



**Legal and Corporate Services**

**THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Tuesday 24 March 2026

Dear Member

**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL, 2026**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 1st April, 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 - 14 January 2026 and 18 February 2026 5 - 18

*To receive the minutes from the previous meeting.*

5. Announcements

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

6. Mayor's Report 19 - 26

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

7. Executive Member Updates 27 - 84

*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 85 - 90  
*To receive the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board*
11. Local Code of Corporate Governance 91 - 102  
*Report for decision*
12. Update on Urgent Decisions (if any)  
*To receive a report on any urgent decisions taken since the last Council meeting*
13. Members' Questions on Notice (if any)  
*To receive questions on notice from Members*
14. Motions on Notice (if any) 103 - 106  
*To consider any motions on notice*
15. Urgent Motions on Notice (if any)  
*To consider any urgent motions on notice*



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 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, Democratic Services Manager on (Direct Line 01642 729712 or e-mail on: [sue\\_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:sue_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk)).

Address: Democratic Services, Middlesbrough Council, Town Hall, Middlesbrough TS1 9FX

Website: [www.middlesbrough.gov.uk](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 14 January 2026.

- PRESENT:** Councillors J Banks (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), I Blades, D Branson, P Gavigan, E Clynch, C Cooke - Elected Mayor, J Cooke, C Cooper, D Coupe, D Davison, J Ewan, T Furness, TA Grainge, L Henman, S Hill, L Hurst, N Hussain, D Jackson, D Jones, L Lewis, L Mason, D McCabe, J McConnell, J McTigue, T Mohan, I Morrish, M Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, A Romaine, J Rush, J Ryles, M Smiles, P Storey, S Tranter, Z Uddin, N Walker, G Wilson, J Young and L Young
- OFFICERS:** K Allan, C Benjamin, S Bonner, B Carr, C Cunningham, G Field, A Humble, S Lightwing, E Scollay, K Whitmore, R Williams and A Wilson
- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were submitted on behalf of Councillors B Hubbard, J Nicholson, J Rostron, M Saunders and J Thompson

25/87 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

25/88 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

25/89 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 26 NOVEMBER 2025**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 November 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

25/90 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Joanne Rush, recently elected as Ward Councillor for Nunthorpe, to her first Council meeting.

With great sadness, the Chair informed Council of the recent death of former Councillor Vic Walkington. Vic was Ward Councillor for Ayresome Ward between 2017 and 2019, an active member of the community council, and a dedicated campaigner for the Labour Party in the Acklam area, which he was passionate about.

Councillor Henman also paid tribute to Vic.

The Chair invited Members to join him in a minute's silence, as a mark of respect.

25/91 **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor moved his report as written.

*Questions in relation to the Mayor's Report*

Councillor Morrish on Outwood Academy Riverside.

The Mayor stated that the school was needed to address current capacity requirements and it was a shame that the building had not been completed sooner. Whilst there were no plans currently for another school in the same area, the Council was exploring the provision of a school elsewhere in the town which would be focussed on SEND provision. This would free up capacity at other schools. School capacity would continue to be monitored and the Mayor stated that the Council would always seek additional provision as needed.

Councillor Cooper on Outwood Academy Riverside.

The Mayor explained that pupils could apply for free home to school transport if they lived outside of a 3 mile radius. Paid for school transport was currently provided to some of the

pupils due to where the school was currently based. Once the school was open, eligibility assessments would be undertaken for pupils in respect of support with home to school transport.

Councillor Wilson on the Budget.

The Mayor responded that £650,000 would be allocated to making neighbourhoods safer which included a range of measures. Whilst additional security cameras could be provided, monitoring and enforcement was equally important and therefore additional legal support would also be made available. The professional witness service would be extended, there would be additional staff to tackle environmental crimes as well as parenting officers to help to tackle children who were at risk of exploitation or offending and families with reoccurring issues. The establishment of a youth club in every ward of the town would be a good first step so that young people could be engaged in meaningful activities that could change their lives.

Where there were existing buildings, the Mayor confirmed these could be used for youth provision. However, there was also detached work ongoing, such as in the Park End area of the town, where outdoor youth clubs had been held and had proved popular. Funding was predominantly for staff rather than buildings, as the youth provision could not be provided without staff. The Mayor also highlighted the Youth Infinity project and thanked Lindsey Morrow, who ran the service, for the excellent work that was taking place.

Councillor Uddin on Bring it on Boro.

The Mayor confirmed that provision had been made in the Budget for the next year to extend the Bring it on Boro project to cover every half term. The Mayor's next update to Council would include some of the Young Inspectors' Reports on the provision available. The young people's feedback had already resulted in changes to improve some of the sessions.

Councillor Kabuye on Youth Opportunities in every Ward.

The Mayor agreed there was a link between anti-social behaviour and crime where young people did not have access to youth services locally. The Mayor hoped to extend the 10 by 10 project across the whole town next year and offer every single child, 10 opportunities by the time they reached the age of ten years old. However, the Mayor added that the results of this initiative would not be measurable until ten years' time and it was important to have structured funding to enable young people to have better lives.

Councillor McTigue on Council Plan Priorities – A Healthy Place

The Mayor stated that a previous proposal to offer a subsidised pest control service to residents had been voted against in the Council's 2023/2024 Budget. There were now four pest control operatives working throughout the town, an increase from the previous one and the forthcoming draft Budget proposed the introduction of a subsidised pest control service for residents. The Mayor added that there were other providers within the town with responsibility for pest control as part of their statutory duties and they would not be able access this service.

Councillor McTigue on dedicated Becks Team

The Mayor stated that currently the Council did not have a dedicated becks team and as a consequence did not have capacity to visit all the watercourses regularly. However, there was a proposal in the forthcoming budget to address this. The Mayor also accepted Councillor McTigue's invitation to visit her ward to see the flooding issues described.

25/92

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATES**

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

Councillor Clynych on Special Free School.

The Deputy Mayor stated that it was essential to get the provision right from nursery all the way to sixth form for Middlesbrough children. A decision on the special school would be

made before 27 February 2026. There were children in Middlesbrough with incredibly complex needs and more provision for SEND was needed. Middlesbrough currently had sufficient sixth form provision at Middlesbrough College, Macmillan and Trinity Schools. Further provision in the town could potentially have led to the closure of one of those establishments.

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

Councillor Wilson on Cared for Children and Care Leavers.

The Executive Member agreed that the number of young people in care was relatively high and had increased over the last couple of months. The number was 498 in September 2025, which was significantly reduced from 570 in 2020, and over 600 the previous year. There was a balance between making sure young people were safe and also receiving appropriate support and intervention. In terms of those young people currently in care, 67% were in foster care placements, 7% in residential care, 12% in children's homes and 8% were with parents with a care order. The smallest number of children were in residential care homes, and the largest number with foster carers who did a fantastic job in Middlesbrough.

Staff reviewed care placements frequently to make sure circumstances were still appropriate for a young person to be in care or whether intervention could be stepped down or needed to be stepped up. It was important that young people were not subject to care orders for longer than they needed to be. The Executive Member was hopeful that with early help and appropriate intervention in place, the numbers in care would reduce.

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

Councillor Wilson on Cemetery Expansion.

The Executive Member confirmed that investment in Middlesbrough's burial plots aimed to deliver up to 1,258 spaces. Due to planning policy requirement to address Biodiversity Net Gain, 22 spaces had to be sacrificed, leaving a total of 1236 new plots. Additional plots would be provided in Thorntree and Acklam Cemeteries and a small cemetery at Nunthorpe was also part of the expansion plan. The Executive Member added that all land would be surveyed to ensure appropriate mitigations were in place to alleviate potential flooding.

Councillor Rush on Nunthorpe Community Centre.

The Executive Member clarified that there was a plan to have parking around the Centre and that provision would be addressed as part of the planning application. The Executive Member acknowledged however, that it would be difficult to plan parking for larger events.

Councillor Rush on Infrastructure of roads/GP/School in Nunthorpe.

The Executive Member confirmed that further infrastructure was being added to the area, including a bypass road to the new development at Nunthorpe Grange. A Transport Strategy had been included in the Local Plan. Whilst Section 106 funding was made available by developers, this was often not available until the development was completed. Consideration was also given to trying to help move people more efficiently through improved provision of reliable public transport. In relation to possible expansion of the current GP Surgery, the Executive Member explained that this was not a Council matter. School provision was kept under consideration by the Council in order to ensure that sufficient places were available.

*Questions in relation to the update of the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability - Councillor Peter Gavigan.*

Councillor Wilson on Street Lighting.

The Executive Member explained that he did not have any more detailed information other than that provided in his report as to the precise locations that would be receiving upgraded street lighting. The Executive Member undertook to seek this information and provide it to Councillor Wilson when it was available.

Councillor Morrish on Waste Services.

The Executive Member stated that as far as possible, waste collection dates would remain the same although due to operational requirements, it was not possible to confirm that there would be no changes at all. Briefing sessions would be held for all Members to share the Communications Strategy ahead of the roll out of the new waste collection service. Residents would be able to access collection calendars online and sign up for email reminders.

Councillor Morrish on Road Safety.

The Executive Member confirmed that unfortunately the enforcement vehicle could only take enforcement action on parking on zigzag lines, bus stops and bus lanes by law. Wardens conducted regular foot patrols around schools to provide a high visible presence and remind people of responsible parking. Notices were issued to drivers who parked inconsiderately and fixed penalty notices to anyone parking illegally.

Councillor Rush on Enforcement Car within patrol areas at school times.

The Executive Member commented that, despite officers' best efforts, the information requested in respect of the number of visits to Chandlers' Ridge, The Avenue and St Bernadette's Primary Schools undertaken by the enforcement car was not available for this meeting. As soon as the information was available it would be emailed to Councillor Rush. The Executive Member confirmed that consideration would also be given to increasing the number of visits if this was warranted.

Councillor Rush on the Resurfacing Programme.

The Executive Member informed Members that The Avenue had been inspected and scored by the Highways Maintenance Team and it was planned for joint repair at the northern end near to Gypsy Lane. This work was scheduled for the 2026-2027 programme with resurfacing in the 2027-2028 programme. This would be confirmed and Ward Councillors would be notified of proposed works well in advance. The Executive Member asked Councillors to report any areas where urgent remedial works were required. The fantastic performance of the Road Maintenance Team in a recent survey was highlighted by the Executive Member. Middlesbrough Council was one of only 16 out of 154 Local Authorities rated green in a national survey. The Executive Member extended his thanks to the team.

*Question in relation to the update of the Executive Member for Finance – Councillor Nicky Walker.*

Councillor Morrish on Members Small Scheme (Capital)

The Executive Member explained that there had been a previous round of the scheme earlier in the year, with a briefing on 14 July 2025 for all Members. The Executive Member was keen for Members to have an earlier opportunity for the next round for their scheme to be completed within the financial year. The submission period was 6 weeks, with a briefing part way through to enable Members to think about their submissions and have an opportunity to ask any questions at that point. However, the Executive Member took on board the Councillor's comments in relation to a longer submission period. The Executive Member also took the opportunity to highlight the Revenue Scheme, at the rate of £5000 per Member, per Ward, subject to being agreed in the next Budget, would also continue next year.

*Questions in relation to the update of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods - Councillor Ian Blades.*

Councillor L Young on Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Signage

The Executive Member confirmed that the Neighbourhood Team was currently undertaking an audit of PSPO Signage in the TS1 area and would replace any missing signage. If Councillors had any specific requests for additional signage, they were invited to email the Neighbourhood Team or the Executive Member with details. The Team were also looking to purchase stickers for communal bins to remind people of the consequences of fly tipping and bin rummaging.

Councillor L Young on Aggressive Behaviour in Town Centre

Under the PSPO, street preaching was not prohibited. However, Wardens could challenge anyone who approached members of the public to ask for subscriptions or donations, who were not in possession of a street permit or licence. The Wardens had been asked to increase their activity in this area and record any instances of aggressive chugging.

25/93 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY)**

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

25/94 **PETITIONS (IF ANY)**

No valid petitions had been submitted for this meeting.

25/95 **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 at the next meeting of OSB, the Board would be receiving a report on Artificial Intelligence (AI), following a request from Councillor Morrish. The Board would also be considering the draft Final Report on Community Cohesion and receiving a presentation from the Executive Member for Public Health.

The Chair invited Members to note the report.

**ORDERED** that the report was noted.

25/96 **COULBY NEWHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXAMINER’S REPORT AND REFERENDUM**

The Executive Member for Development presented a report of the Director of Regeneration that sought approval for the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan, incorporating the modifications set out in the Examiner’s Report. The Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan had been prepared by the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Forum and had recently been subject to independent examination in accordance with the legislation.

The Council had a statutory role to consider and approve Neighbourhood Plans and the proposed modifications set out in the Examiner’s Report or, alternatively, set out different modifications where appropriate. It was not considered necessary to propose alternative modifications.

The Council would also need to arrange for a referendum to take place in the Neighbourhood Area. Subject to approval in the referendum, the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan would become part of the statutory development plan for the area and, as such, required a decision to be made by the Council. A further report would be brought to the Council to consider the adoption of the Plan, subject to the outcome of the referendum.

Councillor Branson, Ward Councillor for Coulby Newham, spoke in support of the Plan and thanked everyone who had contributed.

On a vote being taken it was **ORDERED** as follows that Council:

1. Approved the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan incorporating the recommendations of the Examiner’s Report, including the modifications proposed by the Examiner.
2. Noted that the Coulby Newham Neighbourhood Plan would be subject to a referendum of residents of the Coulby Newham Ward.

25/97 **CONSTITUTION UPDATE**

The Chair presented a report of the Constitution and Members' Development Committee which set out suggested minor amendments to be actioned under the delegated authority given to the Monitoring Officer, and a schedule of suggested amendments that had been agreed by the Committee for approval at Full Council.

The Monitoring Officer clarified a query raised by a Member in relation to paragraph 9.7(g) of the Constitution, explaining that Planning would be added to the main role of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Housing and removed from that of Corporate Director Environment, Communities and Culture.

On a vote being taken, it was **ORDERED** that Council:

1. Approved the schedule of suggested amendments to the Constitution.
2. Noted the amendments to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority as set out at Section 2.4 of the Constitution.

25/98 **UPDATE ON URGENT DECISIONS (IF ANY)**

No urgent decisions had been taken since the last Council meeting.

25/99 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ON NOTICE (IF ANY)**

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

25/100 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE (IF ANY)**

Consideration was given to Motion No. 179 moved by Councillor Branson and seconded by Councillor McCabe of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules Nos, 4.28-4.34 as follows:

"Action on Anti-Social Tenants

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.

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."

Councillors Branson and McCabe spoke in support of the motion.

The Chair invited Members to speak to the motion.

Councillors McTigue, Kabuye and the Mayor, C Cooke, spoke in support of the motion.

On a vote being taken the motion was **CARRIED**.

25/101 **URGENT MOTIONS ON NOTICE (IF ANY)**

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

**COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 18 February 2026.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Banks, (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), I Blades, D Branson, P Gavigan, E Clynch, C Cooke - Elected Mayor, J Cooke, C Cooper, D Coupe, D Davison, J Ewan, T Furness, L Henman, S Hill, B Hubbard, L Hurst, D Jackson, D Jones, L Lewis, L Mason, D McCabe, T Mohan, I Morrish, J Nicholson, M Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, A Romaine, J Rostron, J Rush, J Ryles, M Smiles, P Storey, J Thompson, S Tranter, Z Uddin, N Walker, G Wilson, J Young and L Young

**OFFICERS:** C Benjamin, B Carr, G Field, A Glover, L Grabham, A Humble, S Lightwing, T Odaka, E Scollay, R Williams and A Wilson,

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were submitted on behalf of Councillors T Grainge, N Hussain, J McConnell, J McTigue and M Saunders

25/102 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

25/103 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/Nature of Business
Councillor Davison	Non pecuniary	Agenda Item 6 – relative works for organisation that monitors one of the Funds mentioned in the report.

25/104 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements for this meeting.

25/105 **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2026/27**

The Executive Member for Finance presented a report that set out the proposed Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme (sometimes referred to as Council Tax Support) for 2026/27. Each Billing Authority in England had a statutory requirement to design and locally fund a Council Tax Reduction scheme no later than 11 March each year, approved by Full Council.

The proposed scheme for 2026/27 incorporated the minor legislative amendments to be made by Government through regulations that the Council was obliged to include.

Approval was sought to include increases to income bandings that were individual according to the household composition, so that the current level of support for claimants was maintained as far as possible and to continue to provide appropriate support for the town's financially vulnerable residents.

The proposed scheme would continue to assist low-income households through an appropriately reduced council tax charge whilst remaining affordable for the Council.

The Executive Member for Finance highlighted that this was the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which was based on income and ability to pay. There were separate discounts and exemptions, including student discount and single occupancy, which were not included in this scheme and therefore unaffected by the recommendations.

Councillor Walker moved the recommendations, which were seconded by the Mayor.

The Chair invited Members to comment on the report.

The Chair invited the Monitoring Officer to conduct a recorded vote on the recommendations

contained in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

The result of the vote was as follows:

Votes for: (41)

C Cooke, (Elected Mayor), Councillors Banks, Blades, Branson, Clynch, J Cooke, Cooper, Coupe, Davison, Ewan, Furness, Gavigan, Henman, Hill, Hurst, Hubbard, Jackson, Jones, Kabuye, Lewis, Mason, McCabe, Mohan, Morrish, Nicholson, Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, Romaine, Rostron, Rush, Ryles, Smiles, Storey, Thompson, Tranter, Uddin, Walker, Wilson, J Young, L Young.

Votes against: (0)

Abstentions: (0)

On a vote being taken, it was **ORDERED** that Council approved the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2026/27.

25/106

## **2026/27 REVENUE BUDGET, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN, AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING**

The Mayor presented a report on the proposed budget for 2026/27 and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2029/30, following on from previous reports presented to Executive on 17 December 2025 and 4 February 2026.

