

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 5 January 2021

Dear Member

COUNCIL

Please note that this is a virtual meeting. The meeting will be live-streamed via the Council's Facebook page <https://en-gb.facebook.com/MiddlesbroughCouncil/> at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 13th January, 2021

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

3. Minutes- Council - 16 December 2020 5 - 10
4. Announcements/Communications

To receive and consider any communications from the Chair, Mayor, Executive Members or Chief Executive (if any).

5. Questions from Members of the Public (if any). 11 - 12
6. Mayor's Statement and Report
7. Deputy Mayor and Executive Member reports 13 - 52
8. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board 53 - 58
9. Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2021/2022 59 - 66
10. Urgent Items

To consider and Deal with any urgent business brought before the Council by the Proper Officer (if any).

11. Members' Question Time 67 - 68
12. Notice of Motions
13. Notice of Urgent Motions (if any)

Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services

AS THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING THERE WILL BE NO ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Inspection of Papers – This Summons may be downloaded from the Council's Website.

Should you have any queries in regard to the items on this agenda please contact Bernie Carr on (Direct Line 01642 729714 or e-mail on: - bernie_carr@middlesbrough.gov.uk).

Address: Democratic Services Office, Middlesbrough Council, Town Hall, Middlesbrough
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Website: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

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MEETING OF MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of Middlesbrough Council, lawfully convened, and held in the Town Hall, Middlesbrough on 16 December 2020.

PRESENT: Councillors J Hobson (Chair), R Arundale, A Bell, C Cooke, B Cooper, D P Coupe, D Davison, C Dodds, T Furness, J Goodchild, A Hellaoui, T Higgins, A High, S Hill, C Hobson, B A Hubbard, N Hussain, D Jones, L Mason, T Mawston, D McCabe, C McIntyre, J McTigue, M Nugent, J Platt, E Polano, Mayor A Preston, G Purvis, J Rathmell, D Rooney, J Rostron, R M Sands, M Saunders, M L Smiles, M Storey, J Thompson, Z Uddin, J A Walker, S Walker, A Waters and G Wilson

OFFICERS: C Benjamin, S Blood, S Bonner, C Breheny, B Carr, G Field, R Horniman, A Hoy, A Humble, S Lightwing, C Lunn, T Parkinson, A Perriman, S Reynolds, T Whitehead, K Whitmore, A M Wilson, I Wright

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors Councillor D J Branson, Councillor S Dean, Councillor L Garvey, Councillor L Lewis, Councillor P Storey, Councillor C Wright.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

1 MINUTES - COUNCIL - 25 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 November 2020 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were no formal Announcements for this meeting.

3 REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Council received and noted a report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board outlining the work of the Board and Scrutiny Panels.

4 REFRESHING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE 2021-24 PERIOD

The Mayor and the Chief Executive submitted a report with regard to refreshing the Strategic Plan for the 2021-24 period.

The report commenced the process of refreshing the Strategic Plan for the 2021-2024 period, ensuring that it remained current and reflective of major developments of the past year, in particular COVID-19, and those anticipated in the coming three years.

The Mayor advised that the Council would consult with local communities and other stakeholders on the proposed revisions to strategic priorities.

This consultation would take the form of the first 'annual conversation' with communities on direction of travel and future plans (including spending plans), an approach which will in future years be embedded within the Council's emerging locality working approach. The consultation would be called 'Let's Talk' and the Mayor urged the public to take part in the consultation process.

ORDERED as follows:

That Council note the proposed strategic priorities for 2021-24 (Appendix 1) for public consultation to inform the next iteration of the Strategic Plan, to be considered by Council on 24 February 2021.

5 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE, AND BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS 2021/22**

The Mayor and the Director of Finance submitted a report with regard to the Medium Term Financial Plan Update, and Budget Savings Proposals 2021/22.

The report provided an update to Council of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period to 2023/24, reflecting and supporting delivery of the Strategic Plan.

The Mayor advised that he had a number of amendments to make to the report that had been previously circulated.

The Mayor referred to Paragraph 15 of the report which included a number of planned budget savings for 2021/22 which were proposed as part of the budget report to Council in February 2020 and were already assumed in the MTFP

The Mayor advised that since this report was considered by Executive the Government had announced the details of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2020 and this had now clarified a number of assumptions and it was clear that the amount of money the Council was going to receive from the Government in 2021/22 was greater than had been forecast. As a result of officers already finding a way of saving the Council £1.9m in efficiencies which do not impact on the public of Middlesbrough the Council has some room for manoeuvre on the setting of its 2021/22 Budget. As a result, the proposal to move to fortnightly bin collections included at Paragraph 15 of the report, would be removed from the proposed budget savings as this could now be funded from the additional money identified above.

In addition, the proposed increase in Council Tax included at Paragraph 29 of the report would be 2.75% rather 3.99%.

The Mayor advised that the executive were not convinced that Middlesbrough was ready for fortnightly collections as fly-tipping in some parts of town could get worse. He stated that the Council would focus on educating people to recycle by working with the public, schools and the university to promote recycling.

Councillor M Storey stated that he believed most people would be happy to hear that fortnightly bin collections was no longer an option. However, he asked what had changed, where the Council would find the money and how recycling education would be increased.

The Mayor advised that the Council now had certainty over the amount of money it was receiving from the Government and following an examination of different departmental budgets, weekly bin collections would be retained for the time being.

The Mayor advised that initiatives had been planned in schools to promote recycling - with advice notices on bins to advise what could or couldn't be recycled as well as residents being offered a second recycling bin.

Councillor Mawston advised that the retention of weekly bin collections was excellent news for all residents. He stated that two of the political groups that were in favour of weekly bin collections had submitted a call-in in respect of the previous decision to go to two weekly bin collections. He stated that the Council needed an excellent recycling programme and they needed to involve schools in the programme.

Councillor Cooper advised that he would email his question to the Mayor, as he was having technical issues.

Councillor J Walker thanked the Executive for changing their mind and taking on board the comments from residents with regard to fortnightly bin collections.

Councillor McTigue queried with regard to what happened to litter that had been picked up and whether it was recycled. She also thanked the Mayor for agreeing to go on a walkabout of the Ward. The Mayor advised that litter picked up as part of a litter pick was not recycled as

far as he was aware.

Councillor Higgins stated that she agreed with the idea of visiting schools to educate about recycling.

Councillor Coupe congratulated the Executive on the way they had managed the budget. He stated that he agreed with the idea of educating children in schools about recycling.

Councillor Saunders stated that he was pleased that the decision to go to fortnightly bin collections was to be reversed. He queried whether any future decision regarding fortnightly bin collections could be deferred until the next election.

The Mayor advised that it would depend on whether recycling rates improved, the carbon footprint was reduced and funding was available.

ORDERED as follows:

1. That the Council note the updated Medium Term Financial Plan position for 2020-24.
2. That the Council note that the proposal to move to fortnightly bin collections included at Paragraph 15 of the report, would be removed from the budget savings as the savings that would have been achieved if the proposal had been implemented, would be funded from the additional funding identified by officers.
3. That the Council note the proposed additional budget efficiency savings for 2021/22 detailed in Appendix 1 which are considered to have minimal or no effect on front line service delivery levels, and notes that the revised proposed budget and Council Tax increase of 2.75% for 2021/22 would be subject to public consultation commencing on 17 December 2020 and ending on 31 January 2021.

6 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

Consideration was given to Motion No.146, moved by Councillor C Hobson and seconded by Councillor Arundale of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Fireworks Motion

This Council resolves:

to encourage all organised public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.

to reasonably promote a public awareness campaign via the council's social media channels about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people - including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.

to write to the Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.

The Chair invited members to speak to the motion.

Councillor C Hobson spoke in support of the motion and outlined the reasons why she had proposed the motion. Councillor Hobson advised that fireworks that exceeded 150 decibels could cause loss of hearing to people and animals. Dogs and cats suffered from severe distress and in some areas, fireworks were going off for over a month. Animals were severely affected which resulted in them refusing to go out.

Councillor Cooper advised that he supported the motion but he would like to propose an amendment to include that the Government regulate the size of the fireworks.

The Chair advised that the motion had been reviewed by the Council's legal department and parts of the original motion that had been put forward had been taken out because the Council would have been unable to enforce those elements of the motion.

Councillor Hubbard seconded the amendment to the motion.

Councillor Mawston advised that he supported the motion but he would like to add an amendment that the Government reduce the power of the fireworks.

Councillor McTigue advised that she supported the motion, in particular the reduction in decibels.

Councillor Coupe advised that he supported the motion and agreed that fireworks needed more regulation.

Councillor Rooney referred to a report produced in 2019 which recommended that there should be restrictions on fireworks and that decibels should be set and that local government should be able to enforce the measures. Councillor Rooney advised that she would forward the report to Councillor Hobson for information.

Councillor Rathmell stated that he would like to propose an amendment to the motion to say that the Council would develop its own fireworks policy for any event that the Council held.

The Monitoring Officer queried that as there were three different amendments, whether the three members that had proposed them would like to combine them into a single amendment to enable members to vote on it.

All three members agreed to the combined amendment.

The Chair read out the revised motion.

This Council resolves:

to encourage all organised public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.

to reasonably promote a public awareness campaign via the council's social media channels about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people - including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.

to write to the Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the size, the power and the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.

That the Council develop its' own Fireworks policy for any events held by the Council.

Councillor Arundale spoke in support of the motion and outlined the reasons why he was seconding the motion.

The amended motion was put to the vote.

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

The amended motion became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put to the vote.

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

There were no Urgent items submitted for this meeting.

