within communities to target the NEETS group.

**1.5.3 Outreach events** – Community Learning attended Tees skills careers fair in December and also the family hub event at North Ormesby community hub on 9<sup>th</sup> December, with further attendance at more outreach events in the future.

**1.5.4 Work well** - a new employment focussed contract to support people with a fit note (in last 6 months) to help them access support to help them return to the workplace or to help them to look for alternative employment - this is a one year funded project and funding agreements have been received and delivery to commence in January 2026.

**1.5.5 Alternative Provision** – We are now delivering AP at Martonside and currently have 26 places with plans and agreement from MBC to extend this offer to 32 in the coming months, there are also discussions about growing the service and looking at Whinney Banks as another area of delivery. There is currently a piece of work taking place to look at the current structure and changing that to manage the current growth and the potential of another service – this is still ongoing.

**1.5.6 Employment and Skills** - We have two new members of staff who have been delivering services from the hubs and offering employment support to individuals. Working in the communities and being accessible in communities, instead of expecting communities to travel into the town centre.

**1.5.7 Employment Hub Coordinator** – Has now been appointed, Vikki Brumwell has over 15 years experience of leading on employability programmes and has managed the IPS contract in Middlesbrough for the last 2 years, Vikki is joining us in January 2026 and I look forward to welcoming her to the team.

**1.5.8 Apprenticeship Programmes** – Management L3 and L5 is doing well with a new intake of 16 learners, we are currently reviewing the delivery models and offer and also looking at a strategy for the apprenticeship levy across all service delivery.

**1.5.9 Partnership Working** – Community learning is now part of the Tees Valley Housing Partnership workstream for employability group and will be working together to provide collaborative support for residents of Middlesbrough. Working closely with Middlesbrough College to establish a partnership that collaborates on our delivery and working together in the future.

## **Culture**

### **1.6 Musinc**

- Careers Panel (Secondary Schools) – 50 young people from 3 local schools attended to learn more about careers in the music industry
- Schools Big Gig: Rockin' Christmas – 700 young people from 11 schools and home ed families
- Family Big Gig: Rockin' Christmas – 88 attendees – increased from last year.
- Amplify – 40 performers and 104 audience members across the Juniors (8 to 11) and Seniors (12 to 18) Amplify events. This is a unique opportunity for young people to be part of a performing band.
- MTH Community Choir & NEO Winter Concert – 120 performers and 162 audience
- 6 young people performed at Musinc's Buskers Stage at the Christmas Lights Switch On (inside MTH)
- All engagement groups continue to run weekly, most are at full capacity.

1.6.1 Musinc were successful in the Better Use Spaces Grant Funding and secured a £99,547 Grant for a new professional recording studio for new and emerging musicians and for regular youth music groups such as Bandjam Juniors and Seniors.

## **1.7 Town Hall**

### **1.7.1 Programming & Event Highlights from September to December**

- Dance – Anthony Lo Giudice, Southpaw rehearsals, Tees Dance, Evening of Burlesque, Stagestruck Holiday Workshops
- Theatre - Fenwick Christmas Window Rehearsals, Theatre Go-Round Sherlock Holmes, Simon Yates, Pirates of Buccaneer Bay, Sh\*t Faced Shakespeare, Brett Tippie, Middlesbrough Theatre Pantomime Rehearsals, Amanda Owen Yorkshire Shepherdess,
- Comedy – Jimmy Carr – 2 x sell out shows, Gary Meikle, Georgie Carroll, Daniel O'Reilly, Iain Stirling, Jimeoin, Urzila Carlson, Jason Manford, Henning Wehn, Christmas Comedy Clubs
- Music – Jodie Nicholson, Twisterella, The Lightning Seeds, Skindred, The Young'uns Big Boro Bash, Fatboy Slim, Fisherman Friends, Musinc Rockin' Christmas, Christmas By Candlelight,
- Classical Music - Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Classical Café, Royal Northern Sinfonia
- Events – Middlesbrough Art Week Launch, Middlesbrough Pride, annual Older Peoples Day, School & College Tours, Twisterella Unconference, Taste of Africa Showcase, Bernie Slaven Anniversary Celebration, Musinc Careers Panel, Middlesbrough College Graduations, Fatboy Slim Book Signing, Middlesbrough Christmas Light Switch On, Christmas Toy Shop with The Junction
- Exhibitions – Tomorrow Street exhibition with Stellar Creates, Shine On Boro with Stellar Creates

1.7.2 We were very proud to partner with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor & The Junction Multibank to bring the 'Christmas Toy Shop' event to life. This special event was designed to ensure that every local child and young person can look forward to Christmas and enjoy festive experiences, regardless of their circumstances.

1.7.3 Held in the Courtroom, the event supported 150 local school children, including Junction service users from Young Carers and Family Focus.

1.7.4 The Town Hall has successfully applied to be part of TVCA's Unlocking Access programme which is designed to support cultural and leisure venues boost their visitor numbers, audiences, and income by making them more welcoming and accessible to *all* visitors. The programme includes accessibility training and scoping visits/audits, plus the Town Hall has been awarded £10,000 for a range of accessibility improvements.

## **1.8 Middlesbrough Theatre**

1.8.1 Pantomime sales have improved since we opened and the show is being well-received. With a running time of 1 ¾ hours, it is ideally suited to small people and we have introduced a Babes-in-Arms ticket which is attracting a good response.

- 1.8.2 The Spring season is selling strongly, with three of the five shows in January already exceeding target and the others on track to do the same.

16-Jan	ELO AGAIN
23-Jan	THE DOLLY SHOW
24-Jan	BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY
30-Jan	CELEBRATING CELINE
31-Jan	JUST MY IMAGINATION(TEMPTATIONS)

### **1.9 Events**

- Beginning of November the team delivered their first Civic events series, including Laying of the First Poppy, welcoming over 300 school children to lay wooden crosses, Remembrance Sunday, attracting in excess of 2000 people and Armistice Day.
- End of November saw the Middlesbrough Christmas Parade and Light Switch On. Overall the event was successful and attracted a peak attendance of 8000 people. However we will no longer use live reindeer in the Christmas parade.
- Working with ICT and the Web team to create outdoor events web pages on the council website, and an online form for external event organisers.
- The events team have been using December to debrief and plan ready for the 2026 events calendar.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 14 January 2026

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. Update:

- 1.1 On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 Executive approved the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028, along with the proposed delivery plan for recommissioning of support services. Middlesbrough Council have a statutory duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to assess the need for accommodation based domestic abuse support in their area every three years, to develop and publish a strategy for the provision of support having regard to the needs assessment, and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
- 1.2 Domestic Abuse strategies play a critical role in preventing abuse, protecting victims and co-ordinating support services within local communities. The strategy identifies partnership work delivered to date and sets out the key strategic objectives required moving forward. The Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-28 was developed by the Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board (DASP). The strategy builds on the strong foundations established via the Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019 and the Domestic Abuse safe Accommodation Strategy 2021. The strategy has been developed taking into account the following:
  - Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment
  - Option Appraisal regarding future model for Safe Accommodation
- 1.3 As a result of the Needs Assessment, the DASP has also identified gaps in support services locally. A number of recommissioning developments have been identified focussing on the following:
  - **Safe Accommodation** (Refuge, Sanctuary, Dispersed, Complex need)
  - **Community Based Provision** (Referral and Response, Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, Therapeutic support and counselling, Parenting support)
  - **Prevention** (Work with schools and Colleges, Community Engagement, Domestic champions, and support with employers)

- **By and For Specialist Service** (Services working with protected characteristics)
- **IRIS Programme** (Working with Primary care to identify and respond to domestic abuse effectively)
- **Immigration Advice** (For victims and their children who are fleeing domestic abuse with insecure immigration status)

The link below will provide information on both the Domestic Abuse needs assessment and the associated strategy.

[Domestic abuse needs assessment | Middlesbrough Council](#)

- 1.4 In December I attended Overview & Scrutiny Board to provide details regarding my time as Executive member for this portfolio, and the work I have been doing in addition I outlined progress to date in regard to our CQC improvement plan, alongside some service pressures.
- 1.5 There has been press interest in the development of Levick during the month. A BBC article and radio interview with a potential family member has highlighted the valuable service this will offer. A link for the article and radio interview are provided below.

[Middlesbrough respite centre to replace closing facilities - BBC News](#)

[BBC Radio Tees - BBC Radio Tees, 'Those 33 nights are our golden days'](#)

## **2. HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Update:**

#### **2.1 National Health Homes Awards 2025**

The Staying Put Team were shortlisted for the Disabled Facilities Grant major Adaptation Service of the year award. These awards are held in high regard within the home Improvement Agency sector. Whilst the team did not win this prestigious award on the accession they were singled out for a Commendation of Excellence, in recognition of the excellent service the agency provides to the residents of Middlesbrough. This award is considered one of the “big 3” within the Home Improvement agency sector alongside the HIA of the year and the Handy person Service of the year – Middlesbrough Staying Put Agency have now won, or been highly commended in all three awards. I would like to congratulate and express my thanks to all the staff in the Staying Put agency for their hard work to deliver such continued success.

## **3. THE TIME AHEAD**

### **Update:**

- 3.1 The mental Health Bill has now received royal Assent to modernise outdated mental health legislation and improve care for seriously ill patients. The new Mental Health Act will ensure patients have stronger rights and greater control over their treatment

through new statutory care and treatment plans. Families and carers will have more involvement in decisions around treatment, giving them a real say in supporting their loved ones. As the detail of the new Act is considered it is likely there will be implications for Adult Social Care, due to a likely increase in demand for more robust community services. Work will now be progressed alongside statutory partners to begin to understand the full implications and plan for commissioning activity to ensure the community infrastructure can meet the future demands as a result of the legislative change.

- 3.2 During the festive season Adult Social Care have been promoting Togetherall – this is an anonymous online community to support mental well-being 24/7, 365 days per week, as a free service. While the holiday season can represent joy, gratitude and togetherness, it can also be associated with family and financial pressure, loneliness, anxiety and stress. These feelings can be difficult to cope with. Therefore Togetherall was commissioned to provide any resident of Middlesbrough a little extra support for their mental health, we have actively promoted this service, ensuring anyone can go to [togetherall.com](https://togetherall.com) and register for free with their Middlesbrough postcode. As the service is available 24/7 and is a safe place to air concerns, and connect with others that may be experiencing similar feelings, it can offer valuable support when other services have limited availability.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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:** 550
- **Number of foster carers with Middlesbrough Council:** 71 foster carers, 26 connected carers.
- **Number of children in our care:** 514
- **Percentage of children in our care attending school (since the start of the school year):** all children 86.3%, primary-aged children 95%, secondary-aged children 77.6%, post-16 17.6%

## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

### 1.1 Early Help via the Stronger Families Service

- 1.1.1 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.
- 1.1.2 All children coming into early help are allocated and access support in a timely manner. The service does not have any waiting lists as a result.
- 1.1.3 In November 100 children opened to the early help service and 96 closed. Of those children closed, 100% had achieved a positive outcome.
- 1.1.4 Most of our early help cases (68%) 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 November 1205 children were receiving early help support from a variety of partners including health partners, schools, The Junction, Seen Heard Believed, Recovery Solutions, Middlesbrough Football Club and housing partners.
- 1.1.5 A deep dive of children who have re-referred into the service within 12 months highlighted that in November 2025 the majority of the re-referrals into early help were referred by the police. Police referrals comprised 25% of all re-referrals (8 contacts), step down from children's social care comprised of 21.8% of all re-referrals(7). Education made up 6.25 % (2) of the re-referral contacts. Other sources

included health 9.3%, (3), anonymous 9.3%, (3 contacts), Seen Heard Believed made up 9.3%, (3) and self-referrals made up 18.7%, (6). The 32 children that referred into early help were from 17 families.

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

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 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. This enables relationships to be built quickly and momentum in the planning process to continue, increasing the likelihood of meaningful engagement.
- 1.2.3 There are delayed timescales in some areas. A process is in place to provide assurance that any delays do not compromise children and their safety, or progression of plans, whilst we strive to improve our approach to reviews. This is in line with our Promoting Purposeful Practice session held in October, where we concentrated on the quality and purpose of review points for children.
- 1.2.4 There are ongoing recruitment pressures in the service, with a heavy reliance on agency staff. The service is working to ensure that we increase numbers of permanent staff in order to ensure that consistency of practice improves, and children's support remains with the same worker. Our workforce strategy is being updated further to address the challenges faced in this area.
- 1.2.5 A review is underway within our Children's with Disabilities services to look at the quality of short breaks for children and families. Further work is taking place to explore how we can increase our capacity and reach more families.

### **1.3 Cared for Children and Care Leavers**

- 1.3.1 National Care Leavers' month in November provided opportunities for young people to access additional activities, and for the council to celebrate our young people. Highlights included a music project where seven young people showcased their film *Dreams* at Roxy Movies, earning recognition and an award.
- 1.3.2 Care-experienced young people attended the last council meeting in November and engaged with councillors. Our Voice and Change ambassador asked a question of the mayor, asking how corporate parents can better understand their experiences. I'd like to thank all elected members who met the young people, watched their powerful video and posed for photos.







- 1.3.3 Within Middlesbrough there are currently 511 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.
- 1.3.4 There are 253 care leavers who are being supported by personal advisors (PAs) in our Pathways Team. Demand in the service has continued to increase and the team has been expanded accordingly. There are currently 43 young people who will turn 18 within the next 8 months. This number will increase if other young people become eligible to access the leaving care service during this period.
- 1.3.5 Our care leavers hub provides drop-in services every week. Young people speak positively about the opportunity that the hub provides them with, and the value of having a consistent location to attend.
- 1.3.6 I was thrilled to hear Health Secretary Wes Streeting MP announce that tens of thousands of care leavers will receive free prescriptions, dental and eyecare services up to age 25. He also announced an NHS guaranteed interview scheme and paid internships to break down barriers to opportunity. This is a concrete step towards the government's goal of giving children the best start in life.

#### **1.4 Residential and Supported Accommodation**

- 1.4.1 On 4 and 5 November Ofsted carried out an inspection of Rosecroft Children's Home under the social care common inspection framework. They found the provision to be outstanding in all areas. Inspectors praised the team for the way that they support all aspect of children's lives, from transition into a residential setting, to supporting with their education progress and enabling them to make friends and build positive relationships with others.
- 1.4.2 Some highlights from inspectors' feedback included:
- Holistic approach involves the children and those closest to them and allows a positive experience and successful start to life in their new home.
  - Children have positive relationships with staff, whom they trust. Children say they can talk about things that are personal, and they feel listened to by staff

who care. Children talk about staff as parental figures who bring laughter into their home.

- Children inform staff and their peers about how they are feeling and the decisions they have made about the food they want and the activities they would like to experience. Children are asked for their input into the decoration of the home and personalisation of their bedrooms.
- Children are making exceptional progress in education. Children receive support to maintain their education placements or find new providers that better meet their needs.

The full inspection report is published on the [Ofsted website](#). I'd like to congratulate staff and thank them for their hard work and dedication to the young people of Middlesbrough.

- 1.4.3 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.

### **1.5 Learning, Review and Development**

- 1.5.1 The quality assurance (QA) team continues to deliver training informed by audit findings, alongside audit activities and the implementation of our QA Framework. The team has recently completed a series of thematic audits in collaboration with our local safeguarding children's partnership, focused on neglect. The outputs of the audits will inform benchmarking to support future developments.
- 1.5.2 The Social Work Academy continues to support our NQSWs as they take on increasingly complex work, developing their skills and confidence. In January they will explore potential career paths by learning about our different services and areas of expertise, including: children with disabilities, cared for children, pre-birth work.
- 1.5.3 Our two Frontline units continue to develop their knowledge and confidence. They are beginning to take on more varied opportunities as they progress towards becoming qualified social workers.

## **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 will work with colleagues to understand the findings of the focused visit into our MACH and Assessment Services and how that shapes our improvement journey going forward.
- 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.



## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 14 January 2026

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**

- Cemetery Provision – Middlesbrough – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

#### **2. HIGHLIGHTS**

**Update:**

#### **Town Centre Updates**

2.1 Efforts to secure and enhance retailers in Middlesbrough Town Centre has progressed with news that Boots and B&M stores will return to Middlesbrough in 2026. The retail economy remains fragile across the entire UK but Middlesbrough is still favoured across the Tees Valley as a high street location. Council representation continues to work with major retailers and property owners to develop plans to consolidate, enhance and renew the Town Centre.

2.2 To follow the success of the Livewell Centre relocation to the Cleveland Centre – works for a new Skills and Employment Hub, to host the Community Learning services will complete in early 2026. The hub will provide a modern, well-equipped and welcoming learning environment which will provide Middlesbrough residents with key employability skills, along with a job brokerage service to connect applicants and local businesses with job opportunities and recruitment campaigns.

#### ***Stack over 1 year old***

2.3 STACK Middlesbrough celebrates a hugely successful first year in the Rail and Historic Quarter. 250,000 visitors came to STACK in it's Maiden year which has exceeded all expectations. Crucially, STACK has created 50 jobs, added 300,000 to footfall in the area and provided a draw to enliven the nighttime economy of Middlesbrough. The addition of STACK to the nighttime economy is not a zero sum game. It has been

proved not to draw custom from existing businesses, rather it has drawn a new demographic of visitors to Middlesbrough, for the benefit of all of our hospitality companies. This can be further demonstrated by the nearby expansion of Honky Tonk and the recent opening of 'Prohibition' – a new, over 35s cocktail lounge.

### ***Historic quarter progress and train station development***

2.4 Council teams continue to press for the early opening of the business units which were restored as part of the Rail Station's recent reconfiguration and enhancement works. It is understood that Tees Valley Combined Authority have taken the operational headlease for these spaces and is working to bring creative and commercial uses to these spaces. Council officers will support and assist the early occupation of these units in attempt to bring the unsightly hoardings down at the earliest opportunity.

### ***Centre Square Christmas Light Switch On***

2.5 The Christmas Lights Switch On took place on Sunday 23 November on Centre Square, with partner sponsor Everyone Active, and saw a welcome return of the much-loved Christmas parade involving school and community groups and a number of performers. A stage programme also featured local groups, alongside professional acts, plus visitors were able to enjoy several light installations as part of Shine On Boro (including a giant sleeping cat on the Library Green), visit Santa in his grotto and take part in a variety of Christmas-themed workshops. This year's event had a peak audience of 8,000 for the switch on moment, with more people visiting across the day.

### ***Captain Cooks square update***

2.6 Roxy cinema is the latest opening at Captain Cook Square – support is being provided as the business continues to build it's customer base. Roxy cinema will be part of the Holiday Activities programme for the Christmas holidays. Funshack are also participating and plans are being developed for Level X's inclusion in the February half-term. It is a priority of the development, not only to provide entertainment and leisure for visitors and residents, but to ensure that such opportunities are accessible to as many people as possible.

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

2.7 Construction works will commence on the redevelopment of Middlesbrough's Old Town Hall, in January 2026. The 12 month programme will see the heritage asset developed into a business space within the Boho Zone. A modern market place extension will contrast the old and the new, highlighting Middlesbrough's early industrial expansion, and it will be a key feature of Middlesbrough's Bicentenary in 2028.

### ***Middlehaven***

2.8 November's Executive meeting approved a collaboration between Middlesbrough Council and leading housing and place developers - Capital & Centric – work will now commence on the Masterplanning and viability appraisals of a major housing-led, mixed-use development in the Middlehaven area. This critical preparatory work will provide all technical pre-development work, public consultation, planning permissions and viability assessments to present an investment proposition for the Middlehaven area. Capital & Centric have great experience in this area and are uniquely

characterised by long term operational involvement (post development) as well as boasting excellent partnership relationships with Homes England and institutional finance providers. The predevelopment programme will conclude in approximately 18 months, following detailed analysis, planning and surveys.

### **Out of the Centre Updates**

#### ***Southlands***

2.9 Construction of the new Community and Sports facility at the Southlands Site continues without major issue. Construction will complete in the spring of 2026 and Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation will be supported in their relocation to the site.

#### ***Nunthorpe Community centre***

2.10 Construction of the new Community centre continues, with the framework largely complete. Construction will complete in the spring / summer of 2026 with occupation of the managing organisation following shortly after a period of internal fit out.

#### ***Newham Hall Development***

2.11 The access road for Newham Hall housing site will be complete in April 2026. This, along with the major power supply order being brought to site, will enable the phased marketing and development of the site from late 2026.

#### ***Nunthorpe Grange***

2.12 The development of Nunthorpe Grange is in the planning process. A decision is anticipated in early 2026.

#### ***Cemetery expansion***

2.13 Investment in Middlesbrough's burial plots aims to deliver up to 1,258 spaces. With the planning policy requirement to address Biodiversity Net Gain, 22 spaces have been sacrificed, so 1,236 will be the total. Contractors will be on site early in the new financial year and all precautions will be taken to ensure that existing plots, and ongoing burials, will not be prejudiced.