The annual budget report and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was a detailed and complex report which formed the basis of the Budget and Policy Framework. The information presented in the submitted report highlighted the key issues for consideration and provided substantial detail in the supporting appendices.

The report reflected the final Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) published on 9 February 2026 and updated on minor changes from the report submitted to Executive on 4 February 2026, which was based on the provisional settlement published on 17 December 2025.

The following key points from the Final LGFS and the conclusion of the recent budget consultation were included in the report:

- Government funding in the form of Fair Funding Allocation (Revenue Support Grant, Local Authority Better Care Fund, Retained Business Rates and Business Rates Top up Payment) of £130.960m in 2026/27, was an increase of £14.171m for 2026/27.
- The increase in the Council's Core Spending Power (the Government's calculation used to illustrate the overall impact of local authority funding which includes the Settlement funding, the Government's assessment of Council Tax income, and various specific grants) from 2025/26 to 2028/29 was £57.511m or 28.4% and from 2024/25 to 2028/29 £75.648m or 41.0%.
- Forecast service demand pressures and re-basing of budgets (including for reduced income levels and legislative requirements) totalling £15.549m for 2026/27 rising to £35.963m in 2029/30. This included the proposed decision by Executive not to increase school meals prices for parents who do not receive free school meals in order to support families, for which budget provision of £0.230m for 2026/27 rising to £0.371m in 2029/30 had been provided.
- Savings totalling £2.458m per annum were removed from the MTFP. The savings were found to be unachievable in the manner originally intended.
- Proposed Service Budget Growth totalling £6.460m from 2026/27.
- Proposed Corporate Demand of £0.499m per annum from 2026/27, and the continuation of the Member Led Ward Schemes budget of £0.235m p.a. from 2026/27.
- The Mayor and Executive proposed no increase in core (general) Council Tax for 2026/27, but a 2% increase in Council Tax in 2026/27 relating to the Adult Social Care precept

to reflect the increased costs of the statutory duties required for Adult Social Care.

- Proposed 2026/27 Net Revenue Budget of £200.840m and a balanced Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period 2026/27 to 2029/30.
- Capital Strategy Report for 2026/27 and proposed Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30 totalling £183.741m (including proposed new capital schemes and additions to current schemes and extension of schemes deemed Business as Usual totalling £11.735m in 2026/27 and rising to £56.633m by 2029/30), and the associated financing.
- The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (FUoCR) Strategy for 2026/27 totalling £5.789m.
- Report of the Corporate Director of Finance (s151 Officer's) in relation to the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of financial reserves under s25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003.
- Budget Consultation feedback.
- The Financial Reserves Policy for 2026/27 and the forecast level of Reserves over the MTFP period.
- The proposed Fees and Charges Policy for 2026/27.
- Education funding and the current level of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Deficit and the risk to the Council.
- The Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 which set out the Council's policies on remuneration of its staff in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

The report contained a number of issues for consideration and approval by Council, and also a number of issues to note which were detailed in Section 2.

Council approval of the 2026/27 budget and proposed Council Tax was required by the statutory deadline of 11 March 2026.

The report was to be read in conjunction with the Prudential Indicators 2026/27 to 2029/30 and Treasury Management Annual Strategy 2026/27 report at Agenda Item 7 for the Council meeting. The Prudential Indicators 2026/27 to 2029/30 and Treasury Management Annual Strategy 2026/27 translated the Council's revenue income and expenditure plans and capital investment plans for the purpose of the Council's cash flow management, together with setting the framework within which the Council's investment and borrowing activity was governed.

The Mayor highlighted that there was £6.5m growth in the budget, no cuts and a low rise in Council Tax which was solely the Adult Social Care precept. The growth element of the budget would enable for example, the provision of a youth club in every Ward, free pest control and the number of neighbourhood caretakers would be doubled.

The Mayor moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Walker. Councillor Walker reserved her right to speak.

The Chair invited Members to comment on the report.

Councillors Morrish, Coupe and Rush spoke on the proposed budget and the Mayor responded to questions.

Councillor Rush proposed a motion to amend the budget report as follows:

"I move the amendment regarding enhanced quarterly financial monitoring. This amendment would require quarterly reports to Full Council detailing:

- Progress against delivery of recurring savings.
- Movements in General Fund reserves.
- Changes in the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit position.
- Borrowing levels and headroom under the Prudential Code.

This carries no official financial costs to the Government or the Council. It does not alter the

balance of the budget. What it does it strengthens transparency and oversight in areas where we identified risk this evening and also shows full transparency to the public.”

Councillor Rush spoke in support of the motion.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Cooper.

Councillor Walker provided clarification that budget monitoring was an Executive function and reports were also submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board and usually highlighted in the Executive Member for Finance’s regular updates to Council.

Councillor Cooper spoke in support of the motion to amend the budget report.

The Mayor indicated that he was willing to accept the proposed amendment to the budget report.

The Chair briefly adjourned the meeting to seek clarification on the wording of the proposed motion to amend the budget report.

The Chair re-opened the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer clarified the amendment to the budget report.

Paragraph 2 of the Budget Report, paragraph 2.1, amended to read as follows:

“That Council is requested to approve the following as set out in 2.1.1 to 2.1.12 below:”

Paragraph 2.1.12 to be added and to read as follows:

“2.1.12 To receive reports for noting on a quarterly basis covering:

- Progress against delivery of recurring savings.
- Movements in General Fund reserves.
- Changes in the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit position.
- Borrowing levels and headroom under the Prudential Code.”

Councillor Smiles proposed a motion to amend the budget report as follows:

“To halve the current green waste service charge but for this year rather than next”.

The Chair briefly adjourned the meeting to seek clarification from the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer on the validity of the proposed motion to amend the budget report.

The Chair re-opened the meeting.

Councillor Smiles proposed a motion without notice under Council Procedure Rule 4.8.25 (x) to suspend Council Procedure Rule 4.8.29 (c) which required that if an amendment had financial implications for the Council, notice of it must be also served, in writing, on the Chief Finance Officer at least three clear days before the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Coupe.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that whereas Council Procedure Rules required that if an amendment to the budget had financial implications for the Council, notice of it must be also served, in writing, on the Chief Finance Officer at least three clear days before the meeting, Councillor Smiles was proposing to suspend this Council Procedure Rule to enable an amendment to the budget to be proposed which had cost implications, without the required three days’ notice.

The Chair invited the Monitoring Officer to conduct a recorded vote on the motion without notice to suspend Council Procedure Rule 4.8.29 (c).

The result of the vote was as follows:

Votes for: (14)

Councillors Coupe, Hill, Hurst, Jackson, Jones, Mason, McCabe, Morrish, J Platt, S Platt, Rush, Smiles, Wilson, J Young.

Votes against: (25)

C Cooke, (Elected Mayor), Councillors Banks, Blades, Branson, Clynch, J Cooke, Cooper, Davison, Ewan, Furness, Gavigan, Henman, Kabuye, Lewis, Mohan, Nicholson, Nugent Romaine, Rostron, Ryles, Storey, Thompson, Tranter, Walker, L Young.

Abstentions: (1)

Councillor Hubbard.

On a vote being taken the procedural motion was **REJECTED**.

Councillors Mason spoke on the proposed budget and the Mayor responded.

Councillors Henman, Kabuye and Walker also spoke on the proposed budget.

The Chair invited the Monitoring Officer to conduct a recorded vote on the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.1.12 of the report.

The result of the vote was as follows:

Votes for: (37)

C Cooke, (Elected Mayor), Councillors Banks, Blades, Branson, Clynch, J Cooke, Cooper, Coupe, Davison, Ewan, Furness, Gavigan, Henman, Hill, Hurst, Hubbard, Jackson, Jones, Kabuye, Lewis, Mohan, Morrish, Nicholson, Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, Romaine, Rostron, Rush, Ryles, Storey, Thompson, Tranter, Walker, Wilson, J Young, L Young

Votes against: (3)

Councillors Mason, McCabe, Smiles.

Abstentions: (0)

On a vote being taken, it was **ORDERED** that:

1. the following recommendations set out at paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.1.12 of the submitted report were approved by Council:

- Proposed service budget growth of £6.460m from 2026/27 in order to reinvest in some direct services to the community and provide reinvestment in the resilience of enabling services (detailed in Appendix 3).

- Budget provision of £15.549m for 2026/27 rising to £35.963m in 2029/30 to address forecast service demand pressures and re-basing of budgets (including for reduced income levels and legislative requirements). This includes the decision by Executive not to increase school meals prices for parents who do not receive free school meals in order to support families, for which budget provision of £0.230m for 2026/27 rising to £0.371m in 2029/30 has been provided (paragraphs 4.59 to 4.61 and Appendix 1).

- Budget provision of £0.499m p.a. from 2026/27 for Corporate Demand, and the continuation of the Member Led Ward Schemes budget of £0.235m p.a. from 2026/27 (Table 7 in paragraph 4.62).

- Budget provision of £2.458m p.a. from 2026/27 to remove savings from the MTFP which are now found to be unachievable in the manner originally intended (paragraph 4.65).

- No increase in core (general) Council Tax for 2026/27, but an increase in Council Tax for 2026/27 of 2% relating to the Adult Social Care precept to fund increased costs of statutory duties in Adult Social Care (paragraph 4.30), resulting in a proposed Council Tax level (Band D) of £2,115.86 excluding parish, Fire, and Police precepts (detailed in Appendix 11).

- The proposed General Fund revenue budget for 2026/27 with a net budget requirement of £200.840m (Appendix 5).

- The Financial Reserves Policy for 2026/27 (Appendix 7) including the proposed contributions to reserves to strengthen the Council's financial resilience and the setting up of a new Budget Smoothing Reserve from 2026/27.
- The proposed Fees & Charges Policy for 2026/27, and the schedule of fees and charges arising from the application of the approved policy for 2026/27 (Appendix 8).
- The Capital Strategy Report 2026/27 and the proposed 2026/27 to 2029/30 Capital Programme totalling £183.741m which includes the addition of new Council funded schemes and additions to current schemes and extension of schemes deemed Business as Usual totalling £11.735m in 2026/27 and rising to £56.633m by 2029/30, and the associated financing statement (Appendix 9).
- The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (FUoCR) Strategy for 2026/27 including transformation and redundancy expenditure as part of the Transformation Programme amounting to £5.789m which can be capitalised in 2026/27 (Appendix 10).
- The Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27 which sets out the Council's policies on remuneration of its staff in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 (Appendix 13).
- To receive reports for noting on a quarterly basis covering:
  - Progress against delivery of recurring savings.
  - Movements in General Fund reserves.
  - Changes in the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit position.
  - Borrowing levels and headroom under the Prudential Code.

2. the following key issues set out in paragraphs 2.2.1 to 2.2.10 of the submitted report were noted by Council:

- The statutory s25 report of the Council's Section 151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the estimates within the budget and the adequacy of reserves (Appendix 6).
- That the Council's S151 officer recommends that the Council increases the Council Tax each year by the maximum allowed by the Government due to the reasons outlined in paragraph 4.31. However, whilst not recommended, given the improved financial position and financial resilience of the Council and the improved governance and budget spending controls that exist, and the increased Government funding available to the Council it is possible to financially accommodate a decision by the Mayor and Executive for a lower than maximum increase in core (general) Council Tax to be proposed to Council for 2026/27 (paragraph 4.32). Also, it is recommended that no decisions are made in relation to 2027/28 and 2028/29 Council Tax increases, and these should be made at a later date when there is more certainty on the financial position (paragraph 4.33).
- The updated financial planning assumptions in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan following the publication of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) on 9 February 2026, and updates on the minor changes from the report to Executive on 4 February 2026 which was based on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement published on 17 December 2025.
- Government funding in the form of Fair Funding Allocation (Revenue Support Grant, Local Authority Better Care Fund, Retained Business Rates and Business Rates Top up Payment) of £130.960m in 2026/27 (summarised in Table 1a in paragraph 4.14), which is an increase of £14.171m for 2026/27 (as shown in Table 1b in paragraph 4.14).
- The increase in the Council's Core Spending Power (the Government's calculation used to illustrate the overall impact of local authority funding which includes the Settlement funding, the Government's assessment of Council Tax income, and various specific grants) from 2025/26 to 2028/29 is £57.511m or 28.4% and from 2024/25 to 2028/29 £75.648m or 41.0% (paragraph 4.17).
- That there is no requirement currently for the Council to make any additional further

budget savings in 2026/27 other than those already included in the current MTFP, however work will continue to identify and deliver efficiencies and savings in the future through robust budget monitoring and the Transformation Programme (paragraphs 4.63 and 4.69).

- The updated Medium Term Financial Plan position for 2026/27 to 2029/30 highlighting a balanced budget each year for the MTFP period (Table 12 in paragraph 4.74).
- The feedback of the budget consultation exercise (paragraphs 4.76 to 4.86 and Appendix 4).
- The forecast level of Council reserves over the period of the MTFP from 2026/27 to 2029/30 following the proposed budget, and that the proposed budget and MTFP should not negatively impact reserves levels in the medium term. The estimated balances on unrestricted usable revenue reserves as at 1 April 2026 of:
  - General Fund balance - £11.100m
  - Unrestricted Usable Earmarked reserves – £14.837m.
- Details of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Grant for 2026/27 and the allocation to schools, the forecast total cumulative DSG deficit of £31.213m on 31 March 2026, and the risk to the Council arising from this (Appendix 12).

25/107

### **PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2026/27 TO 2029/30 AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL STRATEGY REPORT 2026/27**

The Executive Member for Finance presented the Prudential Indicators 2026/27 to 2029/30 and Treasury Management Annual Strategy Report 2026/27.

Council was required to approve a Treasury Management Strategy and a set of Prudential Indicators annually, which self-regulated the level of capital financing activities of the Council and the affordability of the capital programme. These needed to be set on an annual basis to comply with the Local Government Act 2003 and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Codes of Practice on Capital Finance and Treasury Management.

The Treasury Management Strategy was important from both a financial and governance perspective as it set the framework within which the Council managed its borrowing and investments, how it delivered these services, and how it controlled the risks attached to any decisions made. It also set out the parameters and criteria that governed the day-to-day cashflow management activity and how these impacted on the medium to long term financial planning. These included achieving value for money from any borrowing undertaken, managing risk, and protecting any resources that had been invested.

The Prudential Indicators were an integral part of the CIPFA Capital Finance Code and demonstrated whether the capital programme was affordable, sustainable, and prudent. They included the level of capital expenditure over the next four years, how this had been financed, the maximum level of external debt and the cost to the revenue budget.

The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy governed how the Council planned to account for the repayment of loan principal in relation to its borrowing activities and had a fundamental impact upon the annual revenue cost of borrowing and over the long term. The current MRP policy was based on a 2% annuity model in line with many other local authorities. The Council took the decision during the 2022/23 financial year to review the MRP policy, the effect of which was to achieve improved affordability on an annual basis over the short to medium term, although there were higher revenue charges in 25–50 years' time.

The Council's underlying need to borrow was measured by the Capital Financing Requirement which was forecast to reach £312.383m during 2025/26, rising to £335.755m by the end of 2026/27 and increasing still further, to £358.733m by the end of 2029/30. This resulted in the revenue cost of borrowing as detailed in the table at page 2 of the submitted report.

Whilst the Council was not an outlier in terms of its level of total debt it was reaching its limit of revenue affordability on borrowing to fund its future capital investment. Changes to the Local Government Finance Settlement and how the net revenue budget had been calculated had changed significantly with the Fair Funding Review 2.0 and were not now comparable post the 2026/27 budget.

The Council would need to review what the affordability threshold would be in this context and whether the 10% best practice amount previously recommended by CIPFA was still relevant. Capital investment was important for the ongoing Council plan ambitions, however, there continued to be a need to be prudent, sustainable and affordable. It would still benefit from prioritising its capital investment decisions over the medium and longer term and should secure its financing through third party funds such as contributions and grants and capital receipts from the sale of assets to minimise future borrowing.

The Executive Member drew Members' attention to the graph at page 3 of the submitted report which detailed the total debt as a percentage of core spending power (2024/25) for all English unitary authorities and highlighted that Middlesbrough Council's debt was below average.

The Executive Member for Finance moved the recommendations, which were seconded by the Mayor.

Councillor Rush spoke on the report and Councillor Walker responded. Since some of Councillor Rush's questions were of a technical nature, Councillor Walker invited Councillor Rush to forward her questions via email and a written response would be provided.

The Chair invited the Monitoring Officer to conduct a recorded vote on the recommendations contained in paragraph 2.1 of the submitted report.

The result of the vote was as follows:

Votes for: (36)

C Cooke, (Elected Mayor), Councillors Banks, Blades, Branson, Clynch, J Cooke, Cooper, Coupe, Davison, Ewan, Furness, Gavigan, Henman, Hill, Hurst, Hubbard, Jackson, Jones, Kabuye, Lewis, Mason, Mohan, Morrish, Nicholson, J Platt, S Platt, Romaine, Rostron, Ryles, Storey, Thompson, Tranter, Walker, Wilson, J Young, L Young.

Votes against: (2)

Councillors McCabe and Rush.

Abstentions: (1)

Councillor Smiles

On a vote being taken, it was **ORDERED** as follows that Council approved:

- The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2026/27 to 2029/30 relating to capital expenditure and treasury management activity set out in tables 1 to 9 of Appendix 1.
- The Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy for that financial year.
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for the 2026/27 financial year.
- An Authorised Limit for External Debt of £354 million for the 2026/27 financial year.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Mayor Chris Cooke

**DATE OF MEETING:** 01 April 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 service cuts and a strong focus on reinvestment.