8 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

There were no Members Questions submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 13 JANUARY 2021
 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO.40**

| QUESTION NO. | QUESTION FROM | QUESTION TO | QUESTION |
|--------------|---------------|---|--|
| 3/2020 | Mr M Askari | Executive Member for Communities and Education. | <p>In the Middlesbrough Council Meeting of 14th October 2020 the Council voted and passed a Black Community Motion in recognition of Black History Month 2020 shining a light on the life, culture and history of our black residents.</p> <p>Please could you kindly advise to date the progress that has been made against the two resolutions and two notes to the Motion? Which Executive Member is overseeing implementation of the Motion and which Council Department(s) is tasked with a timely delivery please?</p> |

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

Council Meeting: 13 January 2021

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **13 January 2021**.

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 E-Genda 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 E-Genda 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 Executive Office should they have an interest in specific issues.

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services
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Contact details

Bernie Carr – Principal Democratic Services Officer - (01642) 729714

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 13 JANUARY 2021

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SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Children's Social Care <i>Councillor A High</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health <i>Councillor D Davison</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Communities and Education <i>Councillor M Smiles</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Environment <i>Councillor D McCabe</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Councillor C Hobson</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Councillor A Waters</i> |

SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 8 December 2020.

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

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

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**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 13th January 2021**

STRATEGIC

Children's Services - Governance and Partnerships

1. Our Commissioner, Peter Dwyer, has submitted his report to the Department of Education although again at the time of writing we don't yet have the Minister's response. This will be shared at the board meeting if it has been received by the time of the meeting.
2. The Department for Education has allocated Stuart Smith as our new improvement adviser and I am pleased that Stuart was able to attend our last board meeting. Stuart has been the DCS in two local authorities and we are looking forward to working with him in the coming months. He has already met with some key personnel and shared great practice from other authorities.
3. Following the Chancellor's Spending Review announcement on 25th November it has been confirmed that funding for the Troubled Families Programme will continue for a further 12 months i.e. through 2021/22. The Spending Review commits £165 million for Local Authorities, through the Troubled Families Programme, providing intensive support to families facing multiple interconnected problems. We are waiting to hear more details about the actual funding allocations for Middlesbrough as this grant is currently used to support the work of the Prevention and Early Help Service within Children's Services. In addition, the Department for Work and Pensions' Reducing Parental Conflict Programme which is operational in Middlesbrough will also continue in 2021/22, to further develop the evidence base on what works and to support local authorities and their partners to fully embed support for families locally.
4. On 11th December senior leaders from Children's Services met with Ofsted for Middlesbrough's Annual Engagement Meeting (AEM), a conversation that takes place between Ofsted and every Local Authority regardless of their rating. Two weeks prior to the meeting we submitted a self-evaluation document to inform the conversation that subsequently covered social care and education outcomes. One of the main issues raised by Rachel Holden our senior HMI is that of compliance, as outlined earlier in this report it is crucial that social care services are delivered in a timely way. Ofsted will send a letter outlining the discussion at the AEM that will be shared with this board as appropriate. We will be in contact with Ofsted early in the New Year to discuss our focussed visit which will take place sometime before the end of March 2021.

Children's Services - Leadership and Management

5. The Children's Services 'Middlesbrough Children Matter' website was launched on 27th November 2020 and has been well received by our Middlesbrough Children, our

Children's Services workforce our corporate colleagues and our partners. The overarching aim is that this website will help us connect with Middlesbrough Children so we can then use it to evidence how much they matter to us. Our vision is showing Middlesbrough Children that they matter. The website address is:

<https://middlesbroughchildrenmatter.co.uk>

6. The Corporate Parenting Strategy has now been signed off at a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board on 14th December. Workshops have taken place with partners from the Virtual School, Adoption Tees Valley (our Regional Adoption Agency), Commissioning and Legal Services, to develop the action plans to support roll out of the strategy.
7. The structure and approach to developing the Workforce Strategy is now being finalised. This programme, crucial to ensuring that we have the social work/social care capacity and capability to improve our work with vulnerable children and families, now has 5 work streams:
 - Children's Services Recruitment and Retention
 - Children's Social Care Demand Forecasting
 - Children's Social Care Internal Restructure
 - Children's Services Workforce Development
 - Children's Services Workforce Development Strategy
8. The strategy itself will be developed between January and March next year and is planned to go live in April.
9. The last report described the process for commissioning youth services in Middlesbrough. At the time of writing no decision has yet been made on awarding the three separate contracts.
10. Sara Davidson, Strategic Lead for Education left the authority on 4th December and I would like to place on record my thanks to Sara for all of her hard work as part of the Children's Services Leadership Team. However, I am pleased to announce that Karen Smith, previously Middlesbrough's Senior Education Adviser was appointed to the vacant post on 8th December. Congratulations to Karen, I am sure that she will make a real difference to Middlesbrough's children in her new role.

Children's Services – Performance

11. The average caseload is recorded at 22 children per fte. However, as noted in previous reports this does not adequately reflect the practice focus in each service area, the complexity of different pieces of case work and individual social worker's level of experience. Action is being taken to alleviate caseloads as described in the following paragraphs.
12. A paper had been submitted to the Council's Executive committee proposing to extend the existing Innovate Managed Team's contract for 2 years on a continued invest to save basis. I am pleased to report that this proposal was successful and the contract will be extended for a maximum of two years with review points on a quarterly basis. The team will continue to work with a rolling case load of 90 – 100 which will alleviate some of the pressure on the Looked After Children's teams. The Innovate team has more than met its original invest to save target

13. The fieldwork teams, working in collaboration with Futures for Families, continue to focus appropriately on reducing the number of older children coming into our care as a result of family breakdown. The work to discharge children's care orders and support them to permanence by being cared for under the auspices of Special Guardianship Orders is also reducing the number of children in our care and to this end three court hearing have been held every week for the last four weeks. I understand that this will continue into the New Year. The number of children in our care at the time of writing this report is 556 which is down 21% from an all-time high in August 2020 of 702.

14. I would like to specifically reference this quote. Futures for Families workers have had significant support and training around the power of language and communication which supports the understanding of those young people and the understanding of the trauma that young people have faced in their lives. It is of particularly poignant to know that 75% of all young people accessing Futures for Families are receiving support (either directly or indirectly) from the Life Coach. Of those accessing support 92% had no previous identified need. Previously 32.5% of young people had an undiagnosed Speech and Language difficulties and of those 92% are male. This really evidences the need for preventative services stopping families' situations escalating until young people are on the edge of care.

*Challenge Your Assumptions!
Futures for Families has been working with young person. It was assumed that he could tell the time because he had a watch. Unfortunately it he couldn't – he said that he wore a watch because it looked good.*

15. The proposal to the corporate leadership team as mentioned in the last report was successful and additional resources have been secured to commission two managed teams from Innovate for a six month period each consisting of five social workers and one team manager. The teams began work in Middlesbrough on 14th December and they are aligned with the Assessment Service with the aim of completing single assessments in a timelier manner and working with proactively with children in need to prevent escalation and transfer to the Safeguarding and Care Planning service. This should begin to reduce the caseloads in the Assessment Service and the Safeguarding and Planning Service, so with the 'invest to save' Innovate team taking work from the Children Looked After Service and the reduction in the number of children looked after there should be scope for social workers to focus more on compliance and improving practice across these services as a whole. The Innovate teams will also take more of a role in terms of sharing good practice across the services they are supporting. The aim is that when the Innovate teams move on from Middlesbrough there will continue to be sufficient flexibility in the system as work for children and young people will be of a higher quality and progressed to permanence in a more child friendly timescale.

16. Commissioning managed teams from Innovate has proved more reliable and productive than procuring individual agency workers although this must not be taken to mean that Middlesbrough doesn't have many excellent agency workers.

17. Significant improvements and critical changes are being made to the Children's Social Care Liquidlogic case management system (LCS) that include:

- Improvements to the recording and reporting of legal proceedings.
- A redesigned Children and Family Assessment that will help to improve social work practice and reflect the needs of our vulnerable children and their families.

- A number of redesigned forms, including the Pathway Plan for Care Leavers, which will make more accurate and efficient recordings for social workers.

18. COVID 19 continues to affect practice across the whole of Children's Services i.e. services for education as well as social care. Head teachers are particularly under pressure as illustrated by the following figures:-

- 38 members of school staff and 810 pupils are currently isolating
- 640 members of staff and 9928 have been asked to self-isolate since September.

Youth Council

19. Middlesbrough Youth Council is a virtual platform for all young people aged 11-18 and will go live in January. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to make a difference to the future of their Middlesbrough. The group will be supported by the Member of Youth Parliament and the Deputy Member of Youth Parliament and has been co-designed with young people from the start. A full communications plan has been arranged to ensure all children and young people across Middlesbrough have the opportunity to be involved.

Middlesbrough Alcohol Centre of Excellence

20. South Tees Public Health secured capital funding from Public Health England to develop the Middlesbrough Alcohol Centre of Excellence (MACE). This has seen the former Holgate Depot/East-West Centre on Ayresome Green Lane brought back into use via significant investment to make it fit for purpose as a flagship health and wellbeing facility. MACE will be a holistic approach to addressing alcohol misuse with a focus on achieving and sustaining positive change. It will provide a co-ordinated and multi-agency approach to the prevention, treatment and aftercare of those seeking support for alcohol use. The service will place particular emphasis on prevention and will also offer appropriate advice, referral and treatment interventions where needed. In addition to specialists in alcohol clinical and recovery support, members of the integrated service model for domestic abuse, homelessness and substance misuse, and partner agencies from health and the voluntary and community sector will operate from the MACE. The service will commence in January 2021.