### **3 THE TIME AHEAD**

#### **Update:**

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

- Investment in Temporary Accommodation – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026
- Building Control Fees – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

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## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 14 January 2026

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:**

- 1.1 With the Mayor, I attended the Christmas Open Event at Newham Grange Farm on 5<sup>th</sup> December.
- 1.2 On 18<sup>th</sup> December, I visited St. Josephs Catholic Primary School on Marton Road on the occasion of the retirement of two of our School Patrol Officers, Thelma Ingham and Vanessa Hoare, who have served the local community wonderfully in all weathers for many years. I am happy to pay tribute to them and to all who fulfil this vital role.
- 1.3 I attended a site visit on Bracken Grange with a council officer and ward councillors, Dorothy Davison and Jason McConnell on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

## **2. THE TIME AHEAD**

#### **Update:**

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

#### ***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 – Complete and switched on 27/11/25
- Ormesby Rd / Kelvin Grove – Complete and switched on 18/11/25
- Southfield Rd / Abingdon Rd Due this financial year – ON GOING, awaiting NPG transfer
- Stokesley Rd / Laurel Rd - Due this financial year
- CFL / B1380 - Due this year
- Ormesby Rd / Crossfell Rd - Due this year
- CFL/Ruth Avenue – 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 **8** of the planned 13 schemes.

Footway Works complete so far are **12** 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 Approach Road Bridge & Structures***

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.

### ***2.3.4 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.

### ***2.3.5 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.

### ***2.3.6 A66 Structures***

A tender was published on 11th December for a works programme to the A66 bridges at Cannon Park Interchange (Newport Roundabout), Hartington Interchange, and All Saints Viaduct. The award of contract is due in the 2nd week of March, with works on the abnormal loads assessments and options reports beginning once the contract is agreed. The programme will 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.

### ***2.3.7 A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge (A172 Stokesley Rd, Marton)***

The A174 Marton Interchange's forthcoming works include replacing the bridge deck joints, re-waterproofing and resurfacing; concrete repairs to the abutments; and alterations to the footways and installation of suicide prevention parapets.

Work has been delayed due to contractual reasons; however, a new draft programme has been released. Esh Construction Ltd are currently undertaking background preparation with work due to start on site on 2nd March 2026. The works are expected to be completed by the beginning of September 2026. A 1st press release will be published in mid-January, with follow-up press releases and local letter drops to nearby affected residents approaching the start day.

The bridge deck works make it necessary to close sections of the road. A contraflow system with single two-way lanes will be in operation over the bridge for the duration of the scheme to ensure the continuation of north south traffic flows and avoiding lengthy diversions for residents and customers using Stokesley Rd. Turning restrictions onto and exiting the A174's slip roads will be necessary with affected traffic being diverted through local diversion routes. Left turning exiting from the A174 will be maintained.

### ***2.3.8 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. Ground investigation works are currently underway with a report due 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.

### **2.3.9 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**

2.4.1 The main resurfacing of the classified and unclassified roads started on 1st of December 2025. The first two weeks schemes have been published on the weekly road works report and are well underway. We have a programme in place for the full set of schemes due to complete at the end of March.

2.4.2 Completed schemes to date include: Marton East – Beeches Rise, Bramley Grove, Chestnut Drive, Cloverwood Close, Hawthorn Crescent, and Tasmania Square; Hemlington – Earls Court Road; Coulby Newham – Fernwood red cul-de-sacs; Trimdon – Hesleden Ave and Wigton Sands.

2.4.3 Schemes due to start for completion before the Christmas Break are: Nunthorpe – Towthorpe; Marton East – The Grove, and Marton Avenue; Newport – Tennyson St; Central – Granville Rd, and Laura St.

2.4.4 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 m2 of asphalt laid; covering 12.6km (7.8 miles) of the road network.

2.4.5 A surface dressing schemes at Stokesley Road, Coulby Newham, and Brass Castle Lane are now complete. The lining will be installed when the new carriageway surface allows.

2.4.6 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.

2.4.7 A full list of resurfacing schemes is published on the Council's 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**

Following the implementation of the Gully Cleansing Programmes 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 working through historical information to update our records to enable the assessment of the potential impact of surface water and risk of flooding.

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 2026.

## **2.7 Highway Licences**

Work continues to make more applications available online along with payments. Following the migration of highway licence management to our updated Asset Management Software System we are looking to expand its use and recording of historic information.

## **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.

## **2.9 Environmental Enforcement**

***All information within this report relates to activity between 1/11/2025 – 30/11/2025***

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. 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.

2.9.2 In the month of October, the team investigated a total of **774 service requests**. These requests were made up of **595 waste related, 97 vehicles related, 56 Dog related (32 stray reports) and 26 Pest control related**.

In comparison to the same period for 2024 it has seen an overall increase of **134 reports** to the service.

Actions:

- 7 stray dogs recovered and returned to owners and 4 dogs taken to the kennels from the 32 reports.
- 16 vehicles seized for being either untaxed or abandoned.

- 5 Fixed penalty notice issued for commercial, household duty of care and fly tipping offences.
- 2 Commercial duty of care inspections undertaken, and notices served for businesses to provide waste transfer notes.
- 2 case files prepared and passed to legal for review.

2.9.3 On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 the on duty stray dog warden received a call from a local veterinary practice that 6 puppies had been abandoned in a “bag for life” in an alley way, central Middlesbrough area. The puppies where only approximately 3 days old and needed 24 hour care from the vets in hope to keep them alive, in the meantime the Environmental Enforcement Team undertook an intense investigation and located the owners of the puppies, this matter was referred to an inspector at the RSPCA and we located a charity based in Lincolnshire who were keen to care of the pups, the following day a charity from Lincolnshire met the team that had transported the pups to Leeds for hand over. Although given the awful circumstance around the report, the team dealt with this professionally and swiftly to ensure the safety of the pups. The team get regular updates from the charity and have confirmed that they are all doing well. (Photos below).



2.9.4 On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 the Environmental Enforcement Team worked in Partnership with Trading Standards and Cleveland Police in regard to an untaxed vehicle on Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, linked to storing illicit tabaco and vapes. The vehicle was successfully recovered for no tax and subsequently a fair quantity of illegal tabaco was recovered from the vehicle.



## **2.10 Waste Services**

The introduction of food waste collections and weekly recycling are due to commence in July 2026. Leading up to this we have a busy delivery operation delivering food caddies, liners and paper and card recycling bins commencing in March 2026.

All the rounds are built and have been uploaded to our collections system ready for testing in the new year. As we get closer to going live with collections residents will be able to see their new collections on the resident calendar on our website.

Member briefings will start to take place in January around simpler recycling legislation and the impact this is going to have on residents within Middlesbrough.

We are about to conclude further collections of the old garden waste bins following on from the work undertaken in 2024. As of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, all logs for collection of the old garden diamond waste bin will be complete.

## **2.11 Area Care**

Area Care Tree staff were on standby during the last storm and were called out during the night to attend to a tree that had come down across the road.

We are continuing on with our Winter Maintenance Program for shrubs and trees across the borough

We also have a tree contractor pruning the trees along Marton Burn Road to prevent damage to the properties and to minimise damage to vehicles.

## **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**

- **Ellis Gardens footway connections** – Completed; awaiting topsoil.
- **Stainton Way cycleway**– Works ongoing until **24 Dec 2025**; lights will be removed and reinstated on **05 Jan 2026**. Proposed completion: **28 Feb 2026**.
- **Ormesby Beck Cycleway** – Design complete; consultation starts **week commencing 22 Dec 2025**.
- **Valley Rd Traffic Calming** – Works scheduled to commence **Jan 2026**.
- **Hollyhurst / Holmwood Ave** – Bus shelter ordered; works to begin upon delivery

### **2.13 Road Safety**

- Campaigns delivered in schools/wider public surrounding Winter driving, darker nights, seatbelt awareness and Drink and drug driving, plus legalities of electric bikes/e-scooters on the run up to Christmas
- Brake Road Safety Week in November delivered 'Safer vehicles save lives' – delivered in all Middlesbrough schools. They attended the Christmas light switch on with a pop up stall - 'Be bright be seen' was the message with giveaways and support from the road safety mascot - 'Safety Squirrel'.
- Supported partners with their events, eg Sustrans 'Xmas Bike Build' day with messaging around riding safely and highlighting importance of visibility.
- Supported schools 'Junior Road Safety Officers' - currently working with Linthorpe Primary to launch a campaign in February around wearing seatbelts.

#### **2.13.1 School Crossing Patrols:**

- Recruitment ongoing.
- Business as usual - enforcement car continues to patrol areas at school times (can automatically issue tickets to drivers parked on zig zag lines)

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 14 January 2026

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

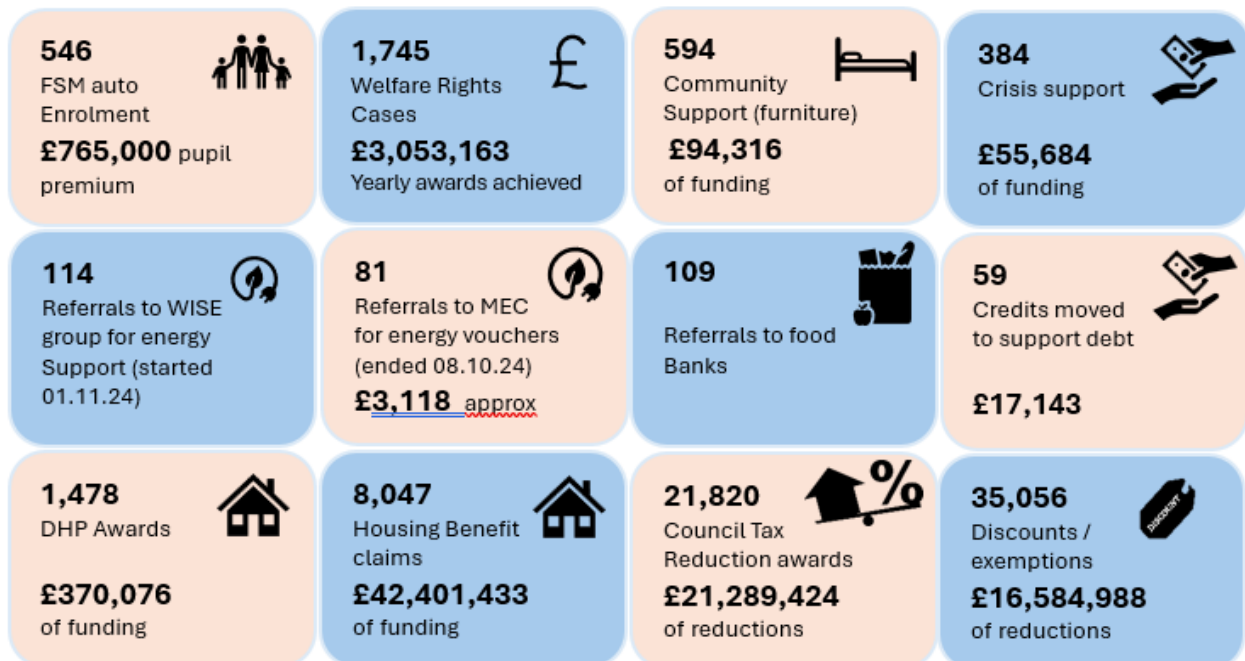
#### 1. HIGHLIGHTS

**Update:**

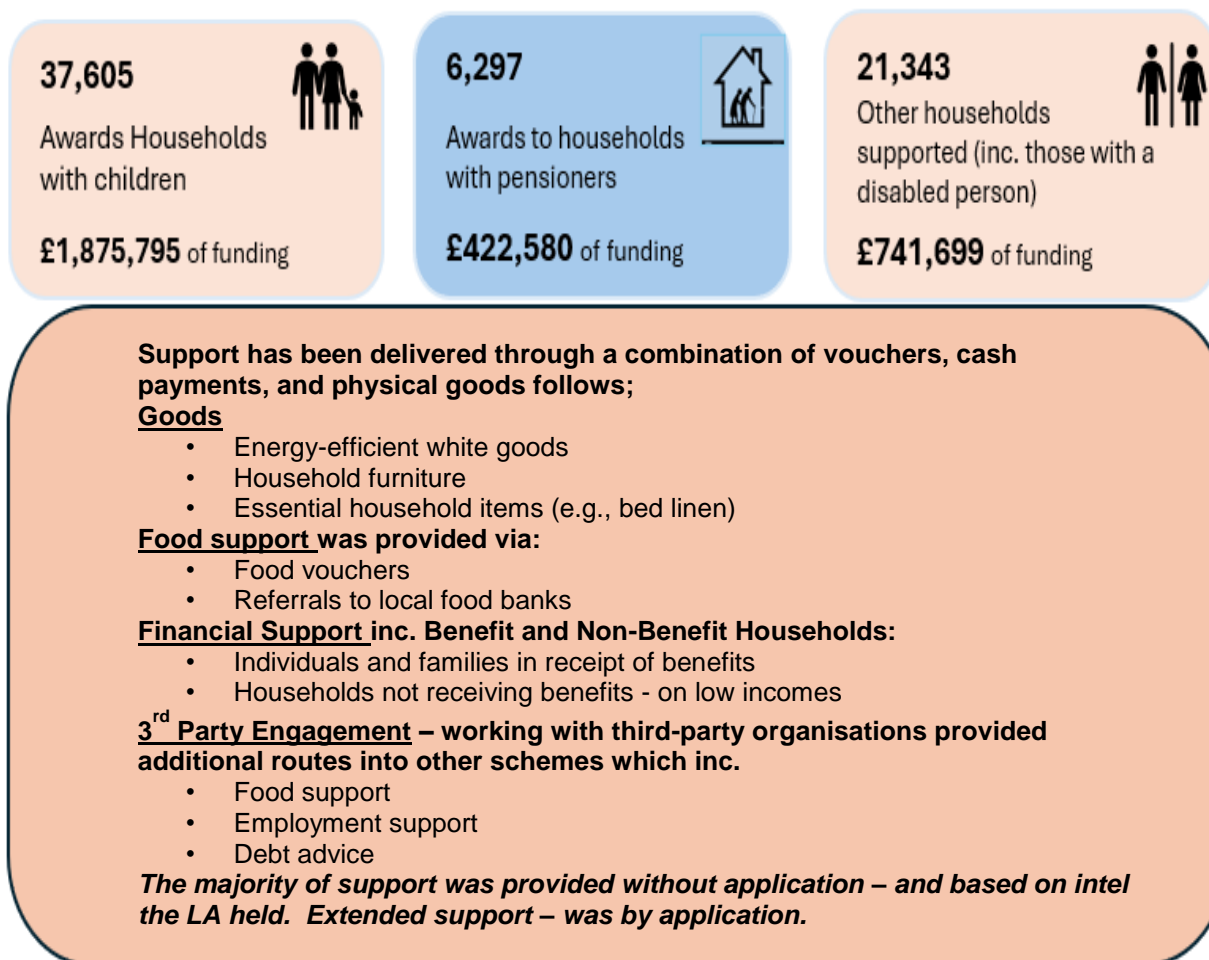
##### 1.1 Welfare Support

1.1.1 In my report to Council of September 2025 I highlighted the excellent work of our Welfare Rights team who identified over £3million of unclaimed benefits during 2024/25, assisting more than 1,700 residents throughout this period.

1.1.2 The following diagram, shared with OSB in November, illustrates the wider achievements delivered by the council under our Welfare Strategy during 2024/25.



1.1.3 I have also made reference in several of my reports to Council to the Household Support Fund, which utilises funding from central government. The following shows awards under the Household Support Fund 2024/25.



## 1.2 Members Small Scheme (Capital)

1.2.1 Members should have received an email on 17 December inviting proposals for the Members Small Scheme (Capital) for 2026/27, with the appropriate form and guidance attached. I have asked that the process starts earlier this time around, to give a better chance of works being programmed in within the next financial year. The deadline is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, giving 6.5 weeks to complete the application.

1.2.2 As with previous rounds, this is limited to a maximum of one application per ward, with a maximum grant allocation of £15k which can be considered per ward. If your proposal exceeds this value, you may wish to explore match funding from the service area/other sources as required. All proposals will be assessed for suitability, and in the event of over subscription, ranked against set criteria.

1.2.3 In order for an application to be considered, the form must be completed in full prior to submitting, including:

- The proposal must have been discussed with and endorsed by the relevant department/officer
- Quotes must have been obtained
- Any match funding required must be in place

1.2.4 Application forms, as well as any other questions or queries can be submitted to the dedicated email address [MSS@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:MSS@middlesbrough.gov.uk).

### 1.3 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Outturn

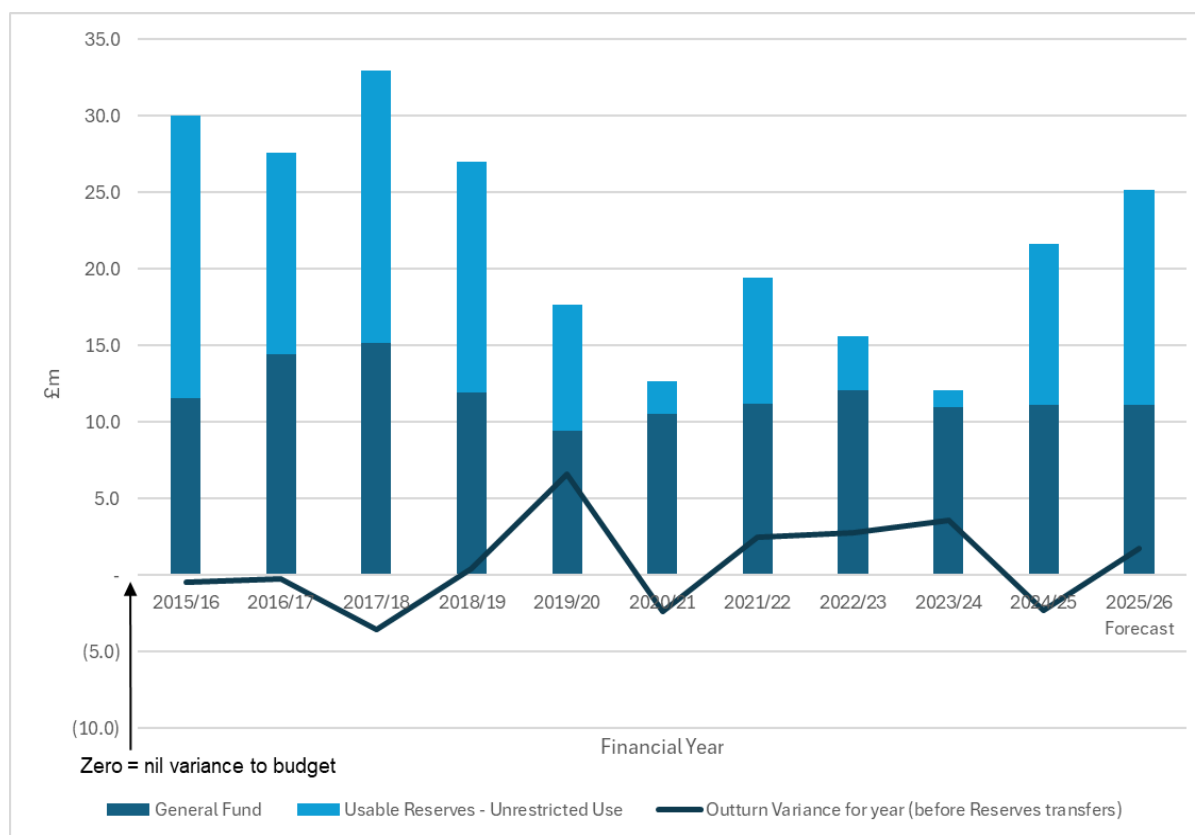
1.3.1 On 03 December 2025 I presented a report to the Executive on the position following the Quarter 2 budget clinics.

1.3.2 The forecast year-end position, if no further action is successful to reduce the overspends, is forecast to be an overspend of £1.804m (1.3%) after the proposed use of central contingences and other budgets, a substantial improvement on the Quarter 1 position of £4.482m (3.1%).

1.3.3 There are total pressures of £7.813m (5.01%) against the approved budget of £143.304m before the use of central contingencies and other central budgets, an improvement from the Quarter 1 position of £10.677m. In common with other councils, the largest area of overspend is Children's Services with forecast pressures of £8m.

1.3.4 Directors have submitted recovery plans and mitigations aimed at reducing their forecast budget pressures and these will continued to be monitored at budget clinics, with the aim of bringing the position within budget by year-end.

1.3.5 It is worthy of note that this year an additional £6m was built into the budget to go into reserves, in line with the policy to continue to rebuild our reserves from their former critically low level. Therefore, even if the overspend of £1.804m remained at year-end, the reserves would still be substantially higher at year-end than they were at the start of the financial year. This is illustrated by the graph below which shows the unrestricted reserves balances from closing balance 2015/16 through to year-end forecast closing balance 2025/26 and reported outturn variance per year, with the Q2 position assumed.