- Several long-standing projects have been delivered, including the £1.9m renovation of Central Library and the reopening of Levick Court Respite Service with modern, purpose-built facilities designed with NHS and council partners.
- The Young Inspectors programme continues to shape HAF provision, leading to improvements such as mandatory Physical Activity training and ensuring youth voice is central to service design.
- The 2026/27 parks investment programme is progressing well, with major upgrades at Colmore Play Area including new equipment, safety features and a community-designed mural.
- Middlesbrough has been longlisted for UK City of Culture 2029, receiving £60,000 to develop a full bid, building on bicentenary planning, the Turner Prize hosting and major cultural investment.
- Budget implementation is underway, supported by a detailed action plan across all service areas.

## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

### Update:

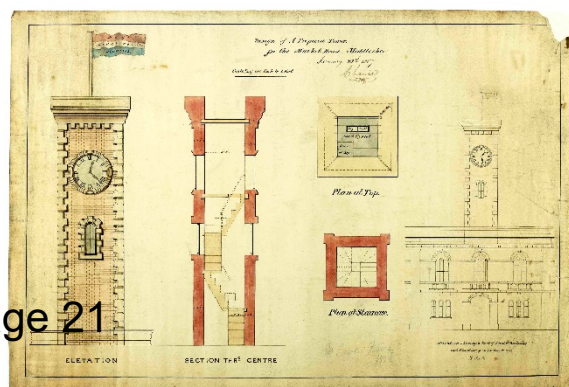
#### 1.1 *Central Library - A Revitalised Cultural Hub for Middlesbrough*

- 1.1.1 We recently celebrated the formal re-opening of Middlesbrough's historic Central Library following one of the most significant refurbishments in its 114-year history. It was a pleasure to welcome Luke Burton, Libraries Director at Arts Council England, to mark the completion of this £1.9 million transformation.
- 1.1.2 The Grade II-listed Central Library has undergone a major 20-month refurbishment funded by Arts Council England, the Future High Streets Fund and Middlesbrough Council, following a successful Cultural Development Fund bid.
- 1.1.3 Improvements include a redesigned ground floor with a new children's library, a modern ICT suite and flexible event spaces, upgraded accessibility features, new public computers, and sensitive restoration of the reference library's historic flooring and furniture. The project delivers a fully modernised, community-focused space while preserving key heritage features.
- 1.1.4 Since reopening, the feedback from residents has been overwhelmingly positive. The Central Library has been a cornerstone of our town centre for more than a century and continues to be a place where people of all ages come to read, learn, create and connect. This investment ensures it will remain one of Middlesbrough's most treasured cultural assets for generations to come.
- 1.1.5 I want to thank our partners at Arts Council England, the Future High Streets Fund, Council officers, Aptus, and everyone who played a role in delivering this outstanding project. Their hard work has restored one of Middlesbrough's jewels and created a welcoming, modern space that will enrich lives for many years ahead.



## 1.2 Old Town Hall - Remarkable Discovery as Restoration Begins

- 1.2.1 Work to restore Middlesbrough's iconic Old Town Hall has already revealed extraordinary insights into the town's earliest days. Just days into the £6.3 million project, a Victorian time capsule was uncovered beneath the clock tower, which was immortalised by LS Lowry and central to Middlesbrough's early identity.
- 1.2.2 The capsule, sealed within the foundation stone laid in 1858 by the then Mayor Henry Thompson, contained a handwritten parchment signed by Middlesbrough's founding figures, including Henry Bolckow, John Vaughan and Isaac Wilson. The document describes a town transformed in just three decades from "one solitary house" to a thriving industrial centre and even notes that the clock tower's bell was cast from the same model as the bell at Balmoral Castle. Alongside the inscription was a pristine 1858 edition of the Darlington & Stockton Times and an 1857 silver threepence, all in remarkably good condition thanks to careful Victorian craftsmanship.
- 1.2.3 This discovery adds new depth to our understanding of the building's history, confirming that although the main Old Town Hall opened in 1846, the clock tower was constructed more than a decade later. Teesside Archives are now preserving these historic finds for future generations.
- 1.2.4 The restoration, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and led by contractor Walter Thompson, will stabilise and restore the Grade II-listed structure, remove a 1970s extension, and create new business space as part of the growing Boho Zone. A modern marketplace extension will blend heritage and innovation, and will form a centrepiece of our bicentenary celebrations in 2028.
- 1.2.5 The Old Town Hall is one of the most powerful symbols of Middlesbrough's origins and ambition. This project is already uncovering forgotten stories from our town's infancy, and as work continues, I am sure more revelations will follow. It is a privilege to see this landmark being given the new lease of life it richly deserves as we look ahead to celebrating 200 years of Middlesbrough.



### 1.3 Levick Court - Securing the Future of a Vital Respite Service

- 1.3.1 I'm delighted to report that Middlesbrough's learning disability respite service has secured its long-term future with a move to modern, high-quality premises at Levick Court. This is a hugely important milestone for around 70 families and carers who rely on the service for essential support.
- 1.3.2 For years, the service was delivered across two ageing NHS buildings at Aysgarth in Stockton and Bankfields in Middlesbrough. Those facilities had become increasingly unsafe, expensive to maintain and unable to meet modern Care Quality Commission (CQC) requirements. Continuing care in those buildings simply wasn't sustainable.
- 1.3.3 Thanks to a strong partnership between NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and Middlesbrough Council, families, carers and professionals have co-designed a new model of support and secured a permanent home for the service at Levick Court.
- 1.3.4 Levick Court was built in 2012 as a 16-bed adult respite unit with additional supported living apartments, and provides a safe, modern and purpose-built environment. The building includes individual bedrooms, multiple sitting rooms, a well-equipped games room, and a state-of-the-art sensory room. Families have already described the move as "the best news we've had in eight years".
- 1.3.5 This new partnership model places clinical expertise with the NHS, alongside dedicated social care support from the Council, ensuring the service meets complex needs while helping people maintain independence and family relationships.
- 1.3.6 I want to pay tribute to the families and carers who have fought for this service, and to our partners across the NHS and Middlesbrough Council who made this possible. I also take personal pride in seeing Levick Court reopen, after taking difficult but necessary decisions to protect its future at a time when the Council's finances were under immense pressure.
- 1.3.7 Levick Court now provides a stable, high-quality home for respite care, giving families the reassurance and support they deserve for many years to come.



## **1.4 Young Inspectors – Strengthening Youth Voice in the HAF Programme**

- 1.4.1 As part of our commitment to giving young people a real say in the services that support them, the Young Inspectors programme has become an increasingly important part of how we shape and improve the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) offer across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland.
- 1.4.2 The Young Inspectors are a diverse group of young people from different backgrounds and abilities who assess local services and ensure young voices are heard where it matters. Their role is clear: to highlight what works well, what doesn't, and what needs to change. They produce formal reports with recommendations, giving providers direct insight into the experience of the children and young people they serve.
- 1.4.3 For the HAF programme, Young Inspectors:
- Visit a range of HAF providers and carry out structured inspections
  - Follow guidelines set by the HAF team to assess quality, safety and inclusivity
  - Produce reports highlighting strengths, areas for improvement and practical recommendations
  - Promote the voices and interests of young people across the North East
  - Challenge providers to reflect on their delivery and make meaningful improvements
- 1.4.4 Their impact over the past year has been significant. Based on their findings, the HAF team introduced mandatory Physical Activity training for all organisations delivering HAF sessions. This has helped upskill staff, improve programme quality and ensure children benefit from a wider range of engaging, active opportunities during the school holidays.
- 1.4.5 The Young Inspectors have become a vital part of how we deliver HAF, ensuring young people are at the heart of decision-making. Their insight has strengthened the programme, improved standards and ensured that the voices of those who use the service most are shaping its future.
- 1.4.6 I want to thank every young person involved, along with the HAF team and our partners, for their dedication and leadership. We will continue to work closely with the Young Inspectors as we expand and improve HAF provision across Middlesbrough.

## **2. THE TIME AHEAD**

### **Update:**

### **2.1 Investing in Middlesbrough's Future Investing in Our Parks - Progress on Play Area Improvements**

- 2.1.1 Following the agreement of our 2026/27 budget, which includes significant new investment in parks and play spaces across Middlesbrough, work is now progressing at pace to deliver improvements for children and families in every part of the town.

- 2.1.2 At Colmore Play Area, the main equipment has now been installed along with new fencing, lighting and CCTV. We are currently awaiting delivery of the Teqball table and goalposts, both of which will add to the range of activities available on site.
- 2.1.3 Further enhancements are underway. The MUGA will be painted once a specialist contractor has been procured, as the height of the work means it cannot be completed in-house for health and safety reasons. In addition, a construction supplier is scheduled to repair and render the boundary wall as soon as the weather allows. Once that is complete, a community mural will be created with the support of a professional artist.
- 2.1.4 The mural project is an important part of our approach of giving children and young people ownership of their local spaces and celebrating community pride. The programme includes:
- Day 1: Creative workshops at Thorntree Academy
  - Day 2: Consultation and design session at Thorntree Youth Centre
  - Days 3-5: Mural creation on site during the Easter holidays, with young people directly involved in painting
- 2.1.5 Additional dates include sessions at Caldicotes and Thorntree Academy on 24 March, Youth Focus North East's session at Thorntree Hub on 31 March, and on-site mural creation scheduled for 13-14 April.
- 2.1.6 These improvements at Colmore are just the start. The budget we passed invests heavily in play parks right across Middlesbrough: repairing equipment, upgrading facilities and creating safer, more inviting spaces for families. This is a key part of our commitment to give every child in Middlesbrough access to high-quality places to play, learn and grow.
- 2.1.7 I want to thank our officers, contractors, schools and youth partners for their work so far. As more projects move from planning into delivery, residents will start to see real, tangible improvements in their local parks over the months ahead.



## **2.2 UK City of Culture 2029 - Middlesbrough Longlisted**

- 2.2.1 Middlesbrough has taken a major step forward in showcasing its creativity and ambition after being longlisted for UK City of Culture 2029. This is a hugely significant moment for our town and reflects years of work to strengthen and grow our cultural sector.
- 2.2.2 Being longlisted means Middlesbrough will now receive £60,000 from the Government to develop a full bid, competing alongside eight other places from across the UK. Winning the title would be transformational, as previous hosts have attracted millions of pounds of investment, created new jobs and welcomed thousands of visitors.
- 2.2.3 Middlesbrough's City of Culture bid builds on preparations for the town's 200th anniversary in 2030–31, its upcoming hosting of the Turner Prize, and the success of the 10-year Creative Vision launched in 2023. It is strengthened by £4.25m of Cultural Development Fund investment that has supported key cultural institutions, including Central Library, Mima and The Auxiliary.
- 2.2.4 The City of Culture programme would be delivered with Teesside University and the Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership, involving over 30 local arts, heritage and creative organisations. The programme would span the whole Tees Valley, reflecting the region's shared cultural identity.
- 2.2.5 This is an opportunity rooted in who we are. Middlesbrough has always been a town that builds things, from iron and steel to art, ideas and digital innovation. Our bid brings our motto Erimus or 'We Shall Be' to life, combining the story of our industrial beginnings with a bold vision for the future.
- 2.2.6 If successful, the winning place will receive £10 million to deliver a show-stopping year of cultural activity. Even those shortlisted but not selected will receive £125,000 to take forward elements of their plans.
- 2.2.7 I'm delighted that we have been longlisted for this once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate the creativity of our residents, artists and businesses and to change how people see Middlesbrough. We'll share more about our full bid as it develops, but for now, this recognition is a testament to the ambition, talent and resilience of our cultural sector.

## **2.3 Budget Implementation Programme**

- 2.3.1 Following the passing of the budget at the 18<sup>th</sup> of February Council meeting, good progress is being made towards its implementation.
- 2.3.2 A full implementation plan has been created and approved by the councils Policy development Group, which all council service areas are now working towards.
- 2.3.3 62 new jobs have been advertised to date, with all of them now closed and going towards the interview process.
- 2.3.4 On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, a jobs fair took place at the town hall, in which members of the public we're invited to attend and speak with council staff to talk through the jobs available, help with applications and answer any questions.





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

**Council Meeting 1 April 2026**

Page 27

This page is intentionally left blank



## INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **1 April 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

This page is intentionally left blank



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### COUNCIL MEETING: 1 APRIL 2026

#### CONTENTS

#### SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture <i>Councillor Philippa Storey</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Adult Social Care <i>Councillor Julia Rostron</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Children's Services <i>Councillor Luke Henman</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Development <i>Councillor Theo Furness</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability <i>Councillor Peter Gavigan</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Finance <i>Councillor Nicky Walker</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Neighbourhoods <i>Councillor Ian Blades</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Public Health <i>Councillor Jan Ryles</i></li></ul>

**SECTION 2** – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 5 January 2026.

**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.

This page is intentionally left blank

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

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

**DATE OF MEETING: 01 April 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:

- Special Free School
- SEND Reforms
- City of Culture
- Captain Cook Birthplace Museum
- Events Programme
- Musinc

## 1. HIGHLIGHTS

#### Update:

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

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

I'm pleased to confirm that the DfE have informed us that they have approved our request to go ahead with the Special Free School as a secondary school instead of primary.

#### ***1.2 SEND Reforms***

**1.2.1** On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026, the Government published the long awaited School's White Paper 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'; alongside a consultation on SEND Reform – Putting Children and Young People First. Both documents propose significant changes to the current system with an ambitious vision for a reformed SEND system which will be enshrined in new legislation by 2029-30.

**1.2.2** To summarise the key areas that are included in the SEND Reform consultation:

- Inclusion by design: focussing on making mainstream schools more inclusive, requiring them to provide high quality adaptive support without the need for formal statutory processes

- The introduction of new local Experts at Hands services to improve the availability of support for children from specialist practitioners across education and health services
- Introduction of individual support plans [ISPs]: A new duty for all education providers across the 0-25 age range to create and maintain a digital ISP for children with SEND
- Introduction of specialist provision packages for children with the most complex needs, for whom EHCPs will be retained
- The introduction of new national inclusion standards, with an expectation on every school to publish an inclusion strategy
- A focus on workforce development to train staff and improve adaptive teaching approaches
- Tiered approach to support: a new system for categorising children based on the level of support they required to meet their individual needs. These include universal, targeted, targeted plus and specialist.
- Investment to create inclusion bases to provide flexible spaces for targeted support and regulation in mainstream schools
- A focus on best start in life for children in early years via the Best Start Family Hub model
- Capping independent school fees

**1.2.3** Alongside the above, there has also been an announcement of additional funding for each local authority area to address historic deficits and provide investment for the changes required to meet the new expectations. This includes:

- A grant for 90% of the historic high needs deficit in each local authority
- Transformation funding
- Funding to support the development of Experts at Hand services
- Early Years investment
- Capital Investment
- Best Start Family Hubs

**1.2.4** In response to the announcements, each local authority has been requested to produce a local area reform plan to be submitted to the Department for Education by June 2026. The plan will set out how the local area will deliver on the improvement actions and the strengthening of the local system in response to the reforms. There is an expectation that each local area reform plan will be coproduced across all local area stakeholders including children, young people and their families alongside education, health and care services. The approval of this plan is essential to receive the 90% grant payment towards the historic high needs deficit.

**1.2.5** At present, there is extensive planning, development and engagement activity underway to prepare the local area reform. The LA has also benefitted from a small pot of funding through the Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance to support these activities, which are being planned and coordinated in partnership with Middlesbrough SEND Parent Carer Forum and other stakeholders from across the local area Strategic SEND & Inclusion Partnership.

**1.2.6** A full briefing on the SEND reforms is being offered to all councillors.

## ***Culture***

### ***1.3 City of Culture***

- 1.3.1** As announced publicly on 18 March, Middlesbrough has been longlisted with 8 other places for UK City of Culture 2029. This prestigious award brings with a prize for the winner of £10M from DCMS and the opportunity to leverage further investment.
- 1.3.2** Middlesbrough's expression of interest spoke of the history of the town as an industrial powerhouse and place of making and innovation. It identified a unique opportunity through City of Culture to reclaim our ambitious and confident identity through embedding creativity across all our communities and promoting pride in where we live.
- 1.3.3** We are now invited to make a full bid and have been awarded £60,000 from DCMS to support its development. Our bid will build on preparations to celebrate the town's 200th birthday in 2030-31 as Middlesbrough gets ready to host the Turner Prize later this year.
- 1.3.4** To clarify any misunderstanding – the City of Culture was open to City's and Large Towns.

## ***1.4 Captain Cook Birthplace Museum***

### **1.4.1 Captain Cook Birthplace Museum**

Thanks to funding from the Arts Council's Museums Renewal Fund, the Museums Team have been able to undertake a series of enhancements at the Captain Cook Museum to improve the overall visitor experience. This includes:

#### **1.4.2 The Australian Gallery**

What was previously the 'Walkabout Gallery' behind the learning space and off the main visitor route has been reimaged and relocated within the main museum galleries so that all visitors can now enjoy this unique collection.

#### **1.4.3 Self-Led Play Space**

A newly developed area for our younger explorers.

#### **1.4.4 New Interactives**

Featuring a bespoke sailing game developed in partnership with Teesside University.

#### **1.4.5 Site Upgrades**

New donation points, refreshed signage, and updated promotional materials. A special preview for partners and stakeholders will take place on Monday 30 March, 10:30am – 1:00pm

## ***Events***

### ***1.5 Events Programme***

We are developing our Cultural Events Programme in partnership with our Neighbourhoods Team to enable more creative engagement in local communities. We're

taking a multi-layered approach including setting up a small grants fund to help communities to deliver their own events and providing supporting resources and training. We'll work closely with community hubs to expand on their offer including family fun days. As a third strand, we'll co-produce creative programmes with communities in priority areas, bringing together residents and artists so that creative programmes can be delivered with communities rather than for them. This may include a 'Give it a Go' programme where opportunities such as touring theatre can be brought to community spaces.