Integrated Commissioning Model

21. The specialist contracts have now been awarded for supported housing, domestic abuse and substance misuse and the decommissioning of existing services and the mobilisation of new ones has started.

22. The TUPE information has been requested from Humankind and CGL; the services which will be transferring into MBC on 1st April 2021. The Integrated model will sit within Public Health and robust pathways and governance will be developed alongside Adult's and Children's Social Care

Pothole Initiative

23. The Highways Team have spent the last 20 weeks conducting a Pothole Challenge. The results have been really impressive. They have;

- Repaired 26,750 potholes

- Used 1425.5 tonnes of tarmac
- Completed 13,898 m² of patching

24. The level of effort that has gone into this initiative has been superb and the teams have worked incredibly hard. This is more impressive when you consider the changes in working arrangements that had to be made because of Covid.

25. Thanks a lot to all involved, it's made a big difference to the roads across Middlesbrough.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 13 January 2021

ADULT SOCIAL CARE, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

PERFORMANCE

Covid-19 vaccination

The COVID-19 vaccination programme has commenced and is being led by the NHS. Acute Trusts commenced the roll out prioritising inpatients and identified outpatients who are over 80, care home staff, vulnerable staff and other staff groups. Arrangements for roll out across primary care has also just started and prioritising care home residents.

Community testing

Following a number of national pilots and early adopter sites we expect local community testing of asymptomatic residents to commence in late January. We will use a targeted approach with a focus on high risk communities and essential workers (e.g social care workers and high risk businesses) with the aim to protect vulnerable people and break down the chain of transmission in areas where there is observed clustering or higher concentration of positive cases. It will be important to ensure that testing is accessible across vulnerable groups as well as more broadly and we are working closely with our network of COVID-19 champions to enable this.

For PCR testing of individuals with symptoms, local sites remain available capacity remains sufficient to meet local demand. We are also exploring feasibility for an additional local testing site in the East of Middlesbrough.

Local tracing partnership

Public Protection staff have been engaged in contacting COVID-19 cases to prevent further spread of infection, identify household contacts and potential high risk locations. During the second lockdown period officers have been contacting those COVID-19 cases who have not responded to contact from the national NHS Test and Trace Team. Local information can help with contacting these cases and in addition to telephone calls Public Protection staff will also email and send letters primarily to obtain information about their illness, identify their contacts and ensure they are isolating. With effect from 9th December, officers have been given direct access to the National Contact Tracing System so that they can update on these "failed" cases and contacts for follow up by the National NHS team.

Rapid Testing in Care Homes

Rapid (lateral flow) tests have been distributed to some care homes across the country (beginning with care homes with more than fifty places) to support the enablement of family and friends to visit loved ones in a care setting. While rapid testing can reduce the risks around visiting, it does not completely remove the risk of infection. In addition to using testing, care homes must use robust infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, visitors must continue to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), observe social distancing in general when in the care home and good hand hygiene, and follow any guidance the care home itself provides on physical contact with the person they are visiting. It is important to note, that in line with national guidance, implementation of the testing is entirely up to the care home and the home must have the facilities to enable the testing process to take place away from the main body/care of the home to reduce the risk of transmission.

COVID-19 advice and support for schools

Due to high demand from schools across the North East, at the beginning of September Public Health England requested that local authorities established their own support/response to positive COVID-19 cases/queries for all educational settings covering early year's foundation through to key stage 4.

Working alongside our two health protection teams and education, Public Health South Tees established a local response to schools Monday through to Sunday via a dedicated email address and central telephone number. The response provides:

- Answering any queries from educational settings or key partners
- Logging positive cases, identifying infectious periods and providing guidance on tracking of close contact
- Logging numbers isolating due to a positive case
- Providing regular updates at Strategic Education Boards
- Supporting communication with communities
- Contributing the intelligence to support the local outbreak planning
- Reporting to key partners on school bubble closures
- Established a pathway between education and social care so that social care are informed of any vulnerable children & young people who are isolating
- Support schools with risk assessment planning via school visits in partnership with Health Protection, Education and Health & Safety

As at 14th December we have supported 73 schools reporting 658 cases which has resulted in 673 staff and 10,409 pupils having to isolate.

COVID-19 National Testing Programme: Schools and Colleges

The department for Health and Social Care announced that from January, all staff in secondary schools and colleges will be eligible for weekly on the spot lateral flow covid tests. This will help identify asymptomatic cases – which make up a third of all cases – limiting the spread of the virus. This will be backed up by daily testing for staff and students that have been in close contact with a positive case therefore preventing the need for close contacts to isolate at home; allowing them to continue to come into school or college if the daily results are negative.

Here is a summary of the key details of the announcement:

- Weekly rapid tests available to all secondary school and college staff from January
- Staff and students who are close contacts of cases will be eligible for daily testing preventing the need for immediate self-isolation. Only if a daily test returns a positive result will the staff member/pupil need to isolate.
- Guidance and training will be available to secondary schools and colleges from this week and throughout January so they can start to use the new testing capacity as soon as possible.
- All Schools and colleges will be supported to roll out testing as rapidly as possible over the spring term, with daily testing for close contacts available to all staff and students, and regular weekly testing available to staff.
- Test kits will begin arriving at secondary schools and colleges for the first phase of rollout to staff from the first week of January.
- Schools will be allocated with funding to support the roll out.
- Public health together with Local Authority Education Colleagues are currently exploring how we can support local schools with the implementation of the testing programme.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

Middlesbrough Handyperson Service triumph's at national awards



Middlesbrough's Handyperson Service have been commended for their excellent work in supporting people to live independently at home at the National Healthy Housing Awards 2020.

Having been a runner up in 2019, the service, which forms part of Middlesbrough's Staying Put Agency (SPA) went one better this year by taking the title of Handyperson Service of the Year. SPA has grown its handyperson service over the last several years and during 2019-20 it completed 2,200-repairs and adaptations and 460 home improvements while also supporting more than 800 telecare customers. In

recent months, staff and volunteers have been at the vanguard of the local Covid-19 response facilitating safe hospital discharge amid rising demand and distributing PPE and food parcels.

Warm and Well Winter Support Project

The Staying Put Agency have team up with local charities this winter to make sure older people receive the help they need, delivered straight to their door.

The new Warm and Well Winter Support Project, which will see a coordinated response by the Teesside Family Foundation, Ageing Better Middlesbrough and the Staying Put Agency, will pool resources to provide essential supplies to older people to help them stay warm, active and busy over the festive period.

Many older people have been hit particularly hard hit by the pandemic, having been cut off from family and friends and unable to access the internet, so it's hoped this service can go a long way towards helping those who need it across Middlesbrough.

As well as crucial help with home heating and boiler repairs, the team can also provide heaters, hats, gloves, blankets, activity packs and wellbeing items. A telephone service has also been set up for those who would like a friendly phone call.

Keeping Well at Home TV Programme

On the 23rd November an 11 week TV Campaign was launched in collaboration with Public Health South Tees (PHST) and Age UK Teesside, with funding awarded by Sport England, working with 'Local TV', which is a network of 8 UK channels, including Teesside TV and Tyne and Wear TV and on all major TV platforms including Freeview, SKY and Virgin Media and also includes a huge social media following.

Colleagues in PHST, Health Development Team and the Mental Health Lead, have featured in a number of short videos that aim to help older people, who are digitally excluded, to keep well at home and are also accessible on social media and via YouTube links.

The videos include a demonstration of simple exercises that can be undertaken in the home, as well as nutrition advice, falls prevention advice, mental wellbeing and how to stay safe and well during the winter.

Programme features are approximately 4 minutes long and broadcast on North East Live on Freeview Channel 7, Channel 117 on Sky and Channel 159 on Virgin Media, 6 times per day, 5 days per week, with some repeats on a weekend.

A comprehensive communications plan includes a number of digital and offline activities with support from the MBC internal communications and marketing team, to help promote the 11 week TV campaign and Information has gone in a number of partner newsletters, including Age UK Teesside, Ageing Better Middlesbrough and University of the Third Age (U3A) to help engage older people.

TV and Social Media analytics have been provided by Local TV to understand the impact of the campaign. Total programme reach on Teesside TV and Tyne and Wear TV in the first week was 429,000. PHST is working with 2 post graduate student from Teesside University, to help with the programme evaluation and will collect qualitative and quantitative data from a sample of programme participants. A survey will establish the extent to which the programme has achieved its objectives, and as part of this, assess how the different topics have been received.

Covid Champions Network

Local Covid Champions are helping us to spread the message around keeping safe and preventing the spread of Covid-19. Covid Champions are based within organisations that work with our most vulnerable communities. These organisations have all received grants to create messages in their own ways which will resonate with their target communities and keep them updated on Covid-19 safety measures. These include video messages, social media routes, and printed information. Each organisation has their own Covid Champion that has joined the network to ensure all information is correct and to enable them to work together, share ideas and feed back to the Council on any queries from their communities.

VCS Sustainability Grants Awarded

The Council has been able to support local VCS organisations that have been negatively affected by the impacts of Covid-19, to help them in continuing to deliver support to our most vulnerable communities. Grants have been made available to VCS services that have seen their normal income streams or ways of working severely impacted by Covid-19. The grants aim to allow them to work differently and re-establish their programmes to continue reaching those most in need of their services.