## **1.4 Revenue Budget 2026/27 and Medium Term Financial Plan**

1.4.1 The Mayor and I jointly presented a report to Executive on 17 December 2025, which contained the budget proposals for the Revenue Budget 2026/27 which were agreed for consultation.

1.4.2 The report was delayed due to uncertainty around our level of central government funding which was experienced by all councils. Figures were based on the initial analysis of the level of funding available from information contained within the Local Government Finance Policy Statement published by the Government on 20 November 2025. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was released on 17 December and at the time of writing of this report, of 22 December, the Director of Finance and Transformation (s151 Officer) has indicated that whilst further analysis is still required, it is expected that Middlesbrough's figures will not differ greatly from assumptions within the report and the budget proposals within it can be delivered. This opinion was shared with OSB, who considered the proposals, on 18 December.

1.4.3 The Fair Funding Review 2.0 reforms the way that local government funding is allocated will provide a 3-year settlement, with the final settlement being announced in early February 2026. It seeks to redistribute funding according to need and the ability to raise money locally.

1.4.4 Areas of need such as Middlesbrough suffered most under cuts imposed by the previous Government, with a significant reduction in Government funding of £35.6m (44%) from £81.2m received in 2013/14 to £45.6m in 2024/25, (this does not take into account inflation). We have made over £123m of savings since 2013/14.

1.4.5 The estimate used in the Executive report of 17 December is an increase in funding for 2026/27 of £10.653m.

1.4.6 Members may also recall that a cautious approach was adopted last year to the use of the Recovery Grant of £5.410m and the Extended Producer Responsibility Grant (EPR) of £3.912m by using them for one-off expenditure due to the uncertainty which existed at that time. As it has now been made clear they are to be continued, they can be incorporated into the base budget.

1.4.7 Key points of the budget proposals now out for consultation include:

- No new cuts to services
- No increase in core (general) council tax
- 2% Adult Social Care Precept only to fund the increased costs of statutory duties
- The 2% total increase is lower than the 4.99% national maximum - assumed by government in calculating funding allocations and expected to be applied by most councils
- Over £6 Million investment in frontline services in the Revenue Budget (over £16m overall)

1.4.8 Prior to the report being published there was an all-member consultation event led by the Mayor on 09 December and a further all member briefing will be held in late January. There was a presentation by the Mayor and myself to OSB on 18 December. Consultation has also taken place with staff and partners. There is to be a consultation event for the public on 05 January which I will lead on, and the Mayor has announced that he will be holding his own surgeries for the public.



- 1.4.8 The proposed budget will be considered by the Executive on 04 February which will be presented to full Council for decision on 18 February 2026.
- 1.4.9 The Director of Finance and Transformation (s151 Officer) has offered to meet any political groups to brief them further and answer any questions regarding the proposed budget in order so that all members have a full understanding of the proposed budget before the Council meeting. It is requested that all members submit any questions they may have by 6 February in order so that any questions can be answered before the Council meeting.

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## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 14 January 2026

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:**

This report highlights some of the initiatives and success of the past month.

#### **North Middlesbrough**

##### ***Enforcement***

1.1 We received a favourable court outcome during November 2025. On the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 we successfully prosecuted for the offences of breaching the Public Space Protection Order specifically section 1.1 for urinating in a public place and 1.3 for refusing to surrender/drinking alcohol from an open container. These offences took place in Park Road North and Union Street.

##### ***Community Engagement***

##### ***Bishop's Boro Big Breakfast***

1.2 Neighbourhood Development Manager recently attended the Bishop of Whitby's Boro Big Breakfast. She was invited to be part of the interview panel accompanying the Mayor of Middlesbrough, where over 80 community leaders from across Middlesbrough came together for support and encouragement, with space to share ideas that serve our town and think about further development of partnerships.

1.3 Attendees included people from politics and civic life, charities, healthcare, education, emergency services, businesses and faith leaders and the panel discussed issues relating to deprivation and poverty.



**1.4 Give a Coat a Home** – on November 6<sup>th</sup> the neighbourhood team held a warm clothing event in the hub. This was for people to come along who were struggling to afford warm clothing this winter. Around 100 people attended to collect clothing. We were very thankful for the amount of clothing donations we received. Many came in from residents, local schools, colleges and it included donations from elected members from all sides. Thank you! Around  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the clothing was collected by those in need. 30 bags were then taken over to North Ormesby Hub for a similar event in December.



## **East Middlesbrough**

### ***One year on – Project Orme***

1.5 The first anniversary of a multi-agency initiative to tackle organised crime and improve the lives of residents in East Middlesbrough has shown drops in crime across the area.

1.6 Figures show that over twelve months (November 2024 to November 2025), there has been an 11% drop in total crime in the area, which equates to 556 less victims of crime.

1.7 Project Orme has also seen a 15.5% drop in reports of violence offences in the area. Officers carried out 242 stop searches of people in the area in the twelve months from November 2024 to November 2025. They also arrested 58 people and charged 20 of those. 2,000 individual deals of drugs including cocaine, heroin and cannabis were recovered, as well as 14 weapons and £22,175 in cash.

### ***Enforcement***

1.8 The Neighbourhood team have issued 4 CPW'S (Community Protection Warnings) for begging and antisocial behaviour in and around Morrisons/Neptune area in December.

They have also made 22 referrals to our new Neighbourhood Navigators to support a couple of people in the community who have reached out for support so that we can help them to make positive changes.

### ***House closures***

1.9A second property has been shut down on Elkington Walk in Netherfields after persistent crime and anti-social behaviour tormented those living nearby. The flat was closed after officers from the Council's Neighbourhood team applied for a court order, working with Cleveland Police and Thirteen housing.



1.10 The flat had become a hotspot linked to suspected drug dealing, serious violence and off-road motorbikes. Much of the nuisance was captured on council CCTV cameras. Looking ahead, the team are working with legal on a house closure application for another address in Berwick Hills after a drugs warrant was executed by Police at the address and two people were arrested for drug offences. I will keep you updated.

### **South Middlesbrough**

#### ***Neighbourhood Caretakers***

1.11 Our Neighbourhood Caretakers have been spending their time clearing and generally tidying all areas. Clevegate and Nunthorpe area was saturated with leaves causing a walking hazard for residents in the wet weather so the Neighbourhood Caretakers have been working hard to clear the area.





### ***Spreading Christmas Cheer***

- 1.12 The Neighbourhood team in the south joined forces with the Linx Youth Project at Hemlington Community Living Room to create beautiful Christmas hampers. Together, they rolled up their sleeves to put the hampers together for local families who had been nominated to receive a little extra joy this season.
- 1.13 The team also helped wrap gifts for children who attend Linx youth groups. Thanks to everyone involved for showing the true spirit of community and kindness over the festive season



- 1.14 The Neighbourhood team also continue to work alongside Tees Valley Together to deliver Warm Wednesdays at the community living room at Hemlington, creating a welcoming environment where residents can access a safe, warm space throughout the year. Something evermore important in the winter months.



### ***Community Safety Event***

- 1.15 Marton Community Centre hosted a Community Safety Event on 7<sup>th</sup> November where residents could access a range of free personal safety and crime prevention products and get advice and guidance on reporting crime, anti-social behaviour and how to become a member of Neighbourhood Watch schemes.



## West Middlesbrough

### Community Development

- 1.16 Christmas Workshop at Easterside Community Hub and Library which the attendees loved. They created a Christmas tree and a reindeer from willow branches and had a great time.
- 1.17 Bring it on Boro activities took place throughout December providing activities for young people 4 hours per day along with a free hot meal.



- 1.18 Acklam Library and Community Hub held a very popular blood pressure check service with ten people stopping to get their BP checked and discuss lifestyle changes. Of course, they picked up a book too!
- 1.19 The Community Development Workers supported outreach events at Easterside Hub, Acklam Library and the Acklam Green Centre where residents received advice on how to keep their properties and neighbourhoods safe, as well as offering them the opportunity to request home protection equipment such as video doorbells and cameras.
- 1.20 The Neighbourhood team's Community Development workers have been busy working with a new group, helping them to become a constituted group, and they are now known as "Easterside Wellbeing Community Group". As part of their wellbeing, they have set up a weekly brisk walk around Stewarts Park taking place every Wednesday morning followed by a warm drink back at the Hub. To add to this, they will also be doing a keep fit dance session. Supporting the setup of the constitution gives the group the opportunity to apply for funding they would otherwise not have qualified for and enables them to take control of their own activities and outcomes.

### ***Community Caretakers***

- 1.21 Community Caretakers completed the refresh of Broughton Ave shops. The area was looking very tired. They completed a full paint of the area. Residents have commented on how tidy it now looks.





## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 14 January 2026

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 MUST Rollout of Managing Undernutrition South Tees (MUST) across all Disability and Mental Health care homes in South Tees is now in the final stages, full implementation will be completed by end of March 2026.

#### **Holiday Activities and Food Programme – October Half Term**

- 1.2 During the October half-term HAF programme, 22 organisations were funded with £71,748.58 to deliver 42 programmes (ranging between 2–4 days, 2–4 hours per day) across key areas in Middlesbrough. Over 1,777 children and young people were engaged and attended the October half-term HAF programme, 1,596 of whom were in receipt of benefit-related free school meals. Over 2,606 places were attended; although this was less compared to Easter, Summer, and Christmas due to lower funding, the programme was delivered in key targeted areas within Middlesbrough. The quality of the provision was rated excellent by Young Inspectors.

#### ***Vulnerabilities:***

- 1.3 The NE regional gambling programme, which is hosted by Public Health South Tees, has secured additional grant funding. This is via the new statutory levy, which translates gambling industry contributions into funding for prevention and reducing harms initiatives. It includes monies for quarter four of 25/26, which will enhance our understanding of the impact of gambling harms locally. It will be followed by a minimum of three further, annual rounds of funding, which will enable us to increase the capacity of the regional programme team and, consequently, the scope of the programme.

- 1.4 The prehabilitation service pilot commenced in November 2025, which is supporting people who were in poor accommodation and who are affected by substance use issues. It provides them with a flat and enhanced support in order to equip them with the support they need to succeed in their recovery journeys. This additional support will provide a greater number of people accessing our detoxification and residential rehabilitation pathways.
- 1.5 Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant funding has been confirmed for the next three financial years, from April 2026 onwards. This continues the enhanced level of substance use funding, which has supplemented our local system since 2020. It provides additional, dedicated capacity in our treatment and recovery services, enhanced specialist support and interventions, and has enabled us to develop a unique accommodation-based support pathway.

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

#### **Middlesbrough 0-11 Healthy Child Programme Service**

- 1.6 Public Health South Tees have developed a new model for delivering the Healthy Child Programme in Middlesbrough and are going through a commissioning cycle to implement it. Implementation will commence from Wednesday 1 April 2026 and will be executed in three phases.
- 1.7 As part of the first phase Harrogate and district Foundation NHS Trust (HDFT) have been successful in tendering for the 0-11 Healthy Child Programme Service and will deliver this from Wednesday 1st April 2026 onwards. We expect there to be little or no change to the universal service presently offered for children under 11 years. The new service will increase support available for children and families aged 11 and under.
- 1.8 Phase two. Between 1st April 2026 and 31st March 2027 transitional arrangements will be put in place to provide staffing resource to deliver health input into safeguarding for adolescents aged 11 and over. This resource will sustain essential information sharing into Middlesbrough's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MACH), input into ICPC and strategy and health needs assessment provision where essential for adolescents aged 11. This transitional arrangement will last for one year only with the primary aim to reduce risks to adolescents during transition to the new model.
- 1.9 Phase three will see the new health offer for children aged 11 and over commence on Thursday 1st April 2027 and this service will focus on prevention, delivered by a non-clinical staff mix. We have recruited a project manager to work during 2026 to develop a delivery model for the new service.
- 1.10 The change of delivery model is required as a significant proportion school nursing capacity is focussed downstream on risk reduction and safeguarding. The new delivery model will support with realigning the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme to focus on prevention, early identification and health promotion, supporting better health outcomes for young people Middlesbrough whilst also keeping them safe.

### ***HealthStart***

- 1.11 HealthStart aims to develop a whole school approach to health and wellbeing, to bring schools closer to public health services. It involves four key components: developing

school health profiles, auditing school health policies, supporting the delivery of PHSE curriculum and conducting pupil survey. Through these components we want identify the needs in each school and deliver a tailored public health service.

- 1.12 HealthStart was introduced to schools in September at the Child Health Protection Workshop and through the Health and Wellbeing Network meetings. In October, the first meeting was held with 6 pilot schools: Archway, Macmillan, Archibold, Outwood Normanby, Hummersea and Whale Hill. Established key contacts with the pilot schools and emphasised on next steps i.e. developing the school health profile. Mapped key indicators to be included in the health profile and identified data available within the council services. Scheduled the next meeting with pilot schools to agree upon data they can provide towards the health profile.
- 1.13 Established an internal Public Health Forum with 19 members from the Children and Young people's services in South Tees in September. Meetings are held every month, that provides a platform for all the services to share their latest developments, discuss challenges in their area of work and collate new ideas for service improvement.
- 1.14 Presented at the Make Attendance Everyone's Business event in December. HealthStart was well received by all schools that participated in the health and attendance focus group within the event. Received interests from more schools to be added to the pilot.
- 1.15 In the next phase of HealthStart in January, schools will be introduced to the self-audit tool that can aid in tracking and implementing school health policies.

### ***Infant Feeding & Mamazing***

- 1.16 Phase 2 of the Mamazing campaign is being developed. Collaborating with partners across the infant feeding system, a marketing and communications plan is in development. The campaign will go live between January and March 2026, with the aim of highlighting how to get breastfeeding off to a good start.
- 1.17 The Mamazing campaign was shortlisted in the recent Comms2Pointo public sector awards for Best Collaboration. Whilst the collaboration between Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Council's did not win, we were highly commended for the campaign.
- 1.18 Work is underway to develop a new infant feeding strategy. The updated strategy will focus on key achievements, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to increase breastfeeding rates across South Tees over the next 5 years. This will result in an agreed action plan for the infant feeding system to deliver.

### ***Oral Health***

- 1.19 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). Currently working with legal on the contracts for dental practices. The Colgate toothbrushing resources have been distributed to the majority of Middlesbrough schools and early years settings. Further schools will receive their resources once the second delivery has been made in December 2025. We are jointly

commissioning an evaluation on the supervised toothbrushing programme with other NE authorities to optimise recruitment rates with schools.

### ***Post-16 opportunities for education, employment and training***

1.20 The Government published the Post-16 education and skills white paper in October 2025 outlining reforms to:

- Simplify and improve the skills offer - including bringing several vocational level-3 qualifications under the V-level umbrella alongside A-levels (academic) and T-levels (technical).
- Invest in priority areas -including V levels, for English and Maths qualifications and establishing 29 new Technical excellence colleges for key industries.
- Improve access to higher education and lifelong learning

Post-16 education, employment and training is 1 of 9 missions in the Health and Wellbeing strategy, as this complex issue is key to giving people the Best Start in Life and for improved outcomes across all system and council priorities. System leads in South Tees met in December to review progress on the strategy's recommendations and the white paper reforms. The scope of this work will be agreed in the next month, with governance including the Live Well Board and the Children's Trust in Middlesbrough. Public Health is a member of the Middlesbrough NEET partnership, which since August has brought providers and systems partners together.

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

- 1.21 NHS Health Checks delivery has commenced by our new community provider, ELM GP Federation, with a schedule now established into March 2026. ELM are also collaborating with MFC (Football Foundation) to also use their bus in certain locations, to attract a variety of potential patients.
- 1.22 We continue to tackle CVD through other routes as well as the NHS Health Checks. We completed AF (atrial fibrillation) screening during Covid and Flu vaccine clinics held in October, in partnership with Middlesbrough GPs. The initiative is being fully evaluated at present, but initial figures and feedback show that a number of undiagnosed AF cases were found, proving potentially life saving support.
- 1.23 We are also continuing to provide community BP checks through our community champions and through the BP kiosks provision. The BP Kiosks monitoring data submitted to ICB has now ceased, but we will continue to offer the BP kiosks locally, gathering our own data to demonstrate effectiveness. Final figures showed that 342 BP checks were completed using the 2 GP kiosks available, with high blood pressure identified in 28% of the cases and low BP identified in 6% of cases. There was excellent take up of the checks in our deprived and ethnic communities.
- 1.24 The new Public Health South Tees website will be launched early in 2026, to better promote the public health campaigns each month and the work of the public health team across Middlesbrough to increase awareness and engagement.

### ***Health Determinants Research Collaboration***

- 1.25 We continue to support Middlesbrough Council staff to progress their own research ideas and to collaborate on research generated by our academic partners.
- 1.26 In our Culture Change workstream we have scheduled a joint session (sandpit) for late January 2026 between Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Councils' Adult Social Care directorates. The aim is to identify research priorities of importance to the service and South Tees population and plan how to progress these.
- 1.27 On Tuesday 2nd December we celebrated our progress in embedding research into the local authorities at an event at Middlesbrough Football Club. The event was well attended and in addition to showcasing how we have supported research, it provided a great opportunity for local authority, academic, NHS and voluntary sector attendees to network and make connections. We plan to have a bigger event in November 2026.

### ***Health Protection***

- 1.28 On 1 December, Public Health South Tees worked with partners across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland to mark **World AIDS Day**, reinforcing our commitment to HIV prevention and reducing health inequalities.
- 1.29 Local activities included free rapid HIV testing events, awareness campaigns, and community conversations, alongside Council staff training. These actions support our wider health protection priorities by promoting early diagnosis, reducing late presentations, and tackling stigma.
- 1.30 Although HIV treatment is highly effective and uptake remains strong in the North East, almost half of new diagnoses last year were late, and we've seen a notable rise in cases among women. Improving access to testing and PrEP remains a key focus for our programme.
- 1.31 The Government's new **HIV Action Plan for England 2025–2030**, launched on World AIDS Day, sets out the national ambition to end new HIV transmissions by 2030. We will align local work with this strategy to strengthen prevention, testing, and equitable access to services, developing a new Sexual Health Strategy in the new year which will set out the steps as to how we will do this in Middlesbrough.

### ***Exercise Pegasus – Local Authority Engagement and Learning***

- 1.32 Exercise Pegasus was the UK's largest pandemic response exercise in Autumn 2025, designed to test national and local preparedness for a novel infectious disease. Cleveland Local Resilience Forum (LRF) played an active role, with Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland councils (facilitated by Public Health) fully engaged across all three phases alongside other Tees Valley authorities, emergency services, NHS partners, and the voluntary sector.
- 1.33 Local authority leaders demonstrated strong commitment, attending Strategic and Tactical Coordinating Groups and contributing to scenario discussions on

education, social care, and community resilience. This engagement ensured that local perspectives on vulnerable populations, welfare, and service continuity were reflected in decision-making. The exercise also provided valuable exposure for senior leaders to multi-agency structures rarely convened outside real incidents.

### ***1.34 Key Learning for Pandemic Plan Finalisation***

- **Integration and Clarity:** The exercise highlighted the need for clearer frameworks outlining roles and responsibilities, particularly for councils in outbreak control and consequence management, something that we have recently just established in Middlesbrough with the Outbreak Management Plan.
- **Communication and Information Flow:** Delays and gaps in national guidance reinforced the importance of robust local communication strategies and contingency planning for PPE, funerals, and public messaging.
- **Community and Voluntary Sector Role:** Inclusion of voluntary organisations was a major strength and will inform future plans to embed community resilience in pandemic response.
- **Leadership and Representation:** Feedback suggests health agencies should chair SCGs during health-led incidents, with councils maintaining a strong role in consequence management.

These insights will directly shape the finalisation of our pandemic plan, ensuring it reflects lessons from Exercise Pegasus and strengthens Middlesbrough's ability to respond effectively to future health emergencies.

### ***Immunisation Update***

1.35 The Tees Valley Local Immunisation Steering Group has recently completed the engagement and co-production phase of the childhood immunisations project. In Middlesbrough, targeted workshops were held with the Arabic community and two Romanian communities to explore concerns and barriers around childhood vaccination. The team overcame significant difficulties in securing interpreters for these groups. The insights gathered from these workshops and similar workshops across the Tees Valley were presented on 3 December and are now being reviewed to inform the commissioning and delivery phase of the project. In parallel, work is continuing to implement universal resources aimed at improving understanding of the importance of childhood vaccinations.

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

- Work has commenced to extend the current Children and Young People's Emotional Well-being Board across South Tees.
- The HeadStart service targeted secondary attendance pilot has been introduced. Delivered in 2 settings the aim is to address attendance concerns at an early stage to prevent escalation to persistent or long-term absence.
- HeadStarters (young emotional well-being champions) attended a session with the mayor. During the session the CYP were involved in the designing of the 10 x 10 initiative and had a debate regarding the commercial determinants of health.
- Suicide prevention awareness in construction session delivered at K2 construction management at SeAH wind site on Teesport. Specific mental health difficulties faced by men in construction and contractors within the industry was shared.