### **1.6 Musinc**

Held a very successful opening of the new recording studio with all brand new instruments and deck with money from the Youth Better Spaces fund. Amplify continues to grow, with Musinc with Amplify having an article in NEVolume. Shine Festival was exceptional, with choirs from schools across Middlesbrough and singing groups from across the North East.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 01 April 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:

##### ***Launch of Middlesbrough's Adult Social Care Strategy 2025–2035***

- 1.1 Our strategy recognises the challenges our residents face, from health inequalities to housing insecurity, and sets out a long term commitment to improving outcomes by focusing on prevention, independence, and strong community partnerships.
- 1.2 This is a whole Council priority. Delivering on this vision will require continued collaboration across directorates and with our partners.

You can [read the full strategy here on the Bridge.](#)

#### 2. HIGHLIGHTS

##### **Update:**

##### ***Levick Court Re-launch***

- 2.1 On 6<sup>th</sup> March we held a partnership launch day for Levick Court. The morning was the official opening with representatives from TEWV and Middlesbrough Council. The afternoon focused on parents and carers and those who use the service.
- 2.2 This is a vital respite service supporting adults with complex learning disabilities which has secured its long-term future through relocation to Levick Court. Approximately 70 families and carers will continue to benefit from the service, following a partnership agreement between Middlesbrough Council Adult Social Care, NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.


- 2.3 The service has been co-designed with families and carers, ensuring it meets the needs of individuals with high levels of complexity and risk. Levick Court, built in 2012, offers a 16-bed respite unit alongside 20 apartments for older people, providing a suitable and sustainable setting.
- 2.4 This development secures ongoing access to essential respite care, with clinical provision delivered by the NHS and supported through strong partnership working with the Council.

### **Homeless Service Office Accommodation**

- 2.5 On 27 February building work commenced at Broadcasting House which will become the new site for delivery of our homeless service.

### **Social Work Week**

- 2.6 We celebrated social care week on 16<sup>th</sup> March and World Social Work Day on 17 March. A range of events were held to celebrate and showcase practice and to support training and development of our workforce.

Monday 16 March	Tuesday 17 March National Social Work Day Reflect & Celebrate	Wednesday 18 March	Thursday 19 March	Friday 20 March
<p>10am - 11:30pm Conversational Approach When Working with Autistic Adults</p> <p>(Karen Grainger &amp; Julie Barlett)</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a></p>	<p>Collaboration Zone, 9.30am</p> <p>10am - 11.30am - changes to the Mental Health Act (Alistair, Wohida &amp; Julie)</p> <p>11.30am - 12.30pm - Support Planning for Carers – what can we offer? (Lynn Beevers)</p> <p>*Cake Sale for the MND Association</p>	<p>9.30am - 11am - Ellie Graham, People First Advocacy</p> <p>When is the right time to think advocacy</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a></p>	<p>Collaboration Zone, 10am - 12pm</p> <p>Dr Wendy Shepard</p> <p>Trauma informed supervision and the benefits of holding debriefing sessions</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a></p>	<p>10am - 12pm - Mick Walker, Customer Excellence</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p>10am - 11.30am - Unconscious Bias (Saadia Azam)</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a></p>
<p>1pm - 2.30pm - Tracy Kent, Hampton Trust</p> <p>Perpetrator intervention &amp; best practice.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a></p>	<p>1pm - 1.30pm - Alan's Clark's famous Quiz (with prizes)</p> <p>1.30pm - 2pm – staff videos</p> <p>2pm - 3pm - The Three I's</p> <p>3pm - 3.30pm - yoga with Stacey</p> <p>End Time: 3.30pm</p>	<p>1pm - 3pm - Katrina Jackson, Public Health</p> <p>Middlesbrough's Poverty Overview</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a></p>	<p>Collaboration Zone, 1pm - 3pm</p> <p>Kate Metcalf - Sensory Team: Support, insight, innovation &amp; impact</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a></p> <p>1.30pm - 3pm - Carol Howel</p> <p>Communication &amp; Conflict Resolution <a href="#">Click here</a></p>	

## **3. THE TIME AHEAD**

### **Update:**

### **Reform of the Social Care System**

- 3.1 On 5 March Baroness Casey delivered a landmark speech at the Nuffield Trust Summit calling for a national 'moment of reckoning' for adult social care. As chair of the Independent Commission into Adult Social Care, she described the system as fragmented, underfunded and reliant on low-paid workers. She has called for a National Safeguarding Board, a Dementia Tsar and a 'care passport' for faster motor neurone disease support. She announced a public campaign to define the future of a National Care Service and build a mandate for funding reform. The link to her speech is below.

[Baroness Casey on a reformed social care system: Summit 2026 session - YouTube](#)

### ***Mental Health Act 1983 Amendments***

- 3.2 There are a number of amendments that will update the Act so that it is person centred. Some of the key aspects will be:
- Advocacy will be opt out as opposed to opt in as it currently stands
  - Nominated person replaces Nearest Relative and can be selected by the person if they have capacity to do so, if not it will be the AMHP. There will be advance choice documents
  - The Care Act deeming provisions will apply to s117, which reverses the Worcestershire judgement about Ordinary Residence and LA responsibility
  - People with a learning disability or who are autistic will not be detained under the MHA unless it relates to a mental disorder
- 3.3 The only change to the act that came in on the 18 February was Conditional Discharges, in that people who are detained in secure hospitals and have capacity to consent to conditions placed on their discharge, can be deprived of their liberty in the community without their consent.
- 3.4 The changes expected to the MHA 1983 will take place over a 10 year period and will be phased in when system capacity and funding allows.

This page is intentionally left blank

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 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:** 610 open episodes and 1280 episodes open to partners (as of 10 March.)
- **Number of foster carers with Middlesbrough Council:** 78 foster carers, 20 connected carers.
- **Number of children in our care:** 514
- **Children in our care attending school (since the start of the school year):**  
Of 339 school-age children in our care:
  - 6 children do not have a school place, with 2 receiving education in a non-school setting (referred to as EOTAS.)
  - The percentage of children actively attending their education placement is 97.6%.

## **1. HIGHLIGHTS**

### **1.1 General**

- 1.1.1 I recently attended the first meeting of our re-established Improvement Board. The board is chaired by our advisor from the Local Government Association and its membership includes our DfE improvement advisor, the Chief Executive, our Corporate Director for Children's Services and other colleagues, in addition to myself. The board will look at practice improvement across all teams and I am grateful for the support our external advisors provide.
- 1.1.2 I attended a celebration breakfast for staff who had been nominated by colleagues for going the extra mile and showing real commitment to our young people. The event was inspirational and reminded me of the dedication and passion our staff show, often in challenging circumstances. The breakfast was an opportunity to discuss what staff feel we need to support improvement.
- 1.1.3 Alongside colleagues, I took part in the appointment process for two new service directors – one focusing on safeguarding and the other on quality assurance and practice. These two roles are vital for building capacity in the department but also addressing some of the key parts of our improvement aims – particularly around

consistency of practice. I'd like to thank Cllr Jackson for his work in chairing the panel and wish our new starters the very best of wishes in their new roles.

## 1.2 Early Help

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

1.2.2 The table below demonstrates that the number of children in Middlesbrough accessing early help has increased month on month from December 2025 to February 2026.

Early Help Service data	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26
No. of EH - Internal	546	572	589
No. of EH - External	1108	1131	1286

1.2.3 The average caseload for Early Help practitioners is currently 19-20 children. Our case supervision completion rate in Early Help currently sits at 100%. All team managers have completed supervision training, to ensure supervision within Early Help is reflective and meets practice standards. Personal supervisions are at 100%, ensuring that staff are supported with their workloads and wellbeing.

1.2.4 Most of our early help cases (69%) 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. Early Help Coordinators are situated in the MACH and attend daily triage, this helps us to identify children, young people and families who would benefit from Early Help services.

1.2.5 Internal cases have increased by 17 compared to last month. External cases have increased by 155 compared to last month. The increase in external cases is a result of an increase in the range of different partners taking on the lead practitioner role. Examples include: The Junction 3, Short breaks 208, School 201, Health 278, School Readiness 151, MFC 36, Education, Employment & Training 33, Recovery Solution26, Daisy Chain 1, Drug Services 1, Youth Justice 1 & Education Plus 1.

1.2.6 Team scorecards tell us My Family Plans completed within timescale is 95%, this shows that all family needs are being assessed in a timely way.

1.2.7 The Family Plan Reviews completed within timescale was 84% and these reviews are multi agency so that Early Help partners can contribute to the plan. This has slightly decreased from 86% in January.

## 1.3 Front Door: MACH and Assessment Services

1.3.1 The Multi agency Safeguarding Hub (MACH) is the single front door, comprised of a multi-agency partnership that screens all safeguarding contacts received by the authority, to consider the most appropriate and proportionate response and support for our children and families. The Tees Framework of Need identifies children in need of support, with referrals to the Assessment service.

- 1.3.2 The duty assessment service complete timely child and family assessment and intervention to ensure that effective safeguarding is completed and the child's voice informs planning and intervention.
- 1.3.3 The number of children being referred has remained high throughout the year. The assessments inform the planning and threshold of intervention, with ongoing support with Child Protection plans, Child in Need and Care proceedings concluding with Children becoming Looked after.
- 1.3.4 The service is stable with agency staff joining the Assessment service to provide a fully permanent staff cohort. The MACH and Assessment teams are now fully staffed, with some agency staff for the additional capacity required to support the service on its improvement journey.
- 1.3.5 Members will recall the briefing note compiled by Corporate Director of Children's Services and I regarding the recent Ofsted focused visit of the MACH. Ofsted found that our DCS understands the challenges the service faces and they were positive about the improvement plans she has put in place. Ofsted found that the quality of initial responses to children was "inconsistent and didn't always lead to proportionate decisions for children and families". No children were seen to be at risk of immediate harm, but Ofsted said the threshold for when further intervention was needed was not consistently applied. Ofsted said leaders in the organisation demonstrated "a unified, collective ambition to ensure that children in Middlesbrough benefit from safe, high-quality services".
- 1.3.6 We are determined that the necessary changes have the required impact as soon as possible. I'd like to thank all staff in children's services for the commitment they show each day and the professional manner in which they approached the Ofsted visit. Together, we are determined to provide the best services possible to children and young people around Middlesbrough.
- 1.3.7 Following the visit, service development plans have been updated. A joint service meeting at the start of the year for the MACH and Assessment service launched these with positive engagement from the team.
- 1.3.8 The Ofsted findings make it clear that as an organisation we're aware of our strengths and also the challenges we face. We continue to work on ways to improve and build on the good work already being done, while addressing those areas which have been highlighted in the report.

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

- 1.4.1 The Safeguarding & Care Planning team support children on a Child in Need and Child Protection plans, as well as children that are looked after who experience care proceedings. Children move on from the service when permanence is determined, either within their home, family or through care and/or adoption. In addition we have a tailored response to children who are vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking or falling into criminal activity, through our Aspire Service, Risk and Resilience, and Missing teams.

- 1.4.2 The number of children allocated to each social worker remains high. We have continued to prioritise allocation from assessment 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. It is recognised that improvements in assessment practice are beginning to reduce the number of children requiring allocation to a longer term social worker, this will take some time to have a marked impact on the number of children in our service.
- 1.4.3 There are some delayed timescales in some areas. A process is in place to ensure that any delays do not compromise children and their safety or progression of plans, whilst we strive to improve our approach to reviews. Practitioners are clear that the time spent with children, understanding their lived experiences cannot be compromised and visiting remains a priority.
- 1.4.4 A review is underway within our Children 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, including collaboration with our Parent Carer Forum to provide more opportunities for parents and families to contribute to our improvement priorities.
- 1.4.5 There will be further reviews of the service this Spring, both internally and externally. This will support us in understanding the impact we are having on children and young people, our strengths and areas of development, in addition to preparing us for external inspection.

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

- 1.5.1 Within Middlesbrough there are currently 514 children who are cared for across our teams. Reunification continues with children progressing to Court change Orders. The panel which reviews children's permanence planning actively looks at reunification or lesser Orders when the time is right for the child. Plans for all cared for children are reviewed at the monthly Permanency Monitoring panel.
- 1.5.2 There are 249 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 so although the number of allocated care leavers has dipped slightly we know that this will increase again soon. 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. In addition to the allocated cases each PA is also co-allocated to 5 or 6 16-17 year olds.
- 1.5.3 Our care leavers hub provides drop-in services every week. Young people speak positively about the opportunities that the hub provides them, and the value of having a consistent location to attend.
- 1.5.4 In February our care leavers service took part in a peer visit supported by colleagues within the region. The visit took place over 3 days and reviewed the work of the service in supporting our care leavers. During the visit our visitors spent time talking to leaders in the service, met with a group of young people, met with groups of PAs and looked at a large volume of files of young people. Visitors found relationships between PAs and young people to be positive and spoke of the strong commitment

of PAs to supporting young people. Areas for improvement included: oversight and leadership of data, consistency of practice in record keeping, practice approach for 16-17 year olds, quality of audit. The service has developed an action plan which has been incorporated into the broader Children's Services improvement plan.

### **1.6 Residential and Supported Accommodation**

1.6.1 On 6 and 7 January Ofsted carried out an inspection of Willowtree Children's Home under the social care common inspection framework. They found the provision to be good in all areas. Inspectors praised the team for the way that they support children in the home. This outcome means that all children's home inspections for Middlesbrough in the past year have been good or outstanding. This is very welcome news – I would like to congratulate all staff involved. This provides an excellent basis for our new head of service and staff to look at the future of residential and supported accommodation and how we can maximise its impact for young people.

1.6.2 Some highlights from inspectors' feedback included:

- Managers work well with parents, ensuring children are supported with their health needs. All immunisations are up to date, and children receive appropriate support for emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- Formal education is actively encouraged. Managers work closely with the Virtual School, hold regular meetings, and collaborate effectively to maintain education plans.
- The home has clear day and night routines in place, and children are involved in planning these routines. Children reported feeling settled and stated they enjoy living in the home.
- Manager and psychologists regularly review and strengthen individual support plans. These plans are reflective, updated frequently, and include input from professionals. Children are supported to reflect, have a voice, and are included in planning.
- Plans are well-written, clear, and provide strong guidance for staff practice. Hard copies are available in the home to support new staff in understanding children's needs.
- Kind and supportive language is used to re-engage children following incidents.

## **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 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 on improvements to our You Matter to Us: Corporate Parenting Board, ensuring our young people's voices are heard and they have input in shaping the support we give them.
- 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 01 April 2026

### COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

*Place & People*

#### 1. HIGHLIGHTS

##### **Update:**

- 1.1 Nunthorpe Community Centre; Work continues and the building is expected to be ready on time.
- 1.2 Southlands: The grounds are now starting to take shape along with the building and the full facility is coming along at speed. Construction of the new Community and Sports Facility at the Southlands Site continues without major issue. Construction will complete in the coming months and Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation will be supported in their relocation to the site.
- 1.3 Old Town Hall: the initial excavation work unveiled a time capsule that saw old newspapers and official documents stored within it. This hasn't stopped work towards the 12-month programme that will see the heritage asset developed into a business space within the Boho Zone. A modern marketplace 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.
- 1.4 Newham Hall masterplan draft is taking shape; Newham Hall is a 71 hectare site which sits adjacent to Coulby Newham. It lies north east of Middlesbrough Golf Course and its southern boundary is hugged by the road that runs from Hemlington to Stokesley. The land is owned by Middlesbrough Council and allocated in the current and forthcoming Local Plan as a housing development site with potential to accommodate up to 1000 homes. The development of this site will support the critical supply of land for housing development and in turn support economic growth in the town and the delivery of Council services. The boundary of the site comprises of former agricultural land and woodland.

#### **1.5 Middlehaven Development**

- 1.5.1 Capital and Centric have officially commenced work on a new development masterplan for Middlehaven. An Executive report of 12 November 2025 set out the

work programme for masterplanning and development plans for up to 3,400 houses and a mixed-use development in the Middlehaven area.

- 1.5.2 Work is now commencing on sites surveys, assessments and residential designs to take the scheme to RIBA stage four. This stage will deliver planning approvals, financial modelling and development plans, which will enable investment in the area and the development of a new community in central Middlesbrough.
- 1.5.3 The process will start from scratch to consult upon and determine the best mix of products for Middlesbrough residents and the commercial market. The outcome is not predetermined, and this is a completely fresh look at how this major regeneration opportunity can come forward. Preparations will be made across 2026 with planning approvals, masterplan and financial cases presented in spring 2027.

## **1.6 Skills and Employment Hub**

- 1.6.1 Middlesbrough Community Learning Service (MCLS) will be moving into their new, purpose-built Skills and Employment Hub, in April 2026. The new facility is based in the Cleveland Centre (across from Costa) and will provide an accessible hub for Middlesbrough residents to enhance their skills and gain support to enter the employment market or secure more advanced positions.
- 1.6.2 The facilities have been deliberately located closer to employers and to give a centralised location for transport and accessibility. The site will be equipped with cutting-edge learning equipment in a space which has been specifically designed for learning.

## **1.7 Fountain Court Solar**

- 1.7.1 A large-scale, rooftop solar energy system with battery storage has been installed at Fountain Court. This will support cleaner, locally generated power for council services. The system includes 219 solar panels, generating around 89,000 kWh of renewable electricity each year – enough to power a significant portion of the building's energy demand.
- 1.7.2 A 116-kWh battery system stores excess solar energy for use later in the day, significantly reducing reliance on the National Grid and improving energy efficiency. The project is expected to cut electricity bills by around £26,000 per year, helping protect council budgets from rising energy costs. Funding for this scheme was secured from the Government's publicly owned clean energy company Great British Energy to deliver a series of renewable energy projects at key sites across the region.
- 1.7.3 Each year, the system will deliver carbon savings equivalent to:
- Planting around 475 trees
  - Removing nearly 8,000 litres of petrol use
  - Avoiding almost 9 tonnes of coal being burned
- 1.7.4 This project supports the Council's wider commitment to reducing carbon emissions, increasing renewable energy use, and leading by example across the borough.