COVID-19 Education Offer:

Children and Young People's Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing - HeadStart, Tees Valley CCG, TEWV and VCSE providers have collaborated to offer schools 4-6 weekly sessions of issue based group work to help support those pupils that are struggling as a result of COVID-19. Issues to be addressed are low mood, anxiety, self-harm (Inc. substance misuse), difficulty managing routines (Inc. sleep problems) and transitions. Nearly all schools have accessed support in some way. The Headstart Team have supported 8 schools in Middlesbrough to date.

Councillor Dorothy Davison
Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2021

EDUCATION

1. We have been working hard to listen to the challenges experienced by schools during the pandemic via a number of forums. One pressing problem is digital poverty and how it impacts on the ability of our pupils to take part in remote learning. We are about to launch a scheme to offer extra laptops and WiFi access to pupils that will supplement school equipment and the extra laptops provided by DfE. We will review this pilot closely and adjust as necessary.
2. The Virtual School has launched the new electronic Personal Education Plan (ePEP). This is the electronic file that we have for every looked after child which holds all of their educational information. This newly upgraded version takes into account all of the feedback from children, schools and social workers and should help support children's progress in school.
3. Consultation on School Admissions Arrangements for 2022 has begun.
4. In October 2019, Middlesbrough led on a Free School bid for a Tees Valley Free School for children and young people with Social Emotional Needs and for those with Autism. This bid was successful and the new school will be based in Redcar. Work is currently underway and we hope to see this open in September 2022. This will bring additional capacity to the local area. Alongside this, we have worked with our partners in Tees Valley Education to build a Free School on the site at Nature's World. This is for children with physical and medical needs and will be open in September 2022.
5. 84% of Middlesbrough families are engaging with the two-year-old funding offer and accessing 15 hours early years education.
6. The Early Years Development Lead (EYDL) continues to work closely with schools and nurseries, providing regular updates, information and support to ensure schools and PVI's are supported during Coronavirus and learning and best practise is shared across the sector.
7. Looked after children's attendance at school reached 92% w/c December 7 2020.
8. The completion rate for Personal Education Plans (PEPs) topped 94% w/c December 7 2020, which is the highest rate ever.
9. The Inclusion and Specialist Support Service continues to retain a 90% completion rate of Education Health and Care Plans during COVID-19, which ensures that children and young people with SEND are assessed within the required timeframe.

10. Our National Literacy Trust lead continues to work passionately to ensure all pupils have access to high quality texts and is in the process of supporting the handout of over 12,500 books donated through the National Literacy Trust to food banks.
11. The Hullabaloo project that offered baby play packs to Middlesbrough families in the absence of face to face baby classes has now ended. The analysis of final data shows:
 - 411 families were contacted
 - 395 packs were delivered to 384 families in Middlesbrough and nine out of area – the latter families moved from the initial contact
 - 244 people signed up as a result of contact within Children’s Centres
 - 205 people enrolled with the project as a result of University research

CULTURE & EVENTS

12. Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership (MCP) has had huge success, with members that include Middlesbrough Council bringing in more than £1m of funding in 2020 for cultural projects. Our aim is to make Middlesbrough the country’s most creative town.
13. MCP submitted a £120,000 bid to Historic England for further programming of the Heritage Action Zone.
14. Middlesbrough Council is supporting Teesside University pitch for the ‘Festival of 2020’, a £10million high profile festival which would bring significant attention and investment to the area. We have a one in two chance of being successful.
15. Middlesbrough Parks and green spaces were once again successful in obtaining The Green Flag award for 2020/2021. Sites include Stewart Park, Albert Park, Fairy Dell, Thorn tree park, Pallister Park, Hemlington Lake and Linthorpe Cemetery.
16. Tree planting has taken place across a number of parks during the autumn, with more than 160 semi mature trees and whips been planted. On the subject of trees, The Friends Of Stewart Park launched an Interesting Trees Of Stewart Park Leaflet. The leaflet was a joint venture with the Friends and park staff. A big thank you goes to the Friends group who solely funded the leaflet. We are very grateful for this.
17. The Environment Agency started work on the lake in Albert Park in late summer as part of the larger flood defence scheme on Marton West beck. It is hoped work is completed by Spring 2021.
18. In October, the Dorman museum continued to open Thursdays through Sundays with a steady stream of visitors attending. October half term was particularly popular, thanks in part to our ability to offer Covid 19 safe and socially distanced family craft activities. Feedback from visitors was excellent and positive.
19. On November 5, due to Covid 19 Tier 3 restrictions, the museum closed and will remain closed to the public until January 2021. Our visitor services team was furloughed for a short period at the beginning of November. They have now returned to work, engaged across archives and museums sorting, cleaning, boxing and auditing our collections. Our curatorial and learning team has continued to engage with audiences both locally and internationally, producing online education resources, social media posts and series of videos. The learning team has engaged with 750

school children via a mixture of digital resources, virtual classroom sessions, physical loan material and outreach sessions.

20. The curatorial team has taken the lead on social media output co-curating 18 videos. Our first Facebook Santa video went live on December 4 and was an immediate hit with a fantastic reach of over 13K. The second Santa video followed on December 7, so far achieving a reach over 9k at the time of this report.
21. A second experimental online escape room 'Escape from the Museum' took place on November 29. It was fully booked, receiving encouraging reviews from families who took part. The escape room was supported by the Tees Valley Museums Group NPO.
22. Newham Grange Farm re-opened on December 5. Festive farms events took place until December 24 including a Covid safe Christmas Trail. December Festive Farm dates were fully booked with nearly 6000 visitors attending. Work is commencing on the build phase of a new child friendly exhibition space in the linear building, which should be complete by March 2021.

COMMUNITIES

23. The new Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager, Jolande Mace, started within the community safety team on November 1 2020. During her first month, Jolande has started to develop relationships with internal and external partners, shadowed the street wardens in each of the different wards and relaunched both the Multi Agency Migration Meeting and the Interfaith Network, which will be held in January 2021. In addition, she has been heavily involved in the Council's Covid response, particularly in relation to community mass testing opportunities and working with the community Covid Champions.
Jolande brings with her the LAASLO (Local Authority Asylum Support Liaison Officer), Andrew Robertson, whom she managed in her previous role. Andy supports Middlesbrough's asylum seeker population, assisting them with things such as social integration, identifying English lessons and volunteering opportunities during their asylum journey. If the Home Office grants refugee status, the LAASLO supports the new refugee during the "move on" process, which is a 28 day period in which they must apply for a bank account and Universal Credit and find their own housing opportunities.
24. The Mayor launched the CCTV Small Grant initiative in August 2020 inviting residents to apply for funding to purchase and install CCTV cameras on the outside of their properties. We were overwhelmed by the response and received in excess of 500 applications. Unfortunately we could not award all residents with funding so had to employ a strategy to identify those most in need. We analysed Police, Fire and MBC data including; crime, ASB, deliberate fire setting and fly tipping from April 2019 to March 2020 to identify hot spot locations. We then correlated the hot spot areas with resident applications. We allocated £300 each to 67 residents throughout Middlesbrough. The first cameras and recording devices have now been installed.
25. Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM) meetings continue to identify hot spot areas for crime, ASB, fire setting and fly tipping throughout Middlesbrough - setting actions and monitoring outcomes. There was a significant decrease in crime and ASB across the town with 200 fewer incidents this period. Current key areas are Easterside, North

Ormesby and The Viewley Centre in Hemlington for anti-social behaviour with Central and Newport wards being hot spots for fly tipping. The town centre priorities are shop lifting and other thefts. Partners are continuing to work together to tackle all of these issues.

26. School patrols have been taking place daily and have been made up from patrols utilising the CCTV enforcement car and traditional foot patrol. Schools where parking issues are prevalent have had enforcement patrols each morning. Below you will find a break down in enforcement activity for the month of November and year to date. Please note the information in this table is for the full financial year to date starting from April 1. The low numbers for several months are as a result of the suspension of car parking enforcement. Our duties are now fully resumed. We always adopt an ambassadorial approach to car parking enforcement and only issues Penalty Charge Notices where education and warnings are not possible. The total PCN'S issued in November were 398. A further 312 tickets could have been issued but were cancelled beforehand due to adopting an educational approach or the vehicle owner returned whilst the observation period was still taking place.

| PCN's Issued 2020-21 | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|-----|--|
| April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | YTD | |
| 28 | 7 | 3 | 85 | 134 | 136 | 113 | 383 | 889 | |

| PCN's Spoiled Before Issue 2020-21 | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|-----|--|
| April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | YTD | |
| 20 | 12 | 6 | 37 | 75 | 65 | 84 | 312 | 611 | |

| PCN's Issued at Schools by CCTV | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|-----|--|
| April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | YTD | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 15 | 28 | |

| PCN's Issued at Schools by NSW | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|-----|--|
| April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | YTD | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 10 | |

Libraries

27. On December 1 our Top Reading Duo returned to social media presenting "The Middlesbrough Libraries Story Advent Calendar" published each day at 4pm until Christmas Eve. The Gazette covered this story.



28. On Christmas Day we launched a campaign to promote Borrowbox, our 24/7 Digital



Library, to both new and existing customers who may have received tech related presents for Christmas.

29. Libraries celebrated Nursery Rhyme week with Martyn the Music Man broadcasting extra sessions and welcoming more families to join his weekly sessions. As an incentive, School Readiness provided goody bags which included a book and two musical instruments as prizes for ten new families who joined the sessions.

30. Middlesbrough Libraries supported a very different Northern Children's Book festival this year in November. Due to the Covid pandemic the festival had to be quickly adapted so author visits could be hosted digitally. This didn't stop the children from Lingfield School, Marton, being inspired by a virtual visit from picture book author and illustrator Julia Woolf.