- Suicide Prevention session delivered to nursing students at Teesside University on the importance of correct language, suicide as a public health priority and safety planning and risk management.
- A Christmas Support poster has been created to assist individuals experiencing mental health challenges during the festive season, as well as those supporting them. It has been widely shared with partners.

## **2. THE TIME AHEAD**

### **Update:**

- 2.1 Public Health South Tees will be leading forward the development of a new sexual health strategy.

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## 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
The Mayor				
18 Dec 2025	Executive Member - The Mayor	Data Management Policy	The purpose of the report was to consider the revised Data Management Policy 2025–2028 which had been reviewed as part of its scheduled triennial review to ensure continued compliance with legislation and alignment with the Council's Information Strategy.	No
18 Dec 2025	Executive Member - The Mayor	Surveillance Policy 2026/7	The purpose of the report was to present the Surveillance Policy for 2025–2026.	No
18 Dec 2025	Executive Member - The Mayor	Artificial Intelligence Policy	The purpose of the report was to present the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2025–2028 which had been developed to ensure the lawful, ethical, and responsible use of AI technologies across the organisation.	No

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>Executive Member - Finance</b>				
17 Dec 2025	Executive	2026/27 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2029/30	The report was a key stage in the budget development process for 2026/27 and the MTFP for the four-year period to 2029/30. It presented budget and council tax proposals that would achieve a legally balanced budget for 2026/27, and a balanced position for 2027/28 to 2028/29 over the period of the Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0.	No



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

There are no decisions due to be taken.

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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>				
11 Mar 2026	Executive	Corporate Performance Q3 2025/2026	That Executive: • notes the progress and position of the corporate performance disciplines, including activity within the Transformation Portfolio	No
11 Mar 2026	Executive	2025 Middlesbrough Resident survey	To summarise the findings from the 2025 Middlesbrough Community Survey, compare to the 2023 Survey and set out for the consideration of the Executive proposed actions in response	Yes
11 Mar 2026	Executive	Council Plan 2026/27-29: Workplan and Service Plans	This report seeks the Executive's endorsement of the proposed revised Council Plan workplan for the period 2026-27.	No
<b>Executive Member - Adult Social Care</b>				
21 Jan 2026	Executive	Adult Social Care & Integration - Vision and Strategy 2025 - 2035	To set a 10 year vision and strategy for Adult Social Care which will provide relevant clarity and direction	Yes

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DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>Executive Member - Development</b>				
21 Jan 2026	Executive	Investment into Housing to Reduce Temporary Accommodation Costs	Proposals for investment alongside a social investor to purchase properties to reduce the expenditure on temporary accommodation	Yes
4 Feb 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
<b>Executive Member - Finance</b>				
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

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27	To seek approval for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27.	Yes
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Tender Pipeline Report 2026/27	To seek Executive approval of the tender pipeline for 2026/27.	Yes
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Section 13A (1) (a) (Exceptional Hardship Fund) Policy	This report seeks approval to amend the Council's Section 13A (1) (a) policy, under the Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1992 (as amended).	No
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>				
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Advertising Policy	Propose implementation of new advertising policy	Yes

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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>	14 January 2026
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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 last met on 19 November 2025 and received presentations on the Council's Welfare Strategy and the Poverty Sprint as an introduction to the Board's scrutiny review into poverty.

4.2 The Board also received a progress update on the Continuous Improvement Plan from the Mayor. The Council was moving toward the end of its improvement journey and long term projects needed to be in place to bring about town-level change.

4.3 The Executive Member for Finance was in attendance to provide an overview of her portfolio which included responsibility for ensuring the Council was financially sustainable, delivered value for money and operated openly and fairly.

4.4 At the meeting on 18 December 2025, the 2026/27 draft budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 and 2029/30 was presented by the Mayor. The Executive Member for Finance provided OSB with an update on the Council's financial position at Quarter Two for 2025/26 and the Mayor gave an update on the Council's Performance position at Quarter Two in 2025/26. The Executive Member for Adult Social Care was also in attendance to provide the Board with an update on her portfolio.

4.5 At the next meeting, scheduled for 28 January 2026, the Board will consider the Final Report of the Community Cohesion Task and Finish review, as well as receiving an update about the Council's Artificial Intelligence policy and continuing its review into the Council's approach to poverty.

## **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 1 December 2025.
- 5.3 The Panel received the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Annual Report, presented by the Independent Chair of the Board. The report provided information on the progress made against the Board's priorities, the outcomes of safeguarding adult reviews and their recommendations and what the Board had done to improve practice that keeps adults in our communities safe from abuse and neglect.
- 5.4 The final evidence on the Panel's topic 'Healthy Placemaking, with a Focus on Childhood Obesity' was presented by the Health Improvement Specialist for Public Health South Tees. The evidence included an overview of the Healthy Weight Declaration and Unhealthy Commodity Industries.
- 5.5 The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for 12 January 2026, at 4:30pm. Members will receive the quarterly update on the Care Quality Commission Improvement Plan from the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration. The Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead will also be in attendance to introduce the Panel's second scrutiny topic, 'Violence Against Women and Girls'.

### **Children's Scrutiny Panel**

- 5.6 The Children's Scrutiny Panel met on 8 December 2025. The Interim Director of Education and Partnerships and the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager were in attendance to provide the Panel with an annual update on the work of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP).
- 5.7 A copy of the STSCP Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and Officers highlighted key areas within the report, including: key statistics/data; practice reviews and guidance; challenges; diversity; governance structure and remit of the STSCP.
- 5.8 The Panel also agreed Terms of Reference for its review of "Out of Area Specialist Provision".
- 5.9 The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 26 January 2026 at 4.30pm when it will receive further evidence in relation to its current scrutiny topic.

## **Place Scrutiny Panel**

- 5.10 The Place Scrutiny Panel met on 17 November 2025 and received evidence from the Director of Regeneration who provided information on the Town Centre Board and Place Leaders Partnership. The Place Leaders Partnership had been formed in collaboration with partner organisations all of whom had a stake in Middlesbrough and worked together to inform the Council's Place Strategy.
- 5.11 The Head of Culture and Director of Creative Factory were also in attendance and provided a presentation on the work of the Creative Factory and how culture can play a role in regeneration.
- 5.12 At the meeting of 22 December the Assistant Director of Inclusive Growth and Development at Stockton on Tees Borough Council was in attendance and provided Members with an overview of the Regeneration that had taken place in Stockton town centre.
- 5.13 Representatives from the Town Strategic Partnership also attended the meeting and provided the Panel with an update on the work of the Partnership.
- 5.14 The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 26 January 2026 at 1.30pm.

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

- 5.15 The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee met on 11 December 2025.
- 5.16 Members received an update on the development of the Clinical Strategy and Wider Strategy for the University Hospitals Tees Group (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT and South Tees Hospitals NHS FT).
- 5.17 Other agenda items included:
- An update on the Tees Respite Care / Short Breaks Service.
  - Improving Palliative and End of Life Care across the Tees Valley
  - Health Inequalities

## **Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive**

- 5.18 The Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel on Empty Properties was submitted to the Executive on 3 December 2025 and the action plan prepared by the service in response to the recommendations was approved.

## **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)

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

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## Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin

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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Regeneration – Richard Horniman
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Executive Member for Development – Cllr Theo Furness
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	14 January 2026
<b>Title:</b>	Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan – Approval of the Recommendations of the Examiner's Report and Referendum
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	A successful and ambitious town
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Subject to call in?</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Council Decision

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That the Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approves the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan incorporating the recommendations of the Examiner's Report, including the modifications proposed by the Examiner; and</li> <li>• notes that the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum of residents of the Coulby Newham Ward.</li> </ul>

Executive summary
<p>The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum and has recently been subject to Independent Examination in accordance with the legislation. This report seeks approval for the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan, incorporating the modifications set out in the Examiner's Report.</p> <p>The Council has a statutory role to consider and approve Neighbourhood Plans and the proposed modifications set out in the Examiner's Report or, alternatively, set out</p>

different modifications where appropriate. It is not considered necessary to propose alternative modifications.

The Council must also arrange for a referendum to take place in the Neighbourhood Area.

Subject to approval in the referendum, the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for the area and, as such, requires a decision to be made by the Council. A further report will be brought to the Council to consider the adoption of the Plan, subject to the outcome of the referendum.

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.



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

- 1.1 The Report seeks Council approval for the recommendations of the Examiner's Report on the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan, including the modifications proposed by the Examiner.
- 1.2 Subject to the approval of the above, the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan will progress to a referendum, so that the residents of Coulby Newham Ward can determine if the Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for the area.

<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>	The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan and associated modifications, sets out policies for the delivery of sustainable development that supports new housing development and economic growth.
<b>A healthy Place</b>	The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan includes policies that seek improvements to health facilities in the area.
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan includes policies that are focused on securing well-designed development that helps design out crime.
<b>Delivering best value</b>	The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to positively secure new, high-quality development that will deliver new homes.

## 2. Recommendations

### 2.1 That the Council

- approves the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan incorporating the recommendations of the Examiner's Report, including the modifications proposed by the Examiner; and
- notes that the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to a referendum of residents of the Coulby Newham Ward.

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

- 3.1 Subject to the outcome of a referendum, the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Council's Policy Framework. Prior to its adoption, the Council needs to make a decision to approve the Plan, taking into account the recommendations of the Examiner, so that a referendum can take place.
- 3.2 The decision to approve Neighbourhood Plans is a non-Executive function, and must be made by the Borough Council, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, and the Council's constitution.

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

- 4.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, parish councils and designated neighbourhood forums can prepare Neighbourhood Plans, to put in place a vision and planning policies for the development and use of land in their designated neighbourhood. Neighbourhood Plans form part of the Statutory Development Plan, against which future planning applications within the designated Neighbourhood Area will be determined.
- 4.2 In April 2022 the Council approved applications to designate the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum and the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Area, which aligns to the Coulby Newham Ward.
- 4.3 In November 2024, the Forum submitted the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan to the Council, and it was made available for a period of public consultation between November 2024 and January 2025 in accordance with the regulations.
- 4.4 Following the appointment of an Independent Examiner, a further consultation was undertaken on the Screening Assessments for Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment between May and July 2025. Following the consultation, all responses were submitted, and the Examination of the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan subsequently took place.

#### **Examiner's Report**

- 4.5 The Examiner's Report was issued to the Council and the Neighbourhood Forum on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (see Appendix 2). It proposes a number of modifications that are necessary to meet the 'basic conditions' and other legal requirements.
- 4.6 All of the proposed modifications relate to wording changes that are necessary to either aid clarity and consistency, or to ensure that policies are written in such a way that they can be used in the planning process. It also recommended that the Policy Map be updated to account for the modifications. The Neighbourhood Forum has had sight of the modifications and has provided confirmation that there are no objections to these. The modified Neighbourhood Plan is attached at Appendix 3.
- 4.7 The Council is now required to make a decision to approve the Plan and incorporate these modifications ahead of a referendum taking place. The Examiner's Report confirms that the referendum should take place only in the area to which the plan relates i.e. the Coulby Newham Ward. Should more than 50% of people who vote in the referendum be in favour of the Plan, then a future report will be brought to the Council so that it can formally be 'made' and become part of the statutory development plan for the area.

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

- 5.1 The Members for Coulby Newham Ward have been briefed on the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan and the recommendations set out in this report. Members have advised that they are content for the proposed modifications to be incorporated into the Plan and for it to proceed to the referendum.

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

- 5.2 Under the Regulations, the Council could pursue a different course of action, by making its own modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan. If it does, the Council must give clear reasons for doing so, and for departing from the Examiner's recommendations. A further six-week public consultation would then need to take place. There are also exceptional circumstances where the Secretary of State may be asked to intervene, e.g. where a local authority fails to submit the draft Neighbourhood Plan for referendum or departs from an Independent Examiner's recommendations.
- 5.3 Given that the Examiner's Report and recommendations are well balanced and provide the necessary flexibility, and that the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum has not raised any concerns about the modifications, it is not proposed to depart from the recommendations.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	<p>The approval of the Plan will result in a referendum taking place, as set out in legislation. It is estimated that the total cost of doing this will be in the region of £0.015m - £0.020m.</p> <p>The costs associated with the referendum of the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan will be met via grant funding from the Government. A claim for £20,000 will be made once the decision statement has been issued.</p>
Legal	<p>The legal framework for preparing Neighbourhood Plans is set out in the Planning &amp; Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the legislation.</p> <p>The Regulations require that the local authority make a decision on the Examiner's recommendations within five weeks from the day following receipt of their Report or such other date as may be agreed in writing by the local planning authority and the qualifying body (paragraph 10 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2017)). The Neighbourhood Forum has agreed in writing to extend this deadline until 14th January 2026. Failing to adhere to this timescale could enable the neighbourhood forum to submit a request to the Secretary of State to intervene.</p> <p>A referendum will be arranged on the Neighbourhood Plan as soon as is practicable following the decision to approve the Plan incorporating the modifications. Once the Council issues a decision statement detailing its intention to send the Neighbourhood Plan to referendum, the Plan can be given weight in the decision-making of future planning applications</p>

	<p>within the designated Neighbourhood Area, until the referendum can take place. The legislative requirements for the referendum are set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory development if more than 50% of those voting in the referendum are in support of the Plan. The outcome of the referendum, and the adoption of the Plan, will be subject to a future report to Council.</p>
Risk	<p>O8-055 - If the Council doesn't respond effectively and efficiently to legislative changes it could be in breach of statutory duties in relation to service delivery and fail to make the most of opportunities.</p> <p>The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the legislation and latest Government guidance, so this will have a positive impact on this risk.</p>
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	An impact assessment has been completed and is attached to this report at Appendix 1. This concluded that there will not be an adverse impact on individual human rights.
Reducing Poverty	The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan does not impact on Reducing Poverty.
Climate Change / Environmental	The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan sets out a policy framework to deliver sustainable development, including policies that will help mitigate the impact of climate change.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan does not impact on Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers.
Data Protection	There are no Data Protection or GDPR issues regarding the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Issue a decision statement and place on the Council's website to publicise the approval of the Plan incorporating the recommendations of the Examiner	Alex Conti, Strategic Policy Manager	30/01/26
Arrange a Referendum of Residents of the Coulby Newham Ward	John Stuart, Senior Electoral Services Officer	31/03/26

## Appendices

1	Initial Impact Assessment
2	Examiner's Report on Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan 2024 - 2039
3	Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan 2024 – 2039 (incorporating modifications)

## Background papers

There are no background papers.

**Contact:** Alex Conti, Strategic Policy Manager

**Email:** alex\_conti@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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## Appendix 1 – Initial Impact Assessment of the Publication Local Plan

## Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

<b>Subject of assessment:</b>	Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan Examiners Report and Referendum			
<b>Coverage:</b>	Coulby Newham Ward			
<b>This is a decision relating to:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Strategy</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Policy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Service</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Function</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Process/procedure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Programme</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Project</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Review</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Organisational change</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other (please state)</b>		
<b>It is a:</b>	<b>New approach:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Revision of an existing approach:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>It is driven by:</b>	<b>Legislation:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Local or corporate requirements:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Description:</b>	<p><b>Key aims, objectives and activities</b></p> <p>The report seeks approval for the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan which the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum have prepared in accordance with the legislation. It puts in place a vision and general planning policies for the development, and use of land in their designated neighbourhood area.</p> <p><b>Statutory drivers</b></p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011, and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The legislative requirements for the referendum are set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012.</p> <p><b>Differences from any previous approach</b></p> <p>The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan is the first such plan prepared for the area. If approved and adopted (following the referendum) it will become part of the statutory development plan for the area alongside the Council's Local Plan.</p> <p><b>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate)</b></p> <p>The key stakeholders are: The Council, Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum, developers, businesses, investors and the local community in Coulby Newham Ward.</p> <p><b>Intended outcomes.</b></p>			

	To seek approval of the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan, incorporating the recommendations of the Examiner, so that it can progress to referendum stage.			
<b>Live date:</b>	The Council will consider the report seeking approval for the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan on 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2026.			
<b>Lifespan:</b>	Until the referendum has taken place. A further report will be brought to Council should The Neighbourhood Plan need to progress to adoption.			
<b>Date of next review:</b>	Not applicable			
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The recommendations set out in the attached Council report accord with procedural guidelines of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, to assist Local Authorities in the adoption of Neighbourhood Plans, submitted by and in consultation with local communities, and therefore will not have any implications 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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The recommendations set out in the attached Council report accord with procedural guidelines of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, to assist Local Authorities in the adoption of Neighbourhood Plans, submitted by and in consultation with local communities, and therefore will not have any implications on equality.
<b>Community cohesion</b> Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The recommendations set out in the attached Council report accord with procedural guidelines of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, to assist Local Authorities in the adoption of Neighbourhood Plans, submitted by and in consultation with local communities, and therefore will not have any implications on community cohesion.
<b>Next steps:</b> ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.				
<b>Assessment completed by:</b>	Alex Conti		<b>Head of Service:</b>	Claire Holt
<b>Date:</b>	06/12/25		<b>Date:</b>	06/12/25





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# **Report on Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan 2024 - 2039**

**An Examination undertaken for Middlesbrough Council with the support of the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum on the November 2024 submission version of the Plan.**

Independent Examiner: Patrick Whitehead DipTP (Nott) MRTPI

Date of Report: 10 November 2025

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## Main Findings - Executive Summary

From my examination of the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan/CNNP) and its supporting documentation including the representations made, I have concluded that subject to the policy modifications set out in this report, the Plan meets the Basic Conditions.

I have also concluded that:

- The Plan has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body – the designated Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum;
- The Plan has been prepared for an area properly designated – the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan area, shown on the Map at Appendix 1 of the Plan;
- The Plan specifies the period to which it is to take effect – 2024 - 2039<sup>1</sup>; and
- The policies relate to the development and use of land for a designated neighbourhood area.

I recommend that the Plan, once modified, proceeds to referendum on the basis that it has met all the relevant legal requirements.

I have considered whether the referendum area should extend beyond the designated area to which the Plan relates and have concluded that it should not.

## 1. Introduction and Background

### The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan 2024 - 2039

- 1.1 Coulby Newham was formerly an area of farmland on the southern outskirts of Middlesbrough. Coulby 'Colebi' and Newham 'Nieweham' were separate medieval hamlets identified in the Domesday Book. The continuing southerly expansion of Middlesbrough reached the area south of the A174 Parkway in the 1970s, with building continuing through the 1980s to give a resident population in 2021 of around 8,300 (the area's construction was featured in the 1980 BBC TV Play for Today, Alan Bleasdale's "The Black Stuff"). There is a mix of private and social housing in the northern part of the area with a predominance of private housing in the south. The Parkway Centre, the largest retail centre outside of Middlesbrough town centre, is located at the heart of the area. There is also the Rainbow Leisure Centre, St Mary's Catholic Cathedral along with two medical practices, a dental surgery, veterinary practice and other related services. There is a small community hub, run by Everyone Active, which can be used for community events.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to **PM1** (see paragraph 4.8 below)

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## The Independent Examiner

- 1.2 As the Plan has now reached the examination stage, I have been appointed as the examiner of the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan (CNNP) by Middlesbrough Council (MC), with the agreement of the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum (CNNF).
- 1.3 I am a chartered town planner and former Government Planning Inspector, with more than 20 years' experience inspecting and examining development plans. I am an independent examiner, and do not have an interest in any of the land that may be affected by the draft Plan.

## The Scope of the Examination

- 1.4 As the independent examiner I am required to produce this report and recommend either:
- (a) that the neighbourhood plan is submitted to a referendum without changes; or
  - (b) that modifications are made and that the modified neighbourhood plan is submitted to a referendum; or
  - (c) that the neighbourhood plan does not proceed to a referendum on the basis that it does not meet the necessary legal requirements.
- 1.5 The scope of the examination is set out in Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) ('the 1990 Act'). The examiner must consider:
- Whether the plan meets the Basic Conditions.
  - Whether the plan complies with provisions under s.38A and s.38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ('the 2004 Act'). These are:
    - it has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body, for an area that has been properly designated by the local planning authority;
    - it sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land;
    - it specifies the period during which it has effect;
    - it does not include provisions and policies for 'excluded development'; and
    - it is the only neighbourhood plan for the area and does not relate to land outside the designated neighbourhood area.
  - Whether the referendum boundary should be extended beyond the designated area, should the plan proceed to referendum.

- Such matters as prescribed in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)('the 2012 Regulations').
- 1.6 I have considered only matters that fall within Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act, with one exception. That is the requirement that the Plan is compatible with the Human Rights Convention.