## **1.8 Captain Cook Square**

- 1.8.1 Umami will be joining the culinary line up at Captain Cook Square, in 2026. Umami offers a pan-Asian and world buffet dining experience and is a fantastic addition to the offering in Middlesbrough's leisure quarter.
- 1.8.2 Leases have been finalised and the Umami team will be mobilising their fit-out works very soon. The construction programme will progress quickly and Middlesbrough residents can expect the new restaurant to open in Summer 2026.

## **2. THE TIME AHEAD**

### **Update:**

#### ***2.1 Executive decisions - Town Centre Future Development***

- 2.1.1 We are wanting to be more proactive with the potential new owners of a major town centre asset, as a Council we want to work in partnership on a major plan to take forward town centre regeneration. Following completion of the purchase, it is intended that a joint plan would be agreed that would tackle some of the underlying issues affecting the long-term sustainability of the town centre, which could in turn inform the preparation of a new Town Centre Strategy for Middlesbrough.
- 2.1.2 The Town Centre requires significant physical intervention to ensure a sustainable future. The Council does not have the capacity to deliver this level of investment on its own. This can only be achieved by working with key partners. The proposed sale of a major town centre asset will bring new investors into the area and the Council wants to work with the potential buyers to explore ways to transform the Town Centre through some form of partnership.

#### ***2.2 Executive decisions - Pride in Place Programme - Thorntree, Park End and Impact Fund***

- 2.2.1 Park End and Thorntree areas of Middlesbrough have been identified as Pride in Place Neighbourhoods in the second phase of the Pride in Place programme. Each area has been awarded a funding commitment of £20 Million each over the next ten years, from April 2027, to deliver an Investment Plan which is to be consulted, designed and delivered by a representative Neighbourhood Board to be convened in each area.
- 2.2.2 Between now and April 2027, the Chairpersons of the Neighbourhood Board are to be identified, followed by wider Board Membership. When the Neighbourhood Board is convened it will commence work to identify and consult upon 'hyper-local' priorities for investment and prepare an Investment Plan to Government by Winter 2026/27. In practical terms, there are few limitations as to how the funding can be used, other than strict capital and revenue apportionment.
- 2.2.3 In addition, Middlesbrough has been awarded £1.5 Million of Pride in Place – Impact Funds, which are targeted towards the enhancement of community areas and public spaces within central Middlesbrough. This funding is designed to deliver immediate impact and therefore, does not require a Neighbourhood Board to be

convened, rather it relies on the relevant Member of Parliament consent. In this case this is Andy McDonald MP.

- 2.2.4 Middlesbrough Council has two functions in these funding programmes. The first is that the Council is to be the Accountable Body for the Pride in Place funds. Secondly, the Council is to provide secretariat support for the delivery and administration of Neighbourhood Boards. The Pride in Place Programme is designed to give communities the agency and resources to react to the most pressing issues in their immediate communities.

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

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

**DATE OF MEETING: 01 April 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 23<sup>rd</sup> January: Site visit to Marton Moor Road (Nunthorpe) with councillor Rush to consider traffic issues.
- 1.2 13<sup>th</sup> February: Site visit to Ayresome Primary school (Gresham) with councillor Blades to consider parking issues.
- 1.3 26<sup>th</sup> February: Meeting at Fountain Court with the Mayor, councillor Blades and community representatives to discuss parking issues concerning the Masjid Maryam on Green Lane, Acklam.
- 1.4 4<sup>th</sup> March: Site meeting on Acklam Road (Linthorpe) to consider parking issues on Acklam Road.
- 1.5 18<sup>th</sup> March: Gave a presentation to members of the Oversight and Scrutiny Board (OSB) at the Town Hall.

## **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:

- Southfield Rd / Abingdon Rd – Complete and switched on Feb 26
- Stokesley Rd / Laurel Rd - Due next financial year 26/27
- CFL / B1380 – Complete and switched on Jan 26
- Ormesby Rd / Crossfell Rd – Complete and switched on Feb 26
- CFL/Ruth Avenue – Due next financial year 26/27
- Albert Road/Corporation Road - Ongoing

## **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 **9** of the planned 13 schemes.

Footway Works complete so far are **17** of the planned 22 schemes.

## **2.3 Bridges and Structures**

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

Temporary repairs have been undertaken at the culvert, and the road is now fully open. Permanent repairs are being developed and will take place later in financial year 2026-27.

### **2.3.2 Transporter Bridge**

Preliminary design of the repair and strengthening works are progressing with an ECI (early contractor involvement) to be tendered in March 2026, with award of this contract due in May 2026. Completion of preliminary design works are expected in late Q3/ early Q4 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**

The final report on the A66 Station Viaduct has been issued by the contractor on 9<sup>th</sup> March this completes the current Principal and General Bridge Inspections contracts. Further inspections will be planned for future years as they become due. With principal inspection undertaken every six years and general inspection undertaken every two years.

### **2.3.5 Longlands Road overbridge**

The structural assessment report has been submitted by the contractor and is currently going through the TAA (Technical Approval Authority) stage prior to acceptance. 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 project for repairs to several structures along the A66 in Middlesbrough are due to start. The tenders from contractors have been submitted and scoring is taking place beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 with award due at the end of March 2026. The A66 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 works will deliver:

- Replacing the bridge deck joints
- Re-waterproofing and resurfacing
- Concrete repairs to the abutments
- Alterations to the footways with addition of new pedestrian guard rails
- Installation of a higher 1.8m parapet
- Renewal of the existing traffic signal junction

The works started on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026, and are expected to be completed by the beginning of September 2026.

A communications manager is in place for the duration of the scheme and affected residences and business have received scheme information letters. In addition, press notification and electronic message boards have been used for the wider public / businesses who regularly use the route.

The bridge deck works make it necessary to close sections of the road. A contraflow system with single two-way lanes is 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 onto / exiting the A174's slip roads and U turns have been banned, while the works are ongoing and affected traffic is being diverted through local diversion routes. Left turning exiting from the A174 has been maintained. Occasional full road closures will be necessary and advanced notice using the variable message boards and press notices will take place prior to these taking place

### **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. GI (Ground investigation) works have recently been undertaken, and a report is imminent. The GI report 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 in 2026/ 2027.

### **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.

### **2.3.10 Carriageways**

The main resurfacing of the classified and unclassified roads started on 1st of December 2025.

Completed schemes in wards to date include:

- Marton East – Beeches Rise, Birchwood Rd, Bramley Grove, Chestnut Drive, Cloverwood Close, Hawthorn Crescent, Tasmania Square, The Grove, Chestnut Drive and Marton Avenue
- Hemlington – Earls Court Road
- Coulby Newham – Fernwood and Charlock red cul-de-sacs, Gunnergate Lane
- Trimdon – Hesleden Ave and Wigton Sands
- Nunthorpe – Towthorpe
- Newport – Tennyson St and Bow Street
- Central – Granville Rd, Laura st, Snowdon Road, Victoria Road, and Westerby Rd
- Stainton & Thornton – Strait Lane
- Park End & Beckfield – Elgin Avenue
- Longlands & Beechwood – Longlands Road, Roseberry Road
- Acklam – Hall Drive and Tollesby Road
- Ladgate – Broughton Avenue
- Linthorpe – Rockcliffe Road
- Park – St Barnabas Road
- Brambles & Thorntree – Westerby Road

Stand out classified road schemes are:

- Three eastbound sections of the A66
- A further phase on Marton Road
- A large phase on Longlands Road

Schemes Due: Cass House Road (Hemlington), Glendale Road (Acklam), Alan Peacock Way (Marton East), Coulby Manor Farm cul-de-sac 51-87 (Coulby Newham), Wibsey Avenue (Park End & Beckfield), Windleston Dr 74-92 (Park End & Beckfield), Tanhill Walk (Berwick Hills & Pallister), Felby Avenue (Park End & Beckfield), Berwick Hills Speed Humps (Berwick Hills & Pallister), The Greenway Speed Table (Brambles & Thorntree).

The unclassified roads programme will see eighty-two thousand m<sup>2</sup> of asphalt laid; covering 12.6km (7.8 miles) of the road network.

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

The micro asphalt contract has been awarded and we are currently undertaking legal contract stage with works provisionally booked with the contractor for the end of June / Beginning of July (this material must be laid in warmer months).

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

The weekly road works report is regularly updated and this can also be viewed on the Council's website.

## ***2.4 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.

## ***2.5 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.

## ***2.6 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.

## ***2.7 Street Lighting***

The 2025/26 column replacement programme is now complete.

Works are ongoing to replace underground street lighting cables at Stockton Road, Works Road, Romaldkirk Road, Askdale towards the lake, Footpath along A66 towards bridge.

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

## ***2.8 Environmental Enforcement***

**All information within this report relates to activity between 01/01/2026 – 31/01/2026**

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

2.8.2 The team when at full capacity has 8 x Environmental Enforcement Officers, 1 x Senior officer and 6 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.

2.8.3 In the month of October, the team investigated a total of **783 service requests**. These requests were made up of **525 waste related, 155 vehicles related and 68 Dog related (35 stray reports) and 35 Pest control related**.

2.8.4 In comparison to the same period for 2025 it has seen an overall increase of **190 reports** to the service.

**Actions:**

- 7 stray dogs recovered and returned to owners and 5 dogs taken to the kennels from the 35 reports
- 36 vehicles seized for being either untaxed or abandoned
- 7 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
- 1 case file prepared and passed to legal for review and listed for hearing in March
- 1 successful court prosecution in January 2026 which resulted in Sentence: £300 fine and £782.25p in costs. Payment to be made in 21 days and collection order made

[Rubbish rummager hit with court fine | Middlesbrough Council](#)



2.8.5 In comparison to the same period for 2025 it has seen an overall increase of **280 reports** to the service.

Actions:

- 6 stray dogs recovered and returned to owners and 1 dog taken to the kennels from the 35 reports
- 20 vehicles seized for being either untaxed or abandoned
- 5 Fixed penalty notice issued for commercial, household duty of care and fly tipping offences
- 1 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 and consideration for prosecution



## **2.9 Waste Services**

We have commenced the roll out of the new receptacles for food waste and paper and card collections. As of the 09/03/2026 we have delivered receptacles to over 10k households.

The garden waste service has around 10k subscriptions to date.

We have completed the bin replacement programme for communal containers with all bins in North Ormesby now being fully replaced. We have also replaced all damaged and unserviceable communal bins that we are aware of and a large section of the Newport Ward in and around Leven Street.

## **2.10 Area Care**

Area Care have commenced with our Spring / Summer Grass Cutting Program with the hire of the additional 6 front deck ride on rotary cutters.

Area Care teams have now completed their scheduled winter pruning of shrub beds and hedges prior to the bird nesting season. We are currently completing a small number of heavy pruning requests as emergency only such as low hanging branches, overhanging

branches, Street Light Column obstruction requests and CCTV coverage obstruction requests.

We are also now carrying out strimming and weed spraying around street furniture, fence and wall lines along with the pruning of low tree branches to allow safe access for the grass cutting teams.

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

### 2.11.1 Road Safety

- On-going liaison with North East Road Safety Partnership Delivery Group
- Junior Road Safety Officers at Linthorpe Primary held a borough wide seatbelt / car seat awareness campaign supported by MBC road safety team (#safeseatsquad) - video was picked up and shared by other LA's
- Training provider recruited to deliver Bikeability programme 2026/2027
- Parking Buddies purchased for Abingdon School
- Locations identified for speed activated signs on Baldoon Sands and Earlsdon Ave
- Scheme to install x4 speed activated signs at Stockton Road on-going

### 2.11.2 School Crossing Patrols

- Several vacant posts have been covered by our casual SCPO's, reducing the number of crossings that had a potential of being un-patrolled

### 2.11.3 Capital Programme

- Stainton Way cycleway– Works ongoing. Proposed completion: March
- Dropped kerb crossing point being installed at The Avenue School to align with recently added entrance to school
- Ladgate Lane crossing point consulted and approved – to commence in April
- Ormesby Beck cycle way in consultation – likely commence in April, following consultation

### 2.11.4 Linthorpe Road Cycleway removal

- Good progress made, retained safety features (retained closure of Southfield Lane and retention of PUFFIN crossing at Garnet Street)

### 2.11.5 Newport Road sustainable transport corridor

- Aiming to commence delivery in early 2026

### 2.11.6 Green Lane Sustainable transport corridor

- Design on-going

### 2.11.7 Marton Road Sustainable transport corridor

- Design on-going
- To consult in 2026 (TVCA lead)

### 2.11.8 Stainton Way

- Design on-going

### 2.11.9 Longlands Road

- Extended scheme within RCBC – design on-going
- TVCA to lead consultation once design completed

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 01 April 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:**

##### ***Ward Priorities Fund (Revenue) Update***

1.1 The Priorities Fund was introduced in 2025/26 and allocated at a rate of £5,000 per ward councillor for projects within their wards. Ward councillors were invited to submit proposed initiatives.

1.2 To date officers have approved 41 schemes from 19 wards, totalling £180,000 (potential for allocation to rise when some final pricing has been provided)

1.3 Some of the work undertaken includes:

- New Seating
- Planter installation/repair
- Bollards
- CCTV
- Community Skips
- Literacy event
- Bins
- Christmas Lights
- Chicanes
- Signage
- Artwork
- Salt/Grit Bins
- Speed awareness signs
- VCS projects
- Kick barriers
- Hanging Baskets
- Planting/Flowers

- Road Safety cut outs/equipment
- Fencing
- YP Outreach
- Play Park equipment and upgrades
- Christmas Events

1.4 I would like to thank the officers concerned for all their hard work on this and also the councillors who have submitted schemes to make a difference in their wards, some of which are some quite innovative ideas.

1.5 I am pleased to say that the scheme will continue next year.

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

1.6 A total of 10 schemes were submitted by councillors with a total funding requested from the Members Small Scheme (Capital) of £143,59 with match funding of £80,000. The officer recommendations will be considered by the Executive Subcommittee for Property, for which a date is to be arranged. Again, I would like to thank the officers concerned for their hard work on this.

### ***Budget timetable***

1.7 Consultation and engagement over the recently approved budget for 2026/27 included:

- Briefings for all Elected Members
- Elected Members were provided with details of the budget consultation to enable them to share with residents in their ward
- Consultation on the budget with the Financial Resilience Working Group (FRWG) comprising cross party member representation with 5 meetings being held on 13 October 2025, 27 October 2025, 20 November 2025, 22 December 2025 and 14 January 2026. Unfortunately, these were not always well attended
- Consultation with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB), and attendance of the Mayor and Executive Member for Finance at Overview and Scrutiny Board on 18 December 2025

1.8 I have recently been in discussions with officers regarding starting these processes with members earlier for the next budget for 2027/28. My intention is that scene setting and early consultation with members should commence in June/July before the summer holidays. If any members have any suggestions around this, please let me know.

### ***3rd Quarter Budget Outturn***

1.9 Following the Quarter Three Budget Clinics, I presented a report to Executive on 04 February 2026 which was also considered by OSB.

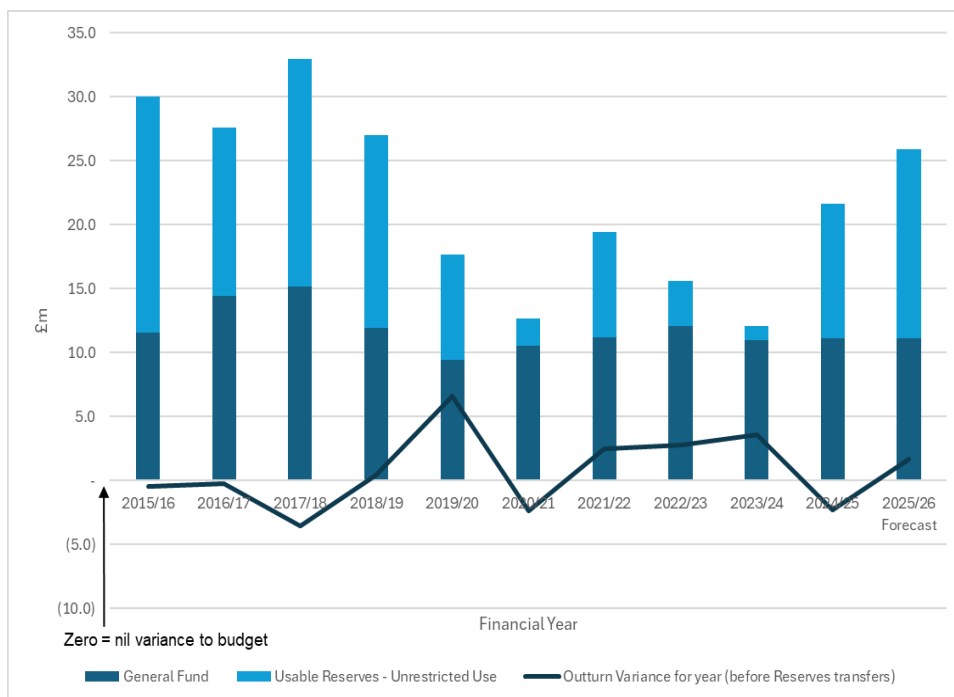
1.10 The forecast position at Quarter Three if no further action is successfully taken is an overspend of £1.675m (1.1%) at year end after the proposed use of central contingences and other budgets.

1.11 This represents slightly improved overall position compared to Quarter Two, when the forecast year-end budget pressure was estimated at £1.804m after the proposed use of contingencies and from the Quarter 1 position of £10.677m. This reflects the impact of actions already implemented and ongoing work to reduce financial pressures across Directorates.

1.12 In common with other councils, the largest area of overspend is still Children’s Services with forecast pressures of £.8.247m , an increase of £237k since Quarter Two.

1.13 The quarterly budget monitoring and reporting has served to identify areas for additional funding in the recently approved budget for 2026/27. This covers a number of existing continuing and emerging service demand and inflation pressures. Also identified were a number of budgets that required re-basing due to other reasons such as re-evaluating achievable income levels against current budgets and changes to services required due to legislative changes. A more comprehensive list was included in the budget report. This does help address many of the areas of overspend and so it is reasonable to expect service areas to manage better within their budgets next year. However, these will be constantly monitored and challenged through the budget monitoring process and updated in future revisions of the MTFP where appropriate.