Hubs

31. Working in partnership with local businesses and councillors, there was a great take up for OAP hampers within the Ladgate ward. Thirty food hampers were also delivered with help from the local Rotarians.

The service secured funding to deliver 25 food parcels to families in need over Christmas in the Newport area. The funding has been sought from Middlesbrough Together. Items such as cereal, pasta, sauces and long life foods have been provided. The parcels will be delivered to families the Ethnic Minorities Achievement Team (EMAT) support and work with.

Nearly 400 meals Christmas meals were also delivered to residents with the help of council staff, police and The Oven restaurant.

We are very aware that many council staff and councillors went above and beyond to support their residents during Christmas and we want to thank each and every one of them.



32. Social services family contact has now resumed with in the hub. This service enables looked after children to spend time with other siblings and family members which over the past few months has not been able to go ahead due to lockdown restrictions. Harbour Support Services have now been reinstated in line with social distancing guidelines. Harbour provide two sessions for children that have been involved with domestic violence. In the current climate with a reported increase in domestic violence this is a much needed service for the children of the families.

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Dennis McCabe

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
13 January 2021**

STRATEGIC

Pot Hole Initiative

1. The responsive maintenance team have now substantially completed the planned 20 week programme and have just a few over banding works to complete. In total the team have completed 5350 defects, which equates to over 26,000 potholes, have laid 1425 tonnes of tarmac, carried out 13,898m² of patching works with a further 17,663m² of carriageway surfacing completed by our main contractor.

Street Lighting

2. We have now resumed with the LED replacement programme. We are now scheduled to complete the LED installations by mid-January 2021. Following completion of this programme we will resume with planned column replacements with 300 columns due to be replaced by the end of March 2021.

Streetworks

3. Discussions are ongoing with City Fibre to manage the planned 38 month project to install a fibre to home network across Middlesbrough as part of a works programme to create a third national fibre network. The national scope of the project is to connect 8m premises, which is 30% of UK households with investment planned at £4bn. Middlesbrough is included in the 3rd wave of the project with major works planned to start in March 2021 with the plan to provide fibre connectivity to 83,000 homes.

Traffic Signals/UTMC

4. The new UTMC and UTC system development is progressing well with Siemens carrying out the works to have the new system in place soon. TCF funding is available to expand our UTMC assets across the Tees Valley, with the UTMC manager currently working with Fore Consulting to develop an asset plan for hardware type and location (VMS, CCTV, ANPR, Air Quality, Traffic Counting, Weather monitoring etc.)

Highways Projects

5. Whilst progress with the planned capital verge and footway scheme works has been significantly delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions the planned highways team are underway with the 2020/21 works programme and are working towards having all of the scheme works complete prior to April 2021.

Transporter Bridge

6. The Executive report in respect of the Transporter Bridge has been approved. Essential works will now be undertaken. Consultation as to the future level of usage of the Transporter Bridge will now commence.

Green Waste Collections

7. The last Green Waste Collections were completed on Friday 27th November 2020. Officers are currently finalising the tonnages and I will confirm this in a future executive report. I would like to confirm that the 2021 Green Waste Collections is planned to revert back to fortnightly collections.

Future Waste Project

8. The Future Waste Project has selected the final three bidders from the nine received responses to the Selection Questionnaire (SQ). The three bidders are now in competitive dialogue with the Future Waste Project Board prior to the final selection. The final selection is planned for December 2021.

Trees Planted

9. Planting is going well and we are on target of achieving full completion by the end of January 2021. So far in 2020 we have planted 465 trees and 8,665 Whips. It's fair to say that the community Whips are going slow, so ive asked the comms team to refresh the comms that have gone out & refocus their efforts.

Breakdown of the above totals

10. Trees Planted so far in 2020: UTCF – 370 (out of the total 715) + 95 fruit trees (80 of which was a collaboration with thirteen group) + Whips: 7,500 planted by Area Care + 1165 (out of the 5,000) collected by the residents/community Groups

INVOLEMENT AND PROMOTION

Christmas Tree Collections

11. Please be reminded that Middlesbrough Council are supporting the Teesside Hospice in their Christmas Tree Collections this year. Collections can be arranged through the Teesside Hospice Website.

Green Strategy

12. Middlesbrough's draft Green Strategy is now open to public consultation until 15th January, we are asking the public, groups and businesses to participate and have their say in shaping how Middlesbrough's approach to climate change and a carbon reduction programme which will deliver targets of being net carbon neutral by 2029 for the council and 2039 for the town as a whole.

Green Shoots project to Help Nature Recovery in Middlesbrough

13. A partnership of locally based organisations, led by Middlesbrough Environment City, has been successful in receiving support through the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The grant of £167,700 will fund a fourteen-month project engaging local people in practical action to improve our green environment, through volunteering and training opportunities.
14. The partnership includes Actes, The Linx Project and The Other Perspective, and will work particularly with young people, BAME communities and refugees and asylum seekers. Focussing on Middlesbrough's local wildlife sites and beck valleys, the volunteering and training opportunities will help improve and manage habitats, making them even better for wildlife. Through involvement, participants will also develop practical nature conservation skills and employability skills, as well as having a positive impact on their local area.
15. The project builds on previous projects including One Planet Pioneers, part of the National Lottery Community Fund Our Bright Future project, which has been helping young people into further training and jobs for over five years. It will contribute to Middlesbrough's Green Strategy through bringing about improvements to our green spaces, both for wildlife and our communities.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 13th January 2021

DECISIONS

The following papers went to Executive on 22nd December:

Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2021/2022

STRATEGIC

Commissioning and Procurement

1. Middlesbrough Council Corporate Procurement Strategy 2020 – 2023 has been approved this month. As a result of COVID 19 and Brexit the revised strategy is covering a shorter period, and this is a simple refresh. The proposal is to undertake a re-design of the strategy next year when the true impacts of COVID 19 and the Brexit impact may be clearer. Both Brexit and COVID 19 is going to impact both financially and economically and ensuring that our procurement strategy is focused on directing as much funding locally as possible will help to elevate that impact. Therefore, to undertake a more radical review and re-design of the strategy in 2021/22 will be beneficial.

PERFORMANCE

ICT

2. ICT Service Desk Statistics November 2020
 - 2854 telephone calls this month in total (up by 20 calls from Oct 20 and up 777 calls from the same month last year)
 - 1584 emails to the desk (down by 148 from Oct 20 and up by 284 from Nov last year)
 - 1234 self-serve requests (up 15 from Oct 20 and up 294 from Nov last year)
 - 205 self-serve incidents (1 down from Oct 20 and up 41 from Nov last year)
3. Overall Demand:
49% of all customer interaction via phone
51% of all customer interaction by digital
4. The ICT First Line Support team continue to maintain an onsite presence, as they have since the 23rd of March, rolling out new devices to those migrating to home working, setting up new starters and providing onsite support and guidance not possible over the phone.
5. As a direct result of the ongoing Pandemic response. First Line and the Service Desk teams continue to deal with unprecedented levels of demand. Statistics

show that we are dealing with, on average, 1000 additional requests for help and support, compared to the same time period, last year.

6. Our Infrastructure Team have been busy reviewing the renewal of our Cisco Enterprise Agreement. This licence underpins the access to the Council's telephony system. The new agreement will cover the next three years. As part of our due diligence efforts user numbers have been checked and cleansed to ensure we only purchase the licences we need.
7. Work has progressed on the construction of Boho 8, this involves installing underground fibre cables between the new Boho building and our data centre to ensure that when new tenants arrive, they can enjoy quality ICT Services.
8. Amendments have been made to our 2nd Data Centre to reduce the potential for dirt and contamination. This has involved the creation of an "entry pod" designed to keep out dust and dirt, which could potentially damage sensitive equipment.
9. Again, due to current demand and in order to ensure the Council continues to communicate effectively Video Conferencing licencing (WebEx) has been increased to ensure services such as Adult and Children's Social Care can work collaboratively, wherever they are.
10. PSN – Following our last update on the efforts to achieve the annual Public Sector Network accreditation, I can confirm we have been approved by a Cabinet Office appointed assessor to access the Government's network for a further 12 months. This will ensure we maintain access to data and systems hosted by the Department of Work and Pensions. Vital in the day-to-day delivery of Council services.
11. The implementation of CDPSoft is a new innovative case management system that effectively manages victims, perpetrators and locations involved in crime and antisocial behaviour. This system is due to go live April 2021, this date is challenging but still possible. Middlesbrough's Community Safety Team currently uses Flare as a case management system, since 2003. When Flare was acquired Community Safety was under the same umbrella as Public Protection/Environment and it was beneficial to use the same system.
12. The team is now more closely aligned to Youth Offending Service, Early Help and Troubled Families, and works with the same individuals. CDP will be utilised by Middlesbrough Council and our partner agencies. (Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Probation Service etc.) CDPSoft allows us to better extract data, we can deploy our own and partner resources more effectively which will support us to reduce crime and ASB, in accordance with our statutory duty and support the Mayor's '2025 vision' to create safer communities and further reduce the impact of crime and ASB. The CDP project has made good progress recently, overcoming an issue with Form Building in the system. Following the recent recruitment of a Form Builder the main Referral Forms have been built and added to the CDP System. We now have the Client Journey Process agreed and completed. Training in Administration and Form Building has been completed. The User Roles have been agreed and added to the System. Since the last update work has commenced on the components and forms for the Screening Process which allows the Core Triage team to determine which specialist service(s) the Service User needs. Work has also commenced on the assessment

forms for the Specialist Services e.g. Substance Abuse, Domestic Abuse and Homelessness. The data migration effort has also been initiated with familiarisation of CDP's Mercury Tool and engagement with current Software Suppliers to extract data for testing. April 1st still remains a challenging date which we are doing everything to meet.