### The Basic Conditions

- 1.7 The 'Basic Conditions' are set out in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act. In order to meet the Basic Conditions, the neighbourhood plan must:
- Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
  - Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
  - Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area;
  - Be compatible with and not breach European Union (EU) obligations (under retained EU law)<sup>2</sup>; and
  - Meet prescribed conditions and comply with prescribed matters.
- 1.8 Regulation 32 of the 2012 Regulations prescribes a further Basic Condition for a neighbourhood plan. This requires that the making of the Neighbourhood Development Plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Approach to the Examination

### Planning Policy Context

- 2.1 The Development Plan for this part of Middlesbrough Council, not including documents relating to excluded minerals and waste development, is the Middlesbrough Core Strategy (MCS), adopted in February 2008; the Regeneration Development Plan Document (RDPD), adopted in 2009; the Housing Local Plan (MHLP), adopted in November 2014; and the saved policies of the Middlesbrough Local Plan 1999. The draft Middlesbrough Local Plan (MLP) was subject to Regulation 19 consultation from 11 March 2025 to 23 April 2025 and this version was

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<sup>2</sup> The existing body of environmental regulation is retained in UK law.

<sup>3</sup> This revised Basic Condition came into force on 28 December 2018 through the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018.



submitted for examination on 30 September 2025. The public hearing sessions are yet to be scheduled.<sup>4</sup> However, subject to successful adoption, the emerging Local Plan will replace the existing Middlesbrough Council's planning policies. I have noted that there have been discussions between MC and the Neighbourhood Forum regarding the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging Local Plan<sup>5</sup> in accordance with the advice in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).<sup>6</sup>

- 2.2 The planning policy for England is set out principally in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), December 2024, and the accompanying PPG offers advice on how this policy should be implemented. The CNNP was submitted to MC under Regulation 15 (of the 2012 Regulations) prior to 12 March 2025. Therefore, in accordance with the transitional arrangements set out in paragraph 238 of the December 2024 NPPF, all references in this report are to the December 2023 NPPF and its accompanying PPG.

### Submitted Documents

- 2.3 I have considered all policy, guidance and other reference documents I consider relevant to the examination, including:
- the draft Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan 2024 -2039, November 2024;
  - the Map at Appendix 1 of the Plan which identifies the area to which the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan relates;
  - the Consultation Statement, undated;
  - the Basic Conditions Statement, undated;
  - the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion prepared by Middlesbrough Council, March 2025;
  - the Habitats Regulation Screening Assessment prepared by Middlesbrough Council, March 2025;
  - all the representations that have been made in accordance with the Regulation 16 consultation; and
  - the responses from CNNP of 6 October 2025 and MC of 11 September 2025 to my letter of 28 August.<sup>7</sup>

### Site Visit

- 2.4 I made an unaccompanied site visit to the Neighbourhood Plan Area on 4 September 2025 to familiarise myself with it, and visit relevant sites and areas referenced in the Plan and evidential documents.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/planning-and-development/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-examination/>

<sup>5</sup> Response to examiner's questions by MC, dated 11 September 2025.

<sup>6</sup> PPG Reference ID: 41-009-20190509.

<sup>7</sup> View at: <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/planning-and-development/neighbourhood-planning/coulby-newham-neighbourhood-plan/>

## Written Representations with or without Public Hearing

- 2.5 This examination has been dealt with by written representations. There were no requests to appear at a hearing session in the Regulation 16 representations and the consultation responses clearly articulated the objections to the Plan, and presented arguments for and against the Plan's suitability to proceed to a referendum. As a consequence, I concluded that hearing sessions would be unnecessary.

## Modifications

- 2.6 Where necessary, I have recommended modifications to the Plan (**PMs**) in this report in order that it meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. For ease of reference, I have listed these modifications separately in the appendix.

## 3. Procedural Compliance and Human Rights

### Qualifying Body and Neighbourhood Plan Area

- 3.1 The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared and submitted for examination by Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum, which is the relevant qualifying body. Both the Forum and the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Area were designated by Middlesbrough Council on 27 April 2022.<sup>8</sup>
- 3.2 It is the only Neighbourhood Plan for Coulby Newham and does not relate to land outside the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.

### Plan Period

- 3.3 Subject to the **PM1**<sup>9</sup>, the Plan specifies clearly the period to which it is to take effect, which is from 2024 to 2039.

### Neighbourhood Plan Preparation and Consultation

- 3.4 Notice of approval was given by Middlesbrough Council to set up the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum on 27 April 2022 and, by the same notice, approval was given to establish the Neighbourhood Area. The approvals followed a six-week period of consultation during which no objections were received. Following a preliminary discussion with MC in September 2022, the Forum proceeded with a pre-plan survey of residents and a series of meetings and drop-in sessions for residents.

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<sup>8</sup> View the decision report and notice at: <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/planning-and-development/neighbourhood-planning/coulby-newham-neighbourhood-plan/>

<sup>9</sup> See paragraph 4.8 below.

- 3.5 Following an Information Day held on 24 March, Regulation 14 consultation took place between 12 May and 31 August 2024 with the relevant Statutory Bodies and the general public. The Consultation Statement shows how responses to the consultation were taken into account.
- 3.6 The Regulation 16 consultation was carried out between 28 November 2024 and 20 January 2025 and this drew a total of 26 representations, four of which indicated no support for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.7 It was subsequently identified that the CNNP had not been subject to screening in relation to Strategic Environmental Assessment or Habitats Regulation Assessment. Screening reports were duly produced by MC in March 2025 and a further consultation ran from Wednesday 28 May 2025 to Wednesday 9th July 2025. As a result, 3 formal representations were received. Whilst the screenings should have been undertaken at an earlier stage in the plan preparation process, the CNNP does not allocate any sites, and the outcomes of the screenings and responses to the additional consultation do not suggest that any substantive prejudice might have arisen as a result of their late production (I comment on the screening reports further in paragraph 4.1 - 4.2 below).
- 3.8 With all these points in mind, I am satisfied that a thorough, transparent and inclusive consultation process has been followed for the Plan, having due regard to the advice in the PPG about plan preparation and engagement and in accordance with the legal requirements.

### Development and Use of Land

- 3.9 The Plan, as proposed to be modified, sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land in accordance with s.38A of the 2004 Act.

### Excluded Development

- 3.10 The Plan does not include provisions and policies for 'excluded development'.<sup>10</sup>

### Human Rights

- 3.11 The Forum is satisfied that the Plan does not breach Human Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998), and from my independent assessment I see no reason to disagree.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> See section 61K of the 1990 Act.

<sup>11</sup> Basic Conditions Statement, paragraph 5.

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## 4. Compliance with the Basic Conditions

### EU Obligations

- 4.1 The Neighbourhood Plan was screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) by Middlesbrough Council, which found that it was unnecessary to undertake SEA. Having read the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion, I support this conclusion. The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan was further screened for Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).<sup>12</sup> The report concluded that the proposed policies provide locally specific criteria and *"will not lead to likely significant effects on protected European Sites therefore Appropriate Assessment is not required"*.
- 4.2 No objections were recorded from the statutory consultees and, from my independent assessment of this matter, I have no reason to disagree.

### Main Issues

- 4.3 I have approached the assessment of compliance with the Basic Conditions of the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan as two main matters:
- General issues of compliance of the Plan, as a whole, having regard to national policy and guidance (including sustainable development) and the adopted strategic local planning policies; and
  - Specific issues of compliance of the Plan policies, including the appropriateness of individual policies to support improvements to the Plan area, create a sustainable and inclusive community and support essential facilities and services.
- 4.4 As part of that assessment, I shall consider whether the policies are sufficiently clear and unambiguous, having regard to advice in the PPG that a neighbourhood plan should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence.<sup>13</sup>

### General issues of compliance of the Plan

- 4.5 The CNNP is concise and addresses a single issue of ensuring that future development in the Ward meets the wishes of local residents.<sup>14</sup> It provides principles for sustainable development (paragraph 24), a set of Specific Aims for each of three areas: Northern, Central and Southern (paragraphs 25-27) and 9 policies addressing various aspects of development.

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<sup>12</sup> Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan, HRA Screening Assessment, March 2025.

<sup>13</sup> PPG Reference ID: 41-041-20140306.

<sup>14</sup> Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan. Introduction, paragraph 1.

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- 4.6 The context for the development is set out in Policy H8 of the MHLP 2014. This indicates that *"land to the south of Coulby Newham will be developed to create a mixed and sustainable community of a high quality design. 1,000 dwellings will be accommodated on the site"*. The Policy sets down 3 additional points, that the development will include:

- a) open space, play and community facilities focused on Lingfield Farm;*
- b) enhancement of the role of Marton West Beck as a green corridor and integration with the new development; and*
- c) access from the B1365.*

Policy HO2 of the MLP sets out the housing requirement for Coulby Newham, to provide 940 dwellings between 2022 and 2041, and this is given further detail in Policy HO4 and the detailed sites policies (HO4b and HO4m). The MLP, Policy HO4b, also includes a list of requirements to be fulfilled by development proposals (criteria a – t). These include, *inter-alia*, the retention and enhancement of Lingfield Farm as an area of open space and a local centre for recreational and community use, a new primary school, a mix of dwelling types, and protection and enhancement of woodland areas. It also requires access from a new roundabout onto the B1365.

- 4.7 The Basic Conditions Statement, paragraph 4, indicates that the Plan has been written to be in general conformity with the Middlesbrough Council Local Plan, 2014. Whilst I have noted, in paragraph 7, that no specific mention is made regarding general conformity relating to CNNP Policies CN5 – CN9, MC has indicated that these policies, in its opinion, are in general conformity with the Core Strategy and the Housing Local Plan.<sup>15</sup> However, MC has made some detailed comments regarding these policies to which I shall refer when dealing with the specific issues of each policy. I have also noted that MC considers the supporting text to Policy CN9, paragraph 63, is not considered to be in general conformity (particularly the reference to listed buildings not being altered). I shall consider this comment in relation to Policy CN9.
- 4.8 The Plan does not include an unambiguous statement of the period to which it is to take effect as required by the 2004 Act (section 38B(1)(a)). Paragraph 4 indicates that the Plan covers a period *"..up to 2039"* whilst the Basic Conditions Statement refers to a period of *"..up to 2035"* (paragraph 1(c)). The CNNF has since confirmed<sup>16</sup> that the correct end date for the Plan as 2039, as shown in proposed modification **PM1**. In the interests of clarity, the Plan period 2024 – 2039 should also be stated on the front cover.
- 4.9 The Specific Aims listed on pages 8-9 do not have the appearance of usual planning objectives derived from a vision for the future of the Plan area. This is, perhaps, understandable in the context of a Plan with the limited scope of ensuring future development, already the subject of detailed

<sup>15</sup> Response to examiner's questions by MC, dated 11 September 2025.

<sup>16</sup> Response to examiner's questions by CNNF, dated 6 October 2025.

policy requirements in the MHLP (Policy H26) (and with a consultation Masterplan<sup>17</sup> in place), has regard to the wishes and concerns of local residents. In its response to the examiner's questions, CNNF has indicated that the list does, indeed, reflect the concerns of local residents and what they would like to see happen in Coulby Newham. Whilst most neighbourhood plans include a vision and objectives, there is no prescribed way of writing a neighbourhood plan. As expected, the Consultation Statement does include a statement of the main issues raised and this provides basis for the list included in the Plan. As such, the list of "Specific Aims" has a logical place within the Plan. However, the title of the section is misleading. The Forum has suggested the list could be amended to read "Resident Priorities from Feedback". In principle this makes sense, but there is a benefit in terms of ensuring clarity in amending the actual wording as shown in proposed modification **PM2**.

- 4.10 As a more general point, the Introduction to the Plan indicates that it is concerned with future development within the Ward as a whole, whilst some of the provisions of the policies within the Plan are directed at the proposed development in the southern part of the Ward – the Newham Hall Development. In some cases it is difficult to determine whether the content of policies is directed at the Ward as a whole, or the Newham Hall development proposals. This is an issue raised in the Regulation 16 responses. It should be addressed through a clearer structure to individual policies, and to the provision of a Policies Map indicating the different areas to which policies will be relevant. These are matters to which I will return later in respect of individual policies.
- 4.11 As previously indicated, my examination of the Plan has also considered whether sufficient regard has been had to the Government advice contained in the PPG. It advises that a policy "*should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications*". A policy should be "*concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence*".<sup>18</sup> It is also important that text justifying the Policy should be located in the supporting paragraphs rather than forming part of the Policy text. In general, I have concluded that, as drafted, the policies appear as statements of aspiration, or wish-lists, rather than as more conventional policy statements (eg: the use of phrases such as "*we would like to see...*"). Where appropriate, my recommendations for each Policy have included proposed amendments to the text to take account of the Government advice. This will ensure that the policies read as such, to those using the Plan, to guide the development of specific proposals.

<sup>17</sup> Newham Hall Housing Site Masterplan, Gradon Architecture, undated.

<sup>18</sup> PPG Reference ID: 41-041-20140306.



## Specific issues of compliance of the Plan policies

### Policy CN1 – Housing Development

- 4.12 The purpose of the Policy is “..to ensure that any development is sustainable and does not destroy the nature of the area” (paragraph 29). To this end, it prescribes four specific requirements which proposals for significant housing development should seek to achieve. These appear to be in general conformity with the MHLP, Policy H26 which, in broad terms, requires necessary improvements to the transport infrastructure, a new primary school, community facilities, open space provision and a mix of dwelling types. It also has regard to the advice in the NPPF, including the promotion of healthy and safe communities and achieving sustainable development.
- 4.13 In the interests of ensuring clarity, the Policy would benefit from being structured as a criteria-based policy whilst textual amendments could provide a more precise indication of the requirements being placed upon developers.
- 4.14 If, as paragraph 33 suggests, the intention is that the suggested improvements should be funded through Section 106 (S106) agreements, this should be stated as policy rather than as supporting text. This would be in accord with MCS, Policy CS6 Developer Contributions.
- 4.15 Recommended textual amendments to provide a criteria-based policy, together with providing a more precise statement of the requirements, is provided by proposed modification **PM3**. The modification also includes a proposal for an addition to the Policy concerning developer contributions. These modifications will ensure the Policy meets the Basic Conditions and, more specifically, has regard to Government advice regarding the drafting of policies.
- 4.16 I have noted suggestions arising from the Regulation 16 responses that a spur road to Newham Hall Farm and Newham Hall should be included as part of the Policy to support their re-use. To ensure timely delivery of the spur road, it is suggested that the Policy should include a requirement for its completion prior to the first occupation of a dwelling within the allocation. Whilst this may seem desirable, there are no specific proposals for the re-use of the buildings included within the Plan so that such a requirement would be premature and an onerous imposition on the developer.
- 4.17 I have also noted various suggestions arising from the Regulation 16 consultation, and the CNNF responses and, where appropriate, I have incorporated amendments to the text accordingly.
- 4.18 The supporting text to Policy CN1, paragraph 29, suggests the need for improvements to the road system including “the dualling of Stainton Way”. This suggestion does not find its way into either Policy CN1, or

Policy CN4 regarding transport infrastructure. In its response to the examiner's questions, the CNNF stated that "*several residents had suggested*" dualling Stainton Way but it has provided no supporting evidence to justify the proposal (although it has suggested that funding could come from Central Government or through a S106 agreement). There is no evidence that either of these would provide a likely source of funding and MC's position is that dualling is unnecessary. It follows that the reference should be deleted, as in **PM3**.

## Policy CN2 – Design Issues for Housing

- 4.19 Policy CN2 provides criteria and basic guidelines to guide the design of proposed developments. It is essentially a criteria-based policy in a similar manner to Policy CN1 and for the same reasons of clarity and precision, it is necessary to re-structure the text to make this clear. In general terms, the Policy is in conformity with strategic policies, including MHLP, Policy H26, and MCS, Policy CS5. It also follows Government advice in the NPPF, paragraph 132, encouraging neighbourhood planning groups to engage in the production of design policies.
- 4.20 The Policy makes specific reference to the Tees Valley Design Guide. This appears to refer to a document entitled 'Design Guide and Specification' produced by a working party of local authority engineers and relating to the construction of works proposed for adoption under the Highways Act 1980. Whilst this has relevance for those preparing schemes for development, of more relevance to those seeking planning permission, is the Middlesbrough Urban Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) adopted in January 2013. In its response to questions, the CNNF has accepted that the Plan should be amended accordingly.<sup>19</sup>
- 4.21 The proposed modification, **PM4**, provides recommended amendments to the text to provide a criteria-based policy, thereby ensuring the Policy meets the Basic Conditions.

## Policy CN3 – Green Spaces and Environmental Issues

- 4.22 The Plan seeks to protect existing open spaces and extend wooded areas, including those at Marton West Beck and Southwood. To this, end Policy CN3 provides for the expansion of the wooded areas, and indicates the need to protect green spaces. MC has indicated that the Policy is in accordance with policies in the MHLP (Policy H26) and the MLP – Policy HO4b (criteria a) and n)) appear particularly relevant. The Policy has also had regard to the NPPF, paragraphs 102 – 103, and 180.
- 4.23 The text of the Policy is neither sufficiently concise nor precise to accord with the Government advice.<sup>20</sup> The Policy should be clear that proposals for the expansion of wooded areas and the protection of existing green

<sup>19</sup> Response to examiner's questions by CNNF, dated 6 October 2025.

<sup>20</sup> PPG Reference ID: 41-041-20140306.



spaces relates to the housing allocation and the Masterplan. The second paragraph mixes requirements for maintenance and accessibility. The text should be simplified and might reasonably draw on Policy NE4 in the MLP. Appropriate textual amendments are included within the proposed modification **PM5** to ensure the Policy meets the Basic Conditions.

#### Policy CN4 – Transport Infrastructure

- 4.24 Much of the supporting text to Policy CN4 relates to actions which would be the responsibility of the local Highways Authority. However, the Policy concentrates on 4 issues: new access requirements; a bus service link; pedestrian and cycle provision; and electric car charging points. The provision of transport infrastructure is a concern that can be addressed through the planning process and so it is a matter that can legitimately form the subject of planning policy. Funding for the short-term provision of transport services may be addressed through a S106 agreement provided the tests set down by Government<sup>21</sup> are met. These include the requirements that it is necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms and is directly related to the development. With appropriate textual amendments, the Policy is in general conformity with local strategic planning policies, specifically MCS, Policy CS17 (duplicated in the MHLF with the same reference) and MHLF, Policy H26. It also has regard to the NPPF, paragraph 108.
- 4.25 The amendments included in proposed modification **PM6** include restructuring the text to provide a criteria-based format and to indicate support for the desired improvements. This will ensure the Policy meets the Basic Conditions.

#### Policy CN5 – Parks and Leisure Facilities

- 4.26 There are a range of issues covered by Policy CN5, some relating to the Newham Hall development proposals, some relating to provision within the existing Coulby Newham Ward, and some relating to existing problems which are not resolvable through the planning system. The Policy should be restructured to provide a criteria-based policy encompassing those elements which are subject to potential resolution within the planning process. Some elements of the draft Policy, whilst no doubt matters that concern local residents, should properly be addressed elsewhere, and should be excluded from the Policy. The third paragraph does not provide a clear indication of suggestions for proposed developments or for achievable facilities within the life of the Neighbourhood Plan. For these reasons it should be deleted.
- 4.27 With appropriate amendments, the Policy is in general conformity with local strategic planning policies, particularly MHLF, Policy H26 regarding the provision of community facilities, open space and allotments, and is consistent with the emerging MLP, policies IN1 and IN4, whilst

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<sup>21</sup> NPPF, paragraph 57.

contributing to the aims of Policy IN6 regarding the creation of healthier communities. It also has regard to the NPPF's aim to promote healthy communities (paragraph 96).

- 4.28 A recommended restructured Policy is provided by proposed modification **PM7** to ensure the Basic Conditions are met.

#### Policy CN6 – Education Issues

- 4.29 The MHLP, Policy 26 (iii) indicates that an appropriate use at Coulby Newham would be the provision of a primary school, either on or off site. No direct evidence of need is provided in the Local Plan but the Policy suggests the school should be provided '*when the need arises*'. The emerging MLP, Policy IN5, goes further, indicating that land should be reserved for primary school provision within the housing allocation at Newham Hall Farm. The first part of Policy CN6 is in general conformity with the MHLP (and consistent with the emerging MLP). It also follows advice in the NPPF, paragraph 99 regarding the need for a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to ensuring an adequacy of school places to meet needs.
- 4.30 The supporting text to the Policy also identifies a major issue for some schools relating to car parking and parents dropping-off or picking up children. The text makes specific reference to King's Academy and Rosewood Academy. Parking for parents is, of course, a universal problem, but during my visit I did look at the particular circumstances relating to these schools – although I was not able to be present at the critical drop-off and pick up times. In the case of Rosewood Academy, there appeared to be a dedicated lay-by on Coulby Farm Way although there was no marking to indicate if this was for parents or school buses, but in both cases I could see that particular issues could result for local residents and businesses. The initiative by the CNNF is to be welcomed, although it is difficult to see how such proposals might arise, or be funded. Nevertheless, it is a positive proposal which should be included in the Policy with an appropriate amendment to the text.
- 4.31 The proposed modification, **PM8**, provides amended text to ensure the Policy meets the Basic Conditions and the Government advice regarding the drafting of policies.