1.14 As I mentioned in earlier reports, in relation to reserves, 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 £1.675m 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 Q3 position assumed.



1.15 Further to the amendment agreed at the budget meeting of 18 February regarding quarterly reports to full council, these will be introduced in relation to future reports.

1.16 From Monday 16 March, residents can drop into the below Community Hubs for help or advice from the council's Welfare Support Officers, bringing advice back out into the community.

1.17 There's a range of support available including:

- Financial assistance - such as Crisis Awards and support with housing payments
- Support to purchase essential household items including white goods and furniture

1.18 Help and advice with:

- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction
- General Council Tax enquiries
- Free school meals support
- Welfare benefit checks and referrals to a Welfare Rights Officer


1.19 Officers will be constantly reviewing the hubs that they are working at, monitoring the outcomes and will assess if there is a need to expand the service or change locations as part of the review. Locations were selected according to:


- Take up for council tax reduction
- Amount of take up in the unclaimed benefit campaign (high demand areas)
- Levels of deprivation
- Geographical reach

1.20 The team will be at the below hubs each week: (Locations have been identified by officers according to need drawn from our data but will be reviewed)

- North Ormesby Community Hub – Monday, 9am – 12pm and 1pm – 4.30pm
- Grove Hill Community Hub – Tuesday, 9am – 12pm and 1pm – 4.30pm
- Hemlington Community Hub – Thursday, 9.30am – 12pm and 1pm – 4.30pm
- Easterside Community Hub – Friday, 9am – 12pm and 1pm – 4.30pm

1.21 No appointment needed, everyone is welcome to drop in.

1.22 For those unable to make the sessions, there is support available on our website   
<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/>

1.23 Welfare Rights Officers are available by appointment at some hubs, to assist with claiming welfare benefits, further details can be found here   
<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/.../help-with-your-money/>

1.24 Community Benefits Advice is already offered by Middlesbrough CAB at several locations in Middlesbrough and from their base at 9 Linthorpe Road.

1.25 Further detail can be found at [www.mcab.org.uk/getting-advice](http://www.mcab.org.uk/getting-advice)

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

**DATE OF MEETING:** 01 April 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

#### Update:

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

### 1. HIGHLIGHTS

#### *North Middlesbrough*

##### *1.1 House Closure*

Neighbourhood Team in North and Cleveland Police colleagues successfully applied for a closure order at an Address on North Ormesby Road. The order was made on 10<sup>th</sup> March after the address had been subject to reports of drug dealing and antisocial behaviour. The property is closed for a period of 3 months providing some much needed relief to local residents.

##### *1.2 Central Library*

1.2.1 Central Library - One of the jewels in Middlesbrough's Crown has held a special celebration event to mark its re-opening after a major refurbishment.

1.2.2 The historic Central Library which is 114 years old and a true icon of the town centre, has been given a new lease of life thanks to nearly £2 million of funding from Arts Council England. I was pleased to attend the event with Mayor Chris Cooke and the Arts Council's Libraries Director Luke Burton who formally re-opened the building on 6<sup>th</sup> March. It was great to see so many other people in attendance to formally reopen this much-loved building and to see it being used by so many people of all ages was heartwarming.

1.2.3 The refurbishments include a full redesign of the main ground floor area to create a children's library with a reading tower and family facilities. A new ICT suite with

a more cohesive layout as well as new public and flexible event spaces. Other key improvements include a new lift and accessible toilets, new public computers and USB connectivity allowing customers to use their own devices. Sensitive upgrades to the reference library include decoration, new lighting and restoration of the floor and tables, while its historic features remain unchanged.

### **1.3 International Women's Day**

Cleveland Police hosted their International Women's Day event at Newport Hub supported by Neighbourhood North Staff on 9<sup>th</sup> March. There were over 100 people in attendance. The day comprised of various speakers and partner agencies present to give advice and support. This complimented the Neighbourhood North event 11<sup>th</sup> March. Over 50 people attended and Middlesbrough Environment City presented along with Newport Primary Rights Respecters from Newport Primary School.

### **East Middlesbrough**

#### **1.4 Partnership Working**

1.4.1 The Neighbourhood team have been working with trading standards, Police and wider partners to tackle ongoing issues relating to significant shoplifting at Shelton Court in the Thorntree area which has led to the arrest of 4 individuals relating to £500 worth of goods. The businesses are very grateful for the proactive work and engagement of partners.

1.4.2 Pro-active CCTV patrols allowed the Neighbourhood team to identify a male dealing drugs on an Suron bike. He was positively identified on Siddington Walk as the recently installed chicanes forced him to slow down. Joint work in mid-March with the Police drone team and CAT Team has resulted in this same male being arrested and he was remanded in custody.

#### **1.5 Pallister Week of Action**

1.5.1 The Neighbourhood Team have been working extremely hard in the area known as the "C's" in Pallister Park as part of a pre-planned week of action to tackle lots of environmental issues. They concentrated on 3 particular streets: Cheriton Green, Chertsey Avenue and Cheam Avenue.

1.5.2 The team were supported by Thirteen Housing, Cleveland Fire, Ward Councillors, The Mayor and local residents. The local residents emailed, called and visited in person to thank staff in their support of the week of action and the work that took place. Here is just a few pictures of the partnership activity and the results from this fantastic piece of work.



Free Boxing sessions provided by Evolve for the children of Pallister. Wardens also helped to pack a few punches.



Fly-tipping to the rear of Chertsey Avenue cleared



Breached empty/Thirteen property (evidence of rough sleeping in the outhouse)



## South Middlesbrough

### 1.6 Enforcement

2 banning letters issued to young people for causing ASB at the Parkway Centre, Coulby Newham. This will be monitored by security and wardens to stop them entering the premise.

### 1.7 The Great British Spring Clean

1.7.1 Keep Britain Tidy: The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. It encourages residents, communities and businesses to work in partnership with organisations and councils to collect and safely dispose of litter from their local area.

1.7.2 The Neighbourhood team arranged a litter pick around Hemlington Lake which was a huge success with a team of 22 volunteers from the local community, youth services and Middlesbrough Council staff as well as the ward Councillor. Despite unpredictable weather, everyone rolled up their sleeves to help make their community cleaner, safer and greener proving small actions really do make a big difference.



- 1.7.3 Also taking part in the campaign was Viewley Hill Primary School who along with 2 teachers, 18 children took part in a litter pick around the school and contributed to the success of the Great British Spring Clean in Hemlington.

## **West Middlesbrough**

### **1.8 Partnership Action**

The Neighbourhood team have been working with partners on community engagement and partnership action activity supporting a wide range of improvements including the full clean-up and securing of the longstanding fly-tipping hotspot at Northern Road/Beadon Road, continued monthly litter picks across Grove Hill, Easterside and Ayresome, and the development of structured school-engagement pathways through parent drop-ins and youth-voice activity. Additional collaboration with local libraries, hubs and volunteers has ensured the delivery of cultural, wellbeing and family activities, further strengthening cohesion and resident involvement.



### **1.9 Community Action Day – Acklam Shops**

- 1.9.1 Community Action Day took place at Acklam Shops on Wednesday 11 February. Following a neighbourhood walk, several issues were identified, including an overall unkept appearance to the area. The rear of the shops had significant amounts of rubbish spilling from bins and scattered across the ground. At the front of the shopping parade, bins were old, dirty, and covered with stickers, and the bollards were stained with flaking paint. The area also had a noticeable amount of litter, cigarette ends and chewing gum across the pavements.
- 1.9.2 On the day, business owners joined our caretakers and community development team and made use of the skip provided. Despite very wet weather conditions, the clean-up was productive. We had two volunteers: Stephanie from Easterside Wellness Group and Harry from Community Champions.
- 1.9.3 Future planned improvements include the creation of a mural, installation of new litter bins, repainting the full shop promenade, and jet washing—delivered in partnership with local Councillors through the priorities fund.



This page is intentionally left blank

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

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

**DATE OF MEETING: 01 April 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:**

### ***1.1 Healthy Environments:***

- 1.1.1 Happy Little Sunbeams Day nursery has achieved Eat Well Early Years Gold Award in March 2026. They are the first nursery in Middlesbrough to achieve this award, and a press release will follow shortly.
- 1.1.2 The Advertising policy is making good progress and is now in the final stages of the democratic process. This policy will help support healthier adverts in Council advertising space across the town.
- 1.1.3 The 3<sup>rd</sup> year of benchmarking for Good Food Local North East was submitted in February 2026. We are now awaiting the recommendations report and a regional celebration event will be held in June 2026 hosted by ADPH and Sustain.
- 1.1.4 Middlesbrough's Local Plan is undergoing examination. The Creating Active and Healthy Places Lead submitted a Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQ) Statement relating to the emerging Health and Well-being Policy (February 2026) and subsequently gave evidence at the public hearing (March 2026).
- 1.1.5 Breastfeeding Boroughs commitments continue to be developed and implemented. Engagement has started with a secondary school in Middlesbrough to add breastfeeding to the PHSE curriculum, ensuring breastfeeding education is embedded. Further work is in development to support early years settings to embed breastfeeding education also.

1.1.6 The February HAF Programme offered 4065 places – 65% of these places were filled. We had 36 providers offering provision. 15% of eligible children and young people attended. This is a decrease compared to what we usually have but was expected due to a shorter delivery period and our first time delivering February Half Term. Overall, the programme offered was excellent.

1.1.7 Funding for the HAF programme has been confirmed until March 2029.

***Best Start in Life:***

**1.2 Oral Health**

1.2.1 An evaluation on co-designing and reviewing strategies to optimise the recruitment of settings in supervised toothbrushing programmes in the North East has been jointly commissioned with other NE local authorities. The evaluation will support with the future recruitment and retention of schools and nursery settings to participate in the supervised toothbrushing programme.

1.2.2 Schools and nursery settings will receive additional resources to support with the delivery of the toothbrushing programme.

1.2.3 Care homes have been offered resources to support with ensuring residents maintain good oral health in elderly care homes.

**1.3 Healthy Weight**

1.3.1 The service specification for healthy weight in Middlesbrough has been finalised. The new Growing Well, Growing Healthy programme will commence from April 2026.

1.3.2 We continue to work with UCL on the SHINE research programme. The research programme will be extended into next academic year, with the aim of recruiting more schools into this programme.

**1.4 Infant Feeding**

1.4.1 The Mamazing breastfeeding campaign (phase two) is being delivered in the form of various media (billboards, bus stops, buses, social media, radio etc). The campaign aims to increase breastfeeding rates, encourage mothers to breastfeed for longer and normalise breastfeeding. The campaign has featured some additional mothers in this phase of the campaign, highlighting more breastfeeding journeys and providing information to support mothers to make informed choices about feeding their baby.

1.4.2 The family hubs are currently working towards stage 2 of the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI). Further training has been undertaken with the workforce within the family hubs.

1.4.3 The infant feeding strategy for South Tees is in development. A project group has been meeting regularly to develop the strategy with the aim of implementing the agreed objectives from 2026.

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

- 1.5.1 The Live Well Centre has partnered with Teesside University to host a sight clinic delivered by students as part of their professional training.
- 1.5.2 The binocular vision and visual stress clinic's offer specialist assessments for children, young people and adults who experience challenges with everyday activities such as reading and writing, including evaluating eye focus and coordination.
- 1.5.3 All clinic appointments are now fully booked, due to high demand through a successful marketing campaign.
- 1.5.4 Live Well Centre staff have been nominated and shortlisted for the MBC Engagement and Inclusion Award, recognising their commitment to impactful, inclusive community engagement.
- 1.5.5 A member of the team has secured a Level 3 Public Health Business Apprenticeship after completing an initial placement through the Government's Youth Trailblazer Scheme. This achievement reflects Public Health's continued commitment to developing internal talent and creating new opportunities through the Work Well programme.
- 1.5.6 A young people's marketing group has been established to review and shape current Public Health messaging, supporting more effective engagement with young audiences across the region.

### **1.6 Social Prescribing in Secondary Care Cardiology**

- 1.6.1 Since its introduction in secondary care cardiology in July 2025, social prescribing has shown strong early impact, with 106 referrals and a 75% uptake, mainly for anxiety, social isolation and long-term condition management. Patients have been linked to community services such as mental health support, social groups, exercise schemes, and financial or housing advice, with 9 in 10 reporting improved wellbeing across EQ-5D measures. The approach is relieving clinical pressures by providing holistic non-medical support, strengthening community links, and contributing to prevention, and has gained external recognition through a Public Innovation Award. Overall, it represents an effective, preventative model that improves outcomes, reduces inequalities and supports more sustainable service delivery.

### **1.7 Healthy Heart Checks**

- 1.7.1 Community NHS Health Checks have begun with lower-than-expected uptake in community venues, though Park GP Practice has achieved strong delivery through ELM support; overall GP delivery is slightly higher than Q3 last year. Improved marketing with ELM and MFC Foundation aims to boost community uptake in Q4 and beyond, and the first NHS Health Check Newsletter has been issued to strengthen GP engagement by clarifying tariffs, training, community offers and referral pathways. Additionally, substance misuse service nurses are

now trained to deliver NHS Health Checks, with delivery expected to begin in March 2026.

## **Health Protection:**

### **1.8 Sexual Health**

- 1.8.1 Delivery of high impact Adult & Child Health Protection Assurance Workshops – the two events strengthened workforce capability across: immunisation, Infection, Prevention and Control, communicable disease, housing standards and pandemic response
- 1.8.2 World AIDS Day activity – including a joint “World AIDS Day – HIV on Teesside Lunch and Learn session” with Public Health South Tees and Terrence Higgins Trust for wider PH, MBC and RCBC colleagues. The session included:
- Updates on the HIV landscape in Teesside
  - A rapid-testing demonstration
  - Discussion on how services can strengthen support for people living with HIV
- 1.8.3 ‘Elephant in the Room’, a new campaign directed at young people has now launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026. The NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), in partnership with UKHSA, OHID, Directors of Public Health and public health teams, across the region's local authorities have developed the campaign. Its aim is to raise awareness of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), promote confidential and FREE sexual health advice and services, and encourage safer sexual health behaviours among young people.
- 1.8.4 Middlesbrough continues to have high levels of teenage pregnancy and abortion. The South Tees Teenage Pregnancy Partnership has successfully been relaunched, meeting monthly with the aim of system wide collaboration to reduce teenage pregnancy rates and improve outcomes for teenage parents and their children, who experience significant health inequalities.
- 1.8.5 The new sexual health prevention contracts launch in April; both are 12-month pilots to further scope and inform future service planning and delivery, with a focus on improving sexual health outcomes and reducing inequalities. The contracts include a universal age 13+ condom offer and a prevention and support service with a focus on HIV

### **1.9 Immunisations**

- 1.9.1 Immunisation uptake data for Middlesbrough continues to be lower than that for other Tees Valley LAs.
- 1.9.2 Tees Valley Local Immunisation Steering Group established Jan 2025 with partners across public health, Child Health Information Service, Health Visiting and School Nursing, School Age Immunisation Service, maternity, GP

Federations, pharmacies, acute trusts, UK Health Security Agency, ICB and NHS England. The group meets monthly.

- 1.9.3 Secured £190k (Mar 2025) to improve 0–18 vaccine uptake across Tees Valley covering engagement, delivery and evaluation phases. Teesside University have been commissioned to facilitate the engagement and co-production phase and evaluate the commissioning and delivery phase before producing a final evaluation report.
- 1.9.4 Local authorities commissioned to lead engagement with priority cohorts; 13 workshops and 386 surveys captured barriers for ESOL families (M), GRT communities (D), migrants, pregnant women (S), disadvantaged families (H) and care leavers (R&C). Key themes emerging include the need for simple information (in appropriate language), trusted messengers, clarity on risks/side effects/ingredients, and improved access via drop ins and flexible booking.
- 1.9.5 Subgroups formed for maternal, childhood, teenage, ESOL, GRT, and care leaver to implement a range of interventions to improve immunisation uptake.

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

- 1.10.1 A South Tees Service Directories Asset Mapping Survey was developed and shared with stakeholder directory leads to gather information on directory features, functions, and costs. The findings will support improved navigation to appropriate wellbeing services, reduce duplication, and inform the creation of a wellbeing marketplace.
- 1.10.2 After a suicide and mental wellbeing session with construction workers at Teesport in December an insight and recommendations report was produced resulting in participating organisations seeing improved communication around men's mental health, raised awareness, and introduction of more male-focused activities and support
- 1.10.3 Language and risks associated with suicide session delivered to 3<sup>rd</sup> year mental health nursing students at Teesside university in partnership with TEWV
- 1.10.4 The HeadStart service has commenced a pilot in 3 secondary settings with the aim of improving pupil attendance at an early stage to prevent escalation to persistent absence. Approximately 90 pupils are receiving targeted support.
- 1.10.5 HeadStarters is an educational pathway for CYP creating emotional health champions within educational settings. 4,700 young people have participated on the pathway. A key feature is developing skills for further education, training and employment. Working with HDRC a new module is in development which will create young health researchers. Supported by the NIHR Research Network 5 schools attended an initial session to understand what research is and how they can play a vital part in understanding young people's views and perceptions on health issues.

1.10.6 Dementia Café – Funding has been secured from Public Health and the MBC Small Grant Scheme, to resume fortnightly Dementia Friendly sessions at My Place, with live music from Grassroots Music, afternoon tea and dancing. Care Home residents are invited with Staff and families are also welcome, which allows Carers and families to enjoy social time with their loved ones outside of the care home

### **1.11 Ageing Well Updates:**

1.11.1 Public Health Ageing Well Team in partnership with National Literacy Trust (Middlesbrough); Middlesbrough Library Service and Community Development Team delivered a project to celebrate World Book Day in March. Children from 6 primary schools visited 6 care homes and shared their favourite stories with residents. The project created warm, memorable moments across all six settings and strengthened ongoing links between schools and care homes for future intergenerational activities.