13. The replacement of the current planning solution IDOX is in the planning stage, all contracts have been agreed and the new provider that has been selected is Agile. We have had numerous conversations with Agile and IDOX to discuss how the data migration will work and when this can take place including costings etc. It has now been agreed that Agile will now progress with the data migration from IDOX to Agile and this will avoid additional costs. The Agile server has been configured to the recommended specification and Agile are in the process of signing the required forms to gain system access. Once we have timescales and agreed date for the data migration, Agile will supply us with their project plan which we can sign off and then start the switch over, this is likely to start after Christmas.
14. ICT Services have provided the ICT work stream for a solution called VoiceScape and on 14th December 2020 Revenues and Benefits went live with a 6 month trial of a telephony solution provided by an external partner. This solution is designed to contact the service's customers (particularly those who owe council tax and business rates and are at an advanced recovery stage) and put them through to a dedicated phone line where staff will support them so that they can hopefully repay any outstanding Council Tax, make an arrangement or set up an affordable direct debit. The solution contacts customers on the council's behalf (which will use less manpower and time, releasing this time to work on other parts of the busy service – such as paying some of the new Covid grants). This has worked extremely well in neighbouring services such as Thirteen Housing Group for Rental Arrears, however Middlesbrough Council is the first Revs & Bens service in the country to use this solution. Rotherham, and West Lancs Borough Council use the solution for other services they deliver. This is an exciting project and we are very hopeful of a successful result. Council Tax and Business rates are an essential part of the council's income streams and the cost of collecting is often very high with numerous contacts made to those with an outstanding balance. The solution itself will make calls, leave voice messages and send text messages, before putting the customer directly through to a call handler, with no queue once they consent to the call. All calls are made from a local number (01642 843027).

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

Commissioning and Procurement

15. The PPE warehouse has recently been relocated following a successful lease of the unit they were occupying. The team are now in a slightly downsized space. PPE continues to be provided to social care providers who require top up PPE in addition to that received through the Government portal. In addition the commissioning team are also providing PPE to education settings, and more recently have taken on the responsibility for supplying emergency PPE to primary care. The team will be on call through the Christmas period to ensure access to PPE will be available to all providers that require it.

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ASHLEY WATERS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 13th January 2021

DECISIONS

Linthorpe Road Consultation - Cycle Provision

1. Following the Governments ambitions to increase the uptake of cycling, Middlesbrough Council, in conjunction with Tees Valley Combined Authority have successfully gained funding from the Active Travel Fund to develop infrastructure along two key corridors in the region. The corridors were selected following analysis, which identified the areas with the greatest potential to achieve the ambitions of increasing cycle uptake. In Middlesbrough, this was identified as the Linthorpe Road corridor, due to:
 - Direct nature and connection to Town Centre
 - Numerous residential areas and businesses along the corridor, connecting origin and destinations
 - Opportunity to provide facilities where there are currently none, and transform the corridor
2. The benefits of cycling are widely noted, and are seen as a key means to reduce the congestion and associated problems that reliance upon the private car has created.
3. The Linthorpe Road area has been highlighted as an area for intervention to prioritise pedestrian and cycle transport, between Borough Road and Albert Park. Provisional designs are now released for consultation with local businesses, residents and stakeholders.
4. The Council is partnering with TVCA to undertake the consultation process. Due to the current COVID 19 pandemic, the majority of this will be undertaken online, with the opportunity to make comments available to all. Deadline for comments to be received is 29th January, 2021. Consolidation of all received comments will assist in final design and approvals.

STRATEGIC

Tees Valley Freeport bid

5. Tees Valley Combined Authority, with member Councils, is leading a consultation to shape the bid for Freeport status. Free ports offer taxation incentives and special administrative treatments to allow for the efficient processing of imported materials and exported goods.

6. The draft bid and consultation process will be conducted in early 2020, with the final bid submitted 5th Feb.
7. The Freeport area does have boundaries but these can be fragmented (dependent on the incentives bid for) and has the potential to touch on each of the authority areas in the Tees Valley. South Tees Development Corporation (STDC / TeesWorks) site lends itself to a share in this status, albeit key players in Middlesbrough's economy are major stakeholders i.e. AV Dawsons and PD Ports.
8. Council officials will form part of the consultation process and will firmly lobby for Middlesbrough's inclusion in the Freeport bid. Areas such as Riverside Park and TeesAMP stand to benefit from any associated status.
9. Boho 8 – Work continues on Boho 8 with a view to be complete towards the end of January 21. The 4 modular units are in place and the internal work within the buildings are being progressed and should be finalised early January 21. Following this, the final element of external works will commence with works to the upgraded external cladding to the units in line with Fire Services requirements and the public realm and seating works within the site with a view to complete by the end of January 21.
10. Boho X – RIBA Stage 2 design of Boho X has been completed and the planning application for the development was submitted on the 14th December 2020. BCEGI will commence with the design of RIBA stage 3 and look to reengage BAM Construction, the preferred contractor for Boho X with a view to commence development in August 21. There will be approximately an 18 month build period which is forecast to be complete by December 22.

PERFORMANCE

Centre Square

11. Tenants have commenced the fit out process in both Centre Square buildings 1 and 2. This paves the way for businesses occupying in early 2021 – subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

TeesAMP Lettings

12. An additional unit has been leased at TeesAMP and interest remains strong. The site is approaching 80% occupancy in terms of buildings let and / or finalising legal agreements.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

Ridgeway Crossing

13. The Council has been consulting on a proposal to enhance the cycle / pedestrian network in the Hemlington / Coulby Newham areas. This proposal involves a new, safe, discreet and lit footpath / cycleway extension at Ridgeway.

14. The public consultation ran for 4 weeks from 30 October until 27 November 2020, with residents in The Birches and Woodlea. Residents of the Birches also conducted an additional doorstep survey with residents of Woodlea.
15. During the consultation period, it has become apparent that the scope of the consultation does not reach a broad enough representation of local stakeholders. It has now been agreed to extend the public consultation period and include resident stakeholders in both the occupied area of the Hemlington Grange site and a wider representation of Woodlea and The Briches, which are not directly adjacent to the proposed footpath area.
16. The consultation will extend into 2021 with the results brought back to Executive for consideration of the appropriate way forward.

Hemlington Grange - Stainton Way Crossing

17. A recent traffic incident at Stainton Way has raised concern over the ability for residents to cross Stainton Way safely, particularly from the new Hemlington Grange community and Hemlington residents. Options are being developed for an early response to a signalised crossing on Stainton way, immediately west of the Stokesley Road roundabout.
18. Middlesbrough Council allocated funds (via phased payments) from the sale of the Hemlington Grange land, to facilitate a range of Highway and community improvements; as the development of the site progressed. This allocation was agreed in 2011 and will need to be updated to cost for inflation; to optimise designs in line with best practice; and, to schedule a phased approach to implementation of measures, as the sale receipts come in and the development progresses.
19. A report will be brought to Executive in early 2021, to consider the phasing and implementation of the capital receipt allowance. This will provide the sequential phasing and delivery of the necessary interventions, in line with the available funding. This report should allow the early progression of a new signalised crossing (1st of a number) during 2021 calendar year.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL DECISION INFORMATION

SECTION 2 - DECISIONS TAKEN

| DATE | DECISION MAKER | ISSUE | PURPOSE OF REPORT | KEY DECISION |
|------------|---|--|--|--------------|
| 10/12/20 | Executive Member for Finance and Governance | Additional Restrictions Grant | The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Discretionary Scheme in response to the business support announcement by Central Government on 22 October. The scheme provides essential financial support to businesses who have not been able to access support from the Local Restrictions Support Grant. | Yes |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Adult Social Care: COVID-19 Winter Plan Update | To provide Executive with an update on the Department of Health and social cares instruction to local Authorities on arrangements for hospital discharges over the winter. | Yes |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Middlesbrough Leisure Indoor and Built Facility Strategy | That Executive approves the adoption of the Middlesbrough Leisure Indoor Built Facility Strategy for use as a source of reference in decisions pertaining to Middlesbrough's sport/leisure indoor built facilities. | Yes |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy | That Executive approves the adoption of the Middlesbrough Playing Pitch Strategy for use as a source of reference in decisions pertaining to Middlesbrough's playing pitches | Yes |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Virtual School Interim Annual Report | Annual Virtual School Update | No |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Additional Highways Capital | It is recommended that Executive approves the additional Highways Capital funding | Yes |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Lower Ormesby Beck Nature Reserve | That Executive approve the designation of Lower Ormesby Beck as a Local Wildlife Site. | Yes |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Transporter Bridge - Future Operation | It is recommended that Executive approves the implementation of a repair programme and the funding requirements to ensure | Yes |

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|---|--|-----|
| | | | the ongoing structural integrity of the Transporter Bridge. | |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2021/2022 | The report seeks Executive to endorse the council tax base for the financial year 2021/2022 which has to be approved by Council by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2021. | Yes |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Stainsby Country Park (formally known as Stainsby/Stainsby Detailed Masterplan) | Introduce the revised masterplan and seek approval to consult on this. | Yes |
| 22/12/2020 | Executive | Final Report of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel - Addressing Poverty Issues and the Impact on Learning - Service Response | That the Executive approves the cross-departmental response, and accompanying action plan, to the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel's final report on Addressing Poverty Issues and the Impact on Learning | No |



EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL DECISION INFORMATION

SECTION 3 - DECISIONS TAKEN UP UNTIL THE COUNCIL MEETING. DATE OF DISTRIBUTION OF THIS COUNCIL UP TO DATE OF COUNCIL.