#### Policy CN7 – Retail Development in Coulby Newham

- 4.32 The Policy comprises three elements: parking at the existing Parkway Centre; the provision of public transport services; and a new local centre within the Newham Hall development. Looking at these in turn, I saw during my visit that the car parking facilities at the Parkway Centre are limited relative to the scale of the centre, although it is obvious that the extent to which provision could be increased is limited. I also saw the logic of providing a second entrance to Tesco, although, again, this would not be easy to achieve without a major intervention. Nevertheless,

including support for such interventions, should the opportunity arise, could be of assistance. The provision of public transport services is properly considered under Policy CN4 and should be deleted as an unnecessary duplication of policy. On the third aspect of the Policy, there is a proposal for a new local centre as part of the Newham Hall development. Support for this is a helpful policy provision. An amended Policy, as shown in proposed modification **PM9** would be general conformity with MHLP, Policy H26, and have regard to the strategic policy within the emerging MLP. It would also be in accord with the NPPF, paragraph 97, and so meet the Basic Conditions.

#### Policy CN8 – Health Services in Coulby Newham

- 4.33 There is a clear desire amongst some residents for improved health services, particularly in terms of access to doctors' and dentists' services, although many residents appear content with the health service (CNNP, paragraph 60). No supporting evidence of identified need is provided on which to base the Policy and MC, in its response to the examiner's questions, states that – in its opinion – there is no need for medical facilities in the south of the Ward. Nor is there evidence that health providers would seek to locate within the Ward or the Newham Hall development. It is a requirement that policies must be supported by appropriate evidence<sup>22</sup> and in these circumstances the Policy, in its present form, cannot be shown to have adequate regard to Government advice and therefore does not meet the Basic Conditions. Nevertheless, the NPPF, paragraph 97b, does suggest that policies should take into account improvement to health and other social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community. The emerging MLP also includes Policy ST1 which, amongst the needs of residents, identifies their health and well-being as a consideration (criterion k) and Policy IN6.
- 4.34 As a consequence of the above, with a degree of re-structuring of the text as shown in **PM10** the Policy would meet the Basic Conditions.

#### Policy CN9 – Key Buildings and Community Assets

- 4.35 The first part of the Policy identifies Coulby Manor Farm as a Grade II listed building. This is correct but, as has been indicated in the responses to the Regulation 16 consultation, this is not the only listed structure in the Plan area. The official listings also show that the "*walls enclosing carpark, C30M south-west of Coulby Manor*" are also listed as Grade II, whilst the correct title for the listing does not refer to Coulby Manor as a Farm or House, simply Coulby Manor. I have also noted that Newham Grange Farm (Newham Grange Leisure Farm) and Newham Hall Farm are included as non-designated heritage assets in the Local List of buildings and structures of Special Local Architectural or Historic Interest.

<sup>22</sup> PPG Reference ID: 41-041-20140306.

- 4.36 The Policy title should be extended to indicate that the key buildings are of historic interest, whilst the text of the first part of the Policy should be extended to include all the assets of interest, including those in the Local List. In policy terms, the second part of the first paragraph needs to be properly aligned to the advice regarding historic assets contained in the NPPF, paragraphs 200 – 204, and potential impacts of development proposals, paragraphs 205 – 214. Notwithstanding the Plan must be assessed against the extant development plan, having regard to the advice in the PPG<sup>23</sup> it might also reasonably take account of the emerging MLP, particularly policies HI1, HI2 and HI3. The proposed modification, **PM11**, includes appropriate amendments to the text of the first part of the Policy to take account of these conclusions.
- 4.37 The second part of the Policy does not offer criteria for a would-be developer to take into account, neither does it suggest a way in which an appropriate development might be encouraged. It does not suggest any way in which development might be achieved within the Plan period. As a consequence this section cannot be considered as a land-use planning policy as described in the PPG.<sup>24</sup> For these reasons it must be considered as a community aspiration and should be set out in an appendix to clearly distinguish it as not part of the statutory Development Plan.
- 4.38 The reference to Newham Hall in policy terms in paragraph 63 should be deleted since this is located outside the Plan area. It is also incorrect in policy terms to indicate that Coulby Manor Farm '*should not be altered*'. The NPPF, paragraph 205, advises that when considering proposals affecting a designated heritage asset, the significance of the asset should be taken into account, it does not indicate that assets should not be altered. Additionally, references in paragraph 62 to any assets located outside the Plan Area, specifically Newham Hall, should be deleted. **PM11** refers.

### Factual and Minor Amendments and Updates

- 4.39 I have not identified any typographical errors in the text of the CNNP that would affect the Basic Conditions. Minor amendments to the text and numbering (sections, paragraphs etc) can be made consequential to the recommended modifications, alongside any other minor non-material changes or updates, in agreement between CNNF and the MC. However, a number of factual inaccuracies have been identified by MC in the responses to the Regulation 16 consultation. These factual updates should be addressed in consultation with MC prior to the final Neighbourhood Plan being produced.
- 4.40 Whilst not strictly necessary to meet the Basic Condition, CNNF and MC may wish to consider amending the Map of the Neighbourhood Plan at Appendix 1 from the Policies Map, which might be annotated to identify

<sup>23</sup> PPG Reference ID: 41-009-20190509.

<sup>24</sup> PPG: Reference ID: 41-004-20190509.

the locations or areas to which individual policies will be applied. To be realistic, there should be a synthesis or alignment between the Policies Map and the Newham Hall Masterplan where these relate to the same areas and proposals (for example, the Neighbourhood Map indicates new facilities to be provided in 3 separate locations within the proposed development area compared to the Masterplan indicating a single location for a new local centre). The Plan might also differentiate between the northern, central and southern areas referred to in paragraphs 25 – 27. These are matters which may be resolved in agreement with MC prior to its incorporation in the CNNP.

- 4.41 Finally, and whilst again not strictly necessary to meet the Basic Conditions, it would be helpful to users of the Plan for the pages to be numbered.

## 5. Conclusions

### Summary

- 5.1 The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan has been duly prepared in compliance with the procedural requirements. My examination has investigated whether the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements for neighbourhood plans. I have had regard for all the responses made following consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan, and the evidence documents submitted with it.
- 5.2 I have made recommendations to modify the policies and text to ensure the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. I recommend that the Plan, once modified, proceeds to referendum.

### The Referendum and its Area

- 5.3 I have considered whether or not the referendum area should be extended beyond the designated area to which the Plan relates. The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan as modified has no policy or proposals which I consider significant enough to have an impact beyond the designated Neighbourhood Plan boundary, requiring the referendum to extend to areas beyond the Plan boundary. I recommend that the boundary for the purposes of any future referendum on the Plan should be the boundary of the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.

### Overview

- 5.4 The Forum has taken on a difficult undertaking in a location which has numerous complex planning issues. It is also a dynamic situation with proposals for development already in the process of evolution. As a consequence the options for the Plan to consider were, of necessity, limited. The resulting Plan is a tribute to those whose hard work has gone

into its production, and it will provide a useful addition to the Development Plan.

*Patrick T Whitehead DipTP (Nott) MRTPI*

Examiner

## Appendix: Modifications

Proposed modification number (PM)	Page no./ other reference	
PM1	Page 2	<p>Amend paragraph 4 as follows:</p> <p>"The draft plan covers the period <del>up to</del> <u>2024 - 2039</u>".</p> <p>And add the Plan period to the front cover as follows: "2024 -2039".</p>
PM2	Page 8	<p>Amend the title of the section by deleting "Specific Aims" and replacing this as follows:</p> <p>"Main Issues Raised by Residents".</p>
PM3	Page 10	<p>Policy CN1</p> <p>Amend the Policy as follows:</p> <p><b><del>"We would look to see that a</del> <u>Any significant substantial new housing development proposals should have regard to the provisions of the Newham Hall Farm Masterplan and to the following:was matched with the provision of better road facilities and improved public transport services:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>1. The need for improvements to highways and public transport links;</u></b></li> <li><b><u>2. We would support the provision of extra The desirability of improvements to social facilities within the Newham Hall allocation south of the ward (potentially such as a new primary school and community centre);</u></b></li> <li><b><u>3. We would want to see any development split up with The inclusion of green spaces and wooded areas separating the different areas of housing;</u></b></li> </ol>

		<p><b><del>4. Housing sites should aim to deliver</del> <u>The need for a wide variety of housing types including housing for older people. This could involve bungalows, low rise flats and assisted living accommodation;</u></b></p> <p><b><del>5. The development should include</del> <u>inclusion of 15% affordable housing in line with the Local Plan.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Where appropriate, necessary to make a proposed development acceptable in planning terms, and directly related to the proposal, developer contributions will be sought towards the improvement of community and leisure facilities”.</u></b></p> <p>Amend the second sentence of paragraph 29 in the supporting text to read as follows:</p> <p>“In order to ensure this, there needs to be an improvement in the road system including the <del>dualling of Stainton Way and</del> the provision of an extra means of access and egress from the estates in the southern area”.</p>
PM4	Page 11	<p>Policy CN2</p> <p>Amend the Policy as follows:</p> <p><b><del>“We would like to see a</del> <u>All new development should be built to a high standard of design. Developers should take into account the residential development guidance contained in the Middlesbrough Urban Design Supplementary Planning Document, and have particular regard to the following: This would involve estates located on a cul-de-sac or surrounding a courtyard located of the through roads.</u></b></p>



		<p><b><u>a. A preference for culs-de-sac or courtyard developments located off through roads;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>b. Adequate space between facing houses in-line with the Tees Valley Design Guide;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>c. Development of no more than two storeys, unless specific justification can be provided;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>d. Materials should complement those characteristic of the locality;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>e. Parking areas and public amenity space should form an integral part of the design be in accordance with the Tees Valley Design Guide;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>f. All pathways should provide a safe route for pedestrians, including at night.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>We wish to see sufficient space provided between houses by providing a road of adequate width in line with the Tees Valley Design Guide. Houses should usually be no more than two storey in height with very limited three storey property, so as to avoid streets becoming overbearing and tunnel like in nature.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>We would expect all future housing to be built of good quality materials that complement the existing types of material use in the locality.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Good design should include provision of parking areas and public amenity space in accordance with the Tees Valley Design Guide. Whilst pathways may be separate from the road network, we should ensure that such pathways provide a safe route for pedestrians at night."</u></b></p>
PM5	Page 12	<p>Policy CN3</p> <p>Amend the Policy as follows:</p> <p><b><u>The Newham Hall housing d Development at Newham Hall should</u></b></p>

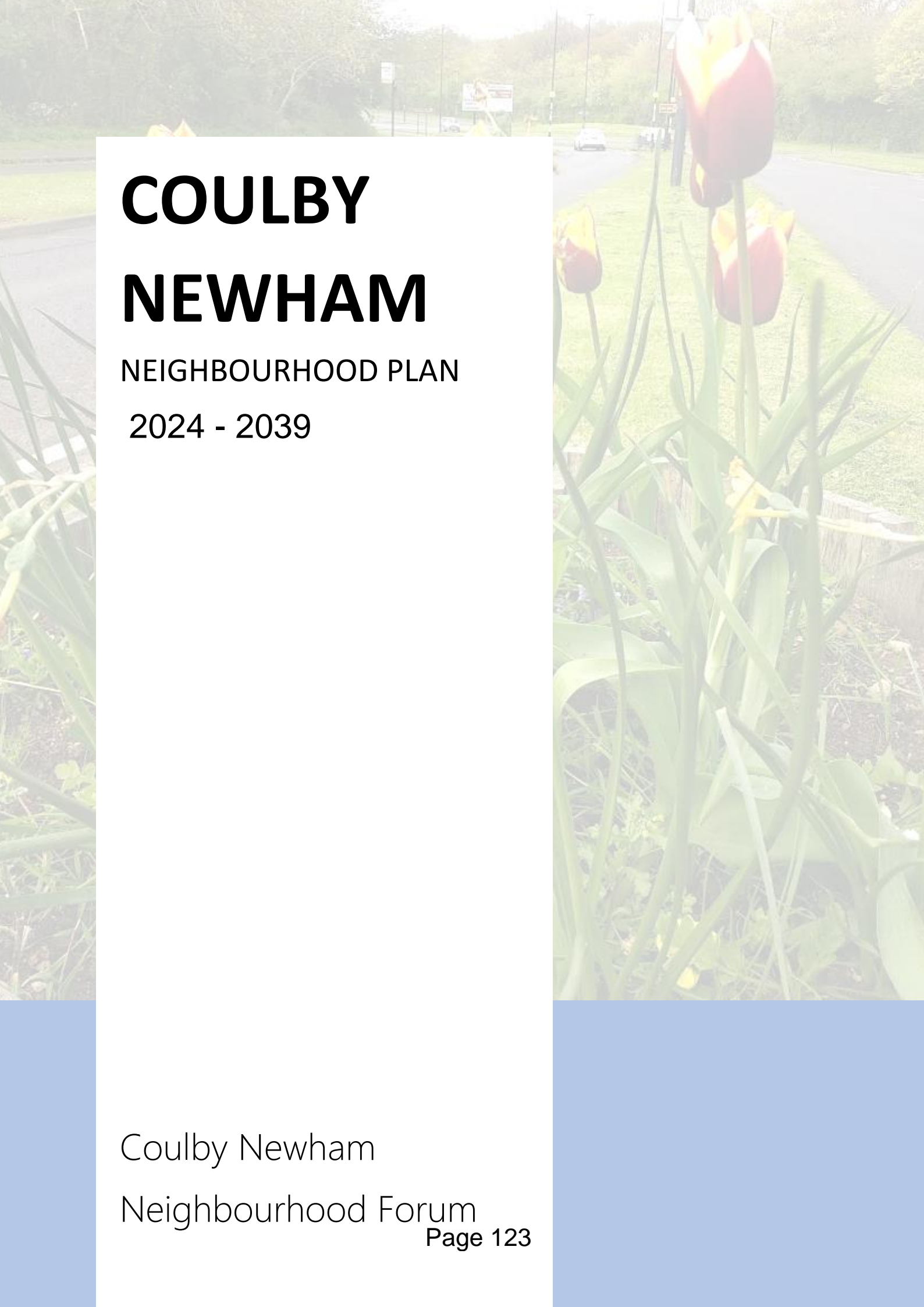
		<p><b><u>allow for the expansion of several wooded areas within the south of the ward allocation, including those at Marton West Beck and Southwood in accordance with the Masterplan, and for the protection maintenance of existing green spaces. The woods at Marton West Beck should be expanded westwards and those at Southwood should stretch further to the south.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>All green spaces need to be protected as far as possible and access to these areas enhanced. All wooded areas and green spaces created adjacent to the new housing development need to have a An effective and sustainable long term maintenance programme for proposed green space and woodland should be included with any development proposals in place and should be easily accessible with waymarked routes".</u></b></p>
PM6	Page 13	<p>Policy CN4</p> <p>Amend the Policy as follows:</p> <p><b><u>"The following improvements to the transport infrastructure would be supported:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>There is a need for An additional access and egress from the southern area Newham Hall development and as well as improved pedestrian access over the B1365;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The new housing development at Newham Hall would need to be provided with The use of S106 agreements to launch a bus service to linking the development to the Parkway centre and other areas in south Middlesbrough;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The extension of the existing cycle path and pathway system should be extended to cover serve the new</u></b></p>

		<p><del>housing development area and extra paths provided where necessary;</del></p> <p><del>The Pprovision of adequate <u>publicly available</u> vehicle charging points will be necessary, especially where residents cannot easily access their own property for this purpose".</del></p>
PM7	Page 15	<p>Policy CN5</p> <p>Amend the Policy as follows:</p> <p><b><i>"The following improvements to the existing parks and leisure facilities would be supported:</i></b></p> <p><del><b><i>The new housing development at Newham Hall is served by</i></b></del>  <b><i><u>Improvements to the play area at Lingfield, which should be improved and maintained,</u></i></b> along with the provision of an extra MUGA at this location;</p> <p><del><b><i>The <u>protection and enhancement of the playing fields in the area Ward;</u> should be protected and enhanced; by the provision of goalposts and pitch markings. In addition, we should seek to ensure that the MUGA on Newham Way is improved or revamped. Moreover, we would like to see the</i></b></del></p> <p><del><b><i>updating of <u>Improvements to the leisure facilities provided at the Rainbow Centre subject to S106 funding being available from the Newham Hall development;</u> - Contributions will be sought from new developments for these improvements.</i></b></del></p> <p><del><b><i>We would like to see the provision of another community centre in the south of the ward to serve the proposed increase in the number of residents. If the former Countryside Centre was available, it could be used for this purpose, but if not, a new facility should be constructed.</i></b></del></p>

		<p><b><u>Further development and improvement of tThe Community Gardens at Lingfield; should be developed and properly signposted. It is suggested a further Community Garden could be located adjacent to Marton West Beck</u></b></p> <p><b><u>We would support The provision of extra allotments in the south of the Ward, subject to demand being established. but steps must be taken to ensure that they are properly managed.</u></b></p>
PM8	Page 16	<p>Policy CN6</p> <p>Amend the Policy as follows:</p> <p><b><u>"We would want to support the provision of an e Extra primary school facilities in the area, to meet additional demands of new developments, will be supported.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>In addition, p Support will also be given to proposals for improved car parking provision at existing local schools within the Ward such as including specific proposals for Rosewood Primary school, would be supported".</u></b></p>
PM9	Page 17	<p>Policy CN7</p> <p>Amend the Policy as follows:</p> <p><b><u>Any P-proposals for additional car parking facilities at the Parkway Centre, would be supported. It would also be helpful if and a second entrance to the Tesco car park could be provided to ease traffic flow problems at peak times would be supported.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>In order to enhance the appeal of the new development at Newham Hall, proposals to provide appropriate public transport services in the area should be supported.</u></b></p>

		<b><u><del>In addition, The provision of a new local shopping centre should be included within the Masterplan proposal for the Newham Hall development would be supported.</del></u></b>
PM10	Page 18	<p>Policy CN8</p> <p>Amend the Policy as follows:</p> <p><b><u>The improvement of health services within the Ward would be supported, including:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Proposals for additional health facilities located at the local centre proposed for the Newham Hall development, if the need can be demonstrated; The provision of an extra doctors' surgery and also increased dental practice provision would be supported. Locating the surgery in the south of the ward within the new housing development should be considered.</u></b></p> <p><b><u><del>In addition, we would like to see a</del>Additional car parking provision at the existing doctors' surgeries at the Parkway Centre.</u></b></p>
PM11	Page 19	<p>Policy CN9</p> <p>Amend the Policy as follows:</p> <p><b><u>"CN9 Key buildings of historic interest and community assets</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Key buildings of historic interest within the Ward are include Coulby Manor House, is a Grade II listed building and the walls enclosing the car park which is a Grade II listed structure. Additionally, Newham Grange Farm and Newham Hall Farm are included as locally listed heritage assets.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Any development to affecting these buildings, structures, or within their its settings will be subject to the</u></b></p>

		<p><b><u>following considerations: managed to enhance its significance</u></b></p> <p><b><u>In the case of listed buildings or structures and their settings, any loss or substantial harm should be exceptional and should be outweighed by substantial public benefits;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>In the case of non-designated assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm and the significance of the asset.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Newhall Hall Farm, on Middlesbrough's Local List, is vacant and would benefit from a sustainable use that sustains or enhances its significance, which could include community use. Alternatively, the former Countryside Centre at Lingfield, which is presently being used as an education facility, could be used by the community in the future if no longer required for education purposes".</u></b></p> <p>The second part of the Policy should be deleted and replaced as an appendix to the Plan, entitled "Community Aspirations", and labelled as Community Aspiration 1. Paragraph 62 delete and amend as follows:</p> <p><b><u>"In addition, Newham Hall, just outside the south of the ward is also a Grade 2 listed building, whilst close by is t The abandoned Newham Hall Farm is locally listed as an asset of architectural or historic interest".</u></b></p> <p>Paragraph 63 amend the first sentence as follows: "The Coulby Manor House and Newham Hall are is presently in good condition and should not be altered".</p>
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# **COULBY NEWHAM**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
2024 - 2039

# COULBY NEWHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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## Introduction

1. This is the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan (CNNP), which is designed to ensure that future development in the ward meets the wishes of local residents. The plan has been drawn up by a working group of the Neighbourhood Forum Council. (see Appendix 1 for map of the Neighbourhood Plan)
2. The plan was put to local residents in a series of Community Forums between 2022 and 2024, in order to assess public support for the proposals. In addition, the plan can still be modified as a result of suggestions put forward by residents, or other interested parties.