1.11.2 Intergenerational activities offer significant benefits for both older people and children. They help reduce loneliness, build social connections, challenge age-related stereotypes, improve mental wellbeing, and boost confidence, empathy, and communication skills.

1.11.3 An 'Age Friendly Communities Project Coordinator' has been appointed and will commence their 2-year fixed term post on 19/03/26 to lead 'Age Friendly' project activities, Training, outreach and engagement, to identify isolated older people and improve access to older people's groups. Will also support the development of the Ageing Well Hub activities timetable.

1.11.4 The Live Well Centre Ageing Well Hub activities are developing. Some activities have had low numbers and are being reviewed, such as Chair Exercise and Age UK activities, but weekly coffee mornings have been successful with good attendance and professionals dropping in giving advice such as Healthwatch and Welfare Rights. A creative writing group (Art and Soul) is also well attended with participants referred from the Hope Foundation and Teesside Mind.

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

1.12.1 We were delighted with the success of our first HeadStart Research Discovery Day on 18<sup>th</sup> February aimed to introduce children and young people to research, public health, and how evidence shapes healthier communities. Activities included interactive sessions on research methods, a creative public health poster challenge, and a guided tour of the Live Well Centre. This was delivered in partnership with HeadStart South Tees, the North East and North Cumbria Regional Research Delivery Network and Public Health South Tees.

1.12.2 This forms part of our HDRC ST Routes to Research workstream to embed early engagement in research and public health, supporting preventative approaches and helping children and young people (CYP) to understand how evidence informs decision-making at a local authority level.

1.12.3 The next steps are to extend this offer to more schools and create follow-on opportunities for children and young people relating to local research.



This page is intentionally left blank



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
The Mayor				
4 Feb 2026	Executive	2026/27 Revenue Budget, Medium Term Finance Plan, and Council Tax Setting		No
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	Council Plan 2026/27-29	This report seeks approval of the refreshed Council Plan measures of success and sets out the Council's plans to work with partners to develop a place strategy. It also sets out the council's planned approach to business as usual, continuous improvement cycle	No
11 Mar 2026	Executive	Continuous Improvement Plan progress report	To set out progress against the continuous improvement plan that was agreed by Full Council in March 2025	No

Page 77

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>Executive Member – Adult Social Care</b>				
21 Jan 2026	Executive	Adult Social Care & Integration - Vision and Strategy 2025 - 2035		Yes
<b>Executive Member – Development</b>				
21 Jan 2026	Executive	Investment into Housing to Reduce Temporary Accommodation Costs		Yes
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Neighbourhood Hubs Investment		Yes
<b>Executive Member - Finance</b>				
4 Feb 2026	Executive Sub Committee for Property	Updated Members Small Scheme Allocations		No
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Forecast Year-end Outturn position at Quarter Three 2025/26		Yes
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27		No
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Exceptional Hardship Fund - Section 13A (1) (a) Policy		No
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2026/27 to 2029/30		No
11 Mar 2026	Executive	Tender Pipeline 2026/27	To seek Executive approval of the tender pipeline for 2026/27.	Yes



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

There are no decisions due to be taken.

This page is intentionally left blank



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

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>The Mayor</b>				
8 Apr 2026	Executive	Performance and Financial Management Policy and Project Management Policy Review	To refresh the Council’s approach to Performance Management following the refresh of the Council Plan report considered by Executive in March 2026	No
<b>Executive Member - Development</b>				
8 Apr 2026	Executive	Town Centre Future Development	To propose a formal legal partnership to assist in the future development of Middlesbrough Town Centre	Yes
8 Apr 2026	Executive	Pride in Place Programme - Thorntree and Park End and Impact Fund	To seek Exec approval to accept accountable body status for the pride in place funds	Yes
<b>Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability</b>				

Page 81

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
8 Apr 2026	Executive	2026/27 Transport & Infrastructure Capital Programme	To seek approval of the proposed 2026/27 Transport & Infrastructure Capital Programme, setting out planned investment, funding sources, and delivery priorities to support the Council's strategic objectives.	Yes
8 Apr 2026	Executive	Residential Pest Control Service	To implement a new residential pest control service	Yes
8 Apr 2026	Executive	Members Small Scheme Allocations	<p>That the Executive Sub-Committee for property approves the eligible Members Small Scheme project allocations, following applications from Members, and assessment by Council Officers:</p> <p>APPROVES the allocation of funding to deliver the approved projects.</p>	No
6 May 2026	Executive	Bereavement Services Strategy	To approve the bereavement strategy, which outlines the steps to improve the service	Yes
24 Jul 2026	Executive	Cost reduction of Garden Waste	For Exec to review the cost of the Garden Waste subscription to be reduced	Yes
24 Jul 2026	Executive	Commercial Waste Collection and Disposal	<p>For Exec to approve the requirement for commercial waste collections and disposal from council buildings to be contracted out.</p> <p>No ward affected as this is internal buildings</p>	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Finance</b>				

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
10 Jun 2026	Executive	Crisis Resilience Fund	To approve the proposed delivery plan for the Crisis Resilience Fund grant	Yes
10 Jun 2026	Executive	Special Guardianship Policy	To approve the proposed Special Guardianship Policy	Yes
10 Jun 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
8 Jul 2026	Executive	Corporate Food Poverty Policy	To approve the Corporate Food Poverty policy	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Neighbourhoods</b>				
8 Apr 2026	Executive	Update on implementing the Neighbourhoods Model	This report is for information and is intended to provide an update on the progress being made on the neighbourhood plans which is part of the neighbourhood model.	No
8 Apr 2026	Executive	Response to OSB Community Cohesion Report 2026	To provide an overview of the recommendations within the OSB report and the proposed actions that the service area have put forward in order to meet the recommendations	Yes
6 May 2026	Executive	Enforcement Policy	To approve the Enforcement Policy for Regulatory Services	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Public Health</b>				
8 Apr 2026	Executive	Encouraging Healthier Advertising	Propose implementation of new advertising policy	Yes

Page 83

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
6 May 2026	Executive	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2026	The purpose of the Director of Public Health Annual Report is to set put how we work together collectively to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities. It highlights the different experiences of health and illness across South Tees and the key challenges we face.	No

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report of:</b>	Councillor L Young, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)	
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	The Mayor	
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council	
<b>Date:</b>	1 April 2026	
<b>Title:</b>	Scrutiny Progress Report	
<b>Report for:</b>	Information	
<b>Status:</b>	Public	
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value	
<b>Key decision:</b>	No	
<b>Why:</b>	Report is for information only	
<b>Subject to call in?:</b>	Not applicable	
<b>Why:</b>	Not Applicable	Council Report for information only

**Proposed decision(s)**

That Council note the report.

**Executive summary**

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

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

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council note the report.

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

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

## 4. Background and relevant information:

### Overview and Scrutiny Board

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 25 February and 18 March, respectively, since the last update to Council.

4.2 During the 25 February meeting the Board received a portfolio update from the Executive Member for Development. During his update the Executive Member advised Members about projects that were underway including the Old Town Hall, the Nunthorpe Community Centre and Outwood Riverside Academy. An update was also provided about future development at the Middlehaven area and that a broad mix of housing would be available on the site when it was completed.

4.3 The Executive Member responded to questions about how the Council could best engage with external stakeholders regarding regeneration projects. Members were advised this was as ongoing piece of work as it linked with lessons learned following the LGA Peer Challenge. Members were also encouraged to hear that footfall in Captain Cook Square was high and that STACK had recently renewed its lease.

4.4 The Board also received an update from the Chief Executive in relation to its short review into the Council's approach to poverty. As part of that update Members were advised that the Council viewed poverty through several lenses and it was important that those lenses be refined so the Council had a consistent approach. Members were also advised that how the Council approached, and defined, poverty was a political choice.

4.5 At its meeting on 18 March, the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability was in attendance to provide an update on his portfolio. As part of his update the

Executive Member responded to questions from Members about the delivery of the waste management arrangement, bereavement services, alley cleansing, the Transporter Bridge and the appointment of a Becks Team.

- 4.6 Members were also advised that a scrutiny survey was due to be published seeking Members' views on the scrutiny function and all Members were encouraged to complete it. The Board was also reminded that requests for scrutiny topics were being sought for the 2026-27 municipal year.
- 4.7 At its next meeting, scheduled for 7 April, the Board will receive an update from both the Mayor and the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, as well as considering an update on the Council's improvement journey and a short report into the Board's review into Poverty and how the Council approaches it.

## **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 23 February 2026 and considered evidence relating to its ongoing scrutiny review of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
- 5.3 The Panel received a presentation from a representative of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on the perpetrator strategy and prevention work, including approaches to early intervention, behaviour change programmes, and multi-agency case management
- 5.4 The Panel also received a presentation from the Council's Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead on the White Ribbon accreditation process.
- 5.5 The final draft report on 'Healthy Placemaking with a focus on Childhood Obesity' was approved and agreed to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 18 March 2026.
- 5.6 The Panel will continue its scrutiny work on VAWG at its next meeting on 13 April 2026, which is scheduled to include further evidence, alongside consideration of the Director of Public Health Annual Report (2025/26) and the quarterly update on the CQC Improvement Plan.

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

- 5.7 The Children's Scrutiny Panel met on 9 March 2026. The Corporate Director of Children's Services and the Head of SEN and Vulnerable Learners were in attendance to provide updates on the Ofsted Focused Visit to the Front Door of Children's Services, progress against recommendations from a previous review and emerging national policy and legislative changes.

- 5.8 Key findings from the Ofsted Focussed Visit highlighted improved management oversight and alignment with the Council's self-assessment, alongside areas for improvement including consistency in decision making, application of thresholds and the quality of audits. These were being addressed through the Children's Services Improvement Plan.
- 5.9 The Panel received an update on its previous review of Children Missing Education, including progress against recommendations and the establishment of a Working Group to explore issues such as pupil transience.
- 5.10 Further evidence was also considered in relation to the Panel's review of Out of Area Specialist Provision, with Members reviewing comparative data and discussing local provision and placement trends.
- 5.11 A brief update was provided on forthcoming SEND reforms, with further detail to be reported once additional information is available.
- 5.12 The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 20 April 2026 at 4.30pm when it will receive the final report on Out of Area Specialist Provision for consideration.

### **Place Scrutiny Panel**

- 5.13 At the Place Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 26 January 2026, the Head of Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Partnership Officer were in attendance to give the annual update on the Community Safety Partnership and Prevent and Channel. Members were particularly interested in broadening their knowledge of the Prevent strategy and it was agreed that a bespoke Prevent learning course would be reoffered to Members of the Place Scrutiny Panel. This training took place on 10 March 2026 and was well received.
- 5.14 The Place Scrutiny Panel met on 16 February 2026 and received the statutory annual update from the Public Rights of Way Officer on Flood Risk Management. Members were advised of the various ways flooding could occur in Middlesbrough and the measures in place to mitigate those risks. The Environment Agency's 'Medium Term Plan' was also discussed which sets out a rolling programme of schemes funded through Government allocations. A list of potential and completed scheme areas in Middlesbrough was presented to the Panel.
- 5.15 The Governance and Information Manager was also in attendance on 16 February and provided an annual update on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA). RIPA was the legislation governing the use of surveillance techniques by public authorities and the varying roles, responsibilities and authorisation needed within the Council to comply were presented to the Panel.
- 5.15 Recommendations and final amendments to the Draft Final Report on Barriers to Regeneration were discussed during both the January and February meetings and it was agreed that final approval would be delegated to the Chair once the agreed final

amendments had been incorporated. The Final Report was presented and approved at the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 18 March 2026.

5.16 The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 30 March 2026 at 1.30pm.

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

5.17 The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee met on 12 March 2026 and considered the following agenda items;

- North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account for 2025/26.
- Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust Urgent Care Mental Health Crisis Update.
- Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust - Quality Account for 2025/26.

5.18 Members were advised that meetings of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2026/27 will be administered by Middlesbrough Council.

### **Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive**

5.19 No scrutiny reports have been submitted to Executive since the last Overview and Scrutiny Board update to Council on 14 January 2026.

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

6.1 Not applicable.

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

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

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

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Financial (including 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.
Procurement	Not applicable as this is a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function.
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 is a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Reducing Poverty	Not applicable as this is 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 is 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 is a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Data Protection	Not applicable as this is a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

**Appendices**

1	
---	--

**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

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

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
------------------------------	--

<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Executive, Erik Scollay
-------------------	-------------------------------

<b>Submitted to:</b>	Full Council
----------------------	--------------

<b>Date:</b>	1 April 2026
--------------	--------------

<b>Title:</b>	Local Code of Corporate Governance
---------------	------------------------------------

<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
--------------------	----------

<b>Status:</b>	Public
----------------	--------

<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	All
-------------------------------	-----

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>	<p>That Full Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>APPROVES</b> the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance.</li> </ul>
-----------------------------	---

<b>Executive summary</b>	<p>The Local Code of Corporate Governance (LCCG) provides a framework that enables the Council to assess its governance arrangements against sectoral best practice.</p> <p>The LCCG should be reviewed annually to ensure it aligns with best practice. This report proposes a slight change to the content of the LCCG, to include information previously set out in the Annual Governance Statement. This reflects an addendum to the 2016 CIPFA guidance that was issued in 2025 which has recommended that Councils do this to enable them to concentrate on the effectiveness of those arrangements within the Annual Governance Statement.</p> <p>The report recommends that Audit Committee agrees to recommend the amended Local Code of Corporate Governance to Full Council for decision.</p>
--------------------------	--

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To report the outcome of the annual review of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance (LCCG).

**2 Recommendations**

2.1 That Full Council:

- **APPROVES** the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance..

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

3.1 This decision is being recommended to ensure the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance continues to align with recommended best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE).

**4 Background and relevant information**

4.1 Regular reviews of the LCCG are necessary to ensure that the Council is assessing its governance arrangements against sectoral best practice. These reviews are considered by the Council's Audit Committee on an annual basis. Where changes are required to the LCCG, this is a decision that should be taken by Full Council.

4.2 The current LCCG (at Appendix 1) is modelled on the CIPFA / SOLACE guidance 'Delivering Good Governance' (2016). An annual review schedule was put in place to ensure that changes to this guidance were reflected within the LCCG. This report proposes a slight change to the content of the LCCG, to include information previously set out in the Annual Governance Statement. This reflects an addendum to the 2016 CIPFA guidance that was issued in 2025 which has recommended that Councils do this to enable them to concentrate on the effectiveness of those arrangements within the Annual Governance Statement.

4.3 At its meeting on 19 February 2026, the Council's Audit Committee endorsed the proposed changes and agreed to recommend that Full Council agrees the revised LCCG.

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

5.1 The other potential option would be to review the LCCG against another best practice standard, or create a new local standard. This option is not recommended as the CIPFA / SOLACE guidance is recognised as sectoral best practice and provides an appropriate framework to ensure that the Council has good governance practices in place.

**6 Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

Topic	Impact
-------	--------

Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report
Legal	Elected members are collectively responsible for the governance of the Council and approval of the LCCG as advised by this Committee.
Risk	The existence of the LCCG contributes toward the positive management of the following strategic risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Failure to achieve good governance</li> <li>▪ Failure to comply with the law</li> <li>▪ Failure to achieve strategic and directorate priorities</li> <li>▪ Failure of partnerships.</li> </ul>
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	There are no concerns that the proposals could result in policies and practices that could impact differently on individuals or groups because they hold one or more protected characteristics. The LCCG sets out expected standards for policies and services to ensure that people are treated fairly. These policies are separately impact assessed as part of their development. the LCCG assesses compliance with best practice in relation to information governance within its framework.
Climate Change / Environmental	There are no concerns that continued adoption of this code could impact negatively on this area.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	There are no concerns that continued adoption of this code could impact negatively on this area.
Data Protection	The LCCG sets out expected standards for policies and services to ensure compliance with information governance policies, frameworks and legislative requirements.

## Appendices

1	2025-26 Local Code of Corporate Governance
---	--

## Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	7 March 2019

Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	6 February 2020
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	4 February 2021
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	31 March 2022
Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	16 March 2024
Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	6 February 2025

**Contact:** Ann-Marie Johnstone, Head of Chief Executive’s Department  
**Email:** ann-marie\_johnstone@middlesbrough.gov.uk



## **Local Code of Corporate Governance**

**Live: February 2025**  
**Review date: March 2026**

<b>Title</b>	Local Code of Corporate Governance		
<b>Creator</b>	Author(s)	Ann-Marie Johnstone	
	Approved by	Audit Committee	
	Department	Legal and Governance Services	
	Service area	Governance, Policy and Information	
	Head of Service	Ann-Marie Johnstone	
	Director	Charlotte Benjamin	
<b>Date</b>	Created	February 2017	
	Submitted		
	Approved		
	Updating Frequency	Annual	
<b>Status</b>	Version: 9.0		
<b>Contributor(s)</b>	Ann-Marie Johnstone, Charlotte Benjamin.		
	Legislation	Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, regulation 4 (3)	
<b>Subject</b>	Corporate Governance		
<b>Type</b>	Policy		
	Vital Record		EIR
<b>Coverage</b>	Middlesbrough Council		
<b>Language</b>	English		

**Document Control**

Version	Date	Revision History	Reviser
4.0	February 2020	Annual review – no changes	A Johnstone
5.0	February 2021	Annual review – no changes	A Johnstone
6.0	February 2022	Annual review – no changes	A Johnstone
7.0	January 2023	Annual review – no changes	A Johnstone
8.0	January 2024	Annual review – no changes	A Johnstone
9.0	February 2025	Annual review – no changes	A Johnstone

**Distribution List**

Version	Date	Name/Service area	Action
4.0	February 2020	Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Endorse
5.0	February 2021	Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Endorse
6.0	February 2022	Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Endorse
7.0	February 2023	Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Endorse
8.0	February 2024	Audit Committee	Endorse
9.0	February 2025	Audit Committee	Endorse

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Corporate governance is about the systems, processes and values by which local authorities operate and by which they engage with, and are held accountable to, their communities and stakeholders.
2. The Council is committed to achieving effective corporate governance, and has adopted this Local Code of Corporate Governance, which establishes how good governance will be achieved within the organisation.