There are no decisions for this period.

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SECTION 4 - DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING

| DATE | PROPOSED DECISION MAKER | TITLE | DETAIL | KEY DECISION |
|----------|--|--|--|--------------|
| 15/01/21 | Deputy Mayor and Thematic Lead for Drugs | EXEMPT Support the funding of a house purchase of a looked after child | To seek the approval from Executive Member to fund the purchase of a property for a looked after child | Yes |
| 19/01/21 | Executive Member for Environment | Response to Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Teesside Crematorium | To provide a response to the Scrutiny Panel report | No |
| 19/01/21 | Executive | EXEMPT – Land Adjacent Former Middlesbrough Warehouse – Disposal [Part B] | That Executive approves the proposal to proceed with the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in land adjacent the former Middlesbrough Warehouse Site. | Yes |
| 19/01/21 | Executive | Land Adjacent Former Middlesbrough Warehouse – Disposal [Part A] | That Executive approves the proposal to proceed with the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in land adjacent the former Middlesbrough Warehouse Site. | Yes |
| 19/01/21 | Executive | Local Council Tax Support 2021/2022 | That Council approves the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme for 2021/2022. Each billing Authority in England must make a Council Tax Reduction scheme by no later than 11 March each year. Any scheme cannot be made by officers, - authorisation of the full scheme is subject to member approval. | Yes |
| 19/01/21 | Executive | Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan; Linthorpe Road Corridor | That Executive approves the proposals to deliver cycle infrastructure along the Linthorpe Road corridor as per plans in appendix, in line with Town Centre ambitions. | Yes |
| 19/01/21 | Executive | EXEMPT Renovation of an existing Council building attached to Fir Tree Children's Home | That Executive approves funding for the renovation of an existing building attached to Firtree Children's home to develop a bespoke placement for a child with complex needs | Yes |
| 01/02/21 | Executive Member for | Annual Equality and Diversity report | To present the annual equality and diversity report that gives an overview of the diversity of the town and the composition of Council | No |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|--|--|-----|
| | Culture and Communities | | employees along with proposed actions for the next 12 months. | |
| 16/02/21 | Executive Member for Finance and Governance | Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn position as at Quarter Three 2020/21 | To advise the Executive of the Council's financial position at Quarter Three 2020/21, including the projected effect of Covid-19 on the Council's finances. To approve the proposed revenue budget virements over £150,000, and to approve the proposed revised Investment Strategy to 2022/23. | Yes |
| 16/02/21 | Executive | Boho Residential Towers - Site Disposal | That Executive approves the proposal to proceed with the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in land at Middleshaven in order to facilitate the development of the Boho Residential Towers. | Yes |
| 16/02/21 | Executive | Community Benefit From Land Sales Policy | TBC | No |
| 16/02/21 | Executive | Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - Cargo Fleet Lane Depot | That Executive approve the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations | Yes |
| 16/02/21 | Executive | Gresham Housing Phase 2 – Long Term Lease | That Executive approves the disposal of Phase 2 of the Gresham Housing Site to Thirteen Housing Group on a 999 year lease. | Yes |
| 16/02/21 | Executive | Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22 | To present to Executive for endorsement the recommended Revenue Budget, proposed Council Tax increase and Capital Strategy Report for 2021/22. These will then be presented to Full Council on 24 February 2021 for approval. To present for noting by Executive the refreshed Medium Term Financial Plan position for 2021-24. | Yes |
| 16/02/21 | Executive | Re designation of the North Ormesby Selective Landlord Licensing to consider the outcome of the 10 week public consultation and to recommend that the area in north ormesby is redesignated for selective landlord licensing | To consider the outcome of the 10 week public consultation and to recommend that the area in north ormesby is redesignated for selective landlord licensing | Yes |
| 11/05/21 | Executive Member for Finance and Governance | Revenue and Capital Budget - Year End Outturn position 2020/21 | To advise the Executive of the Council's financial position at year end 2020/21, including the effect of Covid-19 on the Council's finances. To approve the proposed revised Investment Strategy to 2022/23. | Yes |

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| MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL |  |
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AGENDA ITEM 8

COUNCIL

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Report title | Scrutiny Progress Report |
| Chief Executive or Director | Director of Legal and Governance Services |
| Date | 13 January 2021 |

Summary

| |
|--|
| Proposed decision(s) |
| 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. |

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Report for: | Key decision: | Confidential: | Is the report urgent? |
| To be noted | No | The report is not confidential | Non-urgent report |

| | | |
|---|--------------|---|
| Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan | | |
| People | Place | Business |
| N/A | N/A | Members will be able to keep abreast of the work carried out through the Scrutiny Process |
| Ward(s) affected | | |
| No wards in Middlesbrough are directly affected. | | |

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To update the position in respect of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels.

Why is this report necessary?

2. The report is necessary so that Members are aware of the work being carried out by the individual Scrutiny Panels and the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

3. That Council note the report.
4. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Two meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board had been scheduled for 18 December 2020 to consider three call-in requests (two related to the same issue of Residual Waste Collections).

The first meeting related to a decision taken by the Executive on 24 November 2020 – Nunthorpe Grange Farm: Disposal – Church Lane. The meeting was adjourned in order for the Monitoring Officer to obtain further information for the Board. Unfortunately, technical issues prevented the meeting from reconvening on 18 December 2020; a revised date will be scheduled as soon as possible.

The second meeting, scheduled to consider two call-in requests in respect of a decision taken by the Executive on 24 November 2020 – Residual Waste Collections, was also unable to take place due to technical issues. However, at a subsequent meeting of the Executive held on 22 December 2020, a decision was taken to not introduce alternate weekly collections at the present time. Therefore, a revised meeting date to consider these call-in requests would not be required.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

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

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

At the meeting on 9 December 2020, the Panel held a joint meeting with members of the Health Scrutiny Panel to have an introduction meeting on Palliative and End of Life Care.

The Panel welcomed Craig Blair, Director of Commissioning Strategy and Delivery from the NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group and David Smith, Chief Executive of Teesside Hospice to provide an overview of their work within this area.

The CCG had been successful in securing support from NHS England to become one of four commissioning exemplar sites across the country and a programme of work was planned to start in 2021, spanning 12-18 months, to co-design and produce a vision and subsequent strategy for end of life care across the Tees Valley.

Although the programme would be in its very early stages in January 2021, the CCG have been invited to the next panel meeting to share initial scoping work.

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met on 7 December 2020. At the meeting, the Strategic Lead for Inclusion and Specialist Support Services was in attendance to provide further information in respect of the Local Authority's role in supporting schools with behaviour management. This evidence included:

- Detailed information on the new Inclusion, Assessment and Review Service and the 'Team Around the School' approach;
- Examples of the cases dealt with by the service and the outcomes achieved; and

- Information on the feedback received from schools on the new model and preliminary data on its impact (data will also be requested at a later date).

The Scrutiny Panel also agreed its terms of reference for the review.

The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled for 18 January 2021

Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met on 7 December 2020. The Executive Director of Children's Services and relevant Officers from Children's Services were in attendance at the meeting to provide further information in relation to the Panel's current scrutiny topic of Sufficiency and Permanency (Perceptions of Children in Care).

The Panel received information in relation to Futures for Families and the Innovate Team which included the aims of both services, current progress, future progress forecasts and anecdotal evidence/case studies.

The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for 18 January 2021.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

The Panel met on 12 November 2020 where it considered the following:

- An update on the Prevent Strategy;
- The Draft Final Report on Community Cohesion; and
- The Draft Terms of Reference for the topic of Cultural Events.

The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled for 10 December 2020.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure (EDEI) Scrutiny Panel met on 16 December 2020. The Panel received an overview of the Council's Pest Control Services from the Director of Environment and Community Services, the Head of Environment Services and the Operations Manager, Recycling and Education.

The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled for 20 January 2021.

Health Scrutiny Panel

The Health Scrutiny Panel is next scheduled to meet on 19 January 2021.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

The Committee is next scheduled to meet on 29 January 2021.

Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 7 January 2021 where it considered the following:

- Group Chief Executive's Update;
- SQW Gateway Review;
- Finance and Resources Sub Committee – Budget Consultation Report;
- Delegated Decisions;
- Meetings and Forward Plan;
- Teesside International Airport – Update and Business Plan; and
- Confidential Appendix to Teesside International Airport – Update and Business Plan.

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

Since the last update to Council, the following Scrutiny Panel reports have been submitted to Executive:

22 December 2020 – Final Report of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel – Addressing Poverty Issues and the Impact on Learning.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

5. No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

6. There are no legal implications as a result of the proposed appointments.

Financial

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

The Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough

8. The report is line with the Mayor's vision for Middlesbrough.

Policy Framework

9. The report does not impact on the overall budget and policy framework.

Wards

10. The report does not impact on wards.

Risk

11. Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity

12. An Impact Assessment has not been completed, as it is not applicable.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

13. Not applicable.

Background papers

14. No unpublished background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

**COUNCILLOR J THOMPSON
CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

Contact Officer:

Chris Lunn

Democratic Services

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Email: chris_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Report of: | Ian Wright - Director of Finance Councillor Chris Hobson - Executive Member for Finance & Governance |
|-------------------|---|

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Submitted to: | Council, 13 January 2021 |
|----------------------|--------------------------|

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Subject: | Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2021/2022 |
|-----------------|---|

Summary

| |
|---|
| Proposed decision(s) |
| <p>That the Council notes the contents of the report.</p> <p>That the Council approves the council tax base for 2021/2022 as 34,484.</p> <p>That the Council approves 2,157 and 1,088 as the council tax bases for the parishes of Nunthorpe and Stainton & Thornton respectively for 2021/2022.</p> <p>That the Council agrees to notify the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cleveland Fire Authority and the Parish Councils of the 2021/2022 council tax base.</p> |

| Report for: | Key decision: | Confidential: | Is the report urgent? |
|-------------|---|---------------|-----------------------|
| Decision | Yes – over the financial threshold (£150,000) and affects more than two wards | No | No |

| | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan | | |
| People | Place | Business |
| The council tax base calculation contributes to the delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan, and is a component of the Council's budget setting. | | |

| |
|---|
| Ward(s) affected |
| Specific council tax base calculations relate to the areas covering Nunthorpe and Stainton & Thornton parishes. |

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To set the council tax base for the financial year 2021/2022 by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2021.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. The Council has a legal obligation to calculate a council tax base each financial year. The calculation of the council tax base is a part of the Council's budget strategy which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, and as such must be agreed by Full Council.