## Background

3. Neighbourhood Plans were introduced under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. This allows communities to have a say in how their community will develop over a 15 year period.
4. The plan must be in compliance with the Middlesbrough Council Local Plan as well as the National Planning Policy Framework and will also be affected by the strategic plans of the Tees Valley Combined Authority in respect of issues such as Transport and Business Development. The plan covers the period 2024 - 2039 and will be renewed every five years to ensure compliance with national and local planning requirements, and to reflect the changing needs of the local community. Once adopted, the plan will form part of the Middlesbrough Development Plan.
5. This is the Neighbourhood Plan produced by the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum, set up by the Coulby Newham Community Council. The aim of the forum is to do the following:
  - a. Promote the economic, social, health and environmental well-being of the local community
  - b. Provide an opportunity for local people to influence local decision making
  - c. Encourage openness and transparency amongst statutory agencies
  - d. Improve community leadership and democratic participation

#### History of the Area

6. Coulby Newham is a large housing development area to the south of Middlesbrough, built in the 1970s 80s, and 90's with a resident population of around 8,300 (2021 Statistics). The development was designed to intermix private housing and social housing, and this is predominantly the case in the north of the area, although private housing predominates in the south. There are plans to eventually build an extra 1000 houses in the area to the south of the ward, in the vicinity of Newham Hall.
7. The housing development is bisected by Stainton Way which runs west to east with approximately 50 % of the population on each side of the road. North of the road is located the Parkway Centre, the largest shopping area in Middlesbrough outside of the town centre, which draws customers from the south of the town and some of the rural area beyond.
8. The area is provided with an excellent network of paths and cycle paths, most of which avoid the road network. This helps to avoid interaction with vehicular traffic but can mean some paths go through wooded areas which are dark at night. In addition, some areas are difficult to reach without crossing and re-crossing a road, such as going from Barberry Estate to Foxgloves.

#### Retail and Leisure Facilities



9. The Parkway Centre is a large retail centre located at the heart of Coulby Newham, with a large supermarket and a variety of retail outlets. There is also the Rainbow Leisure Centre, operated by a

private organization called Everyone Active, which has a swimming pool and a variety of leisure facilities. In addition, St Mary's Catholic Cathedral is located adjacent to the shopping centre along with two medical practices, a dental surgery, veterinary practice and other related services. There is a small community hub, also run by Everyone Active which can be used for community events. This has been used to run a regular youth club operated by the Linx Organisation, but recently the club has relocated to the Beacon Centre next to Langdon Square.

10. Outside of the Parkway Centre there are only two other retail grocery outlets, these being a shop in Thistle Rise and another on Coulby Farm Way. These are small general retail premises, which serve local areas either distant from the Parkway Centre or separated from it by Stainton Way. There is also a hairdresser and children's nursery at Hollowfield Square. In addition, there is the Newham Grange Leisure Farm, which is located to the north of the ward, and offers a variety of leisure facilities mainly orientated around the farm animals.



*Langdon Square Community Centre*

11. There is one large Community Centre at Langdon Square, which is used by a variety of local societies and organisations including the Community Council. In addition, there is a former Countryside Centre at Lingfield that is

presently used for educational purposes but is available for renting at weekends and in the evenings. There are also smaller local community centres on the housing association sites at The Coppice, Sunnyside, Crossfields and Lingfield Ash.

### Parks and Green Spaces



*Fairy Dell Park*

12. There is one park in the area, which is Fairy Dell Park located at the east of the ward. This leads onto the Fairy Dell nature reserve which is a wooded valley and large pond. These are the gardens of the now demolished Gunnergate Hall. They are connected to the park, which is a large area of green space, with some limited sport equipment and grassed area available for community use. The area is maintained with the help of the Friends of Fairy Dell.



13. In the north of the ward is Newham Grange Leisure Farm which has a large

area of land but is only open to paying customers. There is a small Community Garden at the entrance to the farm, which is open to all residents and has a few communal allotments. Adjacent to the site is a wooded valley which leads to a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) where the land meets Newham Way. A children's play area has just been erected next to the MUGA and it is intended to enhance the provision of facilities for younger people in the near future.

14. At the south of the ward there is a large area of open fields, off Mount Pleasant Way at Lingfield. There is also a children's play area, some allotments and a building previously used as a Countryside Centre, which is now being used for educational purposes.
15. In addition, there are many green spaces, such as the Marton West Beck, next to which runs the Timberland Trail. In addition, there are a number of smaller becks, especially in the north of the ward, which provide wooded areas and meadows.

### Schools

16. There is one secondary school at The Kings Academy, on Stainton Way. Also, there are three primary schools, St Augustine's and Sunnyside in the north of the ward, and Rosewood Academy in the south. There is also the Lingfield Learning Centre (Choosing Pathways),

a local authority educational facility for post 16 learners based at the former Countryside Centre.

### Heritage Assets

17. Most of the buildings in Coulby Newham are of recent construction but there are a few older buildings of note, although only one is listed. In the north of the ward there are the offices of the Middlesbrough District Motor Club, based in the Coulby Manor House off Coulby Manor Way. In addition, there are the farm buildings at Newham Grange Farm, and Newham Hall Farm which are locally listed and the farm at Lingfield, which was the former Countryside Centre.

### Public Transport

18. The ward is served by several Stagecoach bus services which call at the Parkway Centre. At present these are the number 10, 13 and 13a. These connect Coulby Newham with Hemlington, Stainton and the town centre. There have been attempts to run a service connecting Coulby Newham with Marton and Nunthorpe, and a service was projected to start in March 2020, but this was dropped following the onset of the covid pandemic.

### Character of the Ward

19. The ward can be broken down into three main areas which have slightly different characteristics (see appendix 2 for map of the ward)

a) Northern Area

These are the estates north of the Parkway Centre, either side of Newham Way. This is a mix of private housing and social housing, with some estates specifically designed for older residents, such as Sunnyside and The Coppice. The housing stock here is older, and there is a problem particularly with lack of parking in some of the social housing. Also, tree cover is more established and there are greater problems with access to light. Play facilities involve an underused MUGA off Newham Way, but recently a children play area has been provided next to it.



*St Marys R C Cathedral*

b) Central Area

The central area consists of the Parkway Centre and Rainbow Centre, along with the Cathedral and a number of care homes located on Dalby Way and Bickley Way. This is a low-density population area and consists essentially of leisure and retail facilities.



*Green Area to the south of*

c) Southern Area

The area to the south of Stainton Way is all residential, with one shop and a primary school. There is a mix of private and social housing, but towards the south of the area it is predominantly private. The far south of the area has substantial open space at Lingfield by the former Countryside Centre, and a large area of arable land beyond, some of which is



allocated for future housing  
development.

Coulby Newham Ward Profile (2021 Statistics)

20. Coulby Newham is one of the electoral wards of Middlesbrough Council situated in the south of the borough (see Appendix 2 for map of ward). The ward has an area of 411 hectares and a resident population of 8340, which is about 6.5% of the total population of Middlesbrough (2021 statistics). Nearly 60% of the population is within the 18 to 64 age group, and of this, 98% describe themselves as white ethnic, compared to 88% in the borough as a whole.
21. There are 3827 households in the ward (2015 statistics), of which 1222 (32%) are in social housing and 254 (6%) are privately rented. Most of the properties in private ownership are presently mortgaged, but about 24% are fully owned. The number of households with dependent children is 1144 or 30% of the total.
22. The educational abilities of the residents is slightly below the national level with 18% of residents obtaining Level 4 qualifications or above, whilst 21% of the residents have no qualifications. Employment is varied but the main employment group is Socio-Economic classification 2, which is lower managerial, administrative and professional.
23. The ward has a mix of income levels, which is indicated by the government indices of Multiple Deprivation that splits England into 33,000 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Whilst one LSOA in the ward (covering Tollesby Bridge, Oak Hill, Ash Hill, Lingfield Ash, The Meadows and The Garth) is one of the 5% most deprived area in England, two other areas in the ward are in the top 30% least deprived

areas. The health of the residents is generally good with 78% of residents deemed to be in very good or good health.

#### Sustainable Development Principles

24. The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to achieving the following economic, social, health and environmental aspects of sustainable development by means of the following;

- a. Contributing to a strong and competitive economy, by enhancing the ward as a place to live and work.
- b. Planning positively for housing growth to meet the needs of local people, whilst ensuring the provision of adequate infrastructure.
- c. Supporting the provision of a mix of housing types and sizes, to meet the needs of a wide range of individuals.
- d. Supporting new development where it relates well to the local area and help to provide good connectivity to the rest of the town through the provision of sustainable transport.
- e. Promoting policies to protect and enhance culturally important assets including green spaces.
- f. Promoting policies which protect and enhance open spaces, water quality and biodiversity.

#### Main Issues Raised by Residents

##### 25. Northern Area

- We would like to see an improvement in the provision of play areas and outdoor leisure facilities for young people

- We would seek to ensure that existing housing provision is maintained in good condition
- We would like to ensure that Newham Way remains safe for both vehicular traffic and pedestrians by limiting the number of HGVs using the road and maintaining effective speed controls
- We would support the maintenance of the provision of local retail outlets at Hollowfield Square and Thistle Rise
- We would want to ensure that all paths in the area are well lit and safe and that some paths are provided along main access roads such as Coulby Manor Way

#### 26. Central Area

- We would support proposals to ensure the Parkway Centre retains a wide range of retail outlets and leisure facilities
- We would seek to improve the provision of car parking facilities to deal with the increasing number of people using the centre
- We would like to see an improvement in the road layout at Stainton Way and the access roads to the centre, so as to prevent traffic congestion

#### 27. Southern Area

- We would support the provision of alternative access and egress to the southern area estates, so that residents are not totally dependent on the availability of the access at Lingfield Way
- We would like to see a new Community Centre in the south of the ward, to deal with the increased demand from extra residents
- We would seek to ensure that school places are available for residents in the area to cope with the expected increased demand and would like to see a new primary school in the area
- We would look to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of green areas as far as possible within the proposed housing development.

- We would want to ensure that any new housing is of a density similar to that of the existing housing areas nearby and that adequate green spaces are provided including the expansion of wooded areas
- We would look to ensure that pathways provide are well lit and safe to use and that if some paths are provided at the side of the main access roads such as on Bonny Grove Way

### Housing Development



*Housing development in the south of the ward*

28. It is clear that many residents are concerned about the proposed additional housing planned for the south of the ward. However, this area is one of the few remaining areas of Middlesbrough where extra housing could be built, and the present local plan provides for 1000 extra houses to be built in the area.

29. Given the need for new housing, it is necessary to ensure that any development is sustainable and does not destroy the nature of the area in the south of the ward. In order to ensure this, there needs to be an improvement in the road system including the provision of an extra means of access and egress from the estates in the southern area. In addition, improved public transport facilities are required to enable residents to travel without having to rely on private vehicles.

30. In addition to improving roads and public transport, there is a need for other facilities to be provided. This would include the construction of an additional primary school in the area and the provision of another community centre. A further play area should be constructed in the Newham Hall development in the south of the ward. Ideally, it would help if further retail facilities could be provided at the southern end of the ward, with electric vehicle charging facilities attached.
31. The housing development needs to be split into various estates, with green spaces and wooded area dividing them. The housing should include properties designed for older residents such as bungalows, low rise flats or assisted living accommodation, as there is a clear demand for such properties from local residents. Other than this, a mix of housing should be provided, including affordable housing. All housing should be provided with parking spaces to accommodate up to two vehicles.
32. The location, scale, density and design of such housing should be in accordance with existing housing in the area. As such, it is preferable that there is little in the way of flats or three storey housing, although Newham Hall Farm could be used for low rise flats.
33. It is suggested that a proportion of the development contribution under any Section 106 agreement should go towards the provision of leisure facilities in the south of the ward, including the provision of playing fields and playgrounds, or the building of a community centre.

Policy CN1 Housing Development

Any substantial new housing development proposals should have regard to the provisions of the Newham Hall Farm Masterplan and to the following:

- a. The need for improvements to highways and public transport links;
- b. The desirability of improvements to social facilities within the Newham Hall allocation (potentially a new primary school and community centre);
- c. The inclusion of green spaces and wooded areas separating the different areas of housing;
- d. The need for a wide variety of housing types including housing for older people. This could involve bungalows, low rise flats and assisted living accommodation;
- e. The inclusion of 15% affordable housing in line with the Local Plan.

Where appropriate, necessary to make a proposed development acceptable in planning terms, and directly related to the proposal, developer contributions will be sought towards the improvement of community and leisure facilities.

### Design Issues

34. The design of housing in Coulby Newham is essentially quite modern as nearly all of the housing was built post 1980. There is a variety of styles depending on the nature of the housing with different social housing associations using different styles. Some estates for elderly

residents are designed to be quite enclosed, such as Raincliff Court and The Coppice, whilst others such as The Ridge and the Garth use a courtyard design. Some estates such as Oak Hill have a village like feel as a result of facing houses onto pathways.

35. Most of the private housing development is of a standard design with small grassed areas to the front of the property and large gardens. However, nearly all houses are located on a cul-de-sac with very few houses facing onto a through road.
36. Housing estates are served by a network of pathways and cycleways which run separately from the road network. This allows for a segregation of pedestrians from vehicular traffic as far as possible. In addition, many estates have public amenity areas included in the design such as a green area, as at Oak Hill or Applegarth. However, some footpaths are not very safe to use at night and the provision of pathways by feeder roads should be considered.

#### Policy CN2 Design issues for housing

All new development should be built to a high standard of design. Developers should take into account the residential development guidance contained in the Middlesbrough Urban Design Supplementary Planning Document, and have particular regard to the following:

- a. A preference for culs-de-sac or courtyard developments located off through roads;
- b. Adequate space between facing houses;
- c. Development of no more than two storeys, unless specific justification can be provided;
- d. Materials should complement those characteristics of the locality;

- e. Parking areas and public amenity space should form an integral part of the design;
- f. All pathways should provide a safe route for pedestrians, including at night.

### Green Spaces and Environment



*Green spaces at Lingfield*

37. It will also be necessary to protect as much of the green spaces as possible. This could be done by extending the wooded areas at Marton West Beck and at Southwood, and if possible at Newham Whin. In addition, the area would benefit from a pond acting as a part of the flood protection system. It would be useful to integrate the wooded areas into a country park to ensure their long-term protection.

38. There are a number of green spaces, but they are mainly in the south of the ward around the Lingfield play area. These need to be maintained, and further provision made at the southern end of the proposed housing development. In addition, Fairy Dell Park, located at the east of the ward, is a valuable resource, which could be enhanced with the provision of a small play area adjacent to St. Augustine's school. In addition, a designated dog walking area could be provided in the land adjacent to the Newham Way play area.



39. There are several wooded areas in the ward, especially in the south of the ward. In addition, there is a pond and nature reserve at Fairy Dell, adjacent to the park. The wooded areas could be better used by providing clear access routes. It is also possible that a footbridge could be provided across Marton West Beck near the golf club, to enable easier access to the Timberland Trail. Existing wooded areas need to be effectively maintained, especially where they are in close proximity to residential properties.

### Policy CN3 Green Spaces and Environmental Issues

Development at Newham Hall should allow for the expansion of wooded areas within the allocation, including those at Marton West Beck and Southwood in accordance with the Masterplan, and for the protection of existing green spaces.

An effective and sustainable long term maintenance programme for propose green space and woodland should be included with any development proposals.

### Transport Infrastructure

40. Most residents in Coulby Newham use private vehicles for transport. It is therefore essential to improve the transport infrastructure, to cope with any further housebuilding as outlined above. In addition, consideration should be given to the provision of a traffic-light controlled crossing at the junction of Newham Way and Viewley Hill

Avenue with the B1365, including a traffic-light operated pedestrian crossing.

41. It is also important to encourage walking and cycling as modes of transport. As such, the system of cycle paths and pathways should be extended throughout the new housing development. Such cycle paths and footpaths need to be provided with adequate signage to help people find their way around the area. In addition, extra footpaths should be provided where pedestrians need to access the area by foot, such as between Barberry and Foxgloves or from Newham Way to the Motor Club. A pedestrian crossing will also be needed with traffic-light controls, where a new southern access road meets the B1365.
42. The enhancement of public transport services is essential in order to prevent too great a dependence on private vehicles. A bus service should be provided running from the south of the new housing development to link up with the Parkway Centre. Ideally, this should be part of an east-west service connecting Hemlington and Hemlington Grange with Coulby Newham and Marton. Proper pull in areas should be provided on the feeder roads so as to prevent traffic congestion, such as on Coulby Farm Way.
43. Consideration should be given to the installation of adequate electric vehicle charging points in the ward. They are of particular importance next to developments such as low-rise flats or assisted living accommodation, where access from a vehicle to that residential property is problematic.

Policy CN4 Transport Infrastructure

The following improvements to the transport infrastructure would be supported:

- a. An additional access and egress from the Newham Hall development and improved pedestrian access over the B1365;
- b. The use of S106 agreements to launch a bus service linking the development to the Parkway centre and other areas in south Middlesbrough;
- c. The extension of the existing cycle path and pathway to serve the new housing development;
- d. The provision of adequate publicly available vehicle charging points.

#### Parks and Leisure Facilities



*Lingfield Play Area*

44. There are two play areas in the ward; one has just been installed on Newham Way next to the existing MUGA, whilst the other is at Lingfield. The Lingfield play area is in need of revamping, both to replace the fencing and improve the play equipment on the site.

45. There are a number of small fields which can be used as sports pitches. The main one is at Lingfield, but there are two smaller fields either side of Lingfield Ash, which could be improved by the provision

of goal posts and pitch markings. In the north of the ward there is very limited provision, except some disused land between Manor Wood Estate and the Coulby Manor House. This could be upgraded to provide a playing field.

46. There is presently one MUGA on Newham Way, adjacent to the planned new play area. The MUGA is screened from the road by trees and the facility has suffered from vandalism. The MUGA needs to be repaired and revamped and the trees thinned out so that the area is visible from the road. It would also be good to have a similar facility installed in the south of the ward by the Lingfield play area.
47. Indoor leisure facilities are provided at the Rainbow Centre and most residents are happy with these, although the swimming pool and the leisure facilities need updating. In addition, the Newham Grange Leisure Farm provides a very popular leisure attraction, although some residents are concerned at the price of entry, and consideration could be given for providing a discount for local residents.
48. Newham Hall Farm could be converted into a community centre for the area if the former Countryside Centre at Lingfield is not available. This would help to maintain the building and ensure its effective use. If not, it may be possible to convert it into residential accommodation.
49. There is presently one Community Garden at Newham Grange Leisure Farm, and another about to be completed next to the former Countryside Centre in Lingfield. It might be possible to provide a similar facility close to Marton West Beck in the future. Community Gardens provide a useful free-access facility where residents can sit down and have refreshments. However, they need to be properly signposted so that residents are aware of their location. If successful, it

is possible that retail refreshment facilities may develop to meet demand.



*Allotments at Lingfield*

50. The allotments at Lingfield are an asset for the area and should be protected. In addition, given the large demand for allotments, the provision of extra allotments in the south of the ward should be considered. However, it is important that the allotments are properly managed so that they do not become an eyesore, a point raised by various residents. It would also be possible to consider the provision of small, raised bed planting areas to be provided at the Community Garden in Lingfield, matching the provision at the Community Garden at Newham Grange Leisure Farm

#### Policy CN5 Parks and Leisure Facilities

The following improvement to the existing parks and leisure facilities would be supported:

- a. Improvements to the play area at Lingfield, along with the provision of an extra MUGA at this location;
- b. The protection and enhancement of the playing fields in the Ward;

- c. Improvements to the leisure facilities provided at the Rainbow Centre subject to S106 funding being available from the Newham Hall development;
- d. Further development an improvement of the Community Gardens at Lingfield;
- e. The provision of extra allotments in the south of the Ward, subject to demand being established.

### Education

51. Coulby Newham has one secondary school (King's Academy) and three primary schools (Rosewood Academy, Sunnyside Academy and St Augustine's Academy), as well as the Lingfield Learning Centre based at the former Countryside Centre. Education provision is now provided by Academies independent of the local authority, although the council still has a responsibility to ensure all children in the town have an adequate education.
52. The increase in housebuilding at Hemlington Grange and Nunthorpe has already put pressure on existing school provision. Places at Rosewood Academy are already in short supply. There is a clear need for an additional primary school in the area.
53. A major issue with some schools is car parking when parents drop off or pick up their children. In the case of the King's Academy, this involves parking at the small private car park next to Pets At Home or outside B&M. In the case of Rosewood Academy this has led to problems with cars being parked on the grass verge at Applegarth and

all along Coulby Farm Way. There is a need to improve car parking facilities for both of the schools, otherwise this will lead to traffic congestion blocking through-traffic, as well as creating problems with residents on adjacent estates.

#### Policy CN6 Education Issues

Extra primary school facilities in the area, to meet additional demands of new developments, will be supported.

Support will also be given to proposals for improved car parking provision at existing local schools within the Ward including specific proposals for Rosewood Primary school.

#### Retail Provision

54. The main retail provision is at the Parkway Centre, and as such, it is very popular with residents. However, the Parkway Centre has also become the key shopping centre for the south of Middlesbrough, with the result that parking facilities are now very stretched. There are plans to revamp the two south side car parks, removing the ageing planters to increase parking provision, but this will be funded by the provision of a new large retail outlet, which in itself will further increase footfall.
55. Consideration should therefore be given to increasing the parking provision at the Parkway Centre to deal with the increase in demand. Moreover, the provision of a second entrance to the Tesco car park would help to improve traffic flow in this area.