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

3. The Council's code follows principles of good governance set out in guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) (*Delivering Good Governance in Local Government* (2016)). These are:
  - behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law;
  - ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement;
  - defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits;
  - determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes;
  - developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it;
  - managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management; and
  - implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.

## **BENEFITS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE**

4. Good governance leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship of public money, good public engagement and ultimately good outcomes for those who live, work in or visit Middlesbrough.
5. It enables the Council to effectively pursue delivery of the strategic priorities of the Mayor of Middlesbrough, as well as underpinning plans for delivery with mechanisms for the control and management of risk.

## **IMPLEMENTING GOOD GOVERNANCE**

6. The Council has a robust governance framework in place. The table below sets out in high level terms the steps the Council takes to ensure its processes, policies, systems and practices align with the principles of good governance.
7. The framework comprises of a wide range of policies and procedures, which embed the core principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework into all aspects of the Council's conduct and operation.

CIPFA / SOLACE principle / supporting principles	To meet these requirements, the Council will:	Arrangements and processes in place
<p><b>Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rules of law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Behaving with integrity</i></li> <li>• <i>Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values</i></li> <li>• <i>Respecting the rule of law</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work diligently and with integrity to achieve the strategic priorities of the Mayor of Middlesbrough.</li> <li>• Clearly document expected behaviours, and decision-making processes, for members and officers, and regularly review these.</li> <li>• Effectively communicate expected behaviours to members and officers and provide appropriate training on ethical behaviour.</li> <li>• Ensure members, statutory officers, other key postholders are able and supported to fulfil their duties and meet their responsibilities.</li> <li>• Ensure compliance by maintaining effective audit committee, internal audit and scrutiny functions, and standards and disciplinary processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People Strategy and Council Values.</li> <li>• Member Development Strategy.</li> <li>• Member induction process.</li> <li>• Standards Committee and regular reporting from the Monitoring Officer on complaints.</li> <li>• Registers in place for interests, gifts and hospitality for officers and Members.</li> <li>• Standards Committee, regular reporting on complaints, themes from complaints and direction on training to prevent similar future standards complaints.</li> <li>• Annual review of the effectiveness of the Audit Committee commenced in 2025.</li> <li>• Audit Committee work programme, aligned to its terms of reference.</li> <li>• Counter Fraud Strategy.</li> <li>• Constitution, including codes of conduct for Members and Officers.</li> <li>• Corporate Governance training programme.</li> <li>• Scheme of Delegation.</li> <li>• Scheme of Sub-Delegations.</li> <li>• Whistleblowing Policy.</li> <li>• Council Plan.</li> <li>• Annual Report of the Audit Committee.</li> <li>• Regular meetings of the three statutory officers (Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer).</li> <li>• Committee report templates.</li> <li>• Schemes of delegations and Scheme of Sub-delegations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Openness</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document and operate a culture of openness and transparency within the organisation.</li> <li>• Maintain a culture of accountability, so that members and officers understand for what they are accountable and to who.</li> <li>• Consult appropriately with stakeholders on the development of its budget, key plans and service development.</li> <li>• Maintain effective decision-making processes, ensuring that reports to decision makers clearly set out stakeholder views where relevant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People Strategy and Council Values and supporting appraisal process.</li> <li>• Council Plan.</li> <li>• Constitution and supporting documentation that sets out roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Consultation Policy and regular consultation.</li> <li>• Budget consultation and engagement process.</li> <li>• Publication of Executive and Committee dates, minutes, reports and decisions on the Council's website, except where there is a legitimate need to exempt an item from publication</li> </ul>

CIPFA / SOLACE principle / supporting principles	To meet these requirements, the Council will:	Arrangements and processes in place
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish all Executive and Committee reports and decision papers, unless there is a legitimate need to preserve confidentiality on the basis of the statutory tests.</li> <li>• Publish on its website information on the Council's strategies, plans and finances as well as on outcomes, achievements and challenges.</li> </ul>	<p>following application of statutory tests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of the Executive Forward Work Programme.</li> <li>• Publication of Council's key plans, strategies and policies</li> <li>• Compliance with Open Data requirements, publishing statutorily required datasets.</li> <li>• Proactive publication of additional data to respond to themes within data requests from the public.</li> <li>• Annual SIRO report to Audit Committee, setting out compliance with good practice and legislation in relation to Information Governance.</li> <li>• Regular compliance and performance reporting to senior managers and Members.</li> <li>• Neighbourhoods model.</li> <li>• Customer Strategy.</li> <li>• Annual complaints report to Audit Committee.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Defining outcomes</i></li> <li>• <i>Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly set out its contribution to delivery of the Strategic Priorities of the Mayor of Middlesbrough and use this as the basis for its overall strategy, planning and other decisions.</li> <li>• Define outcomes through robust consideration of appropriate evidence bases, such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.</li> <li>• Ensure that it delivers defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within available resources.</li> <li>• Effectively identify and manage risks to the achievement of targeted outcomes.</li> <li>• Manage customer expectations effectively when determining priorities to make best use of resources and ensure fair access to services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Plan.</li> <li>• Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and other supporting assessments to provide support for evidence-based decision-making.</li> <li>• Departmental plans (to be in place for 2026/27).</li> <li>• Regular performance and budget outturn reports.</li> <li>• Risk and Opportunity Management Policy.</li> <li>• Corporate planning cycle.</li> <li>• Customer Strategy.</li> <li>• Middlesbrough Council's Data Hub providing a coordinated source of Council and nationally published data sources.</li> <li>• Programme and Project Management Framework.</li> <li>• Portfolio Management Office in place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Determining interventions</i></li> <li>• <i>Planning interventions</i></li> <li>• <i>Optimising achievement of intended outcomes</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure reports to decision makers on services are fair, balanced, and analyse options and the risks associated with those options, to ensure Best Value is achieved.</li> <li>• Ensure that external and internal stakeholders are engaged with when the Council is determining how services should be planned and delivered, and the outcome</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports to decision makers developed using a standard format to ensure effective, fair, and evidence-based decision making.</li> <li>• Corporate consultation and impact assessment policies in place, ensuring that stakeholders engaged appropriately, and views considered in decision making though it requires review.</li> </ul>

CIPFA / SOLACE principle / supporting principles	To meet these requirements, the Council will:	Arrangements and processes in place
	<p>of consultations is considered when decisions are made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure achievement of social value through service planning and commissioning.</li> <li>• Ensure that it has clear and robust planning and control cycles for its strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets.</li> <li>• Determine appropriate KPIs to demonstrate service and project performance and provide members and senior managers with timely updates on these.</li> <li>• Ensure medium- and long-term resource planning is realistic, sustainable and inclusive.</li> <li>• Prepare budgets that are aligned to the strategic objectives of the organisation and its MTFP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide to social value in procurement and commissioning in place.</li> <li>• Social Value Charter.</li> <li>• Strategic Procurement Strategy</li> <li>• Contract management framework.</li> <li>• Contract Procedure rules set out within the Constitution.</li> <li>• Corporate planning cycle considers targeted outcomes and annual budgeting.</li> <li>• Capital Programme.</li> <li>• Performance, Risk and Programme and Project Management frameworks.</li> <li>• Partly and Wholly Owned Council Companies policy in place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Developing the Council’s capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Developing the Council’s capacity</i></li> <li>• <i>Developing the capability of the Council’s leadership and other individuals</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly review operations to ensure that it is continuing to deliver services that are effective, including the use of benchmarking and sectoral research.</li> <li>• Work collaboratively and in partnerships where added value can be achieved.</li> <li>• Maintain an effective approach to organisational development to ensure continued capacity and capability to deliver.</li> <li>• Clearly define roles, responsibilities and terms of engagement for members and employees.</li> <li>• Maintain and regularly review its schemes of delegations that outline the types of decisions that are delegated and those that are reserved for collective decision-making.</li> <li>• Develop the capabilities of members and senior management to achieve effective shared leadership.</li> <li>• Ensure there are appropriate structures in place to encourage public participation.</li> <li>• Ensure that systems are in place to ensure that members and staff can be both held to account for performance and supported as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People Strategy, values and supporting appraisals process in place.</li> <li>• Organisational development, delivered as part of the People Strategy.</li> <li>• Performance management arrangements and reporting.</li> <li>• Range of benchmarking and other tools are used within Directorates to contextualise performance and drive improvement.</li> <li>• Wider Leadership Management Team in place to enable broader consideration of key policy issues.</li> <li>• Key strategic partnerships in place, such as the South Tees Health and Wellbeing Board.</li> <li>• Constitution and supporting documentation set out member and officer role profiles, relationship protocol and schemes of delegation. This is supplemented by e-learning to support understanding and training and development of officers and Members.</li> <li>• Corporate Consultation policy and online consultation portal in place.</li> <li>• Processes in place for public involvement in determining scrutiny priorities, for the public to petition Council and to register questions to be considered by full Council.</li> <li>• The Member Development Strategy in place.</li> </ul>

CIPFA / SOLACE principle / supporting principles	To meet these requirements, the Council will:	Arrangements and processes in place
<p><b>Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Managing risk</i></li> <li>• <i>Managing performance</i></li> <li>• <i>Robust internal control</i></li> <li>• <i>Managing data</i></li> <li>• <i>Strong public financial management</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed effective risk management within all activities, ensure that progress is reviewed regularly and that risk is considered as part of decision making.</li> <li>• Ensure effective performance management of service delivery, and provide members and senior managers with timely updates on service performance and progress towards outcomes.</li> <li>• Ensure reports to decision makers on services are fair, balanced, and analyse options and the risks associated with those options, to ensure Best Value is achieved.</li> <li>• Ensure effective, member-led scrutiny is in place that provides constructive challenge and debate on objectives and policies before, during and after decisions are taken.</li> <li>• Ensure an effective, risk-led Internal Audit service is in place to provide assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements.</li> <li>• Ensure effective counter fraud and anti-corruption policies and arrangements are in place.</li> <li>• Ensure effective internal control arrangements exist for sound financial management.</li> <li>• Maintain an effective audit committee function.</li> <li>• Ensure effective arrangements are in place to collect, store, use and share data, including processes to safeguard personal data,</li> <li>• Put in place arrangements to ensure that data used to support decision-making is accurate and clear.</li> <li>• Ensure financial management arrangements support both long term outcome delivery and day-to-day operations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk and Opportunity Management Policy; and Programme and Project Management Framework in place.</li> <li>• Reports to decision makers developed using a standard format to ensure effective, fair, and evidence-based decision making.</li> <li>• Regular reporting of performance and finance to senior officers and Members.</li> <li>• Annual scrutiny programme in place, examining policy and performance.</li> <li>• Urgent decision process and records in place and reported to Council.</li> <li>• Internal audit arrangement in place, utilising the Council's plans and risk registers to identify priorities. Internal Audit regularly meet with senior council officers to manage the contract and relationship, report quarterly into Audit Committee and attend key officer groups such as the Risk Management Group.</li> <li>• Internal audit recommendations and progress in implementing them is reported regularly to the Senior Management Team.</li> <li>• Policy in place for counter-fraud, bribery and corruption; complaints; procurement; and whistleblowing, and regularly reviewed. Money Laundering Policy. Internal Audit investigate non-compliance and suspected fraud.</li> <li>• Annual review of effectiveness of the Audit Committee commenced in 2025.</li> <li>• Information Strategy in place to provide systematic approach to information governance, including data protection and data quality.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Implementing good practice in transparency</i></li> <li>• <i>Implementing good practices in reporting</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide reports in plain English wherever possible, ensuring that they are easy to access and interrogate and balancing transparency requirements with clarity.</li> <li>• Report regularly on performance, delivery of value for money and stewardship of resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard template for reports to decision makers designed to advance proposition logically, simply, and reduce duplication of information that are regularly reviewed.</li> <li>• Performance management policy</li> <li>• Information Governance Framework and supporting policies to ensure compliance</li> </ul>

CIPFA / SOLACE principle / supporting principles	To meet these requirements, the Council will:	Arrangements and processes in place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assurance and effective accountability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on compliance with good governance principles within its Annual Governance Statement, including an action plan for continued improvement.</li> <li>Ensure compliance with good governance principles extends to its partnership arrangements.</li> <li>Ensure that recommendations made by external audit are addressed</li> <li>Ensure that the internal audit service has direct access to members to enable it to provide assurance with regard to governance arrangements.</li> <li>Welcome and positively engage with peer challenges, reviews and inspections of its services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>with information rights and transparency good practice.</li> <li>Governance arrangements in place for key strategic partnerships, and annual assurance report on the governance of partnerships considered by Audit Committee.</li> <li>Partnership Governance policy in place</li> <li>Recommendations made by External Audit are addressed as a matter of priority through the most appropriate route.</li> <li>Internal audit annual plan reported to Audit Committee.</li> </ul>

**MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- The policies and procedures that underpin the Council’s governance framework are reviewed regularly, with revisions presented to Audit Committee for agreement.
- The Council’s alignment with the CIPFA / SOLACE principles will be reviewed each year within the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) document, which is part of the Council’s Statement of Accounts. The AGS will assess the Council’s compliance and outline any improvement actions to be taken as a result of this assessment.

**COUNCIL MEETING – 1 APRIL 2026  
NOTICE OF MOTIONS 180, 181, 182  
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 4.28 – 4.34**

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
180	Councillor Rush	Councillor Morrish	<p>National Colour Coded Recycling Packaging System, to include accessible labelling such as Braille or raised tactile markings.</p> <p>Many residents wish to recycle responsibly but often face confusion due to inconsistent and unclear packaging labels. This confusion can lead to recyclable materials being placed in general waste or non-recyclable materials contaminating recycling collections. Recycling instructions are frequently printed in very small text, making them difficult to read, particularly for blind and visually impaired residents, older residents, or those with reading difficulties. As a result, residents may unknowingly dispose of recyclable items incorrectly.</p> <p>Both Government and local councils are encouraging residents to recycle more. This is reflected in the increasing number of recycling bins and collection streams now provided to households. If residents are being asked to recycle more, it is only reasonable that the information on packaging is clear, consistent and accessible.</p> <p>A clear and consistent national approach would make recycling easier for residents and help improve recycling rates. It would also support the UK’s wider environmental objectives, including increasing recycling levels and reducing waste sent to landfill.</p> <p>A simple colour coded system displayed clearly on packaging would allow residents to quickly identify how an item should be disposed of. Such a system could help residents recycle correctly, reduce contamination in recycling collections, and provide clearer guidance for households across the country.</p>

			<p>I therefore request that, if this motion is passed, the Chair of Council writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs within 28 days of the decision, urging the UK Government to consider introducing a national traffic light style colour coded system on packaging to clearly indicate recyclability, alongside accessible labelling such as Braille or raised tactile markings.</p> <p>This would help ensure recycling information is accessible to everyone and allow residents to independently identify how items should be disposed of. A clear colour coded, and tactile system would therefore promote greater inclusivity while supporting improved recycling outcomes.</p> <p>The proposer of the motion will work with the Chair to include in the letter the benefits such a system would bring to residents, councils and national recycling targets.</p>
181	Councillor Clynch	Councillor Storey	<p>Supporting scrapping of two-child benefit cap</p> <p>This Council supports the decision of the Government to scrap the two-child benefit cap. It has been estimated that 2 million children across the country will see increases in their household income thanks to the decision to lift the cap. This will help tackle child poverty and meet the government's aim to give all children the best start in life.</p> <p>We know child poverty effects children's physical and mental health, their educational attainment and future employment opportunities. In Middlesbrough, we have some of the highest levels of child poverty in the country. This includes in some wards where 6 out of 7 children are growing up in poverty.</p> <p>Currently excellent work is being undertaken by Middlesbrough Council including: 10x10 programme, the HAF programme (Holiday Activities and Food programme) and other support under the Council's Welfare Strategy such as auto-enrolment of free school meals, the Household Support Fund and the amazing work of our Welfare</p>

			<p>Rights Team. The ending of the two-child cap will help to lift more children out of poverty and improve the lives of children across Middlesbrough.</p> <p>This Council commits itself to continuing to support families and tackle child poverty.</p> <p>This Council therefore resolves to: Request that the Chair of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Education and recommit ourselves to working together to improve the lives of all of Middlesbrough's young people.</p>
182	Councillor L Young	Councillor J Ewan	<p>Planning reform - 'track record' test for developers</p> <p>This Council notes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The quality, pace and completion of development directly affects residents' quality of life.</li> <li>2. Communities here and across the country are blighted by stalled or abandoned schemes and long-term derelict 'blight sites', often where developers have secured permission but failed to build out.</li> <li>3. Under current planning law there is no clear, statutory 'track record' test for developers, and councils have limited ability to take full account of an applicant's track record of delivery and compliance.</li> </ol> <p>This Council believes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. A developer's track record - including any pattern of uncompleted developments or creation of blight sites - should be a material consideration when determining planning applications.</li> </ol>

			<p>5. Councils should have explicit powers to require transparency over ownership and company structures, and to refuse, condition or phase permissions where there is evidence of repeated failure to deliver or serious non-compliance.</p> <p>This Council therefore resolves to:</p> <p>6. Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and Local Government to call on the UK Government to reform planning law and policy, including the Town and Country Planning Act and the National Planning Policy Framework, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduce a statutory 'track record' test for developers;</li><li>• Make a clear track record of uncompleted developments and blight sites a material planning consideration; and</li><li>• Strengthen councils' powers to secure completion, remediation and timely delivery of sites.</li></ul> <p>7. Write to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Both Members of Parliament representing Middlesbrough; and</li><li>• The Local Government Association,</li></ul> <p>setting out the Council's position and seeking support for these reforms.</p>
--	--	--	---