Report Background

3. The starting point for the calculation of the 2021/2022 tax base is the number of dwellings on the Valuation List, provided by the Government's Valuation Office. The figures are also adjusted for exempt dwellings and for dwellings subject to disabled reduction.
4. The number of chargeable dwellings in each band is further adjusted for discounts, exemptions, premiums and council tax support.
5. The resultant figure (line 1 of Appendix A) is the total equivalent number of dwellings which are then converted using ratios (in line 2) into the number of Band D equivalents (line 3), specified in the 1992 Act. For 2021/2022, the equivalent number of Band D properties is calculated at **35,697.9**.
6. The council tax base is finally determined by multiplying the sum of the Band D equivalents by the Authority's estimated collection rate, which has been assumed at 96.6% for 2021/2022. This is the estimate of the percentage of the 2021/2022 Council Tax set which will be collected in total, not the expected in year collection rate in 2021/2022. The rate used is re-considered each year and the rate of 96.6% used for 2021/2022 is a reduction from the 97.4% that was used for 2020/2021, to reflect reduced assumed collection rates resulting from the effects of Covid-19. The resulting council tax base for 2021/2022 for the whole of Middlesbrough (Appendix A) is **34,484**, rounded to a whole number.
7. Since 2013/14 the Council's Housing Growth Strategy has delivered an increase in the Council Tax Base of 4,313 Band D Equivalent properties, an increase in Middlesbrough Council's Tax Base of approximately 14.3%. The cumulative effect is approximately £7.6 million and reduces the need to make further annual savings within Council services by this amount.
8. The regulations also require a council tax base to be calculated for parishes, and similar calculations have been made for the parishes of Nunthorpe (Appendix B) and Stainton & Thornton (Appendix C). The council tax bases for 2021/2022 are **2,157** and **1,088** respectively, rounded to whole numbers.
9. The billing authority must notify the major precepting authorities (Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner and Cleveland Fire Authority) of its council tax base within seven days of making the calculation, or no later than 31st January 2021.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

10. That the Council notes the contents of the report.
11. That the Council approves the council tax base for 2021/2022 as **34,484**.
12. That the Council approves **2,157** and **1,088** as the council tax bases for the parishes of Nunthorpe and Stainton & Thornton respectively for 2021/2022.
13. That the Council agrees to notify the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cleveland Fire Authority and the Parish Councils of the 2021/2022 council tax base.

Why is this being recommended?

14. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons: -
 - a) The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires a billing authority to calculate its council tax base for each financial year.
 - b) The method of calculation is specified in the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, which requires the calculation to be approved before 31st January in the year proceeding the relevant financial year.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

15. Not applicable to this report, as the Council has no option but to calculate a council tax base as it is a statutory requirement.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

16. It is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for billing authorities to calculate a council tax base.

Financial

17. A comparison with the 2020/2021 council tax base is summarised in the table below:

| | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 | % Increase / (Decrease) |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Total Number of Dwellings after Discounts | 42,668.5 | 43,236.5 | 1.3 |
| Band D Equivalent | 35,235.3 | 35,697.9 | 1.3 |
| Council Tax Base | 34,319 | 34,484 | 0.5 |

18. The table above demonstrates that there is an increase of 568 (1.3%) in the actual number of dwellings after discounts for council tax base purposes. This is a result of

new house building over the period. The net increase in the council tax base is 165 (0.5%) band D equivalent properties after taking into account the reduced assumed collection rate for 2021/2022. The growth in the council tax base is estimated to have reduced the need for budget reductions by approximately £283,000 in 2021/2022 and on an ongoing basis, based on the 2020/2021 Basic Council Tax.

Policy Framework

19. The calculation of the council tax base is a part of the Council's budget strategy which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, and as such must be agreed by Full Council.

Equality and Diversity

20. Not applicable to this report.

Risk

21. The report ensures that the Council's meets its statutory duty to calculate a council tax base for each financial year.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

22. Following approval by Council the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cleveland Fire Authority and the Parish Councils will be notified of the 2021/2022 council tax base before the statutory deadline of 31 January 2021.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Calculation of the 2021/2022 Council Tax Base for Middlesbrough area (including parishes).
- Appendix B – Calculation of the 2021/2022 Council Tax Base for Nunthorpe Parish Council (included at Appendix A).
- Appendix C – Calculation of the 2021/2022 Council Tax Base for Stainton & Thornton Parish Council (included at Appendix A).

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Contact: Andrew Humble, Head of Financial Planning & Support
Email: andrew_humble@middlesbrough.gov.uk

**CALCULATION OF THE 2021/2022 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR MIDDLESBROUGH AREA
(INCLUDING PARISHES)**

| | COUNCIL TAX BAND | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | A (with disabled relief) | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | |
| | | 0-£40,000 | £40,001-£52,000 | £52,001-£68,000 | £68,001-£88,000 | £88,001-£120,000 | £120,001-£160,000 | £160,001-£320,000 | £320,001 and over | TOTAL |
| Total number of dwellings after discounts | 31.3 | 18,025.3 | 7,880.3 | 8,972.5 | 4,678.1 | 2,309.9 | 827.2 | 483.8 | 28.3 | 43,236.5 |
| Ratio to band D | 5/9 | 6/9 | 7/9 | 8/9 | 9/9 | 11/9 | 13/9 | 15/9 | 18/9 | |
| Number of band D equivalents | 17.4 | 12,016.9 | 6,129.1 | 7,975.5 | 4,678.1 | 2,823.3 | 1,194.8 | 806.03 | 56.5 | 35,697.9 |

Assumed collection rate of 96.6%

0.966

Council tax base for 2021/2022 (rounded to a whole number)

34,484

APPENDIX B

CALCULATION OF 2021/2022 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR NUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
(INCLUDED AT APPENDIX A)

| | COUNCIL TAX BAND | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | A (with disabled relief) | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | |
| | | 0-£40,000 | £40,001-£52,000 | £52,001-£68,000 | £68,001-£88,000 | £88,001-£120,000 | £120,001-£160,000 | £160,001-£320,000 | £320,001 and over | TOTAL |
| Total number of dwellings after discounts | 0.0 | 9.9 | 87.0 | 351.6 | 707.8 | 326.5 | 185.1 | 271.0 | 10.0 | 1,948.9 |
| Ratio to band D | 5/9 | 6/9 | 7/9 | 8/9 | 9/9 | 11/9 | 13/9 | 15/9 | 18/9 | |
| Number of band D equivalents | 0.0 | 6.6 | 67.7 | 312.5 | 707.8 | 399.1 | 267.4 | 451.6 | 20.0 | 2,232.7 |

Assumed collection rate of 96.6%

0.966

Council tax base for 2021/2022 (rounded to a whole number)

2,157

APPENDIX C

CALCULATION OF 2021/2022 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR STAINTON & THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
(INCLUDED AT APPENDIX A)

| | COUNCIL TAX BAND | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | A (with disabled relief) | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | TOTAL |
| | | 0-£40,000 | £40,001-£52,000 | £52,001-£68,000 | £68,001-£88,000 | £88,001-£120,000 | £120,001-£160,000 | £160,001-£320,000 | £320,001 and over | |
| Total number of dwellings after discounts | 0.0 | 20.9 | 90.1 | 257.4 | 316.9 | 216.3 | 106.0 | 46.4 | 1.0 | 1,055.0 |
| Ratio to band D | 5/9 | 6/9 | 7/9 | 8/9 | 9/9 | 11/9 | 13/9 | 15/9 | 18/9 | |
| Number of band D equivalents | 0.0 | 13.9 | 70.0 | 228.8 | 316.9 | 264.4 | 153.1 | 77.4 | 2.0 | 1,126.5 |

Assumed collection rate of 96.6% 0.966

Council tax base for 2021/2022 (rounded to a whole number) **1,088**

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COUNCIL MEETING – 13 JANUARY 2021

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 28 - 33

| QUESTION NO. | QUESTION FROM | QUESTION TO | QUESTION |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 11/20 | Councillor Wright | Councillor Smiles | Thank you for the work done so far on addressing the digital divide in education. This is an issue I am passionate about. Could the executive member tell me how many laptops have been distributed to Middlesbrough Children and in particular, how many of our Looked After Children have been provided with laptops? |
| 12/20 | Councillor Wright | Councillor Smiles | I recognise the excellent figure of 92% given the ongoing challenges of the global pandemic. This is down to the hard work of schools and we should, as a council, express our thanks to them. What was the average attendance of primary and secondary school children in Middlesbrough by December 2020? |

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