56. There are regular bus services to the centre, but evidence from residents is that these are inadequate, as they are infrequent and do not serve the east of the ward. As a result, the Parkway Centre has run its own bus for shoppers to help residents access the centre, one day a week. If public transport was improved this could reduce the need for a significant increase in car parking provision.
57. Retail facilities outside of the Parkway Centre are very limited, partly due to competition from Tesco Supermarket and the discount shops at the Parkway Centre. As a result, many residents without access to a car have to use the centre and carry goods back some distance. Often such residents will use a shopping trolley to take goods home, some of whom then leave the trolley abandoned on the pathways in the ward.
58. The provision of more retail outlets outside of the centre would certainly help to alleviate the problem, as would better public transport. Certainly it would be good to see retail provision at the southern end of the new housing development as residents there will be a considerable distance away from the Parkway Centre.

#### Policy CN7 Retail development in Coulby Newham

Any proposals for additional car parking facilities at the Parkway Centre and a second entrance to the Tesco car park would be supported.

The provision of a new local shopping centre within the Masterplan for the Newham Hall development would be supported.



## Health Services

59. There are two doctors' surgeries next to the Parkway Centre in addition to a dental practice and a veterinary practice. In addition, there are three pharmacies, one of which is located in Tesco Supermarket.
60. Although many residents are happy with the present provision, some residents are concerned about the lack of available doctors and dentists. Access to NHS dentistry was a major worry, and it was felt that the extra demand from the new housing development would put too much strain on the existing health service provision. There is a need to provide an extra doctors' surgery, based in either Coulby Newham or Hemlington, whilst an extra dental surgery is also needed. A 'walk-in' clinic was also a facility, which several residents said they would like to see in the area.
61. The lack of parking facilities is also an issue with the present doctors' surgeries. The land adjacent to the surgeries could possibly be used to provide extra parking. If an extra doctor's surgery is provided, it would be best if it could be located elsewhere in the ward, possibly in the proposed new housing development or in the Hemlington Grange area.

## Policy CN8 Health services in Coulby Newham

The improvement of health services within the Ward would be supported, including:

- a. Proposals for additional health facilities located at the local centre proposed for the Newham Hall development, if the need can be demonstrated;
- b. Additional car parking provision at the existing doctors' surgeries at the Parkway Centre.

### Key Buildings and Assets

62. There are only a few buildings of historical interest in the ward, as most of the buildings were constructed after 1980. The Coulby Manor House off Coulby Manor Way is a Grade 2 listed building presently used by the Middlesbrough District Motor Club. Newham Hall Farm is locally listed as an asset of architectural or historic interest. Apart from these, there is Newham Grange Farm, which is the location of the leisure farm. Other assets include the former Countryside Centre at Lingfield, Fairy Dell Park, the adjacent nature reserve and the allotments at Lingfield.
63. The Coulby Manor House is presently in good condition. However, it would possibly be an advantage if the frontage of the Coulby Manor Hall was more visible. Newham Hall Farm should be re-used either as the location for a new Community Centre for the south of the ward, or as residential accommodation.

### Policy CN9 Key buildings of historic interest and community assets

Key buildings of historic interest within the Ward include Coulby Manor, a Grade II listed building and the walls enclosing the car park which is a Grade II listed structure. Additional Newham Grange Farm and Newham Hall Farm are included as locally listed heritage assets.

Any development affecting these buildings, structures or within their settings will be subject to the following considerations:

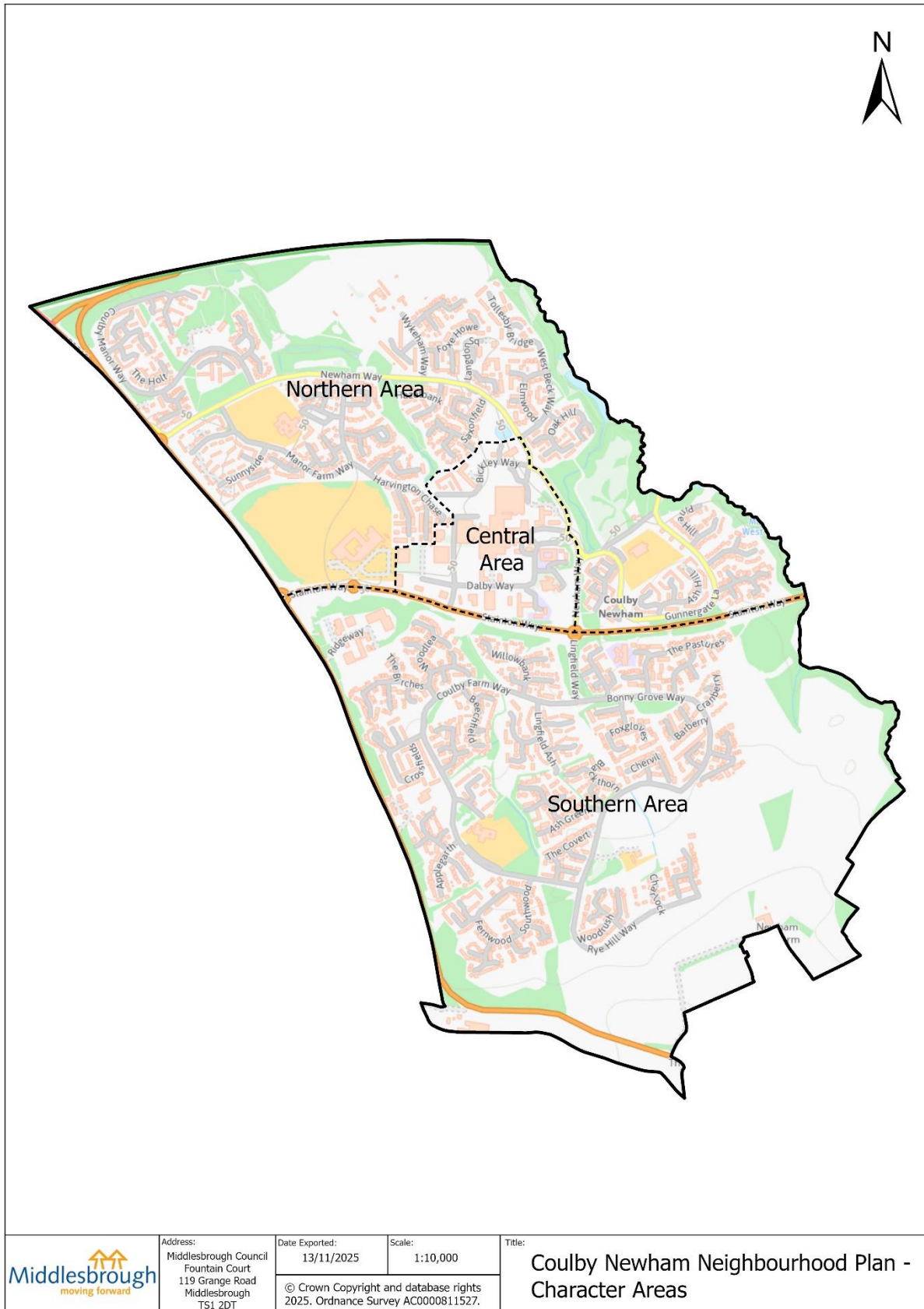
- a. In the case of listed buildings or structures and their settings, any loss or substantial harm should be exceptional and should be outweighed by substantial public benefits;
- b. In the case of non-designated assets a balanced judgment will be required having regard to the scale of any harm and the significance of the asset.

## Conclusion

64. Coulby Newham is a key growth-area for the development of Middlesbrough, and as such, the provision of a Neighbourhood Plan is essential to ensure that future development corresponds to the wishes of local residents as far as possible. However, this also provides opportunities for new facilities and services which could enhance the quality of life of residents.
65. The key concern of residents is that increasing housing development will not only overstretch the existing service infrastructure, but also that it will destroy some of the key qualities of the area, such as its green aspect and sense of community.
66. The development of new housing and infrastructure needs to be carried out with tact and the involvement of local residents. The creation of this Neighbourhood Plan is one of the first steps in enabling that to happen.



## Appendix 2: OUTLINE OF COULBY NEWHAM WARD



## Appendix 3 Community Aspirations

### Community Aspiration 1

Newhall Hall Farm, on Middlesbrough's Local List, is vacant and would benefit from a sustainable use that sustains or enhances its significance, which could include community use. Alternatively, the former Countryside Centre at Lingfield, which is presently being used as an education facility, could be used by the community in the future if no longer required for education purposes.

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Chair of Constitution and Members' Development Committee, Councillor Jack Banks
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<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Full Council
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<b>Date:</b>	14 January 2026
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<b>Title:</b>	Constitution Updates – Quarterly Report
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<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
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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>	Not applicable
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Subject to call in?</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Why:</b>	Not a report under the executive procedures
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<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That Full Council
<b>APPROVES</b> the schedule of suggested amendments to the Constitution.
<b>NOTES</b> the amendments to be made to the Constitution by the Monitoring Officer under the delegated authority as set out at Section 2.4 of the Constitution.

<b>Executive summary</b>
The Constitution and Member Development Committee ('CMDC') reviewed the Constitution and the updated version was approved by Full Council on 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2025.

As per Section 2.3 of the Constitution it is the Monitoring Officer's responsibility to monitor, review and update the Constitution. As part of the monitoring, it was agreed that a quarterly report will be provided to the CMDC.

The Constitution is a living document that necessitates regular review and revision to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable legislation and established procedures, as well as to promote clarity and ease of use.

This report sets out the suggested minor amendments that will be actioned under the delegated authority given to the Monitoring Officer, and a schedule of suggested amendments which have been agreed by CMDC for approval at Full Council.

The Monitoring Officer will also undertake an annual review of the Constitution, which shall be reported to Full Council

The implications of the recommendations 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 The Constitution and Member Development Committee ('CMDC') reviewed the full Constitution and the updated version was approved by Full Council on 10th September 2025.

1.2 In order to ensure continued clarity and usability it was agreed that a regular quarterly report would be presented to CMDC to consider any suggested amendments, with any agreed amendments to be brought before Full Council for approval.

1.3 This report sets out the suggested minor amendments that will be actioned under the delegated authority given to the Monitoring Officer, and a schedule of suggested amendments which have been agreed by CMDC for approval at Full Council.

1.4 Its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions is as follows:

<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>	A regularly reviewed and up to date Constitution is required to reflect the law, local custom and practice, and to ensure good governance when making decisions to support the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions in all areas.
<b>A healthy Place</b>	
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	
<b>Delivering best value</b>	



## 2. Recommendations

### 2.1 That Full Council:

**APPROVES** the schedule of suggested amendments to the Constitution.

**NOTES** the amendments to be made to the Constitution by the Monitoring Officer under the delegated authority as set out at Section 2.4 of the Constitution.

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

3.1 The Constitution is a living document that necessitates regular review and revision to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable legislation and established procedures, as well as to promote clarity and ease of use.

## 4. Background and relevant information

4.1 Section 2.3 of the Constitution sets out how and when the Constitution is monitored and reviewed, and says as follows:

*2.3.1 It is the Monitoring Officer's responsibility to monitor, review and update the Constitution in accordance with the requirements of this Section 2 and any authority delegated to them. The Monitoring Officer should undertake an annual review of the Constitution, which shall be reported to Council.*

*2.3.2 Revisions to the Constitution will have regard to:*

- (a) the effectiveness of the Council's decision-making processes and its operation;*
- (b) issues raised by the Mayor, Councillors, Officers, the public and other relevant stakeholders;*
- (c) changes in legislation or statutory guidance;*
- (d) best practice across the public sector, and / or*
- (e) any other relevant information.*

*2.4 When can the Constitution be changed and by whom?*

*Full Council delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution if the change is:*

- (a) minor or required to remove an inconsistency, ambiguity or typographical error;*
- (b) required to put into effect any decision of the Council or its Committees; or*
- (c) required to comply with a legislative provision,*

*provided that the change is reported to the next meeting of Full Council.*

*The change will take effect on the date decided by the Monitoring Officer or, where appropriate, the date set out in the relevant legislation.*

4.2 This report details the proposed changes to the Constitution, both those that require approval of Full Council, and those that can be authorised by the Monitoring Officer, under the delegated powers as outlined in the Constitution at Section 2.4 of the Constitution.

#### AMENDMENTS FOR APPROVAL AT FULL COUNCIL:

4.3 Full Council are asked to approve the following schedule of suggested amendments to the Constitution:

Para Number	Current Wording	Amended Wording	Reason for Change
4.8.4 (d)	The Chair may, following consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Group Leaders, amend the order of business before or during the meeting.	The Chair may, following consultation with the Monitoring Officer, amend the order of business before or during the meeting.	Refers to Full Council.  Remove words 'and group leaders'.  Not reflective of current practice and does not provide parity for those not in a group.
4.8.17 (a)	The total time permitted for questions <b>on notice</b> from Members (apart from at the Budget Meeting) is 45 minutes, which may be extended by the Chair at their discretion for a further 15 minutes.	The total time permitted for questions <b>with prior indication</b> from Members (apart from at the Budget Meeting) is 45 minutes, which may be extended by the Chair at their discretion for a further 15 minutes.	Change from questions 'on notice' to questions 'with prior indication' to ensure clarity.  Where there is any other reference to 'questions with prior indication' the time limit will also be amended from "no limit" to 45 mins plus 15 min.
10.8.4	The Chief Officer Committee or its sub-committee may be required to convene as a matter of urgency to discharge disciplinary and dismissal procedures, as set out in the Officer Employment Procedure Rules (see paragraph 9.11).	New paragraph to be inserted at 10.8.5 and remaining section numbering adjusted:  Where the establishment of a sub-committee is required, three members shall be appointed as follows:  The Chair will serve as a member if available; if the Chair is unavailable,	To provide clarity as to how the sub-committees will be convened.

		<p>the Vice Chair will be contacted. Should both be unavailable, a Chair will be appointed at the meeting.</p> <p>The remaining two members shall be selected in rotational order from a predetermined list, with at least one being an executive member as per 10.8.3.</p> <p>Sub-committees are not required to reflect political proportionality.</p>	
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## AMENDMENTS AUTHORISED BY MONITORING OFFICER UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

4.4 Full Council are asked to note the following schedule of amendments to the Constitution authorised by the Monitoring Officer under delegated powers:

Para Number	Current Wording	Amended Wording	Reason for Change
4.8.7	<p>The order of business at ordinary meetings of Full Council will be as follows:</p> <p>(i) elect a person to preside if the Chair of the Council and Vice Chair are not present;</p> <p>(ii) receive any apologies for absence;</p> <p>(iii) receive any declarations of interest from Members;</p>	<p>The order of business at ordinary meetings of Full Council will be as follows:</p> <p>(i) elect a person to preside if the Chair of the Council and Vice Chair are not present;</p> <p>(ii) receive any apologies for absence;</p> <p>(iii) receive any declarations of interest from Members;</p>	<p>To reflect the established practice of having a separate item for the Mayor on the agenda to enable questions to be asked from members on the content of the reports with prior indication.</p> <p>This is a minor change as it simply reflects current practice.</p>

	<p>(iv) approve the minutes of the last meeting;</p> <p>(v) receive any announcements from the Chair of the Council;</p> <p>(vi) receive any announcement from the Head of Paid Service;</p> <p>(vii) receive written updates from Executive Members, and deal with questions and answers arising therefrom from Members in accordance with CPR 4.8.15(h) to (j);</p> <p>(viii) receive questions from, and provide answers to, the public in accordance with the provisions of CPR 4.8.15 (a) to (d);</p> <p>(ix) receive petitions in accordance with CPR 4.8.32 to 4.8.33;</p> <p>(x) receive reports, questions from Members (in accordance with CPR 4.8.15 (h) to (j)) and answers arising therefrom, from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Executive;</li> <li>Non-executive Committees;</li> <li>Overview and Scrutiny Board;</li> <li>Governance Statutory Chief Officers</li> </ol> <p>(xi) receive any reports about, or minutes from, and receive questions and answers arising therefrom (in accordance with CPR 4.8.15 (h) to (j)) on the business of joint</p>	<p>(iv) approve the minutes of the last meeting;</p> <p>(v) receive any announcements from the Chair of the Council;</p> <p>(vi) receive any announcement from the Head of Paid Service;</p> <p><b>(vii) receive written update from the Mayor and deal with questions and answers arising therefrom from Members in accordance with CPR 4.8.15 (h) to (j).</b></p> <p>(viii) receive written updates from Executive Members, and deal with questions and answers arising therefrom from Members in accordance with CPR 4.8.15(h) to (j);</p> <p>(ix) receive questions from, and provide answers to, the public in accordance with the provisions of CPR 4.8.15 (a) to (d);</p> <p>(x) receive petitions in accordance with CPR 4.8.32 to 4.8.33;</p> <p>(xi) receive reports, questions from Members (in accordance with CPR 4.8.15 (h) to (j)) and answers arising therefrom, from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Executive;</li> <li>Non-executive Committees;</li> <li>Overview and Scrutiny Board;</li> <li>Governance Statutory Chief Officers</li> </ol>	
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	<p>arrangements and external organisations</p> <p>(xii) consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting;</p> <p>(xiii) deal with questions on notice from Members in accordance with CPR 4.8.15 (e) to (g); and</p> <p>(xiv) consider any motions submitted in accordance with CPR 4.8.22 to 4.8.31.</p>	<p>(xii) receive any reports about, or minutes from, and receive questions and answers arising therefrom (in accordance with CPR 4.8.15 (h) to (j)) on the business of joint arrangements and external organisations</p> <p>(xiii) consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting;</p> <p>(xiv) deal with questions on notice from Members in accordance with CPR 4.8.15 (e) to (g); and</p> <p>(xv) consider any motions submitted in accordance with CPR 4.8.22 to 4.8.31.</p>	
9.11.5	Employees graded above spinal column point 30 shall devote their whole-time service to the work of the , after consultation with the Monitoring Officer.	Employees graded above spinal column point 30 shall devote their whole-time service to the work of the <b>Council</b> , after consultation with the Monitoring Officer.	Missing word 'Council' added
9.7	<p>g) Director of Regeneration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Growth and Investment;</li> <li>- Digital;</li> <li>- Property;</li> <li>- Culture;</li> <li>- Housing;</li> <li>- Marketing and Communications</li> </ul>	<p>g) Director of Regeneration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Growth and Investment;</li> <li>- <b>Planning</b></li> <li>- Digital;</li> <li>- Property;</li> <li>- Culture;</li> <li>- Housing;</li> <li>- Marketing and Communications</li> </ul>	<p>Refers to the main roles of individual Chief Officers.</p> <p>Planning incorrectly assigned to the Director of Environment and Community Services, should be the Director of Regeneration</p>

## 5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

5.1 Not applicable – Any suggested amendments to the Constitution are considered by the Constitution and Member Development Committee who then make recommendations to Full Council.

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

6.1 Do nothing – If the Constitution remains unchanged, it risks becoming outdated and failing to reflect current working practices. The proposed revisions aim to enhance clarity and improve usability.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There is no direct financial impact as the amendments recommended improve clarity and usability only.
Legal	There are no legal implications as the amendments recommended improve clarity and usability only and are still in line with relevant legislation.
Risk	The amendments recommended provide clarity in the identified areas and therefore improve the risk associated with governance and decision making.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	There is no change to the impact on Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion.
Reducing Poverty	There is no change to the impact on Reducing Poverty.
Climate Change / Environmental	There is no change to the impact on Climate Change / Environmental.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	There is no change to the impact on Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers.
Data Protection	There is no change to the impact on Data Protection.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Constitution to be updated with any changes approved by Full Council	Ann-Marie Wilson – Head of Legal Services (People)	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2025
Online version of the Constitution to be updated to reflect the changes.	Ann-Marie Wilson – Head of Legal Services (People)	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Appendices

1	None
2	
3	

## Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Full Council Report	Refresh of the Constitution	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Contact:** Charlotte Benjamin – Director of Legal and Governance Services  
**Email:** charlotte\_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 14 JANUARY 2026**  
**NOTICE OF MOTION 179**  
**COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 4.28 – 4.34**

<b>MOTION NO.</b>	<b>PROPOSER</b>	<b>SECONDER</b>	<b>MOTION</b>
179	Councillor Branson	Councillor McCabe	<p>Action on Anti-Social Tenants</p> <p>This Council notes the significant problems caused by anti-social tenants renting properties in Middlesbrough. In cases where tenants rent from private landlords, particularly those based outside the area, it can be extremely difficult to remove such individuals. This situation often leads to considerable distress for local residents living nearby, especially when the problem persists and the Council has no effective powers to intervene.</p> <p>This Council therefore resolves to: Request that the Chair of the Council write to the Government urging them to introduce legislation that makes it easier for councils to remove anti-social tenants in appropriate circumstances, in order to protect the wellbeing of all residents.</p>